



Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board

June 7, 2023

Tierra Verde Industries, Inc.
PO Box 279
Irvine, CA 92650
(Via Certified Mail)

CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

TVI Ecocentre
8011 Marine Way
Irvine, CA 92618
(Via Regular Mail)

Darren Ross
darren@tierraverdeind.com
(Via Email)

1505 Corporation
Talley & Company, an Accountancy Corporation
Agent for Service of Process for Tierra Verde Industries, Inc
PO Box 279
Irvine, CA 92650
(Via Certified Mail)

CONDITIONAL SETTLEMENT OFFER NO. R8-2023-0044 TO PARTICIPATE IN EXPEDITED PAYMENT PROGRAM RELATING TO VIOLATIONS OF THE GENERAL PERMIT FOR STORMWATER DISCHARGES ASSOCIATED WITH INDUSTRIAL ACTIVITIES (ORDER NO. 2014-0057-DWQ, NPDES NO. CAS000001) FOR TVI ECOCENTRE, 8011 MARINE WAY, IRVINE (WDID NO. 8 30I020459)

Dear Mr. Ross,

This letter is to notify TVI Ecocentre, (hereinafter "Discharger" or "you") of alleged violations, subject to Mandatory Minimum Penalties (MMPs) pursuant to the California Water Code (Water Code) section 13385, identified in the State Water Resources Control Board's water quality data system and to allow the Discharger to participate in the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board's (Santa Ana Water Board) Expedited Payment Program to address these MMPs.

KRISTINE MURRAY, CHAIR | JAYNE JOY, EXECUTIVE OFFICER

3737 Main Street, Suite 500, Riverside, CA 92501-3348 | www.waterboards.ca.gov/santaana

NOTICE OF VIOLATION:

Based on information in the Stormwater Multiple Application & Report Tracking System (SMARTS), the Santa Ana Water Board alleges that the Discharger is in violation of the General Permit for Storm Water Discharges Associated with Industrial Activities, Order No. 2014-0057-DWQ as amended by Order No. 2015-0122-DWQ and Order No. 2018-0028-DWQ, National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit No. CAS000001 (Industrial General Permit), for failure to timely submit discharge monitoring reports for the facility located at 8011 Marine Way in the City of Irvine. The Discharger will have the opportunity to address the alleged violations as discussed below.

STATUTORY LIABILITY:

Pursuant to Water Code section 13385, subdivisions (h) and (l), the Discharger is subject to an MMP of three thousand dollars (\$3,000) for specified serious and chronic violation as defined by statute. For the purposes of subdivision (h) of section 13385, failure to file a discharge monitoring report required pursuant to section 13383 for each complete period of 30 days following the deadline for submitting the report constitutes a serious violation. The Discharger may also be subject to discretionary administrative civil liabilities of up to ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) for each day in which the violation occurs. Any discretionary administrative civil liabilities may be assessed by the Santa Ana Water Board beginning with the date that the violations first occurred. The formal enforcement action that the Santa Ana Water Board uses to assess such liability is an administrative civil liability complaint (ACLC), although the Santa Ana Water Board may instead refer such matters to the Attorney General's Office for prosecution. If referred to the Attorney General for prosecution, the Superior Court may assess up to twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) per violation.

DISCHARGER'S OPTIONS FOR RESPONSE TO OFFER:

You have two options to respond as outlined below.

1. **Accept the Expedited Payment Program offer** by complying with this proposed Settlement Agreement and agreeing to pay a settlement of **twelve thousand dollars (\$12,000)**. The minimum administrative civil liability pursuant to Water Code section 13385 is \$3,000 for each specified serious or chronic violation. This is a Conditional Offer subject to certain terms and conditions set forth below. If you choose this option, **you must sign and submit the enclosed Acceptance and Waiver form by July 6, 2023**. The form provides submittal instructions. Final closure on this action is only possible after ultimate submission of the settlement amount.

