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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY REGION IX

In the Matter of:

Docket No. TSCA-09-2024-0045

MP Property Management

CONSENT AGREEMENT AND FINAL ORDER PURSUANT TO 40 C.F.R. §§ 22.13 AND 22.18

Respondent.

CONSENT AGREEMENT

The United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region IX ("EPA"), and MP Property Management ("Respondent") agree to settle this matter and consent to the entry of this Consent Agreement and Final Order ("CAFO"), which simultaneously commences and concludes this matter in accordance with 40 C.F.R. §§ 22.13(b) and 22.18(b).

I. AUTHORITY, JURISDICTION, AND PARTIES

1. This is a civil administrative penalty action brought against Respondent pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Toxic Substances Control Act ("TSCA"), 15 U.S.C. § 2615(a), for violations of Section 409 of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. § 2689, for failing to comply with Sections 402 and 406 of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. §§ 2682 and 2686, and their implementing regulations promulgated at

In the Matter of: *MP Property Management*Consent Agreement and Final Order

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40 C.F.R. Part 745, Subpart E – Residential Property Renovation ("Subpart E").

- 2. Complainant is the Manager of the Toxics Section, Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region IX, who has been duly delegated the authority to bring and settle this action under TSCA.
- 3. Respondent manages residential properties. At all times relevant to this CAFO, Respondent was registered to do conduct business in the State of California.

II. APPLICABLE STATUTORY AND REGULATORY SECTIONS

- 4. Pursuant to Section 402(a) and (c) of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. § 2682(a) and (c), Subpart E sets forth requirements for certification of individuals and firms engaged in lead-based paint activities and work practice standards for renovation, repair, and painting activities in target housing and child-occupied facilities.
- 5. Pursuant to Section 406(b) of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. § 2686(b), Subpart E requires a person who performs renovations for compensation in target housing and child-occupied facilities to provide a lead hazard information pamphlet to the owner and occupant before beginning the renovation.
- 6. "Firm" means a company, partnership, corporation, sole proprietorship, or individual doing business, association, or other business entity; a Federal, State, Tribal, or local government agency; or a nonprofit organization. 40 C.F.R. § 745.83.
- 7. "Painted surface" means a component surface covered in whole or in part with paint or other surface coatings. 40 C.F.R. § 745.83.
 - 8. "Pamphlet" means the EPA pamphlet titled "Renovate Right: Important Lead Hazard

Information for Families, Child Care Providers and Schools" developed under Section 406(a) of TSCA for use in complying with Section 406(b) of TSCA, or any State or Tribal pamphlet approved by the EPA pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 745.326 that is developed for the same purpose. 40 C.F.R. § 745.83.

- 9. "Person" means any natural or judicial person including any individual, corporation, partnership, or association; any Indian Tribe, State, or political subdivision thereof; any interstate body; and any department, agency, or instrumentality of the Federal Government. 40 C.F.R. § 745.83.
- 10. "Renovation" means the modification of any existing structure, or portion thereof, that results in the disturbance of painted surfaces, unless that activity is part of an abatement as defined by 40 C.F.R. § 745.223. The term "renovation" includes (but is not limited to): the removal, modification or repair of painted surfaces or painted components (e.g., modification of painted doors, surface restoration, window repair, surface preparation activity (such as sanding, scraping, or other such activities that may generate paint dust)); the removal of building components (e.g., walls, ceilings, plumbing windows); weatherization projects (e.g., cutting holes in painted surfaces to install blown-in insulation or to gain access to attics planning thresholds to install weatherstripping), and interim controls that disturb painted surfaces. The term "renovation" does not include minor repair and maintenance activities.
- 11. "Renovator" means any individual who either performs or directs workers who perform renovations. A certified renovator is a renovator who has successfully completed a renovator

course accredited by the EPA or an EPA-authorized State or Tribal program. 40 C.F.R. § 745.83.

