

## UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY REGION III 1650 Arch Street Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-2029

June 28, 2011

Linda Ipong, Esquire Fresh Express Incorporated 950 E. Blanco Road Salinas, CA 93901

Re: In the Matter of Fresh Express Incorporated

U.S. EPA Docket Nos. CERC-03-2011-0204; EPCRA-03-2011-0204

Dear Linda:

Enclosed please find a copy of Consent Agreement, which has been filed with the Regional Hearing Clerk today.

Sincerely yours,

Cynthia T. Weiss

Senior Assistant Regional Counsel

Enclosure

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## UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY REGION III 1650 Arch Street Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-2029

)	U.S. EPA Docket Nos.: CERC-03-2011-
)	0204; EPCRA-03-2011-0204
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)	Proceedings Pursuant to Sections 103 and
)	109 of the Comprehensive Environmental
)	Response, Compensation and Liability
)	Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 9603 and 9609, and
)	Sections 304 and 325 of the
)	<b>Emergency Planning and Community</b>
)	Right-to-Know Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 11004
)	and 11045
)	

#### **CONSENT AGREEMENT**

#### STATUTORY AUTHORITY

This Consent Agreement is proposed and entered into under the authority vested in the President of the United States by Section 109 of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act ("CERCLA"), 42 U.S.C. § 9609, as re-delegated to the Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") and under the authority vested in the Administrator of EPA by Section 325 of the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act ("EPCRA"), 42 U.S.C. § 11045, and under the authority provided by the "Consolidated Rules of Practice Governing the Administrative Assessment of Civil Penalties and the Revocation/Termination or Suspension of Permits" ("Consolidated Rules of Practice"), 40 C.F.R. Part 22 ("Part 22"). The Administrator has delegated these authorities to the Regional Administrator of EPA, Region III, who has in turn delegated them to the Director, Hazardous Site Cleanup Division, EPA Region III ("Complainant").

The parties agree to the commencement and conclusion of this cause of action by issuance of this Consent Agreement and Final Order (referred to collectively herein as "CA/FO") as prescribed by the Consolidated Rules of Practice pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 22.13(b), and having consented to the entry of this CA/FO, agree to comply with the terms of this CA/FO.

#### FINDINGS OF FACT

- 1. Fresh Express Incorporated ("Fresh Express") is a Delaware corporation with its principal place of business located at 950 East Blanco Road in Salinas, California.
- 2. As a corporation, Fresh Express is a "person" as defined by Section 101(21) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9601(21), Section 329(7) of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11049(7), and their respective regulations, 40 C.F.R. §§ 302.3 and 355.61.
- 3. Fresh Express owns a perishable food manufacturing facility located at 7505 Grayson Road in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania (hereinafter the "Facility").
- 4. Beginning in approximately October 15, 2007, and at all times relevant to this CA/FO, Fresh Express was the owner or operator of the Facility within the meaning of Section 304 of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11004, and was in charge of the Facility, within the meaning of Section 103(a) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9603(a).
- 5. The Facility is a "facility" as defined by Section 101(9) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9601(9), Section 329(4) of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11049(4), and their respective regulations, 40 C.F.R. §§ 302.3 and 355.61.
- 6. On January 20, 2010, EPA conducted an inspection of the Facility to determine compliance with Section 103 of CERCLA and Sections 302-312 of EPCRA.
- 7. Section 102(a) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9602(a), requires the Administrator of the EPA to publish a list of substances designated as hazardous substances, which, when released into the environment may present substantial danger to public health or welfare or to the environment, and to promulgate regulations establishing that quantity of any hazardous substance, the release of which shall be required to be reported under Section 103(a) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9603(a) ("Reportable Quantity" or "RQ"). The list of hazardous substances is codified at 40 C.F.R. § 302.4.
- 8. Section 302(a) of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11002(a), requires the Administrator of EPA to publish a list of Extremely Hazardous Substances ("EHSs") and to promulgate regulations establishing that quantity of any EHS the release of which shall be required to be reported under Section 304(a) through (c) of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11004(a) through (c), ("Reportable Quantity" or "RQ"). The list of EHSs and their respective RQs is codified at 40 C.F.R. Part 355, Appendices A and B.
- 9. The State Emergency Response Commission ("SERC") for the Facility, for purposes of release reporting required under Section 304(a) through (c) of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11004(a) through (c), is, and at all times relevant to this CA/FO has been, the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency located at 2605 Interstate Drive in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

- 10. At all times relevant to this CA/FO, the Facility was a facility at which a hazardous chemical was produced, used or stored.
- 11. Beginning on or about January 12, 2009, at or about 10:45 p.m. an estimated 2,308 pounds of anhydrous ammonia, Chemical Abstracts Service ("CAS") Registry No. 7664-41-7, was released from the Facility (the "Release").
- 12. Respondent called 911 after the release, and local emergency authorities responded.

