## Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board 320 W. 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 200 Los Angeles, California 90013

Public Notice No. 21-006

#### PUBLIC NOTICE OF PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AND OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT

California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region v. Mei-hon Lai, et al., California Superior Court, County of Los Angeles, Case No. BC707671

The Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) and defendant Coast United Advertising Co., Inc. d/b/a Coast United Property Management (Coast United) have entered into a consent judgment in the above-captioned case. This settlement agreement resolves the Regional Water Board's claims against Coast United relating to the property located at 8710, 8712, 8714, 8716, 8718, 8720 and 8722 Darby Avenue in Northridge, California (the "Site"), and specifically the Regional Water Board's claim that San-Chen Lai and other defendants in the case failed to comply with Cleanup and Abatement Order (CAO) No. R4-2015-0129, thereby violating California Water Code section 13304.

The proposed settlement \$4,623,000 in civil penalties; \$198,000 of which shall be paid within one hundred and eighty (180) days of entry of this Consent Judgment. In lieu of payment of this \$198,000 to the Waste Discharge Permit Fund, Coast United shall pay for a suitable Supplemental Environmental Project approved by the Regional Water Board and the Director of the State Water Resources Control Board Office of Enforcement (Enforcement Director). Of Coast United's total civil penalty of \$4,623,000, the amount of \$4,425,000 shall be suspended on the conditions set forth in the proposed Consent Judgment, and in accordance with performance of cleanup and abatement tasks specified therein. The amount of civil liability may be revised, depending on the comments received.

In accordance with the State Water Resources Control Board's Enforcement Policy (both the 2010 and 2017 versions, available at Office of Enforcement | California State Water Resources Control Board), the public has an opportunity to comment on the proposed settlement. A copy of the settlement agreement and related documents concerning the enforcement action are available at the Regional Water Board's office. The settlement agreement is also posted on the Regional Water Board's website at www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles. You may contact Russ Colby at russ.colby@waterboards.ca.gov to arrange to review the files. Written comments on the proposed settlement must be received by the Regional Water Board no later than 5:00 p.m. on April 14, 2021. Comments should be e-mailed russ.colby@waterboards.ca.gov or mailed to:

Coast United Consent Judgment c/o Russ Colby Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board 320 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 200 Los Angeles, CA 90013

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8	SUPERIOR COURT OF TH	E STATE OF	CALIFORNIA
9	COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES		
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11		]	
12	CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD, LOS	Case No. BC	707671
13	ANGELES REGION,		D] CONSENT JUDGMENT IANENT INJUNCTION
14	Plaintiff,	Dept:	F49
15	v.	Judge: Trial Date:	Honorable Stephen P. Pfahler March 29, 2021
16	MEI-HON LAI, SUCCESSOR-IN- INTEREST TO SAN CHENG-LAI; MEI-	Action Filed	: May 30, 2018
17	HON LAI, TRUSTEE OF THE LAI FAMILY TRUST; COAST UNITED		
18 19	ADVERTISING, INC., DOING BUSINESS AS COAST UNITED PROPERTY MANAGEMENT,		
20	Defendants.		
21			
22	This Consent Judgment and Permanent Ir	njunction purs	uant to stipulation (Consent
23	Judgment) is entered into by Plaintiff the People	of the State of	California, ex rel. Regional Water
24			
25	United Advertising Co., Inc. d/b/a Coast United	Property Mana	agement (Coast United). For
26	purposes of this Consent Judgment, the Regional	Water Board	and Coast United shall be referred
27	to collectively as the Parties.		

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### **INTRODUCTION**

This Consent Judgment relates to Coast United's failure to comply with the terms of Regional Water Board Cleanup and Abatement Order No. R4-2015-0129 (CAO) naming Coast United, Lai Circuits, Inc. and San-Cheng Lai regarding contamination at the property located at 8710-8722 Darby Avenue, in Northridge, California (the Site). Coast United is the current owner of the Site. As set forth in the Regional Water Board's Complaint ("Complaint") filed in this matter, the Regional Water Board alleges that Coast United and other defendants failed to comply with the CAO and therefore violated Water Code section 13304 (the Action). Section 13304 provides that the Regional Water Board or a superior court can issue an injunction requiring compliance with the CAO and can assess civil liability, penalties, and response costs pursuant to Water Code sections 13350 and/or 13351.

The Parties have agreed to settle this matter pursuant to the terms of this Consent Judgment. The Parties enter into this Consent Judgment pursuant to a compromise and settlement of the allegations in the Complaint. The Parties believe that the resolution embodied in this Consent Judgment is fair and reasonable and fulfills the Regional Water Board's enforcement objectives; that its terms are appropriate in light of Coast United's commitments to remediate the on-site and off-site contamination at and around the Site, and the penalties to which Coast United has agreed to pay; and that entry of this Consent Judgment is in the best interest of the public. Further, this Consent Judgment is fair and reasonable because, as further described in the Parties' July 8, 2020 Stipulation Re: Plaintiff California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region's Motion For Summary Adjudication, Coast United has stipulated that it (1) "is a 'discharger' under Water Code Section 13304," (2) it "has violated Water Code Section 13304 on numerous occasions by failing to comply with the CAO and failing to delineate and clean up the waste in soil, soil vapor, and groundwater in and around the properties located at 8710, 8712, 8714, 8716, 8720, and 8722 Darby Avenue, Northridge, California," and (3) it "agrees to immediately begin complying with the requirements of the CAO." As set forth in section 22 below, the parties have stipulated for, and the Court has approved, the Court's retention of jurisdiction for the purpose of enabling any party to this Consent Judgment to apply to the Court at any time for such further

orders and directions as may be necessary and appropriate for the enforcement or compliance with the Consent Judgment.

The Parties, after opportunity for review by counsel, hereby stipulate and consent to the entry of this Consent Judgment as set forth below.

## IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED:

## CONSENT JUDGMENT PURSUANT TO STIPULATION

## 1. **DEFINITIONS**

Except where otherwise expressly defined in this Consent Judgment, all terms shall be interpreted consistent with the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act, Water Code sections 13300 et seq., including the regulations promulgated pursuant to those sections.

