

BEFORE THE ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS,	)	
LISA MADIGAN, Attorney General	)	
of the State of Illinois,	)	
	)	
Complainant,	)	
	)	
vs.	)	PCB No.
	)	(Enforcement - Water)
RANCHO AMIGO, LLC, an Illinois	)	
limited liability company,	)	
	)	
Respondent.	)	

NOTICE OF FILING

TO: Mr. Don Deutsch	Bradley Halloran
625 W. Roosevelt Road	Hearing Officer
West Chicago, IL 60185	Illinois Pollution Control Board
	James R. Thompson Center
	100 W. Randolph Street, Ste 11-500
	Chicago, Illinois 60601

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that I have today filed with the Office of the Clerk of the Illinois Pollution Control Board an original and nine copies of the Stipulation and Proposal for Settlement, an Agreed Motion for Relief from the Hearing Requirement, Notice of Filing and a Certificate of Service, a copy of which is attached herewith and served upon you.

Respectfully submitted,

PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS

LISA MADIGAN  
Attorney General  
State of Illinois

BY: *Zemeheret Bereket-AB*  
 ZEMEHERET BEREKET-AB  
 Environmental Bureau  
 Assistant Attorneys General  
 69 W. Washington St., 18th Fl.  
 Chicago, Illinois 60602  
 (312) 814-3816

DATE: February 19, 2008

THIS FILING IS SUBMITTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

BEFORE THE ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

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LISA MADIGAN, Attorney General	)	
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Complainant,	)	
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RANCHO AMIGO, LLC, an Illinois	)	
limited liability company,	)	
	)	
Respondent.	)	

AGREED MOTION TO REQUEST RELIEF FROM THE HEARING REQUIREMENT

In support of this Motion, the parties state as follows:

1. Today, the People of the State of Illinois, filed a Stipulation and Proposal for Settlement, with the Illinois Pollution Control Board.

2. Section 31(c)(2) of the Illinois Environmental Protection Act, ("Act"), 415 ILCS 5/31(c)(2)(2006) provides:

Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (1) of this subsection (c), whenever a complaint has been filed on behalf of the Agency or by the People of the State of Illinois, the parties may file with the Board a stipulation and proposal for settlement accompanied by a request for relief from the requirement of a hearing pursuant to subdivision (1) . . . .

3. Complainant and Respondent agree that a formal hearing is not necessary to conclude this matter and wish to avail themselves of Section 31(c)(2) of the Act, 415 ILCS 5/31(c)(2)(2006).

WHEREFORE, Complainant and Respondent request relief from  
the hearing requirement pursuant to Section 31(c)(2) of the Act.

Respectfully submitted,

PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS

LISA MADIGAN  
Attorney General  
State of Illinois

MATTHEW J. DUNN, Chief  
Environmental Enforcement/  
Asbestos Litigation Division

BY:



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ZEMEHERET BEREKET-AB  
Environmental Bureau  
Assistant Attorneys General  
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PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, )	)	
Complainant, )	)	PCB No.
v. )	)	(Enforcement-Water)
RANCHO AMIGO, LLC, an Illinois )	)	
limited liability company, )	)	
Respondent. )	)	

**STIPULATION AND PROPOSAL FOR SETTLEMENT**

Complainant, PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, by LISA MADIGAN, Attorney General of the State of Illinois, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency ("Illinois EPA"), and RANCHO AMIGO, LLC, an Illinois limited liability company ("Respondent"), have agreed to the making of this Stipulation and Proposal for Settlement ("Stipulation") and submit it to the Illinois Pollution Control Board ("Board") for approval. The parties to this Stipulation and Proposal for Settlement agree that the statement of facts contained herein represent a fair summary of the evidence and testimony which would be introduced by the parties if a hearing were held. The parties to this Stipulation and Proposal for Settlement further stipulate that this statement of facts is made and agreed upon for purposes of settlement only and that neither the fact that a party hereto has entered into this Stipulation, nor any of the facts stipulated herein, shall be introduced into evidence in any other proceeding regarding the claims asserted in the Complaint except as otherwise provided herein. If the Board approves and enters this Stipulation, Respondent agrees to be bound by the Stipulation and Board Order and not to contest their validity in any subsequent proceeding to implement or enforce their terms.

### I. JURISDICTION

The Board has jurisdiction of the subject matter herein and of the parties consenting hereto pursuant to the Illinois Environmental Protection Act ("Act"), 415 ILCS 5/1 *et seq.* (2006).

