

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 DEBRIS BOX (hereinafter "DB"), 10981 San Diego Mission Road, Suite 245, San Diego, CA 92108.

I. RECITALS

- (1) California Health and Safety Code (*H&SC*) 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) *H&SC* 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 excess smoke emissions.
- (3) Title 13, CCR sections 2190 et seq. were adopted under the authority of *H&SC* 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 which operate on the streets or highways within the State of California.
- (4) Title 13, CCR sections 2190 et seq. authorize 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 which 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) Under the authority of Health and Safety Code, Sections 39600 and 39601, the CCR, Title 13, Section 2020 et seq. requires the Solid Waste Collection Vehicle fleet owners to use best available control technology for each collection vehicle in the active fleet. Records of the installed diesel emission control strategy and corresponding compliance plan must be accessible at the terminal. Each Solid Waste Collection Vehicle must be

affixed to the driver's side doorjamb, or another readily accessible location known to the driver, a legible and durable label with complete and accurate information filled in.

- (7) ARB contends DB failed to install Best Available Control Technology to solid waste collection vehicles in its fleet according to the implementation schedule outlined in title 13, CCR section 2021.2.
- (8) Health and Safety Code, 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 (\$1,000.00) or not to exceed ten thousand dollars (\$10,000.00) respectively, for each day in which the violation occurs.
- (9) DB is willing to enter into this Agreement solely for the purpose of settlement and resolution of this matter with ARB. ARB 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, and therefore agree as follows:

II. TERMS & RELEASE

In consideration of ARB not filing a legal action against DB, for the violations alleged above, ARB and DB agree as follows:

- (1) Upon execution of this Agreement, DB shall pay a civil penalty of \$ 1,500.00. Payment shall be made in check form as described below:
 - \$ 1,125.00 to the **California Air Pollution Control Fund**.
 - \$ 375.00 to the **Peralta Community College District**.

The full amounts shall be submitted in three payments as per the following schedule and all payments shall be submitted in check form.

| Due Date | Check Made Out To: California Air Pollution Control Fund | Check Made Out To: Peralta Community College District |
|--------------|---|--|
| NOV. 1, 2012 | ----- | \$375.00 |
| DEC. 3, 2012 | \$562.50 | ----- |
| JAN. 2, 2013 | \$562.50 | ----- |

Mr. Sidney Lau, Air Resources Engineer
 Air Resources Board, Enforcement Division
 9480 Telstar Avenue, Suite 4
 El Monte, CA 91731

- (2) DB shall not violate Health and Safety Code Sections 43701 et seq. and 44011.6, et seq., Title 13, CCR, Sections 2180 et seq., 2190 et seq., and 2485 et seq.

- (3) DB 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 ARB webpage at <http://www.arb.ca.gov/enf/hdvip/ccdet/ccdet.htm>. This class is conducted by various California Community Colleges and instructs attendees on compliance with the PSIP, ECL and the HDVIP.
 - (a) DB 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 one year 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 DB 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, DB 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.

- (4) DB shall comply with one or both of the following options to attend the CCDET II class (Diesel Exhaust After Treatment and Maintenance), described on the ARB's webpage <http://www.arb.ca.gov/enf/hdvip/ccdet/ccdet.htm>. This class is conducted by various California Community Colleges and instructs attendees on California's emission regulations and the proper care and maintenance of exhaust after treatment systems (EATS).
 - (a) DB shall have the fleet maintenance manager (or equivalent) and all staff responsible for maintenance of EATS attend the CCDET II class. Proof of CCDET II completion shall be provided to ARB within one year 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 DB uses a contractor for the maintenance of EATS, in addition to having the fleet maintenance manager (or equivalent) attend the CCDET II course, DB shall obtain proof that the contractor's staff maintaining the EATS device(s) completed the CCDET II course within the last four years. This proof of the CCDET II completion shall be provided by DB to the ARB within one year of the date of this settlement and be maintained with the EATS installation and maintenance records.

- (5) Each solid waste collection vehicle shall comply with the label requirements set forth in the title 13, CCR, section 2021.2(f) (2) within 30 days of this Agreement.

