UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY REGION 2 Eilod March 26 2

IN THE MATTER OF:

Camioneros de Volteo de PR, Inc. HC 20 PO Box 10997 Juncos, Puerto Rico 00777

Loma Vista Soil Extraction Site Road PR-944, Km. 1.8, Hato Nuevo Ward Gurabo, Puerto Rico 00778

RESPONDENT

Filed March 26, 2021 @ 04:37 pm USEPA – Region II

Regional Hearing Clerk

DOCKET NUMBER CWA-02-2019-3352

Proceeding pursuant to Section 309(g)(2)(A) of the Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1319(g)(2)(A), to Assess Class I Civil Penalty

CONSENT AGREEMENT AND FINAL ORDER

Complainant, the United States Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA"), having issued the Complaint referenced herein on September 19, 2019, against Camioneros de Volteo de PR, Inc. ("Camioneros" or "Respondent"), and

Complainant and Respondent having agreed that settlement of this matter is in the public interest, and that entry of this Consent Agreement and Final Order ("Consent Agreement") without further litigation is the most appropriate means of resolving this matter;

NOW, THEREFORE, before the taking of any testimony, upon the pleadings, without adjudication of any issue of fact or law, and upon consent and agreement of the Parties, it is hereby agreed, and ordered as follows:

I. Preliminary Statement

- 1. EPA initiated this proceeding for the assessment of a civil penalty pursuant to Section 309(g)(2)(A) of the Clean Water Act ("CWA" or "the Act"), 33 U.S.C. § 1319(g).
- 2. In the Complaint, EPA alleges that Respondent violated Sections 301(a) and 402(p) of the Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. §§ 1311(a) and 1342(p), for failure to apply for and obtain National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System ("NPDES") permit coverage for the discharge of pollutants (stormwater runoff associated with industrial activities) from the Loma Vista Soil Extraction Site ("Facility") located in Gurabo, Puerto Rico, and for the discharges of pollutants (stormwater runoff associated with industrial activities) from the Loma Vista Soil Extraction Site ("Facility") located in Gurabo, Puerto Rico, and for the discharges of pollutants (stormwater runoff associated with industrial activities) from the Facility into waters of the United States without NPDES permit coverage.

- 3. On November 1, 2019, EPA published a public notice and notice of opportunity to comment on the proposed administrative penalty assessment. No public comment was received.
- 4. On October 23, 2019, EPA notified the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico about this action and offered an opportunity to confer with EPA on the proposed administrative penalty assessment, pursuant to 40 C.F.R. Part 22. The Commonwealth of Puerto Rico did not comment on this action.
- 5. Respondent admits the jurisdictional allegations in the Complaint.
- 6. Respondent neither admits nor denies specific factual allegations contained in the Complaint.
- 7. Respondent waives any right to contest the allegations and its right to appeal the proposed final order accompanying the Consent Agreement.

II. Terms of Settlement

- 8. Pursuant to Section 309(g) of the Act, the nature of the violations and other relevant factors, EPA and Respondent have agreed to settle this action for Seven Thousand Nine Hundred Ten dollars (\$7,910).
- 9. For purposes of settlement, Respondent consents to the issuance of this Consent Agreement and consent to the payment of the civil penalty cited in Paragraph 8, above.

III. Payment of Civil Penalty

- 10. Respondent shall pay the amount of **\$7,910**, plus accrued interest. Respondent agrees to pay a civil penalty in the total amount of seven thousand nine hundred and fifty-eight dollars (\$7,958), in installments, according to the payment schedule identified in paragraph 11. Interest at a rate of one percent (1%) per annum shall be included in any and all payments made beyond thirty (30) calendar days from the effective date and shall accrue from thirty (30) calendar days after the effective date until the date of payment.
- 11. Respondent shall pay the total amount of seven thousand nine hundred ten dollars (\$7,910) plus accrued interest (\$48.34), according to the following schedule:
 - a. a first payment of \$2,636 (principal plus \$0 accrued interest) shall be made within thirty (30) calendar days of the effective date;
 - b. a second payment of \$2,672.12 (\$2,636 principal plus \$35.16 accrued interest) shall be made within ninety (90) calendar days of the effective date; and
 - c. a final payment of \$2,649.18 (\$2,636 principal plus \$13.18 accrued interest) shall be made within one hundred eighty days (180) calendar days of the effective date.
- 12. Pursuant to Part V of this Consent Agreement, the Effective Date of this Order shall be the date of filing with the Regional Hearing Clerk, U.S. EPA Region 2, New York, NY.

- 13. Respondent shall pay the amount cited in Paragraph 11 by cashier's or certified check payable to the *Treasurer of the United States of America*, by electronic transfer (i.e. wire or automated clearinghouse), or online payment:
 - a. If Respondent chooses to pay the civil penalty by cashiers' or certified check, the check shall be mailed to:

BY U.S. POSTAL SERVICE

U.S Environmental Protection Agency Fines and Penalties Cincinnati Finance Center P. O. Box 979077 St. Louis, MO 63197-9000

BY OVERNIGHT MAIL

U.S. Bank 1005 Convention Plaza Mail Station SL-MO-C2GL ATTN Box 979077 St. Louis, MO 63101 Contact: Natalie Pearson Tel.: (314) 418-4087.

b. If Respondent chooses to pay the civil penalty, the transfer shall be made to:

BY WIRE TRANSFER:

Federal Reserve Bank of New York ABA = 021030004 Account = 68010727 SWIFT address = FRNYUS33 33 Liberty Street New York, NY 10045.

