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## Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board

January 31, 2024

Universal Plastic Bag  
1309 South Wanamaker Avenue  
Ontario, CA 91761  
(Via Certified Mail)

**CERTIFIED MAIL**  
**RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED**

Rajendra Babaria  
[custom@universalplastic.com](mailto:custom@universalplastic.com)  
(Via Email)

Rajendra Babaria  
Agent for Service of Process for Universal Plastic Bag  
6525 Hollis Street  
Eastvale, CA 92880  
(Via Certified Mail)

**CONDITIONAL SETTLEMENT OFFER NO. R8-2024-0023 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 UNIVERSAL PLASTIC BAG, 1309 SOUTH WANAMAKER AVENUE, ONTARIO, WDID NO. 8 36NEC007718**

Dear Mr. Babaria:

This letter is to notify Universal Plastic Bag (hereinafter "Discharger" or "you") of alleged violations of the California Water Code (Water Code) 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 for Reporting Violations to address mandatory minimum penalties that must be assessed pursuant to Water Code section 13399.33.

### **NOTICE OF VIOLATION**

Based on information in the Stormwater Multiple Application & Report Tracking System (SMARTS), the Santa Ana Water Board Prosecution Team alleges that the Discharger is in violation of the General Permit associated with Industrial Activities within the Santa Ana Region for failure to obtain Notice of Intent coverage (NOI) for the facility located at 1309 South Wanamaker Avenue in the city of Ontario. Your facility has not met the conditions

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KRISTINE MURRAY, CHAIR | JAYNE JOY, EXECUTIVE OFFICER

3737 Main Street, Suite 500, Riverside, CA 92501-3348 | [www.waterboards.ca.gov/santaana](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/santaana)

of no exposure as defined in Section XVII of the General Permit. Section XVII.E.3 of the General Permit states that the Regional Water Boards may deny No Exposure Certification (NEC) coverage and require NOI coverage upon determining that stormwater is exposed to industrial materials and activities. The Discharger failed to obtain NOI coverage by the October 1, 2023, deadline, as required based on the Notices of Non-Compliance (NNCs) issued on August 3, 2023, and September 1, 2023. The Discharger will have the opportunity to address the alleged violations as discussed below.

## STATUTORY LIABILITY

Pursuant to Water Code section 13399.33(a)(1), the Discharger is subject to a minimum penalty of not less than five thousand dollars (\$5,000) plus staff costs for failing to submit the required NOI coverage in accordance with Water Code section 13399.30 within sixty (60) days after the first NNC was sent. The Discharger is also subject to discretionary administrative civil liabilities of up to ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) for each day on which the violation occurs. These minimum and 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 Conditional Settlement Offer**, waive your right to a board hearing, and pay a settlement of **six thousand three hundred fifty-seven (\$6,357)**. The minimum administrative civil liability pursuant to California Water Code section 13399.33(a)(1) is \$5,000 per year of noncompliance or fraction thereof. Staff costs in this matter are \$1,357. This is a Conditional Settlement 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 February 29, 2024**. 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:

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

In response to the Conditional Settlement 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 in the NNCs.

2. **Contest the alleged violation** by submitting in writing, the basis of your challenge with supporting evidence. For example, you may have evidence that you previously obtained Notice of Intent coverage, or you are no longer in business. If you choose this option, you must **submit your written documentation by February 29, 2024**. The Prosecution Team will review your submission, and if we agree with you, we will notify you in writing that you are no longer considered in violation of the permit and that our enforcement action has been terminated. All responses should be directed at Steven Stephansen.

If you do not respond in a manner described in the above options, the Prosecution Team will prepare an ACLC for the violation cited in the NNCs. 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 Settlement Offer. Moreover, additional staff costs associated with formal enforcement may be considered in the recommended liability amount in an administrative civil liability complaint.

