

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 ZEITGEIST EQUESTRIAN LLC (hereinafter "ZEITGEIST EQUESTRIAN"), 105 Purvine Road, Petaluma, California 94952.

## I. RECITALS

- (1) California Health and Safety Code (HSC) section 44011.6 established the Heavy Duty Vehicle Inspection Program (HDVIP). It authorizes ARB to inspect on-road heavy-duty vehicles for excessive smoke emissions and engine tampering and to issue citations, accordingly. The program also requires the vehicle owner to repair its engines that exceed the prescribed ARB smoke opacity standards, perform a post-repair opacity test, and submit proof of repairs and any assessed penalties under the Regulations of the Heavy-Duty Smoke Inspection Program, chapter 3.5, sections 2180-2188, title 13 California Code of Regulations (CCR).
- (2) HSC section 43701 provides that ARB shall adopt regulations that require owners or operators of heavy-duty diesel motor vehicles to perform regular inspections of their vehicles for excessive smoke emissions.
- (3) Title 13 CCR, section 2190 *et seq.* was adopted under the authority of HSC section 43701 and, with limited exceptions, which are not applicable here, apply to all heavy-duty diesel powered vehicles with gross vehicle weight ratings greater than 6,000 pounds that operate on the streets or highways within the State of California.
- (4) Title 13 CCR, section 2190 *et seq.* authorizes the Periodic Smoke Inspection Program (PSIP) which requires the owners and operators of California based vehicle fleets of two or more heavy duty diesel motor vehicles with gross vehicle weight ratings greater than 6,000 pounds that operate on the streets or highways within the State of California to conduct annual smoke opacity inspections of their vehicles that are four years older than the model year of the vehicle's engine.
- (5) Title 13 CCR, section 2192(a) requires inter alia that the owner of the vehicle "[t]est the vehicle for excessive smoke emissions periodically according to the inspection intervals specified in section 2193(a), (b), and (c)", "[m]easure the smoke emissions for each test...", "[r]ecord the smoke test opacity levels and other required test information as specified in section 2194..." and "[k]eep the records specified in section 2194 for two years after the date of inspection."
- (6) HSC section 43016 states, "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 there is not provided in this part any other

specific civil penalty or fine, shall be subject to a civil penalty of not to exceed five hundred dollars (\$500.00) per vehicle."

- (7) The ARB considers testing, measuring, recording, and recordkeeping to be critical components in reducing excessive smoke emissions from these heavy-duty vehicles.
- (8) Health and Safety Code, Section 39650-39675 mandates the reduction of the emissions of substances that have been determined to be toxic air contaminants (TACs). In 1998, following an exhaustive 10-year scientific assessment process, the Air Resources Board 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 particulate matter. On-Road vehicles are controlled under section 2025 within title 13 of the California Code of Regulations (CCR).
- (9) Title 13 CCR, section 2025(r) sets forth the requirements for reporting all vehicles with engines subject to the regulation if the owner of a fleet has elected to utilize the compliance options of section 2025(f)(4), 2025(g)(3), 2025(g)(4), 2025(h), 2025(i), the credits of section 2025(j), the agricultural provisions of section 2025(m), single-engine and two-engine street sweeper provisions of section 2025(n), or any of the exemptions, delays, or extension in sections 2025(e).
- (10) ZEITGEIST EQUESTRIAN has elected to utilize the compliance options/credits/provisions of title 13 CCR, section 2025(p)(4).
- (11) Failure to comply with the requirements of title 13 CCR, section 2025 is a violation of state law resulting in penalties. California HSC sections 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.
- (12) Title 13 CCR, section 2025(e)(8) states: "All information specified in section 2025(r) must be reported to the Executive Officer.
- (13) The ARB has documented that ZEITGEIST EQUESTRIAN has failed to timely report all required information for all vehicles in the fleet for which the owner has elected to utilize the compliance options/credits/provisions of title 13 CCR, section 2025(p)(4).
- (14) In order to resolve these alleged violations, ZEITGEIST EQUESTRIAN has taken, or agreed to take, the actions enumerated below under "RELEASE". Further, the ARB accepts this Agreement in termination and settlement of this matter.
- (15) 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, the ARB and ZEITGEIST EQUESTRIAN agree as follows:

## II. TERMS AND RELEASE

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

- (1) Upon execution of this Agreement, the sum of five hundred dollars (\$500.00) shall be paid on behalf of ZEITGEIST EQUESTRIAN no later than February 25, 2015, as follows:
  - \$375.00 to the **Air Pollution Control Fund**
  - \$125.00 to the **Peralta Colleges Foundation**

**Please submit 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, CA 95812**

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

**Mr. Randy Rhondeau, Air Pollution Specialist  
Air Resources Board, Enforcement Division  
P.O. Box 2815  
Sacramento, CA 95812**

- (2) If the Attorney General files a civil action to enforce this settlement agreement, ZEITGEIST EQUESTRIAN shall pay all costs of investigating and prosecuting the action, including expert fees, reasonable attorney's costs, and costs.
- (3) 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 ZEITGEIST EQUESTRIAN 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 ZEITGEIST

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ARB and ZEITGEIST EQUESTRIAN

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EQUESTRIAN through by ARB arising from the facts described in recital paragraphs (1) through (13) 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.