## 2. <u>COMPLAINT AND SCOPE OF AGREEMENT</u>

The Complaint in this Action alleges that Coast United violated Water Code sections 13304, for which the Regional Water Board or a superior court can issue an injunction requiring compliance with the CAO and can assess civil penalties pursuant to Water Code sections 13350 and/or 13351. This Consent Judgment resolves all allegations and violations made in the Complaint in this case.

## 3. <u>JURISDICTION AND VENUE</u>

The Parties agree that the Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, has subject matter jurisdiction over the matters alleged in this Action and personal jurisdiction over the Parties to this Consent Judgment, and that the Superior Court for the County of Los Angeles is the proper venue of this Action.

## 4. <u>INJUNCTIVE RELIEF—COMPLETION OF INVESTIGATION AND REMEDIATION TASKS</u>

4.1 Upon entry of this Consent Decree, Coast United agrees and is enjoined to complete all projects, tasks, and obligations listed in Exhibit A as Project Task numbers 1-10, attached hereto in order to comply with the CAO on or before May 30, 2030.

4.2 Coast United shall provide the Regional Water Board quarterly reports to document its progress toward achieving compliance with section 4.1 above.

## 5. PAYMENT OF SETTLEMENT AMOUNT FROM LITIGATION TRUST FUND

Pursuant to a settlement agreement with another defendant in the Action, the Regional Water Board obtained \$700,000 to be used for the investigation and remediation of the Site at the Regional Water Board's sole discretion. The funds will be held in the Department of Justice Litigation Trust Fund (Trust Fund). Following entry of this Consent Judgment, Coast United shall be permitted to seek reimbursement from the Trust Fund of costs of remediation and compliance with the tasks and obligations listed in Exhibit A as Project Task numbers 1-10 until no monies remain in the Trust Fund to disburse. Coast United may only seek reimbursement for work completed after the entry of this Consent Judgment and will only be reimbursed after the Regional Water Board has agreed, in its sole discretion, that the costs incurred were appropriate and were accomplished in furtherance of the investigation, mitigation, or remediation of the Site and off-site areas that may be impacted by contaminants potentially emanating from the Site. Receipts or invoices for all work must be provided prior to the payment of any funds from the Trust Fund. Depletion of the funds in the Trust Fund in no way relieves Coast United of its obligations to comply with the injunctive relief or any other terms in this Consent Judgment.

## 6. PAYMENT OF CIVIL PENALTIES AND INVESTIGATION AND ENFORCEMENT COSTS

#### **6.1 Total Penalties**

On entry of this Consent Judgment, Coast United shall be liable for a total of \$4,623,000 in civil penalties to be paid and/or suspended, as set forth in sections 6.2 through 6.3, below.

### **6.2** Supplemental Environmental Project

**6.2.1** Of the \$4,623,000 in civil penalties pursuant to section 6.1 above, \$198,000 shall be paid within one hundred and eighty (180) days of entry of this Consent Judgment. In lieu of payment of this \$198,000 to the Waste Discharge Permit Fund, Coast United shall pay for a

1	suitable Supplemental Environmental Project approved by the Regional Water Board and the
2	Director of the State Water Resources Control Board Office of Enforcement (Enforcement
3	Director). Coast United shall pay for the Supplemental Environmental Project as follows:
4	Coast United shall make a check payable to the "Rose Foundation for Communities and
5	the Environment" and reference this case number and put the words "Consent Judgement SEP
6	Payment" on the payment and submit it by U.S. mail to:
7 8 9	Rose Foundation for Communities and the Environment Attn: Tim Little 201 4th Street, Suite 102 Oakland, CA 94607
10	Coast United shall also provide a copy of the payment to via e-mail to ching-
11	<u>yin.to@waterboards.ca.gov</u> or via U.S. mail to:
12	Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region
13	320 West Fourth Street, Suite 200 Los Angeles, California 90013
14	Attention: Ching Yin To, Enforcement I Unit
15	<b>6.2.2.</b> It is the Parties' intent that the \$198,000 be paid to fund a Supplemental
16	Environmental Project, as set forth in section 6.2.1. In the event, however, that a suitable
17	Supplemental Environmental Project is not approved by the Regional Water Board and the
18	Enforcement Director within one hundred and eighty (180) days of entry of this Consent
19	Judgment, then the \$198,000 shall be paid within that same one hundred eighty (180) day period
20	to the California Waste Discharge Permit Fund. The Regional Water Board shall provide Coast
21	United 15 days notice in the event that the \$198,000 must be paid to the California Waste
22	Discharge Permit Fund in lieu of the Supplemental Environmental Project pursuant to section
23	6.2.1 above.
24	If the penalty payment is made to the California Waste Discharge Fund, it will be paid as
25	follows:
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Coast United shall reference this case number and shall put the words "Enforcement Payment" on the penalty payment and submit them to the State Water Resources Control Board addressed to:

Accounting Office Attn: Enforcement Payment State Water Resources Control Board P.O. Box 1888 Sacramento, CA 95812-1888

Coast United shall provide copies of these payments to:

Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region 320 West Fourth Street, Suite 200 Los Angeles, California 90013 Attention: Hugh Marley

**6.2.3** If Coast United fails to make payment of \$198,000 within one hundred and eighty days (180) of entry of this Consent Judgment pursuant to sections 6.2.1 or 6.2.2 above, then Coast United shall pay a stipulated civil penalty of one thousand dollars (\$1,000) for each day payment is overdue. This stipulated civil penalty shall begin to accrue on the one-hundred-eighty-first day after the entry of this Consent Judgment. The stipulated penalty shall be paid to the California Waste Discharge Permit Fund as stated in section 6.2.2 above.

## **6.3 Suspended Penalties**

Of Coast United's total civil penalty of \$4,623,000, the amount of \$4,425,000 shall be suspended on the conditions set forth herein. These suspended penalties ("Suspended Civil Liability") shall be deemed paid once Coast United completes all obligations pursuant to section 4 and section 6.2 above and sections 6.3a and 7.1, below. If Coast United fails to complete any project task listed in the attached Exhibit A as Project Task numbers 1-10 (each a "Project Task") on or before the due date specified for each Project Task in Exhibit A, and fails to utilize the Notice of Completion procedure detailed in subsection b. below, then the Suspended Civil Liability amount attributable to that task on a percentage basis, as set forth in Exhibit A, shall be due and payable. The stipulated penalty shall be paid to the California Waste Discharge Permit

Fund as stated in section 6.2.2 above. The Regional Board may enforce this provision pursuant to section 10 below.

