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NANCY J. MARVEL 2007 SEP 25 PM 3: 30 Regional Counsel U.S. EPA. REGION IX REGIONAL HEARING CLERK LETITIA D. MOORE Assistant Regional Counsel U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region IX 75 Hawthorne Street San Francisco, CA 94105 (415)972-3928 6 7 UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY 8 REGION IX 9 Docket No. RCRA-9-2007-0017 IN THE MATTER OF: 10 11 SCOTT LAWSON CONSENT AGREEMENT AND FINAL ORDER 12 PURSUANT TO 40 C.F.R. 13 Respondent. SECTIONS 22.13 and 22.18 14 15 CONSENT AGREEMENT 16 Complainant, the United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region IX 17 ("Complainant" or "EPA"), and Respondent, Scott Lawson ("Respondent"), the parties herein. 18 agree that settlement of this matter is in the public interest and that entry of this Consent Agreement and Final Order, pursuant to 40 C.F.R. Sections 22.13 and 22.18, ("CA/FO"), without 20 further litigation is the most appropriate means of resolving this matter. 21 22 A. PRELIMINARY STATEMENT 23 1. This is a civil administrative enforcement action instituted pursuant to Section 3008(a)(1) 24 of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act ("RCRA"), as amended, 42 U.S.C. 25 § 6928(a)(1), and the Consolidated Rules of Practice Governing the Administrative 26 Assessment of Civil Penalties and the Revocation/Termination or Suspension of Permits 27 28 Final CA/FO, Scott Lawson, Torres Martinez Reservation, CA

GENERAL ALLEGATIONS B.

- 7. Respondent is, and at all times referred to herein was, a "person" as defined in Section 1004(15) of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. §6903(15), and 40 C.F.R. §§ 260.10 and 270.2.
- 8. Respondent was the "owner" and/or "operator" of a facility as defined in 40 C.F.R.

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§ 260.10 .

- The Oasis Mobile Home Park, located at 88-740 Avenue 70, Thermal, California 92274, is a "facility" as defined in 40 C.F.R. §§ 257.2 and 260.10.
- Respondent was engaged in the "disposal" of solid or hazardous waste as defined in Section 1004(3) of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. §6903(3) and 40 C.F.R. §§ 257.2, 260.10 and 270.2 at the time of the violations alleged.
- Respondent stored "hazardous waste" as defined in Section 1004(5) of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 6903(5) and 40 C.F.R. §§ 260.10 and 261.3.
- 12. On June 29, 2006, EPA conducted a RCRA inspection at the Facility. Based upon the findings EPA made during the inspection and additional information obtained subsequent to the inspection, EPA determined that Respondent violated Sections 1008, 3004, 3005 and 4005(a) of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. §§ 6907, 6924, 6925 and 6945(a), and 40 C.F.R. §§ 257.3-7, 257.3-8, and 265.31.
- 13. Section 3008 of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 6928, authorizes the EPA Administrator to enforce the hazardous waste management program at the Torres Martinez Indian Reservation in California. Pursuant to section 4005(c)(2) of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 6945(c)(2), the Administrator may use the authorities of Sections 3007 and 3008 of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 6927 and 6928, to enforce the prohibition on open dumping of solid waste or hazardous waste contained in Section 4005(a) of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 6945(a) at the Torres Martinez Indian Reservation in California.
- 14. Section 3008 of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 6928, authorizes the EPA Administrator to issue orders assessing a civil penalty, requiring compliance immediately or within a specified time for violation of any requirement of Subtitle C of RCRA, Section 3001 of RCRA et seq., 42 U.S.C. §6921 et seq., and as provided pursuant to Section 4005(c)(2) of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 6945(c)(2), for violations of minimum criteria that define the solid waste management practices which constitute open dumping of solid waste or hazardous waste.
- 15. The Administrator has delegated the authority under Section 3008 of RCRA to the EPA

Final CA/FO, Scott Lawson, Torres Martinez Reservation, CA

techniques as appropriate.

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with 40 C.F.R. § 257.3-7 and through the periodic application of cover material or other

22.	On June 29, 2006, the EPA Inspector observed piles of solid waste on the ground at the
	Facility. The solid waste included household garbage, household hazardous waste,
	furniture, tires, plastic, wood, metal, and lead-acid batteries, as well as burn ash and
	partially combusted waste.