## FINDINGS OF FACT RELATED TO THE VIOLATION OF SECTION 103 OF CERCLA

- 13. The findings of fact contained in Paragraphs 1 through 12 of this CA/FO are incorporated by reference herein as though fully set forth at length.
- 14. Section 103(a) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9603(a), as implemented by 40 C.F.R. Part 302, requires, in relevant part, a person in charge of a facility to immediately notify the National Response Center ("NRC") established under Section 311(d)(2)(E) of the Clean Water Act, as amended, 33 U.S.C. § 1321(d)(2)(E), as soon as he/she has knowledge of a release (other than a federally permitted release) of a hazardous substance from such facility in a quantity equal to or greater than the RQ.
- 15. The chemical anhydrous ammonia is a hazardous substance, as defined under Section 101(14) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9601(14), and 40 C.F.R. § 302.3, with an RQ of 100 pounds, as listed in 40 C.F.R. § 302.4.
- 16. The Release from the Facility constitutes a release of a hazardous substance in a quantity equal to or exceeding the RQ for that hazardous substance, requiring immediate notification of the NRC pursuant to Section 103(a) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9603(a).
- 17. The Release was not a "federally permitted release" as that term is used in Section 103(a) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9603(a), and 40 C.F.R. § 302.6, and defined in Section 101(10) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9601(10).
- 18. At or before 1:00 a.m. on January 13, 2009, Respondent had actual or constructive knowledge that more than an RQ of anhydrous ammonia had been released.
- 19. Respondent did not notify the NRC of the Release until approximately 12:39 p.m. on January 13, 2009.
- 20. Respondent failed to immediately notify the NRC of the Release as soon as Respondent knew or should have known that a release of a hazardous substance had occurred at the Facility in an amount equal to or exceeding the applicable RQ, as required by Section 103 of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9603, and 40 C.F.R. § 302.6.

## CONCLUSION OF LAW RELATED TO THE VIOLATION OF SECTION 103 OF CERCLA

21. Respondent's failure to immediately notify the NRC of the Release is a violation of Section 103 of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9603, and is, therefore, subject to the assessment of penalties under Section 109 of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9609.

## FINDINGS OF FACT RELATED TO THE VIOLATION OF SECTION 304(a) AND (b) OF EPCRA – SERC

- 22. The findings of fact contained in Paragraphs 1 through 21 of this CA/FO are incorporated by reference herein as though fully set forth at length.
- 23. Section 304(a) and (b) of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11004(a) and (b), as implemented by 40 C.F.R. Part 355, Subpart C, requires, in relevant part, the owner or operator of a facility at which hazardous chemicals are produced, used, or stored to notify the SERC immediately following a release of a hazardous substance or an EHS in a quantity equal to or exceeding the RQ for the hazardous substance or EHS. The list of EHSs and their respective RQs is codified at 40 C.F.R. Part 355, Appendices A and B.
- 24. The chemical anhydrous ammonia is a hazardous substance, as defined under Section 101(14) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9601(14), and 40 C.F.R. § 302.3, with an RQ of 100 pounds, as listed in 40 C.F.R. § 302.4.
- 25. The Release required immediate notification to the SERC, specifically the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency, pursuant to Section 304(a) and (b) of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11004(a) and (b), and 40 C.F.R. Part 355, Subpart C.
- 26. Respondent did not notify the SERC, the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency, of the Release.
- 27. Respondent failed to immediately notify the SERC of the Release of anhydrous ammonia as soon as Respondent knew that a release of a hazardous substance had occurred at the Facility in an amount equal to or exceeding its RQ, as required by Section 304(a) and (b) of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11004(a) and (b), and 40 C.F.R. Part 355, Subpart C.

#### <u>CONCLUSION OF LAW RELATED TO THE</u> <u>VIOLATION OF SECTION 304(a) AND (b) OF EPCRA – SERC</u>

28. Respondent's failure to notify the SERC immediately of the Release is a violation of Section 304(a) and (b) of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11004(a) and (b), and is, therefore, subject to the assessment of penalties under Section 325 of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11045.