Please submit an original (blue ink) signed Acceptance and Wavier form to:

Mariadela Hurtado-Brown, General Stormwater Unit
Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board
3737 Main Street, Suite 500
Riverside, CA 92501-3348

In response to the Conditional Offer and payment in settlement of this enforcement action, the Santa Ana Water Board will forego issuance of a formal administrative complaint, will not refer the violation to the Attorney General, and will waive its right to seek additional discretionary civil liabilities for the violations identified.

- 2. Contest the alleged violations** by submitting in writing, the basis of your challenge with supporting evidence. If you choose this option, you must **submit your written documentation by July 6, 2023**. The Santa Ana Water Board Prosecution Team will review your submission, and if we agree with you, we will notify you in writing that our enforcement action has been terminated. All responses should be directed to Mariadela Hurtado-Brown.

If you do not respond in a manner described in the above options, the Santa Ana Water Board will prepare an ACLC for the violations. The liability amount sought in the ACLC and/or imposed by the Santa Ana Water Board may be higher than the liability amount set forth in this Conditional Offer. Moreover, additional staff costs associated with formal enforcement may be considered in the recommended liability amount in an ACLC.

CONDITIONS FOR SANTA ANA WATER BOARD ACCEPTANCE OF RESOLUTION:

If you accept the Expedited Payment Program offer, the settlement will be published in the following manner: Federal regulations require the Santa Ana Water Board to publish notice of, and to provide at least thirty (30) days for public comment on, any settlement of an enforcement action addressing NPDES permit violations (40 C.F.R. section 123.27(d)(2)(iii)). Upon receipt of the Discharger's Acceptance and Waiver and other requested technical reports on or before **July 6, 2023**, Santa Ana Water Board staff will publish a notice of the proposed settlement of the alleged violations.

If no comments are received within the notice period, the Santa Ana Water Board Executive Officer will execute the Acceptance and Waiver as a stipulated order assessing the MMP amount pursuant to Water Code section 13323. You will then be notified that payment is due within 30 days. Failure to pay the administrative civil liability within that time frame may result in further enforcement including referral of the matter to the Attorney General, and/or may void the offer to participate in this Expedited Payment Program.

If, however, significant comments are received in opposition to the settlement, this offer may be withdrawn. In that case, the Discharger's waiver pursuant to the Acceptance and

Waiver will also be treated as withdrawn, and the violations will be addressed through a formal enforcement action.

This Expedited Payment Program offer does not address or resolve liability for any violation that is not specifically identified. The Santa Ana Water Board reserves the right to pursue formal enforcement of any violations not specifically cited.

Should you have any questions about this Expedited Payment Program, please contact Mariadela Hurtado-Brown via email at Mariadela.Hurtado-Brown@waterboards.ca.gov or via phone at (951) 394-9507.

Sincerely,



A. Nick Amini, Ph.D., P.E.
Branch Manager, Surface Water & Agriculture
Santa Ana Water Board Prosecution Team

enclosure: Appendix 1 (Table 1)
Acceptance of Conditional Resolution and Waiver of Right to Hearing;
(proposed) Order

APPENDIX 1

DETERMINATION OF MANDATORY MINIMUM PENALTIES (MMPs) BASED ON DISCHARGER REPORTING VIOLATIONS

Table 1: Review of reporting violations pursuant to Water Code section 13383 for failure to file a discharge monitoring report required for each complete period of 30 days and MMP determination for the 2020-2021 Reporting Period.

Lab Report Attachment ID	Applicable TMDL Pollutants	Lab Report Date	SMARTS Submitted Date	Number of Days	Number of Violations	MMP
Attachment ID No. 2912579 and 2912580	Copper and Lead	2/5/2021	7/7/2021	152	4	\$12,000
Total MMP for Reporting Violations:						\$12,000



GAVIN NEWSOM
GOVERNOR

YANA GARCIA
SECRETARY FOR
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board

ACCEPTANCE OF CONDITIONAL RESOLUTION AND WAIVER OF RIGHT TO HEARING: (Proposed) ORDER

TVI Ecocentre
Settlement Offer No. R8-2023-0044

By signing below and returning this Acceptance of Conditional Resolution and Waiver of Right to Hearing (Acceptance and Waiver) to the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board (Santa Ana Water Board), TVI Ecocentre (Discharger) hereby accepts the "Offer to Participate in Expedited Payment Program" and waives the right to a hearing before the Santa Ana Water Board to dispute the violations pursuant to California Water Code section 13385.