- 12. "Target housing" means any housing constructed prior to 1978, except housing for the elderly or persons with disabilities or any 0-bedroom dwelling (unless any child who is less than six years of age resides or is expected to reside in such housing). Section 401(17) of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. § 2681(17).
- 13. No more than 60 days before beginning renovation activities in any residential dwelling unit of target housing, the firm performing the renovation must provide the owner of the unit with the "pamphlet," and either obtain from the owner a written acknowledgment that the owner has received the "pamphlet" or obtain a certificate of mailing of the "pamphlet" at least 7 days prior to the renovation. 40 C.F.R. § 745.84(a)(1).
- 14. No more than 60 days before beginning renovation activities in any residential dwelling unit of target housing, if the owner does not occupy the dwelling unit, the firm performing the renovation must provide the adult occupant of the unit with the "pamphlet," and either obtain from the adult occupant a written acknowledgment that the occupant has received the pamphlet; or certify in writing that a pamphlet has been delivered to the dwelling and that the firm performing the renovation has been unsuccessful in obtaining a written acknowledgment from an adult occupant; or obtain a certificate of mailing of the "pamphlet" at least 7 days prior to the renovation. 40 C.F.R. § 745.84(a)(2).
- 15. Firms that perform renovations for compensation must apply to the EPA for certification to perform renovations. 40 C.F.R. § 745.89(a).
 - 16. On or after April 22, 2010, no firm may perform a renovation without certification from

the EPA under 40 C.F.R. § 745.89(a) in target housing unless the renovation is performed in target housing that has been determined to be lead-free pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 745.82(a). 40 C.F.R. § 745.81(a)(2)(ii).

- 17. Firms performing renovations must ensure that a certified renovator is assigned to each renovation performed by the firm and discharges all of the certified renovator responsibilities identified in 40 C.F.R. § 745.90. 40 C.F.R. § 745.89(d)(2).
- 18. Firms performing renovations must retain and, if requested, make available to the EPA all records necessary to demonstrate compliance with this subpart for a period of 3 years following completion of the renovation. 40 C.F.R. § 745.86(a)
- 19. Firms performing renovations must retain documentation of compliance with the requirements of 40 C.F.R. § 745.85, including, but not limited to, the following documentation: a certified renovator was assigned to the project; a certified renovator provided on-the-job training for workers used on the project; a certified renovator performed or directed workers who performed all of the work practice tasks described in 40 C.F.R. § 745.85(a); and a certified renovator performed the post-renovation cleaning verification described in 40 C.F.R. § 745.85(b). 40 C.F.R. § 745.86(b)(6).
- 20. Firms must post signs clearly defining the work area and warning occupants and other persons not involved in renovation activities to remain outside of the work area.

 40 C.F.R. § 745.85(a)(1).
- 21. For exterior renovations, firms must cover the ground with plastic sheeting or other disposable impermeable material extending 10 feet beyond the perimeter of surfaces

undergoing renovation or a sufficient distance to collect falling paint debris, whichever is greater, unless the property line prevents 10 feet of such ground covering.

40 C.F.R. § 745.85(a)(2)(ii)(C).

22. The use of machines designed to remove paint or other surface coatings through high-speed operation such as sanding, grinding, power planing, needle gun, abrasive blasting, or sandblasting, is prohibited on painted surfaces unless such machines have shrouds or containment systems and are equipped with a HEPA vacuum attachment to collect dust and debris at the point of generation. Machines must be operated so that no visible dust or release of air occurs outside the shroud or containment system. 40 C.F.R. § 745.85(a)(3)(ii).

23. Section 16(a) of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. § 2615(a), and the Civil Monetary Penalty Inflation

Adjustment Rule at 40 C.F.R. Part 19, which implements the Federal Civil Penalties Inflation

Adjustment Act of 1990, 28 U.S.C. § 2461, as amended, authorize civil penalties not to exceed

\$48,512 per day for each violation of Section 409 of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. § 2689, that occurred after

November 2, 2015, where penalties are assessed on or after December 27, 2023.

III. ALLEGATIONS

- 24. At all times relevant to this CAFO, Respondent was a "person," as that term is defined at 40 C.F.R. § 745.83.
- 25. At all times relevant to this CAFO, Respondent was a "firm," as that term is defined at 40 C.F.R. § 745.83.
- 26. At all times relevant to this CAFO, the property located at 97 Oceanside Drive, Daly City, California ("the Property"), was "target housing," as that term is defined at Section 401 of TSCA,

- 27. During August of 2022, Respondent, acting as a property management company, contracted work to be performed for compensation at the Property on the exterior surface that disturbed more than 20 square feet of painted surfaces and were "renovations," as that term is defined at 40 C.F.R. § 745.83 ("the Renovation").
- 28. With respect to the Renovation conducted at the Property, Respondent did not qualify for any of the exceptions involving a lead-free determination identified in 40 C.F.R. § 745.82(a).