#### FINDINGS OF FACT RELATED TO THE VIOLATION OF SECTION 304(c) OF EPCRA – SERC

- 29. The findings of fact and conclusions of law contained in Paragraphs 1 through 28 of this CA/FO are incorporated by reference herein as though fully set forth at length.
- 30. Section 304(c) of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11004(c), as implemented by 40 C.F.R. Part 355, Subpart C, requires, in relevant part, that, when there has been a release of a hazardous substance or an EHS in a quantity equal to or greater than the RQ from a facility at which hazardous chemicals are produced, used, or stored, the owner or operator of that facility must provide a written follow-up report regarding the release to the SERC as soon as practicable.
- 31. The Release constitutes a release of a hazardous substance in a quantity equal to or exceeding its RQ requiring immediate notification of the SERC pursuant to Section 304(a) and (b) of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11004(a) and (b), and 40 C.F.R. Part 355, Subpart C, and, consequently, requiring submission of a written follow-up report to the SERC pursuant to Section 304(c) of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11004(c), and 40 C.F.R. Part 355, Subpart C.
- 32. Respondent did not provide a written follow-up report regarding the Release to the SERC, the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency.

## CONCLUSION OF LAW RELATED TO THE VIOLATION OF SECTION 304(c) OF EPCRA – SERC

33. Respondent's failure to provide a written follow-up report regarding the Release to the SERC is a violation of Section 304(c) of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11004(c), and is, therefore, subject to the assessment of penalties under Section 325 of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11045.

#### **CIVIL PENALTY**

34. In full and final settlement and resolution of all allegations referenced in the foregoing EPA's Findings of Fact and EPA's Conclusions of Law, and in full satisfaction of all civil penalty claims pursuant thereto, for the purpose of this proceeding, the Respondent consents to the assessment of a civil penalty for the violation of Section 103 of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9603, in the amount of \$25,506.00 ("CERCLA civil penalty"), and violations of Sections 304(a)-(b) and 304(c) of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. §§ 11004(a)-(b) and 11004(c), set forth above, in the amount of \$51,012.00 ("EPCRA civil penalty"), for a total penalty of \$76,518.00.

#### **PAYMENT TERMS**

35. In order to avoid the assessment of interest, administrative costs, and late payment penalties in connection with the civil penalties described in this CA/FO, Respondent shall pay the CERCLA civil penalty of \$25,506.00 and the EPCRA civil penalty of \$51,012.00 no later than thirty (30) days after the effective date of the Final Order (the "final due date") by either cashier's check, certified check, or electronic wire transfer.

- 36. Payment of the CERCLA civil penalty shall be made in the following manner:
  - a. All payments by Respondent shall reference Respondent's name and address, and the Docket Number of this action;
  - b. All checks shall be made payable to EPA-Hazardous Substances Superfund;
  - c. All payments made by check and sent by regular mail shall be addressed to:

U.S. EPA

ATTN: Superfund Payments Cincinnati Finance Center

P.O. Box 979076

St. Louis, MO 63197-9000

Contact: Natalie Pearson (314-418-4087)

d. All payments made by check and sent by overnight delivery service shall be addressed for delivery to:

U.S. EPA

ATTENTION: Superfund Payments

U.S. Bank

1005 Convention Plaza

Mail Station SL-MO-C2GL

St. Louis, MO 63101

Contact: Natalie Pearson (314-418-4087)

e. All payments made by check in any currency drawn on banks with no USA branches shall be addressed for delivery to:

Cincinnati Finance US EPA, MS-NWD 26 W. M.L. King Drive Cincinnati, OH 45268-0001

f. All payments made by electronic wire transfer shall be directed to:

Federal Reserve Bank of New York ABA = 021030004 Account No. = 68010727 SWIFT address = FRNYUS33 33 Liberty Street New York, NY 10045

EPA Docket Nos. CERC-03-2011-0204 EPCRA-03-2011-0204

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

g. All electronic payments made through the Automated Clearinghouse (ACH), also known as Remittance Express (REX), shall be directed to:

US Treasury REX / Cashlink ACH Receiver
ABA = 051036706
Account No.: 310006, Environmental Protection Agency
CTX Format Transaction Code 22 - Checking