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ARB and DEBRIS BOX

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- (6) DB shall maintain compliance with the Solid Waste Collection Vehicle Rule. DB shall keep records of installed diesel control strategies and maintain the compliance plan accordingly.
- (7) DB shall submit any changes to the compliance plan demonstrating compliance with the Solid Waste Collection Vehicle Rule to Mr. Sidney Lau, ARB, Enforcement Division, 9480 Telstar Avenue, Suite 4, El Monte, CA 91731 or electronically at slau@arb.ca.gov.
- (8) DB shall complete Low NOx Software Upgrades (reflash) on all applicable heavy duty diesel engines operating in California no later than 45 days after an engine requiring reflash to comply with ARB emission standards is identified or included in its fleet, and return proof to Mr. Sidney Lau, at the address above.
- (9) Each 1974 or newer diesel powered heavy-duty commercial vehicle in DB fleet shall comply with the emission control label (ECL) requirements set forth in the CCR, Title 13, Section 2183(c), within 45 days of this agreement.
- (10) DB shall instruct all employees who operate diesel fueled commercial vehicles to comply with the idling regulations set forth in CCR, Title 13, Section 2485, within 45 days of this Agreement.
- (11) This Agreement shall apply to and be binding upon DB, 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.
- (12) This Agreement constitutes the entire agreement and understanding between ARB and DB, concerning the subject matter hereof, and supersedes and replaces all prior negotiations and agreements between ARB and DB, concerning the subject matter hereof.
- (13) 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.
- (14) 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.
- (15) 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.
- (16) 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.

- (17) 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 Health and Safety Code sections 42403 and 43024.

Solid Waste Collection Vehicle Regulation Violations

The per vehicle penalty for the Solid Waste Collection Vehicle Regulation 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 Solid Waste Collection Vehicle Regulation violations for failing to install best available control technology by the implementation deadlines in this case is \$1,500, or \$375 per violation for 4 violations for an unspecified number of days. The penalty was discounted based on the fact that this was a first time violation.

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

Solid Waste Collection Vehicle Regulation Violations

The penalty provision being applied for the Solid Waste Collection Vehicle Regulation (Title 13, CCR, section 2020 et seq.) violations (including labeling) is Health and Safety Code section 39674. The Solid Waste Collection Vehicle Regulation is a Toxic Air Contaminant Control Measure adopted pursuant to authority contained in Health and Safety Code Sections 39660 and because DB failed to use best available control technology on 5 vehicles by the implementation deadlines as required by the Solid Waste Collection Vehicle Regulation during the years 2004 and 2005 over an unspecified number of days.

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 Solid Waste Collection Vehicle provisions cited above do prohibit emissions above a specified opacity or level of g/hp-hr. However, since the hours of operation of the non-compliant trucks involved and their individual emission rates are not known, it is not practicable to quantify the excess emissions.

- (18) DB acknowledges that ARB has complied with SB 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.
- (19) Penalties were determined based on the unique circumstances of this matter, considered together with the need to remove any economic benefit from noncompliance, the consideration of past penalties in similar cases, and the potential costs and risk associated with litigating these particular violations. The penalty was discounted based on the fact that the SWCV violations were first time violations and the violator made unusually diligent efforts to comply and to cooperate with the investigation. Penalties in further cases might be smaller or larger on a per unit basis.
- (20) The penalty was based on confidential settlement communications between ARB and DB that ARB does not retain in the ordinary course of business either. The penalty is the product of an arms length negotiation between ARB and DB and reflects ARB's assessment of the relative strength of its case against DB, the desire to avoid the uncertainty, burden and expense of litigation, obtain swift compliance with the law and remove any unfair advantage that DB may have secured from its actions.
- (21) Now, therefore, in consideration of the payment by DB, in the amount of one thousand and five hundred dollars (\$1,500.00), ARB hereby releases DB and its principals, officers, directors, agents, subsidiaries, predecessors, and successors from any and all claims that ARB may have based on the facts and allegations described in recital paragraphs (1) – (8) above. The undersigned represent that they have the authority to enter into this Agreement.

California Air Resources Board

By: 

Name: James Ryden, Chief

Title: Enforcement Division

Date: 12/10/12

Debris Box

By: 

Name: James Smith

Title: Operation Manager

Date: 11-15-12