- 23. On June 29, 2006, the EPA inspector observed evidence of previous open burning of waste at the Facility, in violation of 40 C.F.R. § 257.3-7(a). The EPA inspector observed burn ash and partially combusted waste on the ground at the Facility. Failure to comply with 40 C.F.R. § 257.3-7(a) constitutes open dumping and is prohibited under Section 4005(a) of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 6945(a), as provided in 40 C.F.R. §§ 257.1(a)(1 & 2).
- 24. On June 29, 2006, the EPA inspector observed that the Facility did not provide for daily cover as required by 40 C.F.R. §§ 257.3-8(b) and 257.3-7. Failure to comply with these requirements constitutes open dumping and is prohibited under Section 4005(a) of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 6945(a), as provided in 40 C.F.R. §§ 257.1(a)(1 & 2).
- Therefore, EPA alleges that Respondent violated Section 4005(a) of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 6945(a).

COUNT II

(Failure To Minimize Releases of Hazardous Wastes)

- 26. Paragraphs 1 through 25 above are incorporated herein by this reference as if they were set forth here in their entirety.
- Respondent stored or disposed of spent lead-acid batteries, which are "hazardous waste" as defined in Section 1004(5) of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 6903(5), and 40 C.F.R. §§ 260.10 and 261.3.
- 28. 40 C.F.R. §265.31 requires that hazardous waste facilities must be maintained and operated to minimize the possibility of a fire, explosion, or any unplanned sudden or non-sudden release of hazardous waste or hazardous waste constituents to air, soil, or surface water which could threaten human health or the environment.
- 29. On June 29, 2006, EPA's inspector observed that Respondent had been storing and

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CIVIL PENALTY

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ADMISSIONS AND WAIVERS E.

where appropriate.

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For the purposes of this proceeding, Respondent (a) admits to the jurisdictional 33. allegations set forth in this CA/FO, (b) consents to and agrees not to contest EPA's jurisdiction and authority to enter into, issue, and enforce the terms of this CA/FO, and (c) will not contest EPA's jurisdiction and authority to compel compliance with this

disposing of lead-acid batteries at the Facility, in a manner presenting a threat of release

Section 3008(g) of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 6928(g), as amended by the Debt Collection

TWO THOUSAND AND FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$32,500) per day for each

Based upon the facts alleged herein and upon those factors which EPA must consider

pursuant to Section 3008(a)(3) of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 6928(a)(3), and the RCRA Civil

Respondent to comply with applicable requirements, and any economic benefit accruing

to Respondent, as well as such other matters as justice may require, EPA proposes that

Respondent be assessed ELEVEN THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$ 11,000.00) as the civil

accordance with the "RCRA Civil Penalty Policy," dated June 2003, as adjusted by the

assessment matrix, which is then adjusted to take into account multi-day violations, for

case-specific circumstances, and for the economic benefit gained from non-compliance,

penalty for the violations alleged herein. The proposed penalties were calculated in

Debt Collection Improvement Act. Under the penalty policy, EPA uses a penalty

Penalty Policy, including the seriousness of the violations, any good faith efforts by

Improvement Act of 1996, 40 C.F.R. Part 19, authorizes a civil penalty of up to THIRTY-

to the environment. Two lead-acid batteries were located on the ground.

Therefore, EPA alleges that Respondent violated 40 C.F.R. § 265.31.

violation of Subtitle C of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 6921 et seq.

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F. PARTIES BOUND

CA/FO.

35. This CA/FO shall apply to and be binding upon Respondent and its agents, successors and assigns and upon all persons acting under or for Respondent, until such time as the civil penalty required under Sections D and I has been paid in accordance with Section I, all tasks required by this CA/FO have been completed, and any delays in performance and/or stipulated penalties have been resolved. At such time as those matters are concluded, this CA/FO shall terminate and constitute full settlement of the violations alleged herein.

CA/FO in any enforcement proceedings, either administrative or judicial, or to impose

For the purposes of this proceeding, Respondent (a) neither admits nor denies any specific

factual allegations set forth in this CA/FO, (b) hereby waives any rights Respondent may

have to contest the allegations set forth in this CA/FO, (c) waives any rights Respondent

may have to a hearing, including without limitation a hearing pursuant to Section 3008(b)

without adjudication. In addition, Respondent hereby waives any rights Respondent may

have to appeal the Final Order attached to this Consent Agreement and made part of this

of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 6928(b), and (d) hereby consents to the issuance of this CA/FO

sanctions for violations of this CA/FO.