### a. Reductions in Suspended Civil Liability

Notwithstanding section 6.3 above, Coast United shall receive stepwise reductions in the amount of the Suspended Civil Liability as follows. When Coast United completes any Project Task on or before the due date specified in Exhibit A for each Project Task, attached hereto, and the Project Task is either accepted as complete by the Regional Water Board or deemed complete pursuant to the procedures set forth below, the specified percentage of the Suspended Civil Liability associated with that Project Task shall be subtracted from the total suspended penalty obligation, as set forth in Exhibit A, which is attached hereto and incorporated by reference as though fully set forth herein.

## **b.** Notice of Completion Procedure

When Coast United believes it has completed each Project Task listed above, it shall submit a Notice of Completion, signed under penalty of perjury, by email to the parties identified in section 12, and upload it to GeoTracker, and include all documentation necessary to confirm that the Project Task has been completed. The Regional Water Board may request further information and site inspections as necessary to determine if the Project Task has been completed.

If Regional Water Board staff does not agree that the Project Task indicated in the Notice of Completion has been completed, staff shall send Coast United a Notice of Objection within ninety (90) calendar days of receipt of the Notice of Completion. The Notice of Objection shall be sent to the parties identified in section 12 via email, and uploaded to GeoTracker. If Regional Water Board staff needs additional time to determine whether the Project Task has been completed, Regional Board staff shall send Coast United a Notice of Additional Time within ninety (90) calendar days of receipt of the Notice of Completion. The Notice of Additional Time shall be sent to the parties identified in section 12 via email, and uploaded to GeoTracker.

Failure of Regional Water Board staff to issue a Notice of Objection or a Notice of Additional Time within 90 days after a Notice of Completion has been received shall mean that

Project Task is deemed approved and completed and the associated Suspended Civil Liability reduction is applied.

If Regional Water Board staff issues a Notice of Objection, and Coast United disagrees with the Regional Board's decision that the project task has not been completed, and Coast United refuses to do the work the Regional Board asserts is necessary to complete the project task, then the Parties shall proceed using the dispute resolution procedures set forth in section 10.

Once all tasks, projects, and obligations pursuant to Exhibit A Project Tasks 1-10 have individually and collectively been timely completed and either accepted by the Regional Water Board or deemed complete pursuant to the procedures set forth above, then the entire Suspended Civil Liability shall be deemed fulfilled and removed from any suspended penalty obligations under this Consent Judgment. Further, the injunction pursuant to section 4 above shall be dissolved.

## 6.4 Failure to Complete A Project Task or Comply With the Injunction

If the Regional Water Board believes that Coast United has failed to complete a Project Task pursuant to Exhibit A of this Consent Judgment pursuant to the schedule provided therein or Coast United fails to comply with the injunction pursuant to section 4 above on or before May 30, 2030, the Regional Water Board may seek to lift the suspension of the Suspended Civil Liability amount associated with that Project Task as defined in section 6.3 of this Consent Judgment by using the procedures set forth in section 10 below, taking into account any credits that are due to Coast United pursuant to section 6.3a above. In the event the suspension of the Suspended Civil Liability is lifted, all payments due pursuant to such an Order by the Court shall be made to the Waste Discharge Permit Fund in the manner prescribed in section 6.2 above. Coast United may challenge the Regional Water Board's suspension of Suspended Civil Liability pursuant to the procedures in section 10.

# **6.5 Disputes Pertaining to Payment of Penalties**Should any disagreement arise pertaining to Coast V

Should any disagreement arise pertaining to Coast United's failure to pay civil penalties, the Regional Water Board or Coast United may enforce these provisions by using the procedures set forth in section 10 below.

## 7. PAYMENT OF OVERSIGHT COSTS

7.1 Within thirty (30) days of entry of this Consent Judgment, Coast United shall pay\$130,790.52 in outstanding oversight costs as of December 7, 2020 with a check payable to StateWater Resources Control Board SCP Program.

Coast United shall reference this case number on the oversight costs payment and submit them to:

State Water Resources Control Board SCP Program P.O. Box 1888 Sacramento, CA 95812-1888

Coast United shall provide copies of these payments to:

Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region 320 West Fourth Street, Suite 200 Los Angeles, California 90013 Attention: Hugh Marley

If Coast United fails to make payment of this amount within 30 days, Coast United shall pay a stipulated civil penalty of \$1,000 for each day payment is overdue in the same manner as the stipulated penalty is paid pursuant to section 6.2 above. This civil penalty shall begin to accrue on the thirty-first day after the entry of this Consent Judgment.

7.2 Coast United shall continue to pay oversight costs to the Regional Water Board until the injunction pursuant to section 4.1 above is deemed satisfied and all oversight costs to oversee remediation of the Site have been paid. These payments shall be made within 30 days of receipt of any Regional Water Board invoice in the same manner as provided in section 7.1 above.

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## 8. MATTERS COVERED BY THE CONSENT DECREE

- 8.1. This Consent Decree is a final and binding resolution and settlement of all claims, orders, liability, violations, penalties and causes of action alleged by the Regional Water Board in the Complaint regarding the Site and all claims, orders, liability, violations, penalties and causes of action related to the Site which could have been asserted by the Regional Water Board based upon the acts, omissions and/or events that are alleged in the Complaint (hereinafter referred to as "Covered Matters"). The Parties reserve the right to pursue any claim that is not a Covered Matter ("Reserved Claim") and to defend against any Reserved Claim.
- 8.2. The Covered Matters do not include, and the Consent Decree does not apply to, any claims, actions or penalties for the performance, or lack of performance of, cleanup, corrective action, or response action concerning or arising out of future releases, spills, leaks, discharges or disposals of waste, as defined in California Water Code § 13050, caused or contributed to by Coast United at or from the Site or any other site owned and/or operated by Coast United. This Consent Decree does not prevent any claims, actions, or penalties by any other regulatory entity.
- 8.3. Except as otherwise provided in this Consent Decree, the Regional Water Board covenants not to sue or pursue any further civil claims, orders, liability, actions or penalties against Coast United for the Covered Matters.
- 8.4. Coast United covenants not to sue or pursue any civil or administrative claims against the Regional Water Board or against any agency of the State of California or against their officers, employees, representatives, agents or attorneys arising out of or related to any Covered Matters.
- 8.5. Any claims, violations, or causes of action that are based on acts, omissions or events occurring after the date of entry of this Consent Decree in this matter are not resolved, settled or covered by this Consent Decree.
- 8.6. In any subsequent action that may be brought by the Regional Water Board based on any Reserved Claims, Coast United agrees that it will not assert that failing to pursue the

Reserved Claim as part of this action constitutes claim-splitting, laches, or is otherwise inequitable. This section does not prohibit Coast United from asserting any statute of limitations defense or other defenses that may be applicable to any Reserved Claims.