Physical location of U.S. Treasury facility: 5700 Rivertech Court Riverdale, MD 20737 Contact: Jesse White 301-887-6548 or REX, 1-866-234-5681

h. On-Line Payment Option:

#### WWW.PAY.GOV/PAYGOV

Enter sfo 1.1 in the search field. Open and complete the form.

i. Additional payment guidance is available at:

http://www.epa.gov/ocfo/finservices/make a payment.htm

- 37. Payment of the EPCRA civil penalty shall be made in the following manner:
  - a. All payments by Respondent shall reference Respondent's name and address, and the Docket Number of this action;
  - b. All checks shall be made payable to **United States Treasury**;
  - c. All payments made by check and sent by regular mail shall be addressed to:

U.S. EPA
Fines and Penalties
Cincinnati Finance Center
P.O. Box 979077
St. Louis, MO 63197-9000
Contact: Bryson Lehman 513-487-2123

d. All payments made by check and sent by overnight delivery service shall be addressed for delivery to:

U.S. EPA
Fines and Penalties
U.S. Bank
1005 Convention Plaza
Mail Station SL-MO-C2GL
St. Louis, MO 63101

Contact: Bryson Lehman 513-487-2123

e. All payments made by check in any currency drawn on banks with no USA branches shall be addressed for delivery to:

Cincinnati Finance US EPA, MS-NWD 26 W. M.L. King Drive Cincinnati, OH 45268-0001

f. All payments made by electronic wire transfer shall be directed to:

Federal Reserve Bank of New York
ABA = 021030004
Account No. = 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

g. All electronic payments made through the Automated Clearinghouse (ACH), also known as Remittance Express (REX), shall be directed to:

US Treasury REX/Cashlink ACH Receiver
ABA = 051036706
Account No.: 310006, Environmental Protection Agency
CTX Format Transaction Code 22 - Checking

Physical location of U.S. Treasury facility: 5700 Rivertech Court
Riverdale, MD 20737
Contact: Jesse White 301-887-6548 or REX, 1-866-234-5681

h. On-Line Payment Option:

#### WWW.PAY.GOV/PAYGOV

Enter sfo 1.1 in the search field. Open and complete the form.

i. Additional payment guidance is available at:

http://www.epa.gov/ocfo/finservices/make a payment.htm

38. Respondent shall submit copies of the check, or verification of wire transfer or ACH, to the following persons:

Lydia Guy (3RC00) Regional Hearing Clerk U.S. EPA, Region III 1650 Arch Street Philadelphia, PA 19103-2029

and

Cynthia T. Weiss (3RC42) Senior Assistant Regional Counsel U.S. EPA, Region III 1650 Arch Street Philadelphia, PA 19103-2029

- 39. The CERCLA civil penalty and EPCRA civil penalty stated herein is based upon Complainant's consideration of a number of factors, including, but not limited to, the following: the nature, circumstances, extent and gravity of the violation, and with respect to the violator, ability to pay, any prior history of such violations, the degree of culpability, economic benefit (if any) resulting from the violation, and such matters as justice may require. The penalty is consistent with 40 C.F.R. Part 19 and the Enforcement Response Policy for Sections 304, 311 and 312 of the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act and Section 103 of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (September 30, 1999).
- 40. Pursuant to 31 U.S.C. § 3717 and 40 C.F.R. § 13.11, EPA is entitled to assess interest and late payment penalties on outstanding debts owed to the United States and a charge to cover the costs of processing and handling a delinquent claim, as more fully described below. Accordingly, Respondent's failure to make timely payment by the final due date or to comply with the conditions in this CA/FO shall result in the assessment of late payment charges, including interest, penalties, and/or administrative costs of handling delinquent debts.
- 41. Interest on the civil penalty assessed in this CA/FO will begin to accrue on the date that a copy of this CA/FO is mailed or hand-delivered to Respondent. However, EPA will not seek to recover interest on any amount of the civil penalties that is paid within thirty (30) calendar days after the date on which such interest begins to accrue. Interest will be assessed at the rate of the United States Treasury tax and loan rate in accordance with 40 C.F.R. § 13.11(a).
- 42. The costs of the Agency's administrative handling of overdue debts will be charged and assessed monthly throughout the period the debt is overdue in accordance with 40

