

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 VIRAMONTES EXPRESS, INC. (hereinafter "Viramontes Express"), 17130 Hellman Avenue, Corona, California 92880

I. RECITALS

- (1) California Health and Safety Code sections 39650-39675 (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 and off-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 the California Code of Regulations, title 13, section 2025 (13 CCR § 2025). Off-road vehicles are controlled under chapter 9, 13 CCR § 2449.
- (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) All fleet owners must review and update the information submitted under section 2449(g)(1) annually, and submit the information in section 2449(g)(2)(A) through (C) to ARB by the reporting date of each subsequent reporting year. Fleet owners must report information regarding each vehicle subject to this regulation as it was on December 31 of the year prior to the reporting year. Annual reporting starts on March 1, 2012 for large fleets.
- (4) Failure to comply with the requirements of 13 CCR § 2025 and 13 CCR § 2449 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.
- (5) Viramontes Express has elected to meet the requirements of the Engine Model Year Compliance Schedule provided for in 13 CCR § 2025(g).
- (6) 13 CCR § 2025(g) requires that owners of diesel vehicles with a GVWR greater than 26,000 lbs. (heavier vehicles) meet PM Best Available Control Technology (BACT) requirements for all 1996 through 1999 model year engines by January 1, 2012, all 2000 through 2004 model year engines by January 1, 2013, and all 2005 and 2006 model year engines by January 1, 2014, and upgrade to a 2010

model year emissions equivalent engine for all 1993 and older model year engines by January 1, 2015, and all 1994 and 1995 model year engines by January 1, 2016 .

- (7) ARB has documented that Viramontes Express failed to meet PM BACT requirements for all 2004 model year engines by January 1, 2013 and all 2005 model year engines by January 1, 2014.
- (8) Viramontes Express has four outstanding citations, as noted in the table below:

Citation Number	Violation Type	Issue Date
STB050416005BOP	Truck & Bus	05/04/2016
STB060616002RB	Truck & Bus	06/06/2016
STB040317001CCY	Truck & Bus	04/03/2017
ORE092716046YLO	Off-Road	09/27/2016

- (9) ARB has documented that Viramontes Express failed to submit their Responsible Official Affirmation of Reporting (ROAR) for annual reporting year 2016.
- (10) In order to resolve these alleged violations, Viramontes Express has taken, or agreed to take, the actions enumerated below under "RELEASE". Further, ARB accepts this Agreement in termination and settlement of this matter.
- (11) 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 Viramontes Express agree as follows:

II. TERMS AND RELEASE

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

- (1) Upon execution of this Agreement, Viramontes Express shall pay a civil penalty of \$16,000.00. Payment shall be made in 2 payments as described below, beginning on **January 8, 2018**.

Payment Due Date:	In the Amount of and Payable to:	
January 8, 2018	\$8,000.00	the Air Pollution Control Fund
April 30, 2018	\$8,000.00	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:

**Mr. Julian Ortiz
Air Pollution Specialist
California Air Resources Board
Enforcement Division
9480 Telstar Avenue, Suite 4
El Monte, California 91731**

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, Viramontes Express 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 Viramontes Express, 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 Viramontes Express, its subsidiary, or parent company, or 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 Viramontes Express, its subsidiary, or parent company, or a trustee in bankruptcy, custodian, receiver or agent is appointed or authorized to take charge of any of Viramontes Express's, its subsidiary, or parent company's properties, or if any deposit account or other property of Viramontes Express, 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 Viramontes Express, 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 Viramontes Express 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 Viramontes Express by ARB arising from the facts described in recital paragraphs (1) through (9) 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) Viramontes Express 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) Viramontes Express 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. 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) Viramontes Express 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 Viramontes Express uses a contractor for the maintenance of DEATS, in addition to having the fleet maintenance manager (or equivalent) attend the CCDET II course, Viramontes Express 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 Viramontes Express to ARB within six months of the date of this settlement and be maintained with the DEATS installation and maintenance records.
 - (c) In case Viramontes Express 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, Viramontes Express 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 Viramontes Express to ARB within six months of the date of

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this settlement and be maintained with the DEATS installation and maintenance records.