## 9. FORCE MAJEURE

- 9.1. Any event (which may include an act or an omission) that is beyond Coast United's control and that prevents Coast United from timely performing any obligation under this Consent Judgment, despite Coast United's reasonable best efforts, is a "Force Majeure" event. Force Majeure does not include Coast United's financial inability to fund or complete the obligation or circumstances that Coast United could have avoided if it had complied with preventative requirements imposed by law, regulation or ordinance.
- 9.2. If any Force Majeure event occurs that may prevent or delay Coast United's performance of any obligation under this Consent Judgment, within ten (10) business days of when Coast United first receives reasonable notice of the event, it shall provide to the Regional Water Board a written explanation and description of the event; the anticipated duration of any delay; all actions Coast United has taken or will take to prevent or minimize the delay or other noncompliance and a schedule of such actions; and the rationale for categorizing the event as a Force Majeure. In addition, Coast United shall provide all available non-privileged, material, factual documentation supporting a Force Majeure claim.
- 9.3. Within fourteen (14) calendar days of receiving the notice set forth in section 9.2 above the Regional Water Board shall notify Coast United in writing whether it agrees with its assertion of Force Majeure. If the Regional Water Board agrees that the prevention of performance or anticipated prevention of performance or delay or anticipated delay is attributable to Force Majeure, Coast United's performance will be excused to such degree as the Regional Water Board agrees, or the time for performance of its obligations under this Consent Judgment that are affected by Force Majeure will be excused to such degree, or extended for such time, as the Regional Water Board agrees is necessary to complete those obligations. The Regional Water Board shall exercise its discretion in a reasonable manner under this section.

9.4. If Coast United and the Regional Water Board disagree about the existence or effect of Force Majeure, either Coast United or the Regional Water Board may petition the Court to resolve the dispute. If either Coast United or the Regional Water Board petitions the Court to resolve the Force Majeure dispute, it will neither preclude nor prejudice the Regional Water Board from bringing a motion to enforce the Consent Judgment as provided in this Consent Judgment, nor will it preclude nor prejudice Coast United's ability to oppose such a motion. Alternatively, Coast United may raise Force Majeure as a defense to a motion to enforce. In all instances, Coast United shall have the burden of proof to demonstrate Force Majeure.

## 10. ENFORCEMENT AND PENALTIES

### 10.1. Procedure

The Regional Water Board may move this Court to enforce any provision of this Consent Judgment and to award other appropriate relief, including penalties for violations of sections 4 through 7 above, by serving and filing a regularly noticed motion in accordance with Code of Civil Procedure section 1005 (Enforcement Motion). Coast United may file an opposition, and the Regional Water Board may file a reply, both also in accordance with Code of Civil Procedure section 1005. At least ten (10) business days before filing an Enforcement Motion under this Consent Judgment, the Regional Water Board must meet and confer with Coast United to attempt to resolve the matter without judicial intervention. To ensure that the "meet and confer" is as productive as possible, the Regional Water Board will identify, as specifically as the available information allows, the specific instances and dates of non-compliance and the actions that the Regional Water Board believes Coast United must take to remedy that non-compliance. Coast United will provide the Regional Water Board with a written response to the meet and confer within 5 business days of the date of the Regional Water Board's meet and confer.

Coast United may also bring an Enforcement Motion against the Regional Water Board using the same procedures set forth above if Coast United contends the Regional Water Board is not complying with any provision of this Consent Judgment.

If a dispute arises as to Coast United's completion of a Project Task and the Parties proceed using the dispute resolution procedures, the following procedures apply:

Coast United shall have the burden of proof for establishing by a preponderance of the evidence that (a) the Project Task has been completed; (b) the Project Task was completed by the date identified in Exhibit A; (c) Coast United submitted a complete Notice of Completion to Regional Water Board staff as described above with all of the required documentation; and (d) Coast United timely submitted its Notice of Completion to Regional Water Board staff on or before the date identified in Exhibit A for that Project Task. If Coast United fails to establish each of its burdens proof, the Suspended Civil Liability associated with the Project Task that is the subject of the dispute shall be imposed by Court order. The Parties agree that the Court shall have no discretion to reduce or otherwise modify the amount of the Suspended Civil Liability other than the Court shall add to the Suspended Civil Liability amount the interest that has accrued on the amount of the unpaid Suspended Civil Liability at the rate of 10% per annum beginning from the date of the Court's order. Payment of the amount imposed by the Court pursuant to this paragraph and the interest shall be due to the Regional Board within thirty (30) days from the Court's final order. The amount imposed by the Court shall be paid to the California Waste Discharge Permit Fund pursuant to section 6.2.2. above, and Coast United shall pay interest on the amount of one thousand dollars (\$1,000) for each day payment is overdue.