- C.F.R. § 13.11(b). Pursuant to Appendix 2 of EPA's Resources Management Directives Cash Management, Chapter 9, EPA will assess a \$15.00 administrative handling charge for administrative costs on unpaid penalties for the first thirty (30) day period after the final due date and an additional \$15.00 for each subsequent thirty (30) day period the penalties remain unpaid.
- 43. A penalty charge of six (6) percent per year will be assessed monthly on any portion of the civil penalties which remain delinquent more than ninety (90) calendar days in accordance with 40 C.F.R. § 13.11(c). Should assessment of the penalty charge on the debt be required, it shall accrue from the first day payment is delinquent, in accordance with 31 C.F.R. § 901.9(d).
- 44. Failure by the Respondent to pay the CERCLA civil penalty and the EPCRA civil penalty assessed by the Final Order in full by the final due date may subject Respondent to a civil action to collect the assessed penalties, plus interest, pursuant to Section 109 of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9609, and Section 325 of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11045. In any such collection action, the validity, amount and appropriateness of the penalty shall not be subject to review.

#### **GENERAL PROVISIONS**

- 45. For the purpose of this proceeding, Respondent admits to the jurisdictional allegations set forth above.
- 46. Respondent agrees not to contest EPA's jurisdiction with respect to the execution or enforcement of the CA/FO.
- 47. For the purpose of this proceeding, Respondent neither admits nor denies factual allegations set forth in this Consent Agreement except as set forth in Paragraph 45 above, but expressly waives its rights to contest said allegations.
- 48. For the purpose of this proceeding, Respondent expressly waives its right to a hearing and to appeal the Final Order under to Section 109 of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9609, and Section 325 of EPCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 11045.
- 49. The provisions of the CA/FO shall be binding upon Respondent, its officers, directors, agents, servants, employees, and successors or assigns. By his or her signature below, the person signing this Consent Agreement on behalf of the Respondent is acknowledging that he or she is fully authorized by the party represented to execute this Consent Agreement and to legally bind Respondent to the terms and conditions of the Consent Agreement and accompanying Final Order.
- 50. This CA/FO resolves only those civil claims which are alleged herein. Nothing herein shall be construed to limit the authority of the Complainant to undertake action against any person, including the Respondent in response to any condition which Complainant determines may present an imminent and substantial endangerment to the public health, public

EPA Docket Nos. CERC-03-2011-0204 | EPCRA-03-2011-0204

welfare or the environment. Nothing in this CA/FO shall be construed to limit the United States' authority to pursue criminal sanctions.

51. Each party to this action shall bear its own costs and attorney's fees.

EPA Docket Nos. CERC-03-2011-0204 EPCRA-03-2011-0204

FOR FRESH EXPRESS INCORPORATED

Title:

12

EPA Docket Nos. CERC-03-2011-0204 EPCRA-03-2011-0204

#### FOR THE U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Ronald J. Borsellino, Director

Hazardous Site Cleanup Division

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### UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY REGION III

### 1650 Arch Street Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-2029

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Respondent.	)			
	)	Proceedings Pursuant to Sections 103 and		
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7505 Grayson Road	)	Response, Compensation and Liability		
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	)	Sections 304 and 325 of the		
Facility.	)	Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 11004		
	)			
	)	and 11045		
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#### FINAL ORDER

Pursuant to Section 109 of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act, 42 U.S.C. § 9609, and Section 325 of the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act, 42 U.S.C. § 11045, and in accordance with 40 C.F.R. Part 22, and based on the representations in the Consent Agreement, the foregoing Consent Agreement is hereby approved and incorporated by reference into this Final Order. The Respondent is ordered to comply with the terms of the referenced Consent Agreement.

#### **Effective Date**

This Final Order shall become effective upon the date of its filing with the Regional Hearing Clerk.

Renée Sarajian

Regional Judicial Officer

EPA, Region III

DATE

#### UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY **REGION III** 1650 Arch Street

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)	Right-to-Know Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 11004	
í	and 11045	
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#### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I, the undersigned, hereby certify that on the date provided below, I handdelivered and filed the original of Consent Agreement and Final Order, along with enclosures and/or attachments, for the above-referenced matter, with the Regional Hearing Clerk, EPA Region III, 1650 Arch Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-2029, and that a true and correct copy of the Consent Agreement and Final Order, along with its enclosures and/or attachments, was sent:

Via certified mail, return receipt requested, to:

Linda Ipong, Esquire Fresh Express 950 E. Blanco Road Salinas, CA 93901

JUN 2 8 2011

Date

Cynthia T. Weiss (3RC42)

Senior Assistant Regional Counsel