

## SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT AND RELEASE

This SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT AND RELEASE (hereinafter "Agreement") is entered into between the STATE OF CALIFORNIA AIR RESOURCES BOARD (hereinafter "ARB") 1001 I Street, Sacramento, California 95814, and VAL-PRO, INC. (hereinafter "VALPRO"), 1601 East Olympic Boulevard, Suite 300, Los Angeles, California 90021.

### I. RECITALS

- (1) HSC §§ 39650-39675 mandate the reduction of the emissions of substances that have been determined to be toxic air contaminants. In 1998, following an exhaustive ten-year scientific assessment process, ARB identified particulate matter (PM) from diesel-fueled engines as a toxic air contaminant. In-use on-road diesel vehicles are powered by diesel fueled engines that emit toxic PM. On-road vehicles are controlled under the Truck and Bus regulation, as codified in 13 CCR § 2025.
- (2) 13 CCR § 2025(e)(1)(B) states: "Starting January 1, 2012, for all vehicles with GVWR greater than 26,000 lbs, excluding school buses, fleets must meet the requirements of 13 CCR § 2025(g) or fleets that report may instead comply with the phase-in option of 13 CCR § 2025(i).
- (3) VALPRO has elected to utilize the phase-in option for all vehicles with GVWR greater than 26,000 lbs provided for in 13 CCR § 2025(i).
- (4) 13 CCR § 2025(i), phase-in option, requires that owners of diesel vehicles with a GVWR greater than 26,000 lbs meet the PM Best Available Control Technology (BACT) requirements by phasing in 100 percent by January 1, 2016.
- (5) ARB has documented that VALPRO failed to have 100 percent of their fleet meet the PM BACT requirements by January 1, 2016.
- (6) 13 CCR § 2025(f) requires that owners of diesel vehicles with a GVWR greater than 14,000 lbs. and less than or equal to 26,000 lbs. (lighter vehicles) upgrade to a 2010 model year emissions equivalent engine for all 1996 and older model year engines by January 1, 2016.
- (7) ARB has documented that VALPRO failed to upgrade to a 2010 model year emissions equivalent engine for all 1996 and older model year engines by January 1, 2016.
- (8) Failure to comply with the requirements of 13 CCR § 2025 is a violation of state law resulting in penalties. HSC §§ 39674 (a) and (b) authorize civil penalties for the violation of the programs for the regulation of toxic air contaminants not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000) or ten thousand dollars (\$10,000), respectively, for each day in which the violation occurs.

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- (9) Transport Refrigeration Units (TRU) are powered by diesel fueled engines that emit toxic PM. TRUs are regulated under the Airborne Toxic Control Measure for In-Use Diesel-Fueled Transport Refrigeration Units and TRU Generator Sets, and Facilities Where TRUs Operate (TRU ATCM) as codified in 13 CCR § 2477.1 through 2477.21.
- (10) 13 CCR § 2477.5(a) provides that no owner/operator shall operate a TRU or TRU generator (gen) set in California unless it meets in-use performance standards established in § 2477.5.
- (11) ARB Enforcement Division has documented that VALPRO failed to bring the TRUs it operates in California into compliance with the in-use performance standards before the deadlines set forth in the regulation.
- (12) Failure to bring the TRU fleet in compliance with applicable in-use performance standards, failure to apply for and affix ARB IDNs and failure to submit an operator report are violations of state law resulting in penalties. HSC § 39674 authorizes civil penalties of up to ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) for each day that the violation occurs.
- (13) In order to resolve these alleged violations, VALPRO has taken, or agreed to take, the actions enumerated below under "RELEASE". Further, ARB accepts this Agreement in termination and settlement of this matter.
- (14) In consideration of the foregoing, and of the promises and facts set forth herein, the parties desire to settle and resolve all claims, disputes, and obligations relating to the above-listed violations, and voluntarily agree to resolve this matter by means of this Agreement. Specifically, ARB and VALPRO agree as follows:

**II. TERMS AND RELEASE**

In consideration of ARB not filing a legal action against VALPRO for the alleged violations referred to above, and VALPRO's payment of the penalties set forth in Section 1 below, ARB and VALPRO agree as follows:

- (1) Upon execution of this Agreement, VALPRO shall pay a civil penalty of \$27,000.00. Payment shall be made in 3 payments as described below, beginning on **September 29, 2017**.

