

## SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT AND RELEASE

This SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT AND RELEASE (hereinafter "Agreement") is entered into by and between the STATE OF CALIFORNIA AIR RESOURCES BOARD (hereinafter "CARB"), with its principal office at 1001 I Street, Sacramento, California 95814 and Young's Truck Center, Inc. dba Advantage Truck Center, LLC (hereinafter "Young's") with its principal place of business at 3880 Jeff Adams Drive, Charlotte, North Carolina 28206-1259, collectively, "The Parties." This Agreement shall be effective on the date last executed below ("Effective Date").

### RECITALS

1. California Vehicle Code section 27156(c) provides, in pertinent part, that "No person shall install, sell, offer for sale, or advertise any device intended for use with, or as a part of, any required motor vehicle pollution control device or system which alters or modifies the original design or performance of any such motor vehicle pollution control device or system."
2. Vehicle Code section 27156(h) provides, in pertinent part, that "This section shall not apply to an alteration, modification, or modifying device, apparatus, or mechanism found by resolution of the State Air Resources Board to either not reduce the effectiveness of any required motor vehicle pollution control device or result in emissions from any such modified or altered vehicle which are at levels that comply with existing state or federal standards for the model year of the vehicle being modified or converted."
3. California Code of Regulations, title 13, section 2225(a) provides, in pertinent part, that "The Executive Officer may seek fines for violations of Vehicle Code Section 27156 or other laws or regulations, as applicable."
4. California Code of Regulations, title 13, section 2222(b)(2) provides, in pertinent part, that "no person or company doing business in interstate commerce shall advertise in California any device, apparatus, or mechanism which alters or modifies the original design or performance of any required motor vehicle pollution control device or system and not exempted from Vehicle Code section 27156 unless each advertisements contains a legally adequate disclaimer."
5. Health and Safety Code section 43016 states, in pertinent part, "Any person who violates any provision of this part, or any order, rule, or regulation of the state board adopted pursuant to this part, and for which violation there is not provided in this part any other specific civil penalty or fine, shall be subject to a civil penalty not to exceed five hundred dollars (\$500) per vehicle, portable fuel container, spout, engine, or other unit subject to regulation under this part, as these terms are defined in this division or state board regulations."
6. Young's is a retailer of, inter alia, new aftermarket non-original equipment emission control parts, including, but not limited to, diesel particulate filters and diesel oxidation catalysts.

7. Between January 2015 and May 2016, Young's, offered, and/or sold in California, supplied, distributed, sold, offered for sale, and/or advertised in California twenty - nine (29) diesel particulate filters and diesel oxidation catalysts (hereinafter "Subject Parts").
8. CARB alleges that the Subject Parts altered or modified the original design or performance of devices, apparatuses, or mechanisms intended for use with, or as part of, required highway vehicles, engines, or motor vehicle pollution control devices or systems.
9. CARB alleges that advertisements, offers for sale, sales, and installations of the subject parts in California were unlawful and in violation of Vehicle Code section 27156(c) and California Code of Regulations, title 13, section 2222 et seq.
10. Young's cooperated with CARB throughout its investigation.
11. Young's has no prior enforcement record with CARB.
12. CARB alleges that if the facts described in recital paragraphs 1-9 were proven, civil penalties could be imposed against Young's as provided in Health and Safety Code section 43016.
13. Young's admits the facts described in recital paragraphs 1-9, but denies any liability arising therefrom.
14. Young's is willing to enter into this Agreement solely for the purpose of settlement and resolution of this matter with CARB. CARB accepts this Agreement in termination of this matter. Accordingly, the Parties agree to resolve this matter completely by means of this Agreement, without the need for formal litigation.

### **TERMS AND RELEASE**

In consideration of CARB not filing a legal action against Young's for the violations alleged above, and in consideration of the other terms set out below, CARB and Young's agree as follows:

1. As a condition of this Settlement Agreement, Young's shall pay the total sum of fourteen thousand five hundred dollars (\$14,500) as a penalty. This amount shall be payable in full upon the execution of this Agreement and as follows:

Young's shall pay a sum of fourteen thousand five hundred dollars (\$14,500) as a penalty payable to the **California Air Pollution Control Fund**.