INFORMATION DISTRIBUTION REQUIREMENTS

- 29. Paragraphs 1 through 28 of this CAFO are realleged and are incorporated herein by reference.
- 30. Respondent did not provide an adult occupant of the Property with the "pamphlet" prior to the Renovation.
- 31. Respondent's failure to provide the adult occupant(s) of the Property with the "pamphlet" no more than 60 days before beginning renovation activities, constitutes a violation of 40 C.F.R. § 745.84(a)(2), and Section 409 of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. § 2689.

FIRM CERTIFICATION

- 32. Paragraphs 1 through 31 of this CAFO are realleged and are incorporated herein by reference.
- 33. At the time of the Renovation, Respondent had not applied to the EPA for a certification to perform renovations or dust sampling in target housing.
 - 34. Respondent's failure to apply for certification and be certified to perform renovations

for compensation in target housing at the time of the Renovation constitutes a violation of 40 C.F.R. § 745.81(a)(2)(ii), 40 C.F.R. § 745.89(a), and Section 409 of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. § 2689.

FIRM RESPONSIBILITIES

- 35. Paragraphs 1 through 34 of this CAFO are realleged and are incorporated herein by reference.
- 36. Respondent did not ensure that a certified renovator was assigned to the Renovation and discharged all the certified renovator responsibilities identified in 40 C.F.R. § 745.90.
- 37. Respondent's failure to ensure that a certified renovator was assigned to the Renovation and discharged all the certified renovator responsibilities identified in 40 C.F.R. § 745.90, constitutes a violation of 40 C.F.R. § 745.89(d)(2), and Section 409 of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. § 2689.

RECORDKEEPING REQUIREMENTS

- 38. Paragraphs 1 through 37 of this CAFO are realleged and are incorporated herein by reference.
- 39. Respondent did not retain documentation for the Renovation that: a certified renovator was assigned to the renovation; a certified renovator provided on-the-job training for workers used on the renovations; a certified renovator performed or directed workers who performed all of the work practice tasks described in 40 C.F.R. § 745.85(a); and a certified renovator performed the post-renovation cleaning verifications described in 40 C.F.R. § 745.85(b).
- 40. Respondent's failure to retain or make available the documentation listed directly above, for the Renovation, constitutes a violation of 40 C.F.R. § 745.86(a), and Section 409 of

WORK PRACTICE STANDARDS: STANDARDS FOR RENOVATION ACTIVITIES

- 41. Paragraphs 1 through 40 of this CAFO are realleged and are incorporated herein by reference.
- 42. During the Renovation at the Property, Respondent's worker did not post warning signs that clearly defined the work area and warning occupants and other persons not involved in renovation activities to remain outside of the work area.
- 43. Respondent's failure to post warning signs clearly defining the work area and warning occupants and other persons not involved in renovation activities to remain outside of the work area during the Renovation, constitutes a violation of 40 C.F.R. § 745.85(a)(1), and Section 409 of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. § 2689.

WORK PRACTICE STANDARDS: STANDARDS FOR RENOVATION ACTIVITIES

- 44. Paragraphs 1 through 43 of this CAFO are realleged and are incorporated herein by reference.
- 45. During the Renovation, Respondent's worker did not ensure that the ground was covered with plastic sheeting or other disposable impermeable material extending 10 feet beyond the perimeter of surfaces undergoing renovation.
- 46. Respondent's failure to contain the work area during the Renovation and cover the ground with plastic sheeting or other disposable impermeable material extending 10 feet beyond the perimeter of surfaces undergoing renovation, constitutes a violation of 40 C.F.R. § 745.85(a)(2)(ii)(C), and Section 409 of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. § 2689.

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- 47. Paragraphs 1 through 46 of this CAFO are realleged and are incorporated herein by reference.
- 48. During the Renovation, Respondent's worker used high-speed sanders that were not equipped with HEPA exhaust controls to remove paint.
- 49. Respondent's failure to prohibit the use of machines designed to remove paint or other surface coatings through high-speed operation such as sanding without the use of HEPA exhaust controls, constitutes a violation of 40 C.F.R. § 745.85(a)(3)(ii), and Section 409 of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. § 2689.

