

## 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 POTIGIAN TRANSFER, INC. (hereinafter "POTIGIAN TRANSFER"), 4041 South Golden State Boulevard, Fresno, California 93725.

### 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 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 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."

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- (6) The ARB considers testing, measuring, recording, and recordkeeping to be critical components in reducing excessive smoke emissions from these heavy-duty vehicles.
- (7) ARB contends POTIGIAN TRANSFER failed to test, measure, record, and maintain records of smoke emissions from its fleet of heavy duty diesel vehicles for 2008 and 2009 in violation of Title 13, CCR Sections 2190 et seq.
- (8) H&SC 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 violation 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."
- (9) ARB contends that if the facts described in recital paragraphs (1) – (8) were proven civil penalties could be imposed against POTIGIAN TRANSFER, as provided in H&SC sections 39674.
- (10) POTIGIAN TRANSFER 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 the ARB not filing a legal action against POTIGIAN TRANSFER for the violations referred to above, the ARB and POTIGIAN TRANSFER agree as follows:

- (1) Upon execution of this Agreement, POTIGIAN TRANSFER shall pay a civil penalty of four thousand eight hundred seventy-five dollars (\$4875.00). Payment shall be made in check form as described below and the full amount shall be submitted at the time of the signing of this agreement.
  - \$3656.25 to the **California Air Pollution Control Fund**
  - \$1218.75 to the **Peralta Community College District**
  - All payments and documents shall be sent to the attention of:

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Mr. Brad Penick, 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, POTIGIAN TRANSFER shall pay all costs of investigating and prosecuting the action, including expert fees, reasonable attorney's fees, and costs.
- (3) POTIGIAN TRANSFER 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.
- (4) POTIGIAN TRANSFER shall comply with one or both of the following options to attend the California Council on Diesel Education and Technology (CCDET) class, as described on the ARB webpage at <http://www.arb.ca.gov/enf/hdvip/hdvip.htm> . This class is conducted by various California Community Colleges and instructs attendees on compliance with the PSIP and the HDVIP.
  - (a) POTIGIAN TRANSFER shall have at least one staff member responsible for compliance with the PSIP and the HDVIP attend the CCDET class. Proof of CCDET completion shall be provided to ARB within one year of the date of this Agreement and shall be maintained in each applicable employee's file for the term of his or her employment, or as provided by POTIGIAN TRANSFER rules, regulations, codes, or ordinances, whichever is longer.
  - (b) If POTIGIAN TRANSFER uses a contractor to perform the annual smoke opacity testing required under the PSIP, POTIGIAN TRANSFER shall obtain proof that the contractor's staff conducting the smoke opacity tests completed the CCDET course within the past four years. This proof of CCDET completion shall be provided to ARB with PSIP records as required by this Settlement Agreement and shall be maintained with the annual PSIP records.
- (5) POTIGIAN TRANSFER shall provide copies of all PSIP compliance records for calendar years 2012 and 2013 to ARB by January 31 of the following year. Copies shall be addressed to the attention of Mr. Brad Penick, Air Pollution Specialist, ARB Enforcement Division, P.O. Box 2815, Sacramento, CA 95812. The ARB reserves the right to visit any POTIGIAN TRANSFER fleet location at any time during business hours to

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conduct compliance audits for the TRU, HDVIP, PSIP, or any other applicable ARB program.

- (6) POTIGIAN TRANSFER shall complete Low NOx Software Upgrades (reflash) on all applicable heavy duty diesel engines operating in California and report back to the ARB, within 45 days of this Agreement.
- (7) Each 1974 or newer diesel powered heavy-duty commercial vehicle in the POTIGIAN TRANSFER fleet shall comply with the emission control label (ECL) requirement set forth in the CCR, Title 13, Section 2183 (c) and report back to ARB, within 45 days of the execution of this agreement.
- (8) POTIGIAN TRANSFER shall instruct all employees who operate diesel fueled commercial vehicles to comply with the commercial vehicle idling regulations set forth in CCR, Title 13, Section 2485, within 45 days of the execution of this agreement.
- (9) POTIGIAN TRANSFER shall not violate the TRU ATCM, as codified in CCR, Title 13 section 2477.
- (10) This Agreement constitutes the entire agreement and understanding between ARB and POTIGIAN TRANSFER concerning the subject matter hereof, and supersedes and replaces all prior negotiations and agreements between ARB and POTIGIAN TRANSFER 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.

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(15) SB 1402 Statement

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 letter includes this information, which is also 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. We consider all relevant circumstances in determining penalties, including the eight factors specified in Health and Safety Code (H&SC) sections 42403 and 43024.

PSIP Violations

The per vehicle penalty for the PSIP violations involved in this case is a maximum of \$500 per vehicle per year. The penalty obtained for the PSIP violations involved in this case is \$4,875.00 for 13 violations in one year or \$375.00 per violation. This penalty is reduced because this was an unintentional first time violation, the company is in financial distress, and the violator made a good effort to come into compliance and cooperate with the investigation.

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

PSIP Violations

The penalty provision being applied to the PSIP violations is Health and Safety Code section 43016 because POTIGIAN TRANSFER failed to test, measure, record, and maintain records of smoke emissions from its fleet of heavy duty diesel vehicles for year 2010 in violation of the PSIP regulation in Title 13, CCR Sections 2190 et seq, for 13 violations. Since the PSIP regulation was adopted pursuant to authority granted in Part 5 of Division 26 of the Health and Safety Code and since there is no specific penalty or fine provided for PSIP violations in Part 5, Health and Safety Code section 43016 is the applicable penalty provision.

**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.**

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#### PSIP Violations

The provisions cited above do prohibit emissions above a specified percentage of smoke opacity. However, since the hours of operation of the non-compliant vehicles involved and their individual emission rate are not known, it is not practicable to quantify the excess emissions.

- (16) POTIGIAN TRANSFER acknowledges that ARB has complied with SB 1402 in prosecuting and settling this case. Specifically, ARB has considered all relevant facts, including those listed at HSC sections 42403 and 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 being assessed under a provision of law that prohibits the emission of pollutants at a specified level. However, since the hours of operation of the non-compliant units involved and their individual emission rates are not known, it is not practicable for ARB to quantify the excess emissions.
- (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 negotiation, and the potential costs and risk associated with litigating these particular violations. The penalty reflects violations extending over a number of days considered together with the complete circumstances of this case. 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 POTIGIAN TRANSFER that ARB does not retain in the ordinary course of business either. The penalty is the product of an arm's length negotiation between ARB and POTIGIAN TRANSFER and reflects ARB's assessment of the relative strength of its case against POTIGIAN TRANSFER, the desire to avoid the uncertainty, burden and expense of litigation, obtain swift compliance with the law and remove any unfair advantage that POTIGIAN TRANSFER may have secured from its actions.
- (21) Now therefore, in consideration of the payment by POTIGIAN TRANSFER, in the amount of four thousand eight hundred seventy-five dollars (\$4,875.00), ARB hereby releases POTIGIAN TRANSFER and its principals, officers, agents, predecessors and successors from any and all claims that ARB may have based on the facts and allegations described in

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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 R. Ryden  
Title: Chief, Enforcement Division  
Date: 5/15/12

Potigian Transfer, Incorporated

By: 

Name: Dan Potigian  
Title: President  
Date: 5/7/12