**The signed Agreement and any future mailings or documents per the terms of this Agreement shall be mailed to:**

**Ms. Gretchen Ratliff  
Air Pollution Specialist  
California Air Resources Board  
Enforcement Division  
9480 Telstar Avenue, Suite 4  
El Monte, California 91731**

**For payments made to the Air Pollution Control Fund, please send the payment along with the attached "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 fifteen (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 Agreement, Young's shall pay all costs of investigating and prosecuting the action, including expert fees, reasonable attorney's fees, and costs.
7. This Agreement shall apply to and be binding upon Young's and its principals, officers, directors, agents, receivers, trustees, employees, successors and assignees, subsidiary and parent corporations and predecessors and upon CARB and any successor agency that may have responsibility for and jurisdiction over the subject matter of this Agreement.
8. Now, therefore, in consideration of the payment by Young's to the California Air Pollution Control Fund in the amount specified above, CARB hereby releases Young's and its principals, officers, directors, agents, receivers, trustees, employees, successors and assignees, subsidiary and parent corporations, and predecessors from any and all claims that CARB may have based on the facts and allegations described in recital paragraphs 1-9, above.
9. This Agreement constitutes the entire agreement and understanding between CARB and Young's concerning the claims and settlement in this Agreement, and this Agreement fully supersedes and replaces any and all prior negotiations and agreement of any kind or nature, whether written or oral, between CARB and Young's concerning these claims.
10. No agreement to modify, amend, extend, supersede, terminate, or discharge this Agreement, or any portion thereof, shall be valid or enforceable unless it is in writing and signed by all Parties to this Agreement.

11. Advice of Counsel. Each Party to this Agreement has reviewed the Agreement independently, has had the opportunity to consult counsel, is fully informed of the terms and effect of this Agreement, and has not relied in any way on any inducement, representation, or advice of any other Party in deciding to enter into this Agreement.
12. 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.
13. 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 to the extent necessary to fulfill the Agreement's purpose and the intent of the Parties.
14. Waiver. The failure of any Party to enforce any provision of this Agreement shall not be construed as a waiver of any such provision, nor prevent such Party thereafter from enforcing such provision or any other provision of this Agreement. The rights and remedies granted all Parties herein are cumulative and the election of one right or remedy by a Party shall not constitute a waiver of such Party's right to assert all other legal remedies available under this Agreement or otherwise provided by law.
15. Captions. The captions by which the sections and subsections of this Agreement are identified are for convenience only, and shall have no effect whatsoever upon their interpretation.
16. This Agreement may be executed by facsimile and in multiple counterparts, and the counterparts shall be deemed to be an original, and such counterparts together shall constitute one and the same instrument.
17. 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.

**18. SB 1402 Statement**

Senate Bill 1402 (Dutton, Chapter 413, statutes of 2010, Health and Safety Code section 39619.7) requires the CARB to provide information on the basis for the penalties it seeks. This required information, which is provided throughout this 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 Health and Safety Code section 43024.

The per unit penalty in this case is a maximum of \$500.00 per unit per strict

liability violation. The penalty obtained in this case is \$500.00 per unit for 29 units.

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

CARB alleges that the penalty provision being applied in this case, Health and Safety Code section 43016, is appropriate because Young's allegedly sold, and/or offered for sale, and/or advertised the subject non-California certified aftermarket parts that were not exempted pursuant to California Code of Regulations, title 13, section 2222.

**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.**

The provisions cited above do not prohibit emissions above a specified level. It is not practicable to quantify these emissions, because the information necessary to do so, such as emission rates and time of use, is not available. There are no testing results available that would indicate how much emissions increased as a result of the use of the uncertified aftermarket parts. However, since the aftermarket parts were not certified for sale in California, emissions attributable to them are illegal and excess. The Parties had adequate opportunity to conduct such testing, but elected not to do so in the interests of settlement and because of the time and expense involved.

19. Young's acknowledges that CARB has complied with SB 1402 in prosecuting and settling this case. Specifically, CARB has considered all relevant facts, including those listed at Health and Safety Code section 43024, has explained the manner in which the penalty amount was calculated (including a per unit or per vehicle penalty, if appropriate), has identified the provision of law under which the penalty is being assessed, and has considered and determined that this penalty is not being assessed under a provision of law that prohibits the emission of pollutants at a specified level.
20. 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 case negotiation, and the potential costs and risk associated with litigating these particular violations. The penalty reflects violations extending over a certain period of time, considered together with the complete circumstances of this case.
21. The penalty in this case was based in part on confidential business information provided by Young's that is not retained by CARB in the ordinary course of business. The penalty in this case was also based on confidential settlement communications between CARB and Young's that CARB does not retain in the ordinary course of business either. The penalty also reflects CARB's assessment

of the relative strength of its case against Young's, the desire to avoid the uncertainty, burden and expense of litigation, obtain swift compliance with the law and remove any unfair advantage that Young's may have secured from its alleged actions.

**California Air Resources Board**

By:  \_\_\_\_\_

Name: Dr. Todd P. Sax  
Title: Chief, Enforcement Division  
Date: 5/18/18

**Young's Truck Center, Inc.  
dba Advantage Truck Center, LLC**

By:  \_\_\_\_\_

Name: Ken Adkins  
Title: President  
Date: 5/29/2018