



### **EXPEDITED SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT**

**DOCKET NO:** CAA(112r)-09-2025-0098

**This ESA is issued to:** **People's Farming, LLC**

**For:** Violation of Section 112(r)(7) of the Clean Air Act.

**At:** People's Farming, LLC, 6879 N. Washoe Ave., Firebaugh, CA

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This Expedited Settlement Agreement ("ESA") is being entered into by the United States Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA"), Region 9, by its duly delegated official, Amy C. Miller-Bowen, Director, Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division, and People's Farming, LLC ("Respondent") pursuant to Section 113(a)(3) and (d) of the Clean Air Act (the "Act"), 42 U.S.C. § 7413(a)(3) and (d), and by 40 C.F.R. § 22.13(b). EPA has obtained the concurrence of the U.S. Department of Justice, pursuant to Section 113(d)(1) of the Act, 2 U.S.C. § 7413(d)(1), to pursue this administrative enforcement action.

### **ALLEGED VIOLATIONS**

EPA alleges Respondent's failure to:

1. Submit its Risk Management Plan report in a timely manner (81 days late), in accordance with Section 112(r)(7) of the Clean Air Act and 40 C.F.R. § 68.190(b)(1).

### **SETTLEMENT**

The parties enter into this ESA in order to settle the violations described above for the total penalty amount of **\$1,200.**

This settlement is subject to the following terms and conditions:

1. In signing this Agreement, Respondent: (1) admits that Respondent is subject to CAA 112(r) and its implementing regulations; (2) admits that EPA has jurisdiction over Respondent and Respondent's conduct as alleged herein, (3) neither admits nor denies the factual

allegations contained herein; (4) consents to the assessment of this penalty; (5) waives the opportunity for a hearing to contest any issues of fact or law set forth herein; (6) waives its right to appeal the Final Order accompanying this Agreement pursuant to Section 113(d)(2)(A) of the Act, 42 U.S.C § 7413(d)(2)(A); and (7) consents to electronic service of the filed ESA. By signing this consent agreement, Respondent waives any rights or defenses that Respondent has or may have for this matter to be resolved in federal court, including but not limited to any right to a jury trial, and waives any right to challenge the lawfulness of the final order accompanying the consent agreement.

2. Each party to this action shall bear its own attorney's fees and costs, if any.
3. Respondent must pay the civil penalty of \$1,200 using any method provided on the following website: <https://www.epa.gov/financial/makepayment>. Such payment shall identify Respondent by name and include the docket number assigned to this Agreement by the Regional Hearing Clerk.
4. Within 24 hours of payment, email proof of payment (e.g., a copy of the check or a statement of affirmation regarding electronic funds transfer), including Respondent's name, complete address, and docket number to the following:

Regional Hearing Clerk  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9  
75 Hawthorne Street  
San Francisco, California 94105  
[R9HearingClerk@epa.gov](mailto:R9HearingClerk@epa.gov)

Anuka King  
Environmental Engineer  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9  
75 Hawthorne Street  
San Francisco, California 94105  
[king.anuka@epa.gov](mailto:king.anuka@epa.gov)

5. The payment should reference Respondent's name and a copy of this ESA must be included with the check/online payment.
6. Respondent also certifies, subject to civil and criminal penalties for making a false submission to the United States Government, that the Respondent has corrected the violations listed above. Pursuant to CAA § 114(a)(1)(B) [42 U.S.C. § 7414(a)(1)(B)] **please provide documentation to USEPA Region 9 describing how each area of identified non-compliance has been addressed.** Such documentation is due to EPA within 45 calendar days of your receipt of this letter.

Upon Respondent's submission of the signed original ESA, EPA will take no further civil penalty action


against Respondent for the violations of the Act alleged above. This ESA shall not be construed as a covenant not to sue, a release, waiver, or limitation of any rights, remedies, powers, or authorities, civil or criminal that EPA has under the Act or any other statutory, regulatory, or common law enforcement authority of the United States, except as stated above.

If the signed ESA with an attached copy of the payment is not returned to the EPA Region 9 office at the above address in correct form by the Respondent within 45 days of the date of Respondent's receipt of the proposed ESA and EPA has not granted an extension of its offer to settle, the ESA is withdrawn, without prejudice to EPA's ability to file an enforcement action for the violations identified herein.

This ESA is binding on the parties signing below.

This ESA is effective upon filing with the Regional Hearing Clerk.

FOR RESPONDENT: People's Farming, LLC

Signature:  Signed by: Bernard Steimann Date: 7/15/2025  
24C8A752E2844DA...

Name (print): Bernard Steimann

Title (print): Managing Member

FOR COMPLAINANT: Environmental Protection Agency

AMY MILLER-BOWEN  Digitally signed by AMY MILLER-BOWEN Date: 2025.08.06 11:29:59 -07'00' 8/6/2025  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Amy C. Miller-Bowen, Director  
Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division  
U.S. EPA Region 9

Respondent has paid the penalty specified herein. This Expedited Settlement Agreement and Final Order shall be entered.

It is SO ORDERED.

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Beatrice Wong  
Regional Judicial Officer  
U.S. EPA Region IX

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify the foregoing Expedited Settlement Agreement and Final Order in the matter of People's Farming, LLC (Docket No. CAA(112r)-09-2025-0098) was filed by the Regional Hearing Clerk, U.S. EPA, Region IX, 75 Hawthorne Street, San Francisco, CA 94105, and that a true and correct copy of the same was served on the parties, via electronic mail, as indicated below:

**RESPONDENT(S):** Bernard Steimann  
Founder  
People's Farming, LLC  
6879 N. Washoe Ave  
Firebaugh, CA 93622  
License@peoplescali.com

**COMPLAINANT:** Andrew Helmlinger  
Supervisory Attorney Adviser  
U.S. EPA – Region IX  
Hazardous Waste Section I (ORC-3-1)  
75 Hawthorne Street  
San Francisco, CA 94105  
Helmlinger.Andrew@epa.gov

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Regional Hearing Clerk  
U.S. EPA – Region IX