

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
JUNE 13, 2003**

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COURT ORDERS CLEAN UP OF WOOD PILE EYESORE

VALLEJO – The City of Vallejo won a permanent injunction against the owner of what has been an ongoing source of complaints and concern – a wood storage area near Benicia Road and Highway 80.

Kenneth Sevier was ordered by Judge William R. Taft to pay \$12,500 in fines to the City as well as comply with a list of over 46 separate conditions related to the clean up, maintenance and general upkeep of his property. If Sevier fails to comply with the order, he could face more fines and penalties.

“I’ve been working on this for over five years,” said Nimat Shakoor-Grantham, Code Enforcement Manager for the City of Vallejo. “I’m glad we finally came to a resolution of this matter. It is pretty exciting news. It’s just another step in our continuing effort to clean up blighted areas of Vallejo.”

The process began over five years ago, and court papers were filed against the property and its owner 18 months ago. The settlement was reached Friday morning – the day the case was to go to trial.

“(The owner) has to get property in compliance with all city codes, apply for all proper permits, clean up the property, provide landscaping, and get water and power to the property,” said Diana Gomez, Assistant City Attorney for the City of Vallejo, who handled the case for the City. “He has timelines to complete the work, such as 30 days for paperwork, permits and approvals. The actual work needs to be completed 60 to 90 days after permit approval.”

Judge Taft’s order declares the property a public nuisance, a status it will retain until the property is in compliance with all conditions and city codes.

“If he doesn’t comply, he will owe the City \$15,000. In addition, we would go back and file contempt proceedings, and he could face both civil and criminal penalties. We have an order, he has to comply.”

City Manager David Martinez was pleased with the effort of the various departments involved in the process of solving this ongoing problem.

“This was a collaborative effort by Planning, Building, Code Enforcement, Public Works, the City Attorney’s Office and the Vallejo Fire Department and I want to thank them for their efforts,” Martinez said. “This settlement will make a difference in the level of safety and appearance in that area of the City. Code enforcement and nuisance abatement are a priority for Vallejo.”