

Alameda County Superior Court Judge Wynne Carvill recently ordered the Illinois-based Walgreen Co. to pay \$16.57 million as part of a settlement of a civil environmental prosecution lawsuit filed by Alameda County and 42 other counties in California.

The judgment is the culmination of a civil enforcement lawsuit which claimed that more than 600 Walgreens' stores throughout the state unlawfully handled and disposed of various hazardous wastes over a six-year period.

The materials included pesticides, bleach, paint, aerosols, automotive products and solvents, pharmaceutical and bio hazardous wastes and other toxic, ignitable and corrosive materials.

The case originated from an investigation by the California Department of Toxic Substances Control and local environmental health agencies during the fall of 2009.

The settlement also resolves allegations that Walgreens unlawfully disposed of customer records containing confidential medical information without preserving confidentiality.

The settlement also requires Walgreens to take proper steps to preserve the confidentiality of their customers' medical information.

All 34 Walgreens' stores in Alameda County were involved.