- Until this CA/FO terminates, no change in ownership or corporate, partnership or legal status relating to the Facility will in any way alter Respondent's obligations and responsibilities under this CA/FO.
- The undersigned representative of Respondent hereby certifies that he or she is fully authorized by Respondent to enter into this CA/FO, to execute and to legally bind Respondent.

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- Respondent shall complete the following tasks in the prescribed time frames:
 - a. Removal and Proper Disposal of Existing Waste. Within thirty (30) days of the effective date of this CA/FO, Respondent shall remove and properly dispose of offsite (i) all remaining solid and hazardous waste constituting an open dump at the Facility, and (ii) all solid and hazardous waste located in the area of allotment TM-19 identified on Attachment A to this CA/FO, which is incorporated hereto. Respondent shall certify in writing to EPA that he has completed the removals and offsite disposals required above and that no new open dumps have developed at the Facility. Such certification shall include a description of the types of wastes and quantity removed and disposed of, and a list of the names and addresses of the facilities where the waste was disposed.
 - b. <u>Program To Prevent Open Dumping.</u> To avoid open dumping at the Facility in the future, within thirty (30) days of the effective date of this CA/FO, Respondent shall arrange for weekly garbage pickup from the Facility for all residents of the Oasis Mobile Home Park. This requirement shall be enforceable under this CA/FO for one (1) year following the effective date of the CA/FO.
 - c. Waste Management Plan. Within forty-five (45) days after the effective date of this CA/FO, Respondents shall submit to EPA for approval a plan for the management of used oil, lead-acid batteries, electronics (televisions, computer monitors, etc), and tires which may be discovered at the Facility. Respondent shall implement the EPA approved plan within thirty days (30) days after notice of EPA's approval of the plan. The requirement to implement the EPA approved management plan shall be enforceable under this CA/FO for one (1) year following the effective date of the CA/FO.
 - d. Waste Management Factsheet. Within thirty (30) days after the effective date of this CA/FO, Respondent shall submit to EPA for approval a proposed factsheet to be provided to all households at the Facility informing residents of how and where to properly dispose of used oil, lead acid batteries, electronics, and tires. Respondent shall

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post the factsheet at a prominent location at the Facility and provide a copy to all households at the Facility within thirty days (30) days after notice of EPA's approval of the factsheet.

39. Compliance Certification. Upon completion of all tasks required by this CA/FO, Respondent shall certify to EPA in writing that Respondent has corrected the violations alleged and completed all compliance tasks, and that Respondent is now in compliance with the applicable requirements of Sections 1008, 3004, 3005 and 4005(a) of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. §§ 6907, 6924, 6925 and 6945(a), and their implementing regulations. The signatory for Respondent shall certify under penalty of law that this certification of compliance is based upon true, accurate and complete information, which the signatory can verify personally or regarding which the signatory has inquired of the person or persons directly responsible for gathering the information.

PAYMENT OF CIVIL PENALTY

- 40. Respondent hereby consents to the assessment of a civil penalty in the amount of ELEVEN THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$ 11,000) in settlement of the civil penalty claims of the United States for the violations of Sections 1008, 3004, 3005 and 4005(a) of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. §§ 6907, 6924, 6925 and 6945(a), and 40 C.F.R. §§ 257.3-7, 257.3-8, and 265.31, alleged in Section C above.
- 41. Respondent shall submit payment of the ELEVEN THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$ 11,000) civil penalty within thirty (30) calendar days of the Effective Date of this CA/FO. In accordance with 40 C.F.R. §§ 22.18(b)(3) and 22.31(b), this CA/FO shall be effective upon filing. Payment shall be made by in accordance with EPA's payment instructions. A copy of the payment instructions is attached to this CA/FO. Payment instructions may also be found online at http://www.epa.gov/cfo/finservices/make_a_payment_cin.htm. At the time payment is made, copies of the payment documents shall be sent to:

Regional Hearing Clerk (RC-1) 1 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency - Region IX 75 Hawthorne Street 2 San Francisco, CA 94105 3 and 4 Kaoru Morimoto (WST-3) Waste Management Division 5 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency - Region IX 75 Hawthorne Street 6 San Francisco, CA 94105 7 In accordance with the Debt Collection Act of 1982 and U.S. Treasury directive (TFRM 42. 8 6-8000), the payment must be received within thirty (30) calendar days of the Effective 9 Date of this CA/FO to avoid additional charges. If payment is not received within thirty 10 (30) calendar days, interest will accrue from the Effective Date of this CA/FO at the 11 current rate published by the United States Treasury as described at 40 C.F.R. § 13.11. A 12 late penalty charge of \$15.00 will be imposed after thirty (30) calendar days with an 13 additional \$15.00 charge for each subsequent 30-day period. A 6% per annum penalty 14 will further apply on any principal amount not paid within ninety (90) calendar days of 15 the due date. Respondent further will be liable for stipulated penalties as set forth below 16 for any payment not received by its due date. 17 18 DELAY IN PERFORMANCE AND STIPULATED PENALTIES 19 43. In addition to the interest and per annum penalties described above, in the event that 20 Respondent fails to pay the full amount of the penalty within the time specified in 21 Section I, Respondent agrees to pay Complainant a stipulated penalty of up to FIVE 22 HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$ 500) for each day the default continues. 23 44. In the event Respondent fails to comply with any of the compliance tasks identified in 24 Paragraphs 38 - 39, Respondent shall, for each such failure, be liable for a stipulated 25 penalty of up to FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$ 500) for each day the failure continues. 26 45. All penalties shall begin to accrue on the date that performance is due or a violation 27

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Final CA/FO, Scott Lawson, Torres Martinez Reservation, CA

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occurs, and shall continue to accrue through the final day of correction of the noncompliance. Nothing herein shall prevent the simultaneous accrual of separate penalties for separate violations.

- 46. All penalties owed to EPA under this Section shall be due within thirty (30) days of receipt of a notification of noncompliance. Such notification shall describe the noncompliance and shall indicate the amount of penalties due. Interest at the current rate published by the United States Treasury, as described at 40 C.F.R. § 13.11, shall begin to accrue on the unpaid balance at the end of the thirty-day period.
- 47. Except as set forth in paragraph 41 above, all penalty payments shall be paid by certified or cashier's check to "Treasurer of the United States" and shall be remitted to:

U.S. Department of the Treasury Attn: EPA Region IX Hearing Clerk P.O. Box 360863M Pittsburgh, PA 15251

48. All payments made under this Section shall indicate the name of the Facility, any EPA identification number of the Facility, Respondent's name and address, and the EPA docket number of this action. At the time payment is made, Respondent shall send a copy of the payment transmittal to:

Kaoru Morimoto (WST-3) Waste Management Division U.S. Environmental Protection Agency - Region IX 75 Hawthorne Street San Francisco, CA 94105

- The payment of stipulated penalties shall not alter in any way Respondent's obligation to complete the performance required hereunder.
- 50. The stipulated penalties set forth in this Section do not preclude EPA from pursuing any other remedies or sanctions which may be available to EPA by reason of Respondent's failure to comply with any of the requirements of this CA/FO.

J. RESERVATION OF RIGHTS

- EPA expressly reserves all rights and defenses that it may have.
- 52. EPA hereby reserves all of its statutory and regulatory powers, authorities, rights and remedies, both legal and equitable, including the right to require that Respondent perform tasks in addition to those required by this CA/FO. EPA further reserves all of its statutory and regulatory powers, authorities, rights and remedies, both legal and equitable, which may pertain to Respondent's failure to comply with any of the requirements of this CA/FO, including without limitation, the assessment of penalties under Section 3008(c) of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 6928(c). Except as set forth above, this CA/FO shall not be construed as a covenant not to sue, release, waiver or limitation of any rights, remedies, powers or authorities, civil or criminal, which EPA has under RCRA, the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980, as amended ("CERCLA"), or any other statutory, regulatory or common law enforcement authority of the United States.
- 53. Compliance by Respondent with the terms of this CA/FO shall not relieve Respondent of its obligations to comply with any applicable local, state, tribal or federal laws and regulations.
- 54. The entry of this CA/FO and Respondent's consent to comply shall not limit or otherwise preclude EPA from taking additional enforcement actions should EPA determine that such actions are warranted except as they relate to Respondent's liability for federal civil penalties for the specific alleged violation and facts as set forth in Section C of this CA/FO.
- 55. This CA/FO is not intended to be nor shall it be construed as a permit. This CA/FO does not relieve Respondent of any obligation to obtain and comply with any local, state, tribal or federal permits. Compliance by Respondent with the terms of this CA/FO shall not relieve Respondent of any obligations to comply with RCRA or any other applicable

local, state, tribal or federal laws and regulations.

EPA reserves its right to seek reimbursement from

56. EPA reserves its right to seek reimbursement from Respondent for any additional costs incurred by the United States which may result or arise from the alleged counts set forth in Section C. Notwithstanding compliance with the terms of this CA/FO, Respondent is not released from liability, if any, for the costs of any response actions taken by EPA.