- (4) ZEITGEIST EQUESTRIAN shall not violate HSC sections 43701 *et seq.*, 44011.6 *et seq.*, and title 13 CCR, sections 2183, 2190 *et seq.*, and 2485 *et seq.*
- (5) ZEITGEIST EQUESTRIAN shall complete Low NOx Software Upgrades (reflash) on all applicable heavy-duty diesel engines operating in California and report to the ARB within 45 days of this agreement.
- (6) Each 1974 or newer diesel powered heavy-duty vehicle in the ZEITGEIST EQUESTRIAN fleet shall remain in compliance with the emission control label (ECL) requirements set forth in the title 13 CCR section 2183(c).
- (7) ZEITGEIST EQUESTRIAN shall instruct all employees who operate diesel-fueled vehicles to comply with the idling regulations set forth in title 13 CCR section 2485, within 45 days of this Agreement.
- (8) ZEITGEIST EQUESTRIAN shall not violate the Truck & Bus regulation as codified in title 13 CCR, section 2025 *et seq.*
- (9) This Agreement shall apply to and be binding upon ZEITGEIST EQUESTRIAN, 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.
- (10) This Agreement constitutes the entire agreement and understanding between ARB and ZEITGEIST EQUESTRIAN concerning the subject matter hereof, and supersedes and replaces all prior negotiations and agreements between ARB and ZEITGEIST EQUESTRIAN concerning the subject matter hereof.
- (11) 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.
- (12) 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.

- (13) 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.
- (14) 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.
- (15) Senate Bill 1402 (Dutton, Chapter 413, statutes of 2010) requires the ARB to provide information on the basis for the penalties it seeks (see Health and Safety Code section 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 sections 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 timely report all required information for all vehicles in the fleet by the deadlines set forth in title 13 CCR, section 2025(r) is \$500 for 1 vehicle(s) reported after the deadline, or \$500 per vehicle, per 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 (title 13 CCR, section 2025) violations in this case is HSC section 39674 because the Truck and Bus regulation is a Toxic Air Contaminant Control Measure adopted pursuant to authority contained in HSC section 39002 et seq., 39650-39675 and because ZEITGEIST EQUESTRIAN failed to timely report all required information for all vehicles in the fleet for which they have elected to utilize compliance options/credits/provisions as required in title 13 CCR, section 2025(r).



**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 not prohibit emissions above a specified level of g/hp-hr.

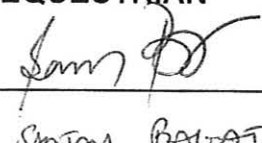
- (16) ZEITGEIST EQUESTRIAN acknowledges that ARB has complied with Senate Bill 1402 in prosecuting or settling this case. Specifically, ARB has considered all relevant facts, including those listed at HSC section 43024, has explained the manner in which the penalty amount was calculated, has identified 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.
- (17) 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.
- (18) The penalty was based on confidential settlement communications between ARB and ZEITGEIST EQUESTRIAN that ARB does not retain in the ordinary course of business. The penalty is the product of an arms length negotiation between ARB and ZEITGEIST EQUESTRIAN and reflects ARB's assessment of the relative strength of its case against ZEITGEIST EQUESTRIAN the desire to avoid the uncertainty, burden and expense of litigation, obtain swift compliance with the law and remove any unfair advantage that ZEITGEIST EQUESTRIAN may have secured from its actions.
- (19) Now therefore, in consideration of the payment on behalf of ZEITGEIST EQUESTRIAN to the Air Pollution Control Fund and the Peralta Colleges Foundation, the ARB hereby releases ZEITGEIST EQUESTRIAN and their principals, officers, agents, predecessors and successors from any and all claims, the ARB may have or have in the future based on the circumstances described in paragraph (1) through (13) of the Recitals. The undersigned represent that they have the authority to enter into this Agreement.

~~Confidential~~

**California Air Resources Board**

**ZEITGEIST EQUESTRIAN**

Signature: 

Signature: 

Print Name: James Ryden

Print Name: SANTAN BALAJI

Title: Chief, Enforcement Division

Title: DIRECTOR

Date: 2/5/15

Date: 1/29/15

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