### 11. PUBLIC COMMENT

The Parties agree and acknowledge that the Regional Water Board's final approval of this Consent Judgment is subject to the requirements of notice and comment pursuant to state requirements. Pursuant to the enforcement policy of the State Water Resources Control Board, adopted April 4, 2017, notice of the proposed Consent Judgment will be given to the public, and the public will have at least thirty (30) days after the notice to submit comments on the proposal. The Regional Water Board will publish notice on the Regional Water Board website after the Consent Judgment is lodged with the Court. The Regional Water Board reserves the right to withdraw or withhold its consent, prior to entry of the Consent Judgment, if the comments

received disclose information or considerations that indicate that the Consent Judgment is 1 inappropriate, improper, or inadequate. Coast United agrees not to withdraw from, oppose entry 2 of, or to challenge any provision of this Consent Judgment, unless the Regional Water Board 3 notifies Coast United in writing that it no longer supports entry of this Consent Judgment. 4 12. **NOTICE** 5 All submissions and notices required by this Consent Judgment shall be sent to the 6 following via electronic mail and personal delivery, overnight mail using a reputable delivery 7 courier, or United States Postal Service mail, certified or registered mail, return receipt requested: 8 9 For the Regional Water Board: 10 Russ Colby Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board 11 320 West Fourth Street, Suite 200 Los Angeles, California 90013 12 Russ.Colby@waterboards.ca.gov 13 Renee Purdy 14 **Executive Officer** Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board 15 320 West Fourth Street, Suite 200 Los Angeles, California 90013 16 Renee.Purdy@waterboards.ca.gov 17 Noah Golden-Krasner 18 Deputy Attorney General Office of the Attorney General 19 300 South Spring Street, Suite 1702 Los Angeles, California 90013 20 Noah.Goldenkrasner@doj.ca.gov 21 22 For Coast United: 23 William Giamela, Sr. President 24 Coast-United Advertising Co., Inc. d/b/a/ Coast United Property Management 25 8020 Deering Avenue 26 Canoga Park, CA 91304 nancyn@benchad.com 27

Pete Nyquist
Brian Moskal
Greenberg Glusker Fields Claman & Machtinger LLP
2049 Century Park East, Suite 2600
Los Angeles, CA 90067
pnyquist@ggfirm.com
bmoskal@ggfirm.com

Any Party may change its notice name and address by informing the other Party in writing, but no change is effective until it is received by the other Party. All notices and other communications required or permitted under this Consent Judgment that are properly addressed as provided in this Section are effective upon delivery if delivered personally or by overnight mail, or are effective five (5) days following deposit in the United States mail, postage prepaid, if delivered by mail.

## 13. CONSENT TO INSPECTION OF FACILITIES AND DOCUMENTS

### 13.1. Documents

On reasonable notice, Coast United shall permit any duly authorized representative of the Regional Water Board to inspect and copy any documents in Coast United's possession that relate to the Site or this Consent Judgment, to determine whether Coast United is in compliance with the terms of this Consent Judgment. Nothing in this section is intended to require access to or production of any documents that are protected by the attorney-client privilege, attorney work product doctrine, the right to privacy, or any other applicable privilege or protection afforded to Coast United under law.

### 14.2. Facilities

On reasonable notice, Coast United shall permit any duly authorized representative of the Regional Water Board to inspect the Site and any other Coast United property related to this Consent Judgment.

### 15. NECESSITY FOR WRITTEN APPROVALS

All approvals and decisions of the Regional Water Board under the terms of this Consent Judgment shall be communicated to Coast United in writing (including by email). No oral advice, guidance, suggestions, or comments by employees or officials of the Regional Water

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Board regarding submissions or notices shall be construed to relieve Coast United of its obligation to obtain any final written approval required by this Consent Judgment.

## 16. <u>EFFECT OF JUDGMENT</u>

Except as expressly provided in this Consent Judgment, nothing in this Consent Judgment is intended nor shall it be construed to preclude the Regional Water Board, or any state, county, or local agency, department, board or entity, or any Certified Unified Program Agency, from exercising its authority under any law, statute or regulation.

## 17. NO LIABILITY OF REGIONAL WATER BOARD

The Regional Water Board shall not be liable for any injury or damage to persons or property resulting from acts or omissions by Coast United, its directors, officers, employees, agents, representatives, or contractors in carrying out activities pursuant to this Consent Judgment, nor shall the Regional Water Board be held as a party to or guarantor of any contract entered into by Coast United, its directors, officers, employees, agents, representatives or contractors, in carrying out the requirements of this Consent Judgment.

## 18. NO WAIVER OF RIGHT TO ENFORCE

The failure of the Regional Water Board to enforce any provision of this Consent
Judgment shall neither be deemed a waiver of such provision nor in any way affect the validity of
this Consent Judgment. The failure of the Regional Water Board to enforce any such provision
shall not preclude it from later enforcing the same or any other provision of this Consent
Judgment. No oral advice, guidance, suggestions or comments by employees or officials of any
Party regarding matters covered in this Consent Judgment shall be construed to relieve any Party
of its obligations under this Consent Judgment.

## 19. FUTURE CHANGES IN LAW

Nothing in this Consent Judgment shall excuse Coast United from meeting any more stringent requirements that may be imposed by changes in the applicable law.

## 20. APPLICATION OF CONSENT JUDGMENT

Upon entry, this Consent Judgment shall apply to and be binding upon the Regional Water Board and Coast United, and their employees, agents, successors, and assigns.

## 21. <u>AUTHORITY TO ENTER CONSENT JUDGMENT</u>

Each signatory to this Consent Judgment certifies that he or she is fully authorized by the Party he or she represents to enter into this Consent Judgment, to execute it on behalf of the Party represented and legally to bind that Party.

## 22. RETENTION OF JURISDICTION

- 22.1 The Parties stipulate that this Court has jurisdiction to interpret and enforce the Consent Judgment. The Court shall retain continuing jurisdiction to enforce the terms of this Consent Judgment and to address any other matters arising out of or regarding this Consent Judgment. The Parties shall meet and confer prior to the filing of any motion relating to this Consent Judgment, including any Enforcement Motion pursuant to section 10 above, and shall negotiate in good faith in an effort to resolve any dispute without judicial intervention.
- **22.2** This Consent Judgment shall go into effect immediately upon entry thereof. Entry is authorized by Stipulation of the Parties upon filing.

## 23. PAYMENT OF LITIGATION EXPENSES AND FEES

Each Party shall pay its own attorney fees and costs and all other costs of litigation and investigation incurred to date.

### 24. <u>INTERPRETATION</u>

This Consent Judgment was drafted equally by all Parties. The Parties agree that the rule of construction holding that ambiguity is construed against the drafting Party shall not apply to the interpretation of this Consent Judgment.