#### **CONDITIONS FOR REGIONAL BOARD ACCEPTANCE OF RESOLUTION:**

This offer to participate in the Expedited Payment Program is conditional upon the Santa Ana Water Board's receipt of confirmation that the Discharger has obtained NOI coverage via SMARTS on or before **February 29, 2024**. If you choose not to or fail to obtain NOI coverage on or before that date, this offer will be deemed withdrawn, and a formal enforcement action will be pursued.

If you accept the Conditional Settlement 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 **February 29, 2024**, the Prosecution Team will publish a notice of the proposed resolution 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 uncontested penalty amount pursuant to Water Code section 13399.33. You will then be notified that payment is due within 30 days. Failure to pay the penalty within that time frame may result in further liability, referral of the matter to the Attorney General, and/or may void the offer to participate in this Expedited Payment Program.

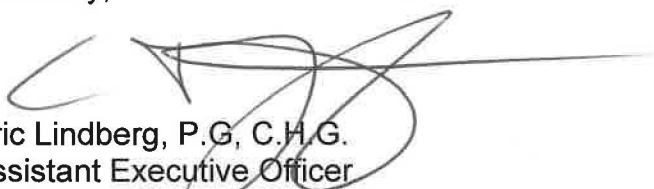
If, however, significant comments are received in opposition to the settlement, this offer may be withdrawn. In that case, the Discharger's waiver pursuant to the Acceptance and

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

This Conditional Settlement Offer does not address or resolve liability for any violation that is not specifically identified in the attached NNCs. The Santa Ana Water Board reserves the right to pursue formal enforcement of any violations not specifically cited in the attached NNCs.

Should you have any questions about this Conditional Settlement Offer, please contact Steven Stephansen via email at [Steven.Stephansen@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Steven.Stephansen@waterboards.ca.gov) or via phone at (951) 320-2027.

Sincerely,



Eric Lindberg, P.G., C.H.G.  
Assistant Executive Officer  
Santa Ana Water Board Prosecution Team

enclosures: Acceptance of Conditional Resolution and Waiver of Right to Hearing;  
(proposed) Order  
Notice of Non-Compliance, dated August 3, 2023  
Notice of Non-Compliance, dated September 1, 2023

cc: San Bernardino County FCD, NPDES Coordinator – Arlene Chun  
City of Ontario, NPDES Coordinator – Raymond Lee





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## Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board

### **ACCEPTANCE OF CONDITIONAL RESOLUTION AND WAIVER OF RIGHT TO A BOARD HEARING: (Proposed) ORDER**

Universal Plastic Bag  
Settlement Offer No. R8-2024-0023

By signing below and returning this Acceptance of Conditional Resolution and Waiver of Right to a Board Hearing (Acceptance and Waiver) to the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board (Santa Ana Water Board), Universal Plastic Bag (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 described in the Notices of Non-Compliance (NNCs) which are attached and incorporated herein by reference.

The Discharger agrees that the Conditional Settlement 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 13399.30, in the sum of \$6,357 (Expedited Payment Amount) which shall be deemed payment in full of any civil liability pursuant to California Water Code section 13399.30 that otherwise might be assessed for the violations described in the NNCs.

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:

Steven Stephansen, General Stormwater Unit  
Conditional Settlement Offer  
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 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.

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KRISTINE MURRAY, CHAIR | JAYNE JOY, EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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

The Discharger understands that if significant comments are received in opposition to the Conditional Settlement Offer, the offer on behalf of the Santa Ana Water Board to resolve the violations set forth in the NNCs may be withdrawn. In that circumstance, the Discharger will 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 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 13399.37(a), funds collected for violations pursuant to section 13399.33(a)(1) and 13399.33(d) shall be deposited in the Waste Discharge Permit Fund, the \$6,357 liability including staff costs 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 Waste Discharge Permit Fund. 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.

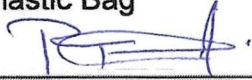
Please mail check to:

State Water Resources Control Board  
Re: Order No. R8-2024-0023  
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.

Universal Plastic Bag

By:   
(Signed Name)

4-23-2024  
(Date)

Rajendra Babgria  
(Printed or Typed Name)

CFO  
(Title)

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

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Jayne E. Joy, P.E.  
Executive Officer