### II. AUTHORIZATION

The undersigned representatives for each party to this Stipulation and Proposal for Settlement certify that they are fully authorized to enter into the terms and conditions of this Stipulation and to be legally bound by this Stipulation.

### III. STATEMENT OF FACTS

#### A. Parties

1. On \_\_\_\_\_, a Complaint was filed on behalf of the People of the State of Illinois by Lisa Madigan, Attorney General of the State of Illinois, on her own motion and at the request of the Illinois EPA, pursuant to Section 31 of the Act, 415 ILCS 5/31 (2006), against the Respondent.

2. The Illinois EPA is an administrative agency of the State of Illinois, created pursuant to Section 4 of the Act, 415 ILCS 5/4 (2006).

3. At all times relevant to the Complaint, Respondent was and is an Illinois limited liability company that is authorized to transact business in the State of Illinois.

#### B. Site Description

1. At all times relevant to the Complaint, Respondent was engaged in the construction project to create an off-road vehicle facility in Pleasant Valley Township, Section 36, T26N, R4E in rural Jo Davies County, Illinois ("Site").

2. On June 28, 2005, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency ("Illinois EPA") an agency of the State of Illinois inspected the Site and observed substantial earthmoving activity related to the construction of trails and jumps for off-road vehicles. The Illinois EPA observed that the Site did not have any erosion controls in place. At that time, Respondent had begun the construction of the trails and jumps for off-road vehicles without first obtaining coverage under the NPDES general storm water permit.

3. On January 3, 2006, the Illinois EPA granted Rancho Amigo coverage under the storm water NPDES permit.

**C. Allegations of Non-Compliance**

Complainant and the Illinois EPA contend that the Respondent has violated the following provisions of the Act and Board regulations:

Count I:            **Construction Without A NPDES Permit:**  
**Violation of Sections 12(a), 12(d) and 12(f) of the Act, 415**  
**ILCS 5/12(a), 12(d) and 12(f) (2006) and 35 Ill. Adm. Code**  
**309.102(a).**

**D. Admission of Violations**

The Respondent admits to the violations alleged in the Complaint filed in this matter and referenced within Section III.C herein.

**IV. APPLICABILITY**

This Stipulation shall apply to and be binding upon the Complainant, the Illinois EPA and the Respondent, and any officer, director, agent, or employee of the Respondent, as well as any successors or assigns of the Respondent. The Respondent shall not raise as a defense to any enforcement action taken pursuant to

this Stipulation the failure of any of its officers, directors, agents, employees or successors or assigns to take such action as shall be required to comply with the provisions of this Stipulation.

**V. COMPLIANCE WITH OTHER LAWS AND REGULATIONS**

This Stipulation in no way affects the responsibilities of the Respondent to comply with any other federal, state or local laws or regulations including, but not limited to, the Act and the Board regulations, 35 Ill. Adm. Code, Subtitles A through H.

**VI. IMPACT ON THE PUBLIC RESULTING FROM ALLEGED NON-COMPLIANCE**

Section 33(c) of the Act, 415 ILCS 5/33(c)(2006), provides as follows:

In making its orders and determinations, the Board shall take into consideration all the facts and circumstances bearing upon the reasonableness of the emissions, discharges, or deposits involved including, but not limited to:

1. the character and degree of injury to, or interference with the protection of the health, general welfare and physical property of the people;
2. the social and economic value of the pollution source;
3. the suitability or unsuitability of the pollution source to the area in which it is located, including the question of priority of location in the area involved;
4. the technical practicability and economic reasonableness of reducing or eliminating the emissions, discharges or deposits resulting from such pollution source; and
5. any subsequent compliance.

In response to these factors, Complainant states the following:

1. Storm water runoff from the Site posed a potential threat of water pollution to waters of the State.
2. The social and economic benefit from the construction of trails and jumps for off-road vehicles is not at issue.
3. Operation of the trails and jumps for off-road vehicles was suitable for the area.
4. Complying with the requirements of the Act, Board Regulations, and permit conditions was both technically practicable and economically reasonable.
5. Respondent is now in compliance.

