

This Settlement Agreement (Agreement) is entered into between the STATE OF CALIFORNIA AIR RESOURCES BOARD (ARB) and IMPERIAL IRRIGATION DISTRICT (the District), General Counsel's Office, 333 E. Barioni Blvd., Imperial, California 92251.

## RECITALS

1. The Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 authorized ARB to adopt regulations requiring the reporting and verification of greenhouse gas emissions. (Health & Saf. Code §38530.) Pursuant to that authority, ARB adopted the Regulation for the Mandatory Reporting of Greenhouse Gas Emissions (MRR), California Code of Regulations (CCR), title 17, §95100 et seq.
2. The MRR is crucial to the development of the greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory, and supports other regulatory programs, including the cap on GHG emissions established by CCR, title 17, §95801 et seq., known as the Cap-and-Trade Regulation. The MRR requires entities that provide electricity into California to submit, by June 1<sup>st</sup> of each year, an emissions data report containing information that is certified to be complete and accurate within stated standards. (CCR, tit. 17, §95103.) The June 1<sup>st</sup> deadline is intended to precede other regulatory events later in the year, such as verification under the MRR, and the distribution of allowances and surrender of compliance instruments under the Cap-and-Trade Regulation.
3. Where a report required under the MRR is late or does not meet the regulation's standards for accuracy, completeness, or third-party verification, the MRR provides that each day a report remains unsubmitted, incomplete or inaccurate constitutes a separate violation. (CCR, tit. 17, §95107.)
4. California Health & Safety Code sections 38580 and 42402 provide that one who violates the MRR or related regulations is strictly liable for a penalty of up to \$10,000 for each violation.
5. ARB contends that for the reporting period 2014 the District failed to comply with the MRR by failing to accurately characterize the source of electricity that the District sold into the California electrical grid. The District corrected the errors.
6. In reaching this settlement, ARB considered a variety of circumstances, including the size and complexity of the violator's operations, the nature, magnitude, and duration of the violation, any harm to the environment or the regulatory program, efforts the violator took to prevent the violation and to correct it, and the financial burden to the violator.
7. In this matter, there were a number of mitigating factors, including that this is the first time ARB has noted the District as being in violation, the errors in the emissions report were promptly corrected, the District's explanation indicates an innocent error, and the District has agreed to submit an updated GHG Inventory Plan to ARB to demonstrate that reporting will be accurate in future reporting years.

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8. To resolve these alleged violations, the District has taken, or agreed to take, the actions enumerated below. ARB accepts this Agreement in termination and settlement of this matter.

9. 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, ARB and the District agree as follows.

**TERMS**

10. Within 15 business days following execution by all parties of this Agreement, The District shall deliver a cashier's check or money order in the sum of \$35,000.00 made payable to the "Air Pollution Control Fund."

The check should note "I.I.D. 2014 MRR Settlement" in the memo section. The District shall send (1) the signed settlement agreement, (2) check, and (3) the payment transmittal form (Attachment A) to:

Air Resources Board, Accounting Office  
P.O. Box 1436  
Sacramento, CA 95812-1436

and send a copy of the settlement agreement and copy of the check to:

William Brieger  
Air Resources Board  
P.O. Box 2815  
Sacramento, CA 95812-2815

11. It is further agreed that the penalties described in the prior paragraph are payable to a governmental unit and punitive in nature, rather than compensatory. Therefore these penalties, arising from the facts described in recital paragraphs 1 – 9, are non-dischargeable under 11 United States Code §523(a)(7).

12. The District shall not violate the MRR.

13. Within 60 days of executing this Agreement, the District shall submit to ARB an updated Greenhouse Gas Inventory Plan that meets the requirements of CCR, title 17, section 95105(c), and that addresses any omissions and errors in the gathering and reporting of information identified by a verifier or ARB in connection with reporting emissions from the year 2014.

14. This Agreement shall apply to and be binding upon the District, and any receivers, trustees, successors and assignees and upon ARB and any successor agency that may have responsibility for and jurisdiction over the subject matter of this Agreement.

15. This Agreement constitutes the entire agreement and understanding between ARB and the District concerning the subject matter hereof, and supersedes all prior

negotiations and agreements between ARB and the District concerning the subject matter hereof.

16. 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.

17. 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.

18. 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.

19. 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.

### **The Penalty's Basis**

20. Health & Safety Code section 39619.7 requires ARB to explain the manner in which the penalty was determined, the law on which it is based, and whether that law prohibits emissions at a specified level. ARB has considered all relevant factors, including those listed at Health & Safety Code section 42403, has explained the manner in which the penalty amount was calculated, has identified the provision of law under which the penalty is being assessed, which provision does not prohibit the emission of pollutants at a specified level. That information, some of which is also elsewhere in this settlement agreement, is summarized here.

**The manner in which the penalty was determined, including any per-unit penalty.** Penalties must be set at levels sufficient to deter violations. The penalties in this matter were determined based on all relevant circumstances, including the unique circumstances of this case, giving consideration to the eight factors specified in Health & Safety Code section 42403. Consideration was given to the reporting entity's size and complexity, the extent to which the monitoring and reporting deviated from MRR requirements, the cause of any errors and omissions, and the magnitude of any errors. Those circumstances were considered together with the need to remove any economic benefit from noncompliance, the goal of deterring future violations and obtaining swift compliance, penalties sought in other cases, and the potential costs and risk associated with litigating these particular violations. Penalties in future cases might be smaller or larger.

In this matter the penalty was not determined on a per-unit basis. The penalty was discounted based on the fact that the violation was a first time violation, circumstances suggest that the reporting error may have resulted from a misunderstanding, and the District made diligent efforts to comply and to cooperate with ARB's investigation.

**The legal provisions under which the penalty was assessed and why those provisions are appropriate.** The penalty is based on Health & Safety Code section

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42402 and CCR, title 17, section 95107, the provisions intended to govern MRR violations.

**Whether the governing provisions prohibit emissions at a specified level.** The MRR does not prohibit emissions above a stated level, but Health & Safety Code section 38580(b)(2) specifies that violations of any regulation under the Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 shall be deemed to result in an emission for purposes of the governing penalty statutes.

21. The penalty was based on confidential settlement communications between ARB and the District. The penalty is the product of an arms length negotiation between ARB and the District and reflects ARB's assessment of the relative strength of its case against the District, the desire to avoid the uncertainty, burden and expense of litigation, to obtain swift compliance with the law and to remove any unfair advantage that the District may have secured from its actions.

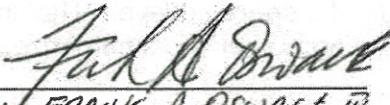
22. In consideration of the penalty payment and undertaking in paragraph 13, above, ARB hereby releases the District from any claims the ARB may have based on the circumstances described in paragraph 5, above.

23. The undersigned represent that they have the authority to enter into this Agreement.

**California Air Resources Board**

By:   
Ellen M. Peter  
Chief Counsel  
Date: 12/14/2016

**Imperial Irrigation District**

By:   
Name: FRANK A. OSWALT, III  
Title: GENERAL COUNSEL  
Date: December 13, 2016