IV. RESPONDENT'S ADMISSIONS

- 50. In accordance with 40 C.F.R. § 22.18(b)(2) and for the purpose of this proceeding, Respondent:
 - a. admits the jurisdictional allegations contained herein;
 - b. neither admits nor denies the specific factual allegations contained herein;
 - c. consents to the assessment of the stated civil penalty and to any conditions specified herein;
 - d. waives any right to contest the allegations contained herein; and
 - e. waives the right to appeal the proposed Final Order accompanying this Consent Agreement.

V. CIVIL ADMINISTRATIVE PENALTY

51. Respondent agrees to the assessment of a penalty in the amount of EIGHT HUNDRED

1	Overnight Mail:		
2			
3	U.S. Bank		
4	1005 Convention Plaza		
5	Mail Station SL-MO-C2GL		
6	ATTN Box 979077		
7	St. Louis, MO 63101		
8	ACH (also known as REX or remittance express):		
9			
10	US Treasury REX/Cashlink ACH Receiver ABA = 051036706		
11	Account Number: 310006, Environmental Protection Agency		
12	CTX Format Transaction Code 22 - checking		
13	Physical location of US Treasury Facility		
14	5700 Rivertech Court		
15	Riverdale, MD 20737		
16	Remittance Express (REX) 1-866-234-5681		
17	Online Payment:		
18			
19	This payment option can be accessed from the information below:		
20	www.pay.gov		
21	Enter "sfo1.1" in the search field		
22	Open form and complete required fields		
23	If clarification regarding a particular method of payment remittance is needed, contact		
24	the EPA Cincinnati Finance Center at (513) 487-2091.		
25	Concurrently, a copy of each check or notification that the payment has been made by		
26	one of the other methods listed above, including proof of the date payment was made, shall be		
27	sent with a transmittal letter indicating Respondent's name, the case title, and the docket		
28	number to the following addresses:		
.	Designal Heaving Clarks		
29	Regional Hearing Clerk:		
30	R9HearingClerk@epa.gov		
31	Brandon Boatman:		
32	boatman.brandon@epa.gov		
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U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Cincinnati Finance Center CINWD AcctsReceivable@epa.gov

- 54. Payment of the above civil administrative penalty shall not be used by Respondent or any other person as a tax deduction from Respondent's federal, state, or local taxes.
- 55. If Respondent fails to pay the assessed civil administrative penalty specified in Paragraph 51 by the manner and deadlines specified in Paragraph 53, then the entire remaining balance of the assessed penalty shall immediately become due and payable. Respondent also shall pay to the EPA a stipulated penalty of \$100 per day for each day that payment is late in addition to the assessed penalty. Stipulated penalties shall accrue until such time as the assessed penalty and all accrued stipulated penalties are paid and shall become due and payable upon written request by the EPA. In addition, failure to pay the civil administrative penalty by the manner and deadlines specified in Paragraph 53 may lead to any or all of the following actions:
 - a. The debt being referred to a credit reporting agency, a collection agency, or to the Department of Justice for filing of a collection action in the appropriate United States District Court. 40 C.F.R. §§ 13.13, 13.14, and 13.33. In any such collection action, the validity, amount, and appropriateness of the assessed penalty and of this CAFO shall not be subject to review.
 - b. The debt being collected by administrative offset (i.e., the withholding of money payable by the United States to, or held by the United States for, a person to satisfy the debt the person owes the Government), which includes, but is not

- c. The EPA may (i) suspend or revoke Respondent's licenses or other privileges; or
 (ii) suspend or disqualify Respondent from doing business with the EPA or
 engaging in programs the EPA sponsors or funds. 40 C.F.R. § 13.17.
- d. In accordance with the Debt Collection Act of 1982 and 40 C.F.R. Part 13, interest, penalties charges, and administrative costs will be assessed against the outstanding amount that Respondent owes to the EPA for Respondent's failure to pay in full the assessed civil administrative penalty by the deadlines specified in Paragraph 53. Interest will be assessed at an annual rate that is equal to the rate of current value of funds to the United States Treasury (i.e., the Treasury tax and loan account rate) as prescribed and published by the Secretary of the Treasury in the Federal Register and the Treasury Fiscal Requirements Manual Bulletins. 40 C.F.R. § 13.11(a)(1). Penalty charges will be assessed monthly at a rate of 6% per annum. 40 C.F.R. § 13.11(c). Administrative costs for handling and collecting Respondent's overdue debt will be based on either actual or average cost incurred and will include both direct and indirect costs. 40 C.F.R. § 13.11(b). In addition, if this matter is referred to another department or agency (e.g., the Department of Justice, the Internal Revenue Service), that department or agency may assess its own administrative costs, in addition to the EPA's administrative costs, for handling and collecting Respondent's overdue debt.