**VII. CONSIDERATION OF SECTION 42(h) FACTORS**

Section 42(h) of the Act, 415 ILCS 5/42(h)(2006), provides as follows:

In determining the appropriate civil penalty to be imposed under . . . this Section, the Board is authorized to consider any matters of record in mitigation or aggravation of penalty, including but not limited to the following factors:

1. the duration and gravity of the violation;
2. the presence or absence of due diligence on the part of the respondent in attempting to comply with requirements of this Act and regulations thereunder or to secure relief therefrom as provided by this Act;
3. any economic benefits accrued by the respondent because of delay in compliance with requirements, in which case the economic benefits shall be determined by the lowest cost alternative for achieving compliance;
4. the amount of monetary penalty which will serve to deter further violations by the respondent and to otherwise aid in enhancing



voluntary compliance with this Act by the respondent and other persons similarly subject to the Act;

5. the number, proximity in time, and gravity of previously adjudicated violations of this Act by the respondent;
6. whether the respondent voluntarily self-disclosed, in accordance with subsection (i) of this Section, the non-compliance to the Agency; and
7. whether the respondent has agreed to undertake a "supplemental environmental project," which means an environmentally beneficial project that a respondent agrees to undertake in settlement of an enforcement action brought under this Act, but which the respondent is not otherwise legally required to perform.

In response to these factors, Complainant states as follows:

1. The Complainant and the Illinois EPA have not documented any environmental harm from the violations at issue. However, by failing to timely apply for and obtain permit coverage, the Complainant and the Illinois EPA were denied oversight during critical phases of the project.

2. As soon as Respondent was made aware of the violations, it took steps to comply with the requirements of the Act and Board regulations by applying for coverage under the storm water NPDES permit.

3. Economic benefits accrued by the Respondent are believed to be minimal and are accounted for in the \$5,000.00 penalty agreed to herein.

4. The civil penalty agreed upon in this matter will serve to deter further violations of the Act and Board regulations by Respondent and aid in enhancing voluntary compliance with the Act and Board regulations.

5. Complainant and the Illinois EPA are presently unaware of prior enforcement actions against Respondent.

6. Self-disclosure is not at issue in this matter.

7. The settlement of this matter does not include a supplemental environmental project.

### VIII. TERMS OF SETTLEMENT

#### A. Penalty Payment

1. The Respondent shall pay a civil penalty in the sum of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) within thirty (30) days from the date the Board adopts and accepts this Stipulation. The Respondent stipulates that payment has been tendered to Respondent's attorney of record in this matter in a form acceptable to that attorney. Further, Respondent stipulates that said attorney has been directed to make the penalty payment on behalf of Respondent, within thirty (30) days from the date the Board adopts and accepts this Stipulation, in a manner prescribed below. The penalty described in this Stipulation shall be paid by certified check, or money order made payable to the Illinois EPA designated to the Illinois Environmental Protection Trust Fund and submitted to:

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency  
Fiscal Services Section  
1021 North Grand Avenue East  
P.O. Box 19276  
Springfield, IL 62794-9276

The name and number of the case and Respondent's Federal Employer Identification Number ("FEIN") shall appear on the face of the certified check or money order. A copy

of the certified check or money order or order of electronic funds transfer and any transmittal letter shall be sent to:

Zemeheret Bereket-Ab  
Assistant Attorney General  
Environmental Bureau  
69 W. Washington Street, Suite 1800  
Chicago, Illinois 60602

2. Pursuant to Section 42(g) of the Act, 415 ILCS 5/42(g) (2006), interest shall accrue on any payment not paid within the time period prescribed above at the maximum rate allowable under Section 1003(a) of the Illinois Income Tax Act, 35 ILCS 5/1003 (2006). Interest on any unpaid payment shall begin to accrue from the date the payment is due and continue to accrue until the date payment is received. When partial payment(s) are made, such partial payment shall be first applied to any interest on unpaid payment then due and owing. All interest on payment owed shall be paid by certified check, money order or electronic funds transfer, payable to the Illinois EPA, designated to the Illinois Environmental Protection Trust Fund and delivered to the address and in the manner described above.

3. For purposes of payment and collection, Respondent may be reached at the following address:

Rancho Amigo, LLC  
Craig Wheatley, Registered Agent  
29 W 225 Oak Lane  
West Chicago, Illinois 60185

4. In the event of default of this Section VIII.A, the Complainant shall be entitled to all available relief including, but not limited to, reasonable costs of collection and reasonable attorney's fees.

**B. Future Use**

Notwithstanding any other language in this Stipulation to the contrary, and in consideration of the mutual promises and conditions contained in this Stipulation, including the Release from Liability contained in Section VIII.D, below, the Respondent hereby agrees that this Stipulation may be used against the Respondent in any subsequent enforcement action or permit proceeding as proof of a past adjudication of violation of the Act and the Board Regulations promulgated thereunder for all violations alleged in the Complaint in this matter, for purposes of Section 39(a) and (i) and/or 42(h) of the Act, 415 ILCS 5/39(a) and(i) and/or 5/42(h)(2006). Further, Respondent agrees to waive any rights to contest, in any subsequent enforcement action or permit proceeding, any allegations that these alleged violations were adjudicated.