<b>Payment Due Date:</b>	<b>In the Amount of and Payable to:</b>
9/29/2017	\$9,000.00 the Air Pollution Control Fund
11/30/2017	\$9,000.00 the Air Pollution Control Fund
1/31/2018	\$9,000.00 the Air Pollution Control Fund

**Please send the signed Settlement Agreement and any future mailings or documents required per the terms of this Settlement Agreement to:**

**Alfonso Arambula  
Air Pollution Specialist  
California Air Resources Board  
Enforcement Division  
P.O. Box 2815  
Sacramento, California 95812**

**Please submit each payment by the applicable payment due date along with the corresponding "Settlement Agreement Payment Transmittal Form" (Attachment A) to:**

**California Air Resources Board  
Accounting Office  
P.O. Box 1436  
Sacramento, California 95812-1436**

- (2) **Effect of Untimely Payment.** If any payment is more than 15 days late, the entire remaining balance becomes immediately due and payable. In addition, if the Attorney General files a civil action to enforce this settlement agreement, VALPRO shall pay all costs of investigating and prosecuting the action, including expert fees, reasonable attorney's fees, and costs.
- (3) It is agreed that if VALPRO, including its subsidiary or parent company, at any time becomes insolvent, or makes an assignment for the benefit of creditors or similar action adversely involving VALPRO, its subsidiary, or parent company, or

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a proceeding or petition under any bankruptcy, reorganization, arrangement of debt, insolvency, readjustment of debt, or receivership law or statute is filed by or against VALPRO, its subsidiary, or parent company, or a trustee in bankruptcy, custodian, receiver or agent is appointed or authorized to take charge of any of VALPRO's, its subsidiary, or parent company's properties, or if any deposit account or other property of VALPRO, its subsidiary, or parent company be attempted to be obtained or held by writ of execution, garnishment, attachment, condemnation, levy, forfeiture or other legal process, or VALPRO, its subsidiary, or parent company takes any action to authorize any of the foregoing, the entire remaining balance becomes immediately due and payable without notice or demand.

- (4) It is further agreed that the penalties described in "Terms and Release", paragraph 1 are punitive in nature, rather than compensatory. Furthermore, the penalty is intended to deter and punish VALPRO for violations of state environmental statutes, and these penalties are payable to and for the benefit of ARB, a governmental unit. Therefore, it is agreed that these penalties imposed on VALPRO by ARB arising from the facts described in recital paragraphs (1) through (12) are non-dischargeable under 11 United States Code § 523 (a)(7), which provides an exception from discharge for any debt to the extent such debt is for a fine, penalty or forfeiture payable to and for benefit of governmental unit, and is not compensation for actual pecuniary loss, other than certain types of tax penalties.
- (5) VALPRO shall not violate HSC §§ 43701 *et seq.*, 44011.6 *et seq.*, and 13 CCR §§ 2180 *et seq.*, 2190 *et seq.*, and 2485 *et seq.*
- (6) VALPRO shall comply with one or both of the following options to attend the California Council on Diesel Education and Technology (CCDET I) class, (SAE J1667 Snap Acceleration Smoke Test Procedure for Heavy-Duty Diesel Powered Vehicles) as described on the CCDET webpage, [ccdet.org](http://ccdet.org). This class is conducted by various California Community Colleges and instructs attendees on compliance with the PSIP, the ECL regulation and the HDVIP.
  - (a) VALPRO shall have the fleet maintenance manager (or equivalent) and all staff performing opacity tests for compliance with PSIP and the HDVIP attend the CCDET I class. Proof of CCDET I completion shall be provided to ARB within six months of the date of this Agreement and be maintained in each applicable employee's file for the term of his or her employment.
  - (b) If VALPRO uses a contractor to perform the annual smoke opacity testing required under the PSIP, in addition to having the fleet maintenance manager (or equivalent) attend the CCDET I course, VALPRO shall obtain proof that the contractor's staff conducting the smoke opacity tests completed the CCDET I course within the past four years. This proof of CCDET I completion

shall be provided to ARB with PSIP records as required by this Agreement and be maintained with the annual PSIP records.