## 25. COUNTERPART AND FACSIMILE SIGNATURES

This Consent Judgment may be executed by the Parties in counterparts, by Portable Document Format (PDF), and facsimiles, each of which shall be deemed an original, and all of which, when taken together, shall constitute one and the same document.

1	26. <u>INTEGRATION</u>		
2	This Consent Judgment constitutes the entire agreement between the Parties and may not		
3	be amended or supplemented except as provided for in the Consent Judgment.		
4	27. MODIFICATION OF CONSENT JUDGMENT		
5	This Consent Judgment may be modified only by the Court, or upon written consent by		
6	the Parties and the approval of the Court.		
7	28. TERMINATION OF CONSENT JUDGMENT		
8	This Consent Judgment will expire and be of no further effect after Coast United has		
9	completed all work contemplated by sections 4, 6 and 7 above, and the Regional Water Board ha	ıs	
10	agreed in its discretion, not to be unreasonably withheld, that such work is complete, and Coast		
11	United has paid all penalties as required by this Consent Judgment.		
12	29. <u>FINAL JUDGMENT</u>		
13	Upon approval and entry of this Consent Judgment by the Court, this Consent Judgment		
14	shall constitute a Final Judgment by the Court as to the Parties.		
15	IT IS SO STIPULATED.		
16	FOR DEFENDANT COAST UNITED		
17			
18	Dated:, 2021 By:		
19	APPROVED AS TO FORM		
20			
21	Dated:, 2021 By:		
22	FOR PLAINTIFF THE CALIFORNIA		
23	REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD, LOS ANGELES REGION		
24			
25	D-4-1. D-1.		
26	Dated:, 2021 By: RENEE PURDY, Executive Officer		
27	California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region		
28			

1		APPROVED AS TO FORM
2		
3	Dated:, 2021	XAVIER BECERRA
4		Attorney General of the State of California GARY E. TAVETIAN,
5		Supervising Deputy Attorney General NOAH GOLDEN-KRASNER,
6		Deputy Attorney General
7		
8		NOAH GOLDEN-KRASNER
9 10		Deputy Attorney General Attorney for Plaintiff
11		Regional Water Quality Control Board,
12		Los Angeles Region
13		
14	IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:	
		2021
15	Entered this day of	, 2021.
15 16	Entered this day of	, 2021.
	Entered this day of	, 2021.
16	Entered this day of	HONORABLE STEPHEN P. PFAHLER
16 17	Entered this day of	
16 17 18		HONORABLE STEPHEN P. PFAHLER
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16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25	LA2018601146	HONORABLE STEPHEN P. PFAHLER

## SCHEDULE FOR THE LOS ANGELES REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD (LARWQCB)

## **COAST UNITED ADVERTISING (CUA)**

## 8710-8722 Darby Avenue (evens only), 18317-18331 Parthenia Street (odds only), Northridge, CA 91325

Brief Summary of Project Tasks: Develop and update Conceptual Site Model. Perform soil vapor, and groundwater assessment on-site and off-site as necessary to delineate the contaminant plumes. Install, operate, optimize, and expand (if needed) the soil vapor extraction system to remediate the soil and soil vapor plumes. Install and operate offsite soil vapor extraction wells. Design, install, and implement groundwater remediation to be approved by the LARWQCB. Evaluate indoor soil vapor intrusion on-site and off-site (including but not limited to neighboring residential and commercial buildings). Perform public participation activities as required by the LARWQCB to inform the public as necessary.