**C. Cease and Desist**

The Respondent shall cease and desist from future violations of the Act and Board Regulations that were the subject matter of the Complaint as outlined in Section III.C ("Allegations of Non-Compliance") of this Stipulation.

**D. Release from Liability**

In consideration of the Respondent's payment of the Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) penalty and any specified costs and accrued interest, and to Cease and Desist as contained in Section VIII.C and upon the Pollution Control Board's acceptance and approval of the terms of this Stipulation and Proposal for Settlement, the Complainant releases, waives and discharges the Respondent from any further liability or penalties for violations of the Act and Board Regulations that were the subject

matter of the Complaint herein. The release set forth above does not extend to any matters other than those expressly specified in Complainant's Complaint filed on \_\_\_\_\_ . The Complainant reserves, and this Stipulation is without prejudice to, all rights of the State of Illinois against the Respondent with respect to all other matters, including but not limited to, the following:

- a. criminal liability;
  - b. liability for future violation of state, federal, local, and common laws and/or regulations;
  - c. liability for natural resources damage arising out of the alleged violations;
- and
- d. liability or claims based on the Respondent's failure to satisfy the requirements of this Stipulation.

Nothing in this Stipulation is intended as a waiver, discharge, release, or covenant not to sue for any claim or cause of action, administrative or judicial, civil or criminal, past or future, in law or in equity, which the State of Illinois or the Illinois EPA may have against any person, as defined by Section 3.315 of the Act, 415 ILCS 5/3.315, or entity other than the Respondent.

**E. Enforcement of Board Order**

1. Upon the entry of the Board's Order approving and accepting this Stipulation and Proposal for Settlement, that Order is a binding and enforceable order of the Illinois Pollution Control Board and may be enforced as such through any and all available means.

2. Respondent agrees that notice of any subsequent proceeding to enforce the Board Order approving and accepting this Stipulation and Proposal for Settlement may be made by mail and waives any requirement of service of process.

3. The parties agree that, if the Board does not approve and accept this Stipulation and Proposal for Settlement, then neither party is bound by the terms herein.

4. It is the intent of the Complainant, the Illinois EPA and Respondent that the provisions of this Stipulation and Proposal for Settlement and any Board Order accepting and approving such shall be severable, and should any provision be declared by a court of competent jurisdiction to be inconsistent with state or federal law, and therefore unenforceable, the remaining clauses shall remain in full force and effect.

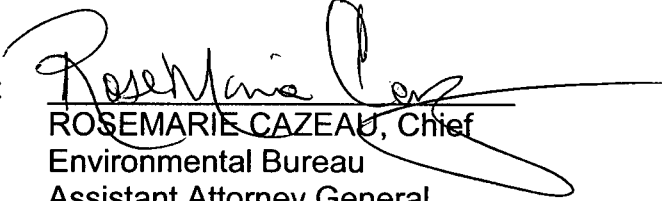
**[THE REMAINDER OF THIS PAGE IS INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK]**

WHEREFORE, Complainant, the Illinois EPA and Respondent request that the Board adopt and accept the foregoing Stipulation and Proposal for Settlement as written.

PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS,

LISA MADIGAN  
Attorney General  
State of Illinois

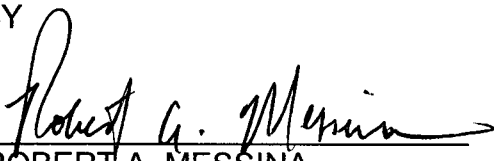
MATTHEW J. DUNN, Chief  
Environmental Enforcement/  
Asbestos Litigation Division

BY:   
ROSEMARIE CAZEAU, Chief  
Environmental Bureau  
Assistant Attorney General

DATE: 2/14/08

ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
AGENCY

DATE: 2/5/08

BY:   
ROBERT A. MESSINA  
Chief Legal Counsel

RANCHO AMIGO, LLC,  
an Illinois limited liability  
company,

BY: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_





CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, ZEMEHERET BEREKET-AB, an Assistant Attorney General, do certify that I caused to be served on this 19<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2008, the foregoing Notice of Filing, a Stipulation and Proposal for Settlement, and an Agreed Motion for Relief from the Hearing Requirement, upon the persons listed on said Notice by placing same in an envelope bearing sufficient postage with the United States Postal Service located at 100 West Randolph Street, Chicago, Illinois.



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ZEMEHERET BEREKET-AB