Respondent reserves any and all rights and defenses, whether legal or equitable in nature,
 that are not expressly waived in this CA/FO.

K. OTHER CLAIMS

Nothing in this CA/FO shall constitute or be construed as a release from any other claim, cause of action or demand in law or equity by or against any person, firm, partnership, entity or corporation for any liability it may have arising out of or relating in any way to the generation, storage, treatment, handling, transportation, release, or disposal of any hazardous constituents, hazardous substances, hazardous wastes, pollutants, or contaminants found at, taken to, or taken from the Facility.

17 L. MISCELLANEOUS

- 59. This CA/FO may be amended or modified only by written agreement executed by both EPA and Respondent.
- The headings in this CA/FO are for convenience of reference only and shall not affect interpretation of this CA/FO.
- Each party shall bear its own attorneys' fees, costs, and disbursements incurred in this proceeding.
- 62. In accordance with 40 C.F.R. §§ 22.18(b)(3) and 22.31(b), this CA/FO shall be effective on the date that the Final Order contained in this CA/FO, having been approved and issued by either the Regional Judicial Officer or Regional Administrator, is filed.

1	IT IS SO AGREED,
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3	9-18-07
4	Date Scott Lawson
5	STANDARD AND AND AND AND AND AND AND AND AND AN
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9	Date Nancy Lindsay, Acting Director
10	Date Nancy Lindsay, Acting Director Waste Management Division United States Environmental Protection Agency,
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28	Final CA/FO, Scott Lawson, Torres Martinez Reservation, CA 14

FINAL ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that this Consent Agreement and Final Order ((U.S. EPA Docket

No. RCRA = 09 - 2007 - 00 % be entered and that Respondent pay a civil penalty in the
amount of ELEVEN THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$ 11,000), in accordance with the terms of this
Consent Agreement and Final Order, within thirty (30) days after the Effective Date of this
Consent Agreement and Final Order. Copies of the payment documents shall be sent to the EPA
Region IX addresses specified in Section H of this Consent Agreement and Final Order within
such 30-day period.

This Final Order shall be effective upon filing.

09/25/07

Date

Steven Jawgiel

Regional Judicial Officer

United States Environmental Protection Agency,

Region IX

Final CA/FO, Scott Lawson, Torres Martinez Reservation, CA

ATTACHMENT A TO THE CONSENT AGREEMENT/FINAL ORDER IN THE MATTER OF SCOTT LAWSON

This Attachment identifies the specific additional Area of Allotment TM-19, which is delineated by the blank white box below and on which Respondent has agreed to perform the task set forth in Paragraph 38(a)(ii) of the CA/FO.



USEPA Region 9 Payment Instructions

CHECK PAYMENTS

If payment is made by check, the check should be made payable to the Treasurer, United States of America.

For checks drawn on U.S. banks sent by regular U.S. Postal Service mail:

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 9 P.O. Box 371099M Pittsburgh, PA 15251

For checks sent by express mail:

Mellon Client Service Center Region 9 ATTN: Shift Supervisor Lockbox 371099M 500 Ross Street Pittsburgh, PA 15262-0001

Phone number if necessary: (412) 234-5805

For checks drawn on foreign banks with no U.S. branches:

Citibank Delaware (0210-0008-9 routing # Citibank New York) Global Cheque Collections P.O. BOX 15962 Wilmington DE 19850-5962

ELECTRONIC FUNDS TRANSFERS

WIRE TRANSFERS in Dollars or Euros or other non-US currency:

Federal Reserve Bank of New York ABA = 021030004 Account = 68010727 33 Liberty Street New York NY 10045

Field Tag 4200 of the Fedwire message should read "D 68010727 Environmental Protection Agency"

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that the original copy of the foregoing Consent Agreement and Final Order has been filed with the Regional Hearing Clerk, Region IX, and that copies have been sent

by Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested, to:

Scott Lawson
Oasis Mobile Home Park
88-740 Avenue 70
Thermal, California 92274

by Fax to:

Ms. Carla J. Hoke Fredericks, Peebles & Morgan, LLP 1900 Plaza Drive Louisville, Colorado 80027 Phone: 303-673-9600 Fax: 303-673-9155/9839

by Hand Delivery to:

Letitia D. Moore Assistant Regional Counsel U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region IX 75 Hawthorne Street San Francisco, CA 94105

1-26-0+

Date

Danielle Carr

Regional Hearing Clerk

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