VI. RESPONDENT'S CERTIFICATION

56. In executing this CAFO, Respondent certifies that it is now fully in compliance with the federal regulations promulgated at 40 C.F.R. Part 745, Subpart E.

57. In executing this CAFO, Respondent certifies it is no longer managing the property located at 97 Oceanside Drive, Daly City, California.

58. In executing this CAFO, Respondent certifies it will not perform or cause the performance of a "renovation," as defined in 40 C.F.R. § 745.83, in any "target housing," as that term is defined at Section 401 of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. § 2681, for any target housing under the management of Respondent without first attaining certification from the EPA under 40 C.F.R. § 745.89(a), and without ensuring that such renovation is performed in compliance with the requirements of 40 C.F.R. Pt. 745, Subpart E, by a Certified Firm using a Certified Renovator.

VII. RETENTION OF RIGHTS

59. In accordance with 40 C.F.R. § 22.18(c), this CAFO only resolves Respondent's liability for federal civil penalties for the violations and facts specifically alleged in Section III of this CAFO. Nothing in this CAFO is intended to or shall be construed to resolve (i) any civil liability for violations of any provision of any federal, state, or local law, statute, regulation, rule, ordinance, or permit not specifically alleged in Section III of this CAFO; or (ii) any criminal liability. The EPA specifically reserves any and all authorities, rights, and remedies available to it (including, but not limited to, injunctive or other equitable relief or criminal sanctions) to address any violation of this CAFO or any violation not specifically alleged in Section III of this

CAFO.

60. This CAFO does not exempt, relieve, modify, or affect in any way Respondent's duty to comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, rules, ordinances, and permits.

VIII. ATTORNEYS' FEES AND COSTS

61. Each party shall bear its own attorneys' fees, costs, and disbursements incurred in this proceeding.

IX. EFFECTIVE DATE

62. In accordance with 40 C.F.R. §§ 22.18(b)(3) and 22.31(b), this CAFO shall be effective on the date that the Final Order accompanying this Consent Agreement, having been approved and issued by either the Regional Judicial Officer or Regional Administrator, is filed.

X. BINDING EFFECT

- 63. The undersigned representative of Complainant and the undersigned representative of Respondent each certifies that he or she is fully authorized to enter into the terms and conditions of this CAFO and to bind the party he or she represents to this CAFO.
- 64. The provisions of this CAFO shall apply to and be binding upon Respondent and its officers, directors, employees, agents, trustees, servants, authorized representatives, successors, and assigns.

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FINAL ORDER

Complainant and Respondent, having entered into the foregoing Consent Agreement,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that this Consent Agreement and Final Order (Docket No.

TSCA-09-2024-0045) be entered, and that Respondent shall pay a civil administrative

penalty in the amount of EIGHT HUNDRED AND TWENTY-TWO DOLLARS (\$822) and

comply with the terms and conditions set forth in the Consent Agreement. This

Consent Agreement and Final Order shall become effective upon filing.

DATE	Reatrice Wong

Beatrice Wong Regional Judicial Officer U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region IX

1 **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE** 2 I hereby certify that the foregoing Consent Agreement and Final Order in the matter of MP Property Management (Docket No. TSCA-09-2024-0045) was filed with the Regional Hearing 3 Clerk, and that a true and correct copy of the same was sent to the following parties via 4 electronic mail, as indicated below: 5 **RESPONDENT:** James Greenhaw 6 Chief Executive Officer MP Property Management 7 1108 Tahoe Drive 8 Belmont, CA 94002 Jimmpproperty@yahoo.com 9 **COMPLAINANTS:** Nathaniel Moore 10 Assistant Regional Counsel 11 U.S. EPA – Region IX 75 Hawthorne Street, ORC-2-2 12 San Francisco, CA 94105 Moore.Nathaniel@epa.gov 13 14 15 16 Ponly Tu 17 Regional Hearing Clerk U.S. EPA - Region IX 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27

CERTIFIATE OF SERVICE