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**MICHAEL J. RUBIO**  
SUPERVISOR - FIFTH DISTRICT

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## **Supervisor Rubio Proposes Penalties for Fly Ash Violations**

This afternoon, Supervisor Rubio made a referral to County Counsel and the Resource Management Agency to develop an ordinance and corollary administrative penalties in light of the recent inaction by the City of Oxnard and U.S.A. Transport Inc. to remove the tremendous amounts of toxic fly ash from a sludge farm outside of Wasco.

The Supervisor strongly believes that the obstinacy of the City of Oxnard and U.S.A. Transport Inc. in removing the fly ash substance from its farm can be duly construed as non-compliance with the licensing and permitting requirements of the current County sludge farming requirements. As such, a fine structure must be developed to ensure that situations such as the one currently plaguing this area outside Wasco are both rectified and never allowed to occur again. The fly ash has already been characterized as "hazardous waste" by the California Department of Toxic Substances Control and should therefore be removed immediately.

"It is a shame that we are not fining Los Angeles area sludge haulers for jeopardizing the very safety and wellbeing of Kern County residents," said Supervisor Rubio. "As it is, the state has already determined that fly ash is toxic. The fact that this situation is occurring just outside of an incorporated city and next to an elementary school and a valuable water bank, yet with no action or concern on the part of the City of Oxnard, the County must take prudent and resolute action to fix this broken system."