the public as necessary.				
Work Phase Tasks	Cleanup and Abatement Order Required Actions	Compliance Schedule <sup>1</sup>	Percent Penalty Dismissed <sup>2</sup>	
	CUA First Conceptual Site Model (CSM) Report submittal	December 1, 2021		
4. Develop Company to I O'te Made I (COM) in the delayer are not a february to the line of the complete of	LARWQCB Initial Comment/Approval	March 1, 2022		
<ol> <li>Develop Conceptual Site Model (CSM), standalone reports (shall not be combined with other reports)</li> </ol>	CUA Revised CSM Report submittal	April 1, 2022	5%	
	LARWQCB Approval	July 1, 2022		
	Annual CSM Reports as practical until site characterization and remediation is complete and LARWQCB issues a No Further Action letter for entire Cleanup and Abatement Order	December 1, 2022 through No Further Action		
	CUA Site Assessment Work Plan submittal  LARWQCB Work Plan Approval (additional requirements, if warranted)	July 30, 2021 October 30, 2021		
Site Assessment (soil matrix and soil vapor) for CUA property and 8730 and 8732	CUA Site Assessment Report submittal	July 30, 2022		
Darby Avenue and 8721 Etiwanda Avenue	LARWQCB Initial Comment/Approval	October 30, 2022	0%	
	CUA Revised Site Assessment Report submittal	November 30, 2022		
	LARWQCB Approval	February 28, 2023		
	If necessary, submit Task 2b below CUA Site Assessment Work Plan submittal	- October 30, 2021		
	LARWQCB Work Plan Approval	January 30, 2022		
<ol> <li>Site Assessment (soil matrix and soil vapor) for other off-site areas up to and including Parthenia Auto Center and Terry Lumber.</li> </ol>	CUA Site Assessment Report submittal	October 30, 2022		
Complete delineation - off-site (towards east, south, and southeast of the Site) - of soil matrix and soil vapor is required. Concentrations exceeding Environmental Screening Levels (ESLs) for soil and soil vapor will require step-out sampling.	LARWQCB Initial Comment/Approval	January 30, 2023	0%	
	CUA Revised Site Assessment Report submittal	February 28, 2023		
	LARWQCB Approval  If necessary, submit Task 2b below	May 30, 2023 -		
	CUA Complete Site Assessment Work Plan submittal	- August 30, 2023		
	·		_	
	LARWQCB Work Plan Approval (with additional requirements if warranted)	November 30, 2023	_	
2b. Site Assessment (soil matrix and soil vapor) to completely delineate the soil and soil	CUA Complete Site Assessment Report submittal	May 30, 2025		
vapor contaminant plumes.  If the plumes are not fully delineated in 2 and 2a, complete site assessment (soil matrix and soil vapor) for all other off-site areas beyond Parthenia Auto Center, Terry Lumber and area around 8730, 8732 Darby Avenue and 8721 Etiwanda Avenue until fully delineated.	LARWQCB Initial Comment/Approval	August 30, 2025	15%	
Concentrations exceeding Environmental Screening Levels (ESLs) for soil and soil vapor will require step-out sampling.	CUA Revised Complete Site Assessment Report	September 30, 2025		
	LARWQCB Approval	December 30, 2025		
	CUA Groundwater Monitoring Well Installation Work Plan submittal	October 30, 2022		
	LARWQCB Work Plan Approval (with additional requirements if warranted)	January 30, 2023		
Groundwater Plume Delineation on- and off-site to Union Pacific railroad easement (installation and development of permanent groundwater monitoring wells)	CUA Groundwater Monitoring Well Installation Report submittal	March 30, 2023	0%	
(installation and development of permanent groundwater monitoring wells)	LARWQCB initial comment/approval	June 30, 2023	_	
	CUA Revised Groundwater Monitoring Well Installation Report	July 30, 2023		
	LARWQCB Approval  If necessary, submit Task 3a below.	October 30, 2023		
	CUA Groundwater Monitoring Well Installation Work Plan submittal	- February 28, 2024		
	LARWQCB Work Plan Approval (with additional requirements, if warranted)	May 30, 2024		
3a. Complete Groundwater Plume Delineation on- and off-site (installation and development of permanent groundwater monitoring wells). Perform 3a if plume is not delineated in 3 and data from Union Pacific railroad easement	CUA Groundwater Monitoring Well Installation Report submittal	November 30, 2024	10%	
suggests that the groundwater plume is not completely delineated.	LARWQCB Approval	February 28, 2025		
		March 30, 2025		
	CUA Revised Groundwater Monitoring Well Installation Report submittal  LARWQCB Approval	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		
		June 30, 2025		
4. Groundwater Monitoring Reports	CUA 1st Quarter Groundwater Monitoring Report submittal	April 15		
Quarterly Groundwater Monitoring Reports are due according to the schedule until groundwater plume is remediated and the LARWQCB issues a No Further Action letter for the entire Cleanup and Abatement Order.	CUA 2nd Quarter Groundwater Monitoring Report submittal	July 15	5%	
Sampling of six existing groundwater monitoring wells. New monitoring wells shall be added to the groundwater monitoring program and network upon installation.				
	CUA 3rd Quarter Groundwater Monitoring Report submittal	October 15		
	CUA 4th Quarter Groundwater Monitoring Report submittal	January 15		
5 Sail Vaner Evtraction (SVE) System Descrees Departs	CUA 1st Quarter SVE System Progress Report submittal	April 15		
5. Soil Vapor Extraction (SVE) System Progress Reports Quarterly SVE Remediation Progress Reports are due according to the schedule below until the remediation is complete and the LARWQCB issues a No Further Action letter for	CUA 2nd Quarter SVE System Progress Report submittal	July 15	5%	
the entire Cleanup and Abatement Order.		,	5,0	
	I I			
	CUA 3rd Quarter SVE System Progress Report submittal	October 15		
Operation & Maintenance: The on-site SVE system shall be continuously operated and maintained until soil vapor plume is remediated.	CUA 3rd Quarter SVE System Progress Report submittal  CUA 4th Quarter SVE System Progress Report submittal	October 15  January 15		

Work Phase Tasks	Cleanup and Abatement Order Required Actions	Compliance Schedule <sup>1</sup>	Percent Penalty Dismissed
	CUA SVE Remedial Action Plan (RAP) Amendment submittal	August 30, 2023	
	LARWQCB approval of SVE RAP Amendment (with additional requirements if warranted)	November 30, 2023	
Complete Design and Installation of On-site Remedial Action- Soil Vapor Extraction IVE) System (to be determined by soil vapor assessment from Task 2) at from SVE Installation and Startup Report dated May 22, 2020 suggests that the urrent SVE well network does not cover the whole soil vapor plume on-site. Therefore,	CUA Completion Report submittal	May 30, 2024	10%
n SVE RAP Amendment to install additional SVE wells on-site shall be submitted.	LARWQCB initial comment/approval	August 30, 2024	
	CUA Revised Completion Report submittal	September 30, 2024	
	LARWQCB Approval	December 30, 2024	
	CUA SVE Remedial Action Plan (RAP) Amendment submittal	June 30, 2026	
a. Complete Design and Installation of Off-site Remedial Action- SVE System (to be etermined by soil vapor assessment from Tasks 2a and 2b)  lote: Expansion of the SVE system is currently underway at 8730 and 8732 Darby wenue and 8721 Etiwanda Avenue, Northridge, CA. The extent of soil vapor ontamination will determine the scope of off-site soil vapor remediation. Soil vapor data hay warrant remediation beyond Darby and Etiwanda residences.  lased on the pending off-site soil vapor assessment, if concentrations exceed invironmental Screening Levels (ESLs), design and installation of off-site remedial clion - off-site SVE System, is required.  SVE is not feasible due to property limitation, vapor intrusion mitigation system, e.g.	LARWQCB approval of SVE RAP Amendment (with additional requirements if warranted)	September 30, 2026	
ub-slab depressurization system, must be considered and installed.			
	CUA Completion Report submittal	March 30, 2027	10%
	LARWQCB initial comment/approval	June 30, 2027	
	CUA Revised Completion Report submittal	July 30, 2027	
	LARWQCB Approval	October 30, 2027	
	CUA Rebound Testing and Confirmation Soil and Soil Vapor Sampling Work Plan submittal	April 30, 2021	
	LARWQCB Work Plan Approval (additional requirements if warranted)	July 30, 2021	
bb. Soil and Soil Vapor Remedial Completion - SVE System Rebound Testing and Confirmation Soil and Soil Vapor Sampling on- and off-site  To be determined by SVE Progress Reports in Task 5.	CUA Soil/Soil Vapor Remedial Completion Report submittal	To Be Determined based on Task 5 data	10%
	LARWQCB Initial Comment/Approval	To Be Determined based on Task 5 data	
	CUA Revised Soil/Soil Vapor Remedial Completion Report submittal	To Be Determined based on Task 5 data	
	LARWQCB Approval	No later than date of No Further Action	
	CUA draft Remedial Action Plan (RAP) and Feasibility Study submittal	October 30, 2026	
	LARWQCB tentative approval for public comment (LARWQCB Final RAP approval)	October 30, 2027	
	Groundwater Remediation System Installation Report	October 30, 2028	
	LARWQCB Initial Comment/Approval	January 28, 2029	
. Groundwater Remedial Action Remediation of groundwater shall commence after complete delineation of the groundwater plume based on Task 3 or 3a data	CUA Revised Groundwater Remediation System Installation Report submittal	February 28, 2029	
	LARWQCB Approval	May 30, 2029	10%
	Begin Task 7a below	-	
	CUA Groundwater Remediation Completion Report submittal	To Be Determined based on Task 7a data	
	LARWQCB Initial Comment/Approval	To Be Determined based on Task 7a data	
	CUA Revised Groundwater Remediation Completion Report submittal	To Be Determined based on Task 7a data	
	LARWQCB Approval	No later than date of No Further Action	
	CUA 1st Quarter Groundwater Remediation Progress Report submittal	April 15	
'a. Groundwater Remedial Progress Reports			
Operation & Maintenance: The groundwater remediation system shall be continuously perated and maintained until groundwater plume is remediated.  Once groundwater remediation system is installed, CUA will submit Quarterly stroundwater Remediation Progress Reports according to the following schedule until the emediation is complete and the LARWQCB issues a No Further Action letter for the ntific Cleanup and Abatement Order:	CUA 2nd Quarter Groundwater Remediation Progress Report submittal	July 15	5%
лино оконар ана дравнен ответ.	CUA 3rd Quarter Groundwater Remediation Progress Report submittal	October 15	
	CUA 4th Quarter Groundwater Remediation Progress Report submittal	January 15	