The Discharger agrees that the Expedited Payment Program Offer shall serve as a complaint pursuant to Article 2.5 of the California Water Code and that no separate complaint is required for the Santa Ana Water Board to assert jurisdiction over the alleged violations through its Chief Prosecutor. The Discharger agrees to pay the administrative civil liability authorized by California Water Code section 13385, in the sum of \$12,000 (Expedited Payment Amount) which shall be deemed payment in full of any civil liability pursuant to California Water Code section 13385 that otherwise might be assessed for the violations described.

The Discharger understands that this Acceptance and Waiver waives its right to contest the violations and the amount of civil liability for such violations. The Discharger understands that this Acceptance and Waiver does not address or resolve liability for any violation that is not specifically identified.

Upon Execution by the Discharger, submit the completed Acceptance and Waiver to:

Mariadela Hurtado-Brown, General Stormwater Unit
Expedited Payment Letter
Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board
3737 Main Street, Suite 500
Riverside, CA 92501

The Discharger understands that federal regulations set forth at title 40, Code of Federal Regulations, section 123.27(d)(2)(iii) require the Santa Ana Water Board to publish a public notice of and provide at least thirty (30) days for public comment on any proposed resolution of an enforcement action addressing NPDES permit violations. Accordingly, this Acceptance and Waiver, prior to execution by the Santa Ana Water Board Executive Officer, will be published as required by law for public comment.

If no comments are received within the public notice period, the Prosecution Team will present this Order to the Santa Ana Water Board's Executive Officer to execute the Acceptance and Waiver.

KRISTINE MURRAY, CHAIR | JAYNE JOY, EXECUTIVE OFFICER

The Discharger understands that if significant comments are received in opposition to the Conditional Offer, the offer on behalf of the Santa Ana Water Board to resolve the violations may be withdrawn. In that circumstance, the Discharger may be advised of that withdrawal, and an administrative civil liability complaint may be issued, and the matter may be set for a hearing before the Santa Ana Water Board. In the event that this matter proceeds to hearing, the Discharger understands that this Acceptance and Waiver executed by the Discharger will be treated as a settlement communication and will not be used as evidence in that hearing.

The Discharger further understands that once this Acceptance and Waiver is executed by the Santa Ana Water Board's Executive Officer, the full payment required by the deadline set forth below is a condition of this Acceptance and Waiver. In accordance with California Water Code section 13385, subdivision (n) funds collected for violations pursuant to section 13385 shall be deposited in the Cleanup and Abatement Account, the \$12,000 liability shall be paid by a cashiers or certified check made out to the "State Water Resources Control Board" referencing this Order number for deposit into the Cleanup and Abatement Account. The payment must be submitted to the State Water Resources Control Board no later than thirty (30) calendar days after the date the Acceptance and Waiver is executed by the Santa Ana Water Board Executive Officer.

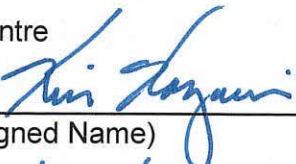
Please mail check to:

State Water Resources Control Board
Re: Order No. R8-2023-0044
Division of Administrative Services, Accounting Branch
P.O. Box 1888
Sacramento, CA 95812-1888

I hereby affirm that I am duly authorized to act on behalf of and to bind the Discharger in the making and giving of this Acceptance and Waiver.

TVI Ecocentre

By:

	<u>7-3-23</u>
(Signed Name)	(Date)
<u>KRIS KAZARIAN</u>	<u>SECRETARY</u>
(Printed or Typed Name)	(Title)

IT IS SO ORDERED PURSUANT TO CALIFORNIA WATER CODE SECTION 13323 AND GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 11415.60.

By:

Jayne E. Joy, PE
Executive Officer

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MRB, MHB

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