- (7) VALPRO shall comply with the following options to attend the CCDET II class (Diesel Exhaust After Treatment and Maintenance), described on the CCDET webpage, [ccdet.org](http://ccdet.org). This class is conducted by various California Community Colleges and instructs attendees on California's emission regulations and the proper care and maintenance of diesel exhaust after-treatment systems (DEATS).
- (a) VALPRO shall have the fleet maintenance manager (or equivalent) and all staff responsible for maintenance of DEATS attend the CCDET II class. Proof of CCDET II completion shall be provided to ARB within six months of the date of this Agreement and also be maintained in each applicable employee's file for the term of his or her employment.
- (b) In case VALPRO uses a contractor for the maintenance of DEATS, in addition to having the fleet maintenance manager (or equivalent) attend the CCDET II course, VALPRO shall obtain proof that the contractor's staff maintaining the DEATS device(s) completed the CCDET II course within the last four years. This proof of the CCDET II completion shall be provided by VALPRO to ARB within six months of the date of this settlement and be maintained with the DEATS installation and maintenance records.
- (c) In case VALPRO is unable to find a CCDET II certified contractor within a radius of 25 miles from its yard for the maintenance of DEATS, in addition to having the fleet maintenance manager (or equivalent) attend the CCDET II course, VALPRO shall contract only with the authorized verified diesel emission control strategy installer(s) or original equipment manufacturer distributor(s) for the maintenance of DEATS. The proof of the CCDET II completion for the fleet maintenance manager (or equivalent) shall be provided by VALPRO to ARB within six months of the date of this settlement and be maintained with the DEATS installation and maintenance records.
- (8) As is typically required, VALPRO shall submit copies of all PSIP compliance records for the two years (2017 and 2018) after the close of the audit to ARB by January 31 of the following year. ARB acknowledges that VALPRO has already submitted copies of all PSIP compliance records for year 2017 and has therefore complied with that requirement. VALPRO must still submit copies of all PSIP compliance records for year 2018 to ARB by January 31 of the following year. **Copies shall be addressed to the attention of Mr. Alfonso Arambula at the California Air Resources Board, Enforcement Division, P.O. Box 2815, Sacramento, California 95812.** ARB reserves the right to visit any VALPRO fleet location at any time to conduct compliance audits for the HDVIP and PSIP, or any other applicable ARB program.

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- (9) VALPRO shall complete Low NOx Software Upgrades (reflash) on all applicable heavy-duty diesel engines operating in California and report to ARB within 45 days of this agreement.
- (10) VALPRO shall remain in compliance with the ECL regulation as codified in 13 CCR § 2183.
- (11) VALPRO shall instruct all employees who operate diesel-fueled vehicles to comply with the idling regulations set forth in 13 CCR § 2485, within 45 days of this Agreement.
- (12) VALPRO shall not violate the Truck and Bus regulation as codified in 13 CCR § 2025.
- (13) VALPRO, by January 31, 2018, shall submit proof of compliance with the January 1, 2018 Truck and Bus deadline, for all regulated heavy-duty diesel vehicles, to **Mr. Alfonso Arambula, Air Pollution Specialist, California Air Resources Board, Enforcement Division, P.O. Box 2815, Sacramento, California 95812.**
- (14) VALPRO shall not violate TRU ATCM as codified in 13 CCR § 2477.
- (15) VALPRO by January 31, 2018, shall bring its fleet of TRUs operating in California in compliance with the applicable in-use performance standards as required by 13 CCR § 2477.5(a). VALPRO shall submit the proof of reporting in ARBER to Mr. Alfonso Arambula, Air Pollution Specialist, California Air Resources Board, Enforcement Division, P.O. Box 2815, Sacramento, California 95812.
- (16) This Agreement shall apply to and be binding upon VALPRO, and its officers, directors, receivers, trustees, employees, successors and assignees, subsidiary and parent corporations and upon ARB and any successor agency that may have responsibility for and jurisdiction over the subject matter of this Agreement.
- (17) This Agreement constitutes the entire agreement and understanding between ARB and VALPRO concerning the subject matter hereof, and supersedes and replaces all prior negotiations and agreements between ARB and VALPRO concerning the subject matter hereof.
- (18) No agreement to modify, amend, extend, supersede, terminate, or discharge this Agreement, or any portion thereof, is valid or enforceable unless it is in writing and signed by all parties to this Agreement.

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- (19) Severability. Each provision of this Agreement is severable, and in the event that any provision of this Agreement is held to be invalid or unenforceable, the remainder of this Agreement remains in full force and effect.
- (20) This Agreement shall be interpreted and enforced in accordance with the laws of the State of California, without regard to California's choice-of-law rules.
- (21) This Agreement is deemed to have been drafted equally by the Parties; it will not be interpreted for or against either party on the ground that said party drafted it.
- (22) Senate Bill 1402 (Dutton, Chapter 413, statutes of 2010) requires ARB to provide information on the basis for the penalties it seeks (HSC § 39619.7). This information, which is provided throughout this settlement agreement, is summarized here:

### **The manner in which the penalty amount was determined, including a per unit or per vehicle penalty.**

Penalties must be set at levels sufficient to discourage violations. The penalties in this matter were determined in consideration of all relevant circumstances, including the eight factors specified in HSC §§ 42403 and 43024.