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

BY AUTOMATED CLEARINGHOUSE (ACH) (also known as REX or remittance express):

ACH for receiving US currency PNC Bank 808 17th Street, NW Washington, DC 20074 ABA = 051036706 Transaction Code 22 - checking Environmental Protection Agency Account 310006—CTX Format Contact: Jesse White Tel.: (301) 887-6548.

- c. Online Payment Option is available through the U.S. Department of Treasury. This payment option can be accessed through WWW.PAY.GOV. Enter sfo 1.1 in the search field. Open form and complete required fields.
- d. Respondent shall clearly identify, regardless of the form of payment, the name and docket number of the case:

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14. Respondent shall send proof of each payment within twenty-four (24) hours to each of the following:

Jaime López Senior Environmental Officer, Clean Water Act Team Multimedia Permits and Compliance Branch Caribbean Environmental Protection Agency United States Environmental Protection Agency Region 2 <u>lopez.jaime@epa.gov</u>

Carolina Jordán-García, Esq. Assistant Regional Counsel Office of Regional Counsel United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region 2 jordan-garcia.carolina@epa.gov

and

Karen Maples Regional Hearing Clerk U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 2 <u>maples.karen@epa.gov</u>

- 15. Failure to pay the penalty in full according to the above provisions may result in referral of this matter to the United States Department of Justice or the United States Department of the Treasury for collection.
- 16. Further, if the payment is not received on or before the due date, interest will be assessed at the annual rate established by the Secretary of Treasury pursuant to the Debt Collection Act, 31 U.S.C. § 3717, on the overdue amount from the due date through the date of payment. In addition, a late payment handling charge of fifteen dollars (\$15.00) will be assessed for each 30-day period (or any portion thereof) following the due date in which the balance remains unpaid. A 6% per annum penalty also will be applied on any principal amount not paid within ninety (90) days of the due date.

- 17. In addition, pursuant to Section 309(g)(9) of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1319(g)(9), if payment is not received by the due date, a quarterly nonpayment penalty will be imposed for each calendar quarter during which such nonpayment persists. The quarterly nonpayment penalty is twenty percent (20%) of the aggregate amount of penalties and quarterly nonpayment penalties, which are unpaid as of the beginning of such quarter. Respondent may also be required to pay attorney's fees and costs for collection proceedings in connection with nonpayment.
- 18. The penalty to be paid is a civil penalty assessed by the EPA and shall not be deductible from Respondent's federal or Commonwealth of Puerto Rico taxes.

IV. General Provisions

- 19. The provisions of this Consent Agreement shall be binding upon Respondent, its officers, directors, agents, servants, authorized representatives and successors or assigns, including but not limited to, subsequent purchasers. No transfer of ownership or operation shall relieve Respondent of its obligation to comply with this Consent Agreement.
- 20. Respondent waives any right it may have pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 22.8 to be present during discussions with or to be served with and to reply to any memorandum or communication addressed to the Director or the Regional Administrator where the purpose of such discussion, memorandum, or communication is to discuss a proposed settlement of this matter or to recommend that such official accept this Consent Agreement and issue the accompanying Final Order.
- 21. Nothing in this agreement shall be construed as prohibiting, altering or in any way limiting the ability of EPA to seek any other remedies or sanctions available by virtue of Respondent's violation of this agreement or of the statutes and regulations upon which this agreement is based, or for Respondent's violation of any applicable provision of law.
- 22. This Consent Agreement shall not relieve Respondent of its obligation to comply with all applicable provisions of the CWA and the regulations implementing it, nor shall it be construed as the issuance of a permit or a ruling on, or determination of, any issues related to any federal, state or local law, regulation or permit.
- 23. Full payment of the civil penalty shall only resolve Respondent's liability for federal civil penalties for the violations and facts alleged in the Complaint. Full payment of this penalty shall not in any case affect the right of EPA or the United States to pursue appropriate injunctive or other equitable relief or criminal sanctions for any violations of law.
- 24. Respondent's undersigned representative to this Consent Agreement certifies that he or she is fully authorized by the party represented to enter into the terms and conditions of this Consent Agreement and to execute and legally bind that party to it.
- 25. Each party shall bear its own costs and attorney's fees in connection with the action resolved by this Consent Agreement.

RESPONDENT:

Camioneros de Volteo de PR, Inc.

BY:	Set in g	DATE:	12-01-2021
TITLE:	President		
ADDRESS:	HC 20 Doy 10997 Juneos P.R	. 00000	

COMPLAINANT:

BY:

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United States Environmental Protection Agency

CARMEN GUERRERO PEREZ Date: 2021.02.24 15:02:44 -04'00'

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DATE: _____February 24, 2021

Carmen R. Guerrero Pérez Director Caribbean Environmental Protection Division United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region 2 City View Plaza II 48 CARR 165 STE 7000 Guaynabo, PR 00968-8073

V. Final Order

The Regional Judicial Officer of the United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region 2, ratifies the foregoing Consent Agreement. The Agreement entered into by the parties is hereby approved, incorporated herein, and issued as an Order. The effective date of this Order shall be the date of filing with the Regional Hearing Clerk, United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region 2.

HELEN FERRARA Date: 2021.03.09 10:53:23 -05'00'

DATE: _____

HELEN FERRARA Regional Judicial Officer United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region 2

BY: