



CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
**NEWS RELEASE**

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Department of Toxic Substances Control

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For Immediate Release  
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**\$12,000 Settlement Reached with Pacific Trans Environmental Services, Inc.**

San Diego --- The California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) has reached a \$12,000 settlement with Pacific Trans Environmental Services, Inc. (PTES) for hazardous waste shipment violations. PTES is an importer of hazardous waste generated in Mexico and imported to the United States for treatment and disposal. The company operates a permitted transfer station at 1452 N. Johnson Avenue in El Cajon.

Under terms of the Stipulation and Order, signed on July 31, 2003, PTES will pay a total of \$12,000, of which \$4,000 is a penalty and \$8,000 is reimbursement of costs incurred by DTSC. The order which formalizes the settlement is available on the DTSC Web site at [www.dtsc.ca.gov](http://www.dtsc.ca.gov).

The settlement stems from violations noted during a routine truck stop inspection of hazardous waste shipments at the U.S. Customs Otay Mesa Port of Entry on December 20, 2001. The violations include:

- Managing partially empty containers as empty. The drums contained pourable quantities of a flammable liquid hazardous waste
- Failure to properly characterize a hazardous waste
- Transporting twenty-five 55-gallon drums of hazardous waste without preparing a hazardous waste manifest

As part of the settlement, PTES has agreed to contract for environmental and safety training for its employees and employees of its related company in Mexico, Pacific Treatment Environmental Services, S.A. de C.V., at a cost of \$4,000. Certificates of completion must be sent to DTSC within 185 days of the effective date of this order. If PTES fails to submit the certificates as required, an additional penalty of \$8,000 will be due and payable within 30 days after the expiration of the 185-day period. The 185 days may be extended by the DTSC upon receiving a written request and demonstration of good cause.

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PTES also was required to submit a written response to DTSC on how containers declared as empty, in fact contained flammable hazardous waste and provide a written explanation of what would be done to eliminate the possibility of a recurrence.

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**The Department of Toxic Substances Control's mission is to restore, protect, and enhance the environment and ensure public health, environmental quality and economic vitality by regulating hazardous waste, conducting and overseeing cleanups, and developing and promoting pollution prevention.**

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*"The energy challenge facing California is real. Every Californian needs to take immediate action to reduce energy consumption. For a list of simple ways you can reduce demand and cut your energy costs, see our Web-site at [www.dtsc.ca.gov](http://www.dtsc.ca.gov)."*