- (7) Viramontes Express 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.
- (8) Viramontes Express shall remain in compliance with the ECL regulation as codified in 13 CCR § 2183.
- (9) Viramontes Express 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.
- (10) Viramontes Express has four outstanding citations: STB050416005BOP, STB060616002RB, STB040317001CCY and ORE092716046YLO, for not meeting the requirements of the Truck and Bus program and the Off-Road program. These citations will be cleared through this Agreement.
- (11) Viramontes Express shall not violate the Truck and Bus regulation as codified in 13 CCR § 2025.
- (12) Viramontes Express shall submit proof of compliance with the Truck and Bus regulation (as codified in 13 CCR § 2025), within 180 days of the execution of this Agreement, to **Mr. Julian Ortiz, Air Pollution Specialist, California Air Resources Board, Enforcement Division, 9480 Telstar Avenue, Suite 4, El Monte, California 91731.**
- (13) This Agreement shall apply to and be binding upon Viramontes Express, 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.
- (14) This Agreement constitutes the entire agreement and understanding between ARB and Viramontes Express concerning the subject matter hereof, and supersedes and replaces all prior negotiations and agreements between ARB and Viramontes Express concerning the subject matter hereof.
- (15) 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.

- (16) 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.
- (17) 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.
- (18) 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.
- (19) 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 Engine Model Year Compliance Schedule for heavier vehicles is \$15,000.00 or \$3,000.00 per violation:

- \$3,000.00 for 1 vehicle with a 2004 and older model year engine, and
- \$12,000.00 for 4 vehicles with a 2005 model year engine.

Off-Road Violations

The penalty in this case is \$1000.00 for failing to submit a ROAR by the March 1 deadline.

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 Viramontes Express failed to bring their diesel fleet into compliance by the deadlines set forth in 13 CCR § 2025(g).

Off-Road Violations

The penalty provision being applied for the In-Use Off-Road Diesel Regulation (Title 13, CCR, section 2449 et seq.) violations (including failing to report) is Health and Safety Code section 39674 because the Off-Road rule is a Toxic Air Contaminant Control Measure adopted pursuant to authority contained in Health and Safety Code Section 39660, et seq. and because Viramontes Express failed to submit a ROAR by the March 1 deadline.

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.

Off Road Violations

This penalty is not being assessed under a provision of law that prohibits the emission of pollution at a specified level.

- (20) Viramontes Express 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.

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- (21) 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.
- (22) The penalty was based on confidential settlement communications between ARB and Viramontes Express that ARB does not retain in the ordinary course of business. The penalty is the product of an arms length negotiation between ARB and Viramontes Express and reflects ARB's assessment of the relative strength of its case against Viramontes Express, the desire to avoid the uncertainty, burden and expense of litigation, obtain swift compliance with the law and remove any unfair advantage that Viramontes Express may have secured from its actions.
- (23) Now therefore, in consideration of the payment on behalf of Viramontes Express to the Air Pollution Control Fund, ARB hereby releases Viramontes Express 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 (9) of the Recitals. The undersigned represent that they have the authority to enter into this Agreement.

California Air Resources Board

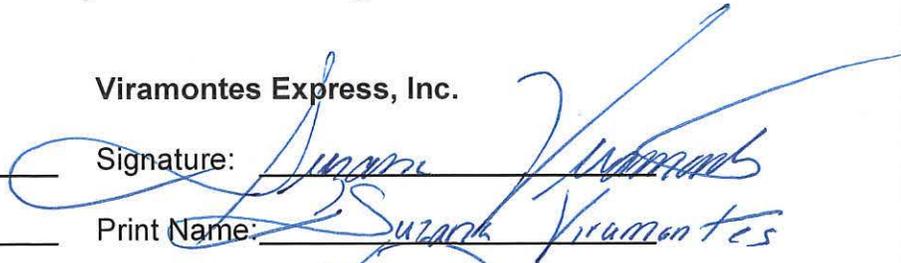
Signature: 

Print Name: Dr. Todd P. Sax

Title: Chief, Enforcement Division

Date: 12/21/17

Viramontes Express, Inc.

Signature: 

Print Name: Suzanna Viramontes

Title: Vice Pres.

Date: 12/13/17