

## SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT AND RELEASE

This SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT AND RELEASE (hereinafter "Agreement") is entered into between the STATE OF CALIFORNIA AIR RESOURCES BOARD (hereinafter "ARB") with its principal office at 1001 I Street, Sacramento, California 95814, and Tractor Supply Company (hereinafter "TSC") with its principal place of business at 200 Powell Place, Brentwood, Tennessee 37027.

### I. RECITALS

- (1) California Code of Regulations, title 13, section 2400(a)(2) states, "Every new small off-road engine that is manufactured for sale, sold, or offered for sale in California, or that is introduced, delivered or imported into California for introduction into commerce, and that is subject to any of the standards prescribed in this article must be covered by an Executive Order, issued pursuant to this article."
- (2) California Health and Safety Code 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) 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 regulations. Any penalty collected pursuant to this section shall be payable to the State Treasurer for deposit in the Air Pollution Control Fund."
- (3) On September 10, 2013, during a routine inspection of TSC's retail store, located at 1390 E. Main Street, Woodland, California, 95776, one non-California certified pressure washer was being offered for sale at the store.
- (4) Upon further investigation by TSC and ARB, TSC manufactured for sale, offered for sale, and/or sold in California 75 additional non-California certified equipment containing small off-road engines.
- (5) If the allegations described in recital paragraphs 1 – 4 hereinabove were proven, penalties could be imposed against TSC pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 43016 for each and every violation.
- (6) TSC fully cooperated with ARB in the investigation of offers and sales of SOREs to California customers.
- (7) TSC admits the facts in recital paragraphs 1 – 4 above, but denies any liability arising out of those facts.
- (8) TSC 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

# SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT AND RELEASE

ARB and TSC

Page 2 of 5

termination of this matter. Accordingly, the parties agree to resolve this matter completely by means of this Agreement, without the need for formal litigation.

## II. TERMS AND RELEASE

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

- (1) As a condition of this Settlement Agreement and upon execution of this Agreement, TSC shall pay the sum of thirty one thousand six hundred twenty-nine dollars (\$31,629.00) as a penalty to the California Air Pollution Control Fund.
- (2) Payment shall be made by cashier's check payable to the Air Pollution Control Fund and shall be mailed to the following address along with the attached Payment Transmittal Form:

California Air Resources Board  
Accounting Office  
P.O. Box 1436  
Sacramento, California 95812-1436
- (3) TSC shall not violate California Code of Regulations, title 13, section 2400(a)(2) with respect to the manufacture for sale, sale, or offer for sale in California of non-certified small off-road engines.
- (4) This Agreement shall apply to and be binding upon TSC and its principals, officers, directors, receivers, trustees, employees, successors and assignees, and 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.
- (5) Now therefore, in consideration of the payment by TSC in the amount of thirty one thousand six hundred twenty-nine dollars (\$31,629.00) to the California Air Pollution Control Fund, ARB hereby releases TSC and its principals, officers, agents, employees, shareholders, subsidiaries, predecessors and successors from any and all claims for past violations of California Code of Regulations, title 13, sections 2400 et seq. ARB may have based on the events described in paragraphs 1 - 4 of the Recitals. The undersigned represent that they have the authority to enter this Agreement.
- (6) This Agreement constitutes the entire agreement and understanding between ARB and TSC concerning the claims and settlement in this Agreement, and this Agreement fully supersedes and replaces any and all prior negotiations and

## SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT AND RELEASE

ARB and TSC

Page 3 of 5

agreements of any kind or nature, whether written or oral, between ARB and TSC concerning these claims.

- (7) 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.
- (8) 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.
- (9) 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.
- (10) 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.
- (11) 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.
- (12) 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.
- (13) **SB 1402 Statement**

Senate Bill 1402 (Dutton, Chapter 413, statutes of 2010, Health and Safety Code section 39617) requires ARB to provide information on the basis for the penalties it seeks. This required 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 section 43024.

## SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT AND RELEASE

ARB and TSC

Page 4 of 5

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 approximately \$416.17 per unit for 76 units. This reflects the fact that this was not a first time violation and TSC's cooperation with the investigation.

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

ARB alleges that the penalty provision being applied in this case, Health and Safety Code section 43016, is appropriate because TSC allegedly manufactured for sale, sold, and/or offered for sale the subject small off-road engines that were not certified by ARB.

**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. However, since the generators involved in this case are illegal for use or sale in California, all of the emissions attributable to them are illegal as well. 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.

- (14) TSC 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 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.
- (15) 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. The penalty reflects violations extending over a certain period of time, considered together with the complete circumstances of this case. The penalty was discounted in this matter based on TSC's cooperation with ARB's investigation. Penalties in future cases might be smaller or larger on a per unit basis.

SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT AND RELEASE

ARB and TSC

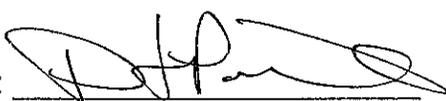
Page 5 of 5

- (16) The penalty in this case was based in part on confidential business information provided by TSC that is not retained by ARB in the ordinary course of business. The penalty in this case was also based on confidential settlement communications between ARB and TSC that ARB does not retain in the ordinary course of business either. The penalty also reflects ARB's assessment of the relative strength of its case against TSC, the desire to avoid the uncertainty, burden and expense of litigation, obtain swift compliance with the law and remove any unfair advantage that TSC may have secured from its actions.

**California Air Resources Board**

By:   
Name: Ellen M. Peter  
Title: Chief Counsel  
Date: 9/24/2014

**Tractor Supply Company**

By:   
Name: Benjamin F. Parrish, Jr.  
Title: Sr. Vice President & General Counsel  
Date: September 19, 2014