Work Phase Tasks	Cleanup and Abatement Order Required Actions	Compliance Schedule <sup>1</sup>	Percent Penalty Dismissed <sup>2</sup>
	CUA Onsite Vapor Intrusion Investigation Work Plan submittal	May 30, 2022	
On-site Vapor Intrusion (VI) Investigation and Human Health Risk Assessment	LARWQCB Work Plan Approval	August 28, 2022	
According to CUA, the site is currently vacant. On-site VI investigation shall be conducted prior to site occupancy. Site should not be occupied until on-site VI	CUA Onsite Vapor Intrusion Investigation Report submittal	February 28, 2023	5%
investigation is completed and approved.	LARWQCB Initial Comment/Approval	May 30, 2023	1
	CUA Revised Onsite Vapor Intrusion Investigation Report submittal	June 30, 2023	1
	LARWQCB Approval	September 30, 2023	
	CUA Offsite Vapor Intrusion Investigation Report submittal	November 30, 2021	
Off-site Vapor Intrusion (VI), Evaluation of Neighboring Residential Properties, and Human Health Risk Assessment for 8721 Etiwanda Avenue, Northridge, CA.			•
The need for VI investigation depends on soil vapor data. Soil vapor concentrations exceeding Environmental Screening Levels (ESLs) will trigger need for VI investigation.	LARWQCB Initial Comment/Approval	February 28, 2022	
Note: Two rounds of indoor soil VI has been completed for 8730 and 8732 Darby Avenue and the Parthenia Street Auto Center. The second round of indoor soil VI for 8721 Etiwanda Avenue is pending.			
	CUA Revised Offsite Vapor Intrusion Investigation Report submittal	March 30, 2022	0%
	LARWQCB Approval	June 30, 2022	
	If necessary, submit Task 9a below.	-	
	CUA Offsite Vapor Intrusion Investigation Work Plan submittal	April 30, 2026	
	LARWQCB Work Plan Approval	July 30, 2026	
9a. Off-site Indoor Soil VI, Evaluation of other properties potentially impacted by the soil vapor plume [to be determined by soil vapor assessment from Tasks 2a and 2b]  The soil vapor plume is currently not fully delineated. The need for VI investigation depends on pending soil vapor data. Soil vapor concentrations exceeding the Environmental Screening Levels (ESLs) will trigger the need for VI investigation.	CUA Offsite Vapor Intrusion Investigation Report submittal	January 30, 2027	5%
	LARWQCB Initial Comment/Approval	April 30, 2027	
	CUA Revised Offsite Vapor Intrusion Investigation Report submittal	May 30, 2027	
	LARWQCB Approval	August 30, 2027	
	CUA Public Participation Plan and Draft Fact Sheet submittal	June 30, 2021	
	LARWQCB Initial Comment/Approval	September 30, 2021	
10. Public Participation, activities include: Fact Sheets, Work Notices, Public Community Meetings.			
Fact Sheets shall be distributed to property owners and tenants within 500 foot radius of the Site (as required by LARWQCB staff regarding remedial installation, consistent with state public participation guidance) until No Further Action is determined.	CUA distribution of Fact Sheets to property owners and tenants within 500-foot radius of the Site	October 15, 2021	5%
CUA Public Participation activities as needed, including submittals and distribution of Fact Sheets and Work Notices, and Attending Public Community Meetings, (as required by the LARWQCB to inform the public as necessary) until the remediation is complete and the LARWQCB issues No Further Action for the entire Cleanup and Abatement Order.			
	CUA Revised Public Participation Plan	October 30, 2021	
	LARWQCB Approval of Public Participation Plan	January 30, 2022	]
	CUA Public Participation activities as needed	To Be Determined / No later than date of No Further Action	
Totals			100%

#### Notes:

- 1. If the date falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or state holiday, the submittal or action must be completed by the next business day.

  2. The specified percent of the stipulated penalty amount will be dismissed following the completion, approval, or issuance of the final task identified in the Compliance Schedule column.
- 3. Subject to Section 9 of the Consent Judgment: "Any event (which may include an act or an omission) that is beyond Coast United's control and that prevents Coast United from timely performing any obligation under this Consent Judgment, despite Coast United's reasonable best efforts, is a 'Force Majeure' event. Force majeure does not include Coast United's financial ability to fund or complete the obligation or circumstance that Coast United could have avoided if it had complied with preventative requirements imposed by law, regulation or ordinance." This includes Coast United's inability to obtain off-site access agreements despite reasonable best efforts.