#### Truck and Bus Violations

The per unit penalty for the Truck and Bus violations involved in this case is a maximum of \$1,000 per vehicle per day for strict liability violations or \$10,000 per vehicle per day for negligent or intentional violations.

The penalty obtained for the Truck and Bus violations involved in this case for failure to meet the requirements of the Phase-In Compliance Schedule is \$3,000 or \$3,000 per violation:

- \$3,000 for one vehicle not meeting the 100 percent phase-in requirement by January 1, 2016.

The penalty obtained for the Truck and Bus violations involved in this case for failure to meet the requirements of the Engine Model Year Compliance Schedule for lighter vehicles is \$6,000.00 or \$3,000.00 per violation:

- \$6,000.00 for 2 vehicles with a 1996 model year engine.

The penalty was discounted based on the fact that this was a first time violation and the violator made diligent efforts to comply and to cooperate with the investigation.

TRU Violations

The per unit penalty for the TRU violations involved in this case is a maximum of \$1,000 per unit per day for strict liability violations or \$10,000 per vehicle per day for negligent or intentional violations pursuant to HSC § 39674. The penalty obtained for the TRU violations involved in this case is \$18,000.00 for 18 noncompliant TRUs operated by VALPRO or \$1,000.00 for each violation.

**The provision of law the penalty is being assessed under and why that provision is most appropriate for that violation.**

Truck and Bus Violations

The penalty provision being applied for the Truck and Bus regulation (13 CCR § 2025) violations in this case is HSC § 39674 because the Truck and Bus regulation is an Airborne Toxic Control Measure adopted pursuant to authority contained in HSC §§ 39002 et seq., 39650-39675 and because VALPRO failed to bring their diesel fleet into compliance by the deadlines set forth in 13 CCR § 2025(i) and 2025(f).

TRU Violations

The penalty provision being applied for the TRU ATCM (13 CCR § 2477) violations (including registration and labeling) is HSC § 39674 because the TRU rule is an Air Toxic Control Measure adopted pursuant to authority contained in HSC §§ 39002 et seq., 39650-39675 and VALPRO, as an owner of TRUs, failed to bring all TRUs in its fleet into compliance by the deadlines set forth in the TRU ATCM.

**Is the penalty being assessed under a provision of law that prohibits the emission of pollution at a specified level, and, if so a quantification of excess emissions, if it is practicable to do so.**

Truck and Bus Violations

The provisions cited above do prohibit emissions above a specified level of g/hp-hr. However, since the hours of operation of the noncompliant trucks involved and their individual emission rates are not known, it is not practicable to quantify the excess emissions.

TRU Violations

The provisions cited above do prohibit emissions above a specified level of g/hp-hr. However, since the hours of operation of the noncompliant TRUs involved



and their individual emission rates are not known, it is not practicable to quantify the excess emissions.

- (23) VALPRO acknowledges that ARB has complied with Senate Bill 1402 in prosecuting or settling this case. Specifically, ARB has considered all relevant facts, including those listed at HSC § 43024, has explained the manner in which the penalty amount was calculated, has identified the provision of law under which the penalty is being assessed and has considered and determined that this penalty is being assessed under a provision of law that prohibits the emission of pollutants at a specified level.
- (24) Penalties were determined based on the unique circumstances of this matter, considered together with the need to remove any economic benefit from noncompliance, the goal of deterring future violations and obtaining swift compliance, the consideration of past penalties in similar cases, and the potential costs and risk associated with litigating these particular violations. Penalties in future cases might be smaller or larger on a per unit basis.
- (25) The penalty was based on confidential settlement communications between ARB and VALPRO that ARB does not retain in the ordinary course of business. The penalty is the product of an arms length negotiation between ARB and VALPRO and reflects ARB's assessment of the relative strength of its case against VALPRO, the desire to avoid the uncertainty, burden and expense of litigation, obtain swift compliance with the law and remove any unfair advantage that VALPRO may have secured from its actions.
- (26) Now therefore, in consideration of the payment on behalf of VALPRO to the Air Pollution Control Fund, ARB hereby releases VALPRO and their principals, officers, agents, predecessors and successors from any and all claims, ARB may have or have in the future based on the circumstances described in paragraphs (1) through (12) of the Recitals. The undersigned represent that they have the authority to enter into this Agreement.

**California Air Resources Board**

Signature: 

Print Name: Dr. Todd P. Sax

Title: Chief, Enforcement Division

Date: 10/6/17

**Val-Pro, Inc.**

Signature: 

Print Name: Caroline LaBonde

Title: COO

Date: 8/8/17