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**PRESS RELEASE**

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**Settlement with Biomass Company for Falsification of  
Records and Illegal Disposal of Hazardous Waste**

Release Date: May 5, 2017

Re: People v. Woodland Biomass, LTD

Solano County District Attorney Krishna A. Abrams, announced that Yolo County Superior Court Judge Samuel McAdam ordered Woodland Biomass Power to pay \$4.22 million for penalties, costs, and remediation, as a result of a civil settlement reached in an environmental protection action filed in Yolo County by the District Attorneys of Yolo, Solano and San Joaquin counties.

Woodland Biomass Power operates a biomass facility in Yolo County that burns wood fuel to produce electricity, and, in the process, generates ash. For years, Woodland Biomass Power claimed its ash was non-hazardous. This claim, however, was supported with faulty methods, and at times, falsified summaries of the test results for its ash. The company's own test results have shown that much of its ash had elevated levels of dioxins and constituted hazardous waste because of high levels of pH and high concentrations of contaminants like arsenic, lead, and copper. Woodland Biomass Power also provided these falsified records to various governmental entities, individuals, and companies.

During the years it relied on falsified test-result summaries, Woodland Biomass Power caused tens of thousands of tons of ash—some of which was hazardous waste—to be disposed of on properties not authorized to receive hazardous waste, including thousands of tons of contaminated bed ash disposed of at Potrero Hills landfill in Solano County.

Solano County District Attorney's Office assisted Yolo County District Attorney's Office with the investigation and negotiated resolution of this matter.

Under the settlement, Woodland Biomass Power must pay \$2.12 million in civil penalties, \$850,000 to reimburse for the costs of investigation, and over \$1.25 million to remediate the one site where testing has indicated hazardous materials are present in concentrations that exceed regulatory thresholds. The company must also implement improved ash-management procedures designed to prevent future violations of hazardous-waste laws. The monetary settlement includes a total of \$165,000 in penalties and costs to Solano County District Attorney's Office and Solano County Department of Resource Management.

Woodland Biomass Power has been cooperative in the investigation since the prosecution team discovered the fraud in early 2016 and, since that time, the company has re-evaluated its plant operations and implemented numerous improvements to its ash management practices.