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**For Immediate Release**  
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## **Harris County Cites Dirty Construction Sites and Hits Pay Dirt**

Harris County Attorney's Office recently settled an unprecedented \$100,000 lawsuit with Pace Services, LP as a result of the company's multiple violations of Harris County's Storm Water Quality Management Regulations. Pace is a large construction company that builds roads and other infrastructure facilities within Harris County. This settlement may be ranked as one of the largest settlements received by a local government for stormwater violations.

Pace's laundry list of violations stem from the company failing to properly install and maintain erosion control devices on their construction sites. Failure to maintain erosion control devices could result in an immediate impact on the functioning of our storm drain system and flood control functions, and ultimately the health of our local waterways. As stormwater flows over land it picks up heavy metals, bacteria, pesticides, suspended solids, nutrients, and floating materials. In the United States, stormwater runoff from residential, commercial, and industrial areas is responsible for 21% of impaired lakes and 45% of impaired estuaries (EPA, 2009).

Harris County Attorneys Snehal Patel and George Nachtigall represented Harris County in the suit. Harris County Attorney Snehal Patel said, "There are several basic ways to violate the County's regulations - not having proper erosion control devices, not maintaining the entrances to construction sites to reduce vehicles' tracking mud on the road, keeping a clean work site, for example – but Pace disobeyed all of them at one time or another."

Harris County Storm Water Quality Management Regulations are designed to guide companies who conduct business within Harris County on the Best Management Practices that can and should be implemented on construction sites in order to stay within the County's good graces. The County has a duty to constituents and taxpayers to pursue hard-nosed action against those who recklessly violate these regulations.

This action shows that Harris County is committed to environmental stewardship and will continue to pursue lawsuits against companies who blatantly disregard that doctrine.

For more information regarding the Harris County storm water quality guidance documents and environmental programs, please visit [CleanWaterways.org](http://CleanWaterways.org).