



ERIK NASARENKO
District Attorney

NEWS RELEASE

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Settlement Reached in Illegal Disposal Case Near Ventura Harbor

VENTURA, California – District Attorney Erik Nasarenko announced today that Peter Joseph Ancich (DOB 06/06/67), of Rancho Palos Verdes, entered a settlement following an unlawful deposit of toxic substances outside the Ventura Harbor.

Ancich captains the “Sea Venture,” a commercial squid fishing vessel. On June 4, 2021, the Sea Venture was observed by a California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) warden traveling just outside the Ventura Harbor, then illegally disposing its squid wastewater, also known as “stick water.” Stick water is harmful to aquatic life due to its high concentration of ammonia.

Under the terms of the settlement, Ancich will pay \$6,172 to the CDFW, \$2,500 in civil penalties to the District Attorney’s Office, \$3,328 in investigative costs to the District Attorney’s Office, and \$3,000 for Supplemental Environmental Projects (SEP). The CDFW will use the SEP funds to purchase and post signs at the Ventura Harbor advising commercial fishermen of laws prohibiting dumping squid wastewater within state waters, and to purchase equipment for patrol vessels to store perishable liquid samples. The settlement also requires Ancich to comply with all applicable laws related to California Fish & Game Code section 5650.

This settlement is a result of a joint investigation conducted by the CDFW and the District Attorney’s Office Consumer and Environmental Protection Unit.

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The Ventura County District Attorney’s Office is the public prosecutor for the county’s 850,000 residents. The office employs approximately 290 employees including attorneys, investigators, victim advocates, and professional support staff who strive to seek justice, ensure public safety, and protect the rights of crime victims.