

SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN CONSUMER ADVOCACY GROUP, INC.  
AND PAUL T. BECK CONTRACTORS, INC.

Consumer Advocacy Group, Inc., on behalf of itself and suing in the public interest pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 25249.7, subdivision (d) ("CAG") and Paul T. Beck Contractors, Inc. ("Beck"), (CAG and Beck, collectively, "Parties") enter into this agreement ("Settlement Agreement") to settle the case entitled *Consumer Advocacy Group, Inc. v. N R A Construction Company, et al.*, and pending in the Superior Court of California for the County of Alameda, Case No. RG08378175 ("Lawsuit"), as between the Parties, as follows:

**1.0 Introduction**

1.1 CAG is an entity based in Los Angeles, California that seeks to promote awareness of exposures to toxic chemicals and improve human health by reducing or eliminating hazardous substances contained in consumer and industrial products.

1.2 CAG alleges that Beck is a company that employs ten or more persons and acts primarily as a paving contractor.

1.3 CAG alleges that Beck uses paving materials, some of which contain asphalt or coal tar, the use of which is alleged to expose persons to acetaldehyde; arsenic (inorganic arsenic compounds); benz[a]anthracene; benzene; benzo[a]pyrene; benzo[b]fluoranthene; benzo[k]fluoranthene; beryllium and beryllium compounds; 1,3-butadiene; cadmium and cadmium compounds; carbazole; chromium (hexavalent compounds); chrysene; dibenz[a,j]acridine; dibenz[a,h]anthracene; dibenzo[a,e]pyrene; dibenzof[a,h]pyrene; dibenzo[a,i]pyrene; dibenzo[a,l]pyrene; dichloromethane (methylene chloride); formaldehyde (gas); indeno[1,2,3-cd]-pyrene; lead and lead compounds; 5-methylchrysene; nickel and nickel compounds; silica, crystalline; tetrachloroethylene (perchloroethylene); toluene diisocyanate, trichloroethylene; carbon disulfide; mercury and mercury compounds; and toluene (collectively, "Covered Chemicals").

1.4 The Covered Chemicals are substances listed in the regulations promulgated under the California Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act (Health & Saf. Code, §§ 25249.5, et seq.) ("Proposition 65") as chemicals known to the State of California to cause cancer or reproductive harm.

1.5 On August 29, 2006, CAG served public enforcement agencies and Beck with a document entitled "60-Day Notice of Intent to Sue Under Health & Safety Code Section 25249.6" ("Notice"). The Notice alleged that Beck violated Proposition 65 by failing to warn its employees and other persons in California

that some of the paving materials used by Beck expose those persons to Covered Chemicals.

1.6 On December 27, 2007, CAG filed the Lawsuit alleging Beck, among other entities, violated Proposition 65 by exposing employees and others to Covered Chemicals contained in asphalt paving products without providing "clear and reasonable" warnings. The alleged exposures constitute "occupational" and "environmental" exposures pursuant to California Code of Regulations, title 22, section 12601.

1.7 The Parties enter into this Settlement Agreement for settlement of certain disputed claims between the Parties as alleged in the CAG Complaint and Notice in order to avoid prolonged and costly litigation between the Parties.

1.8 By execution of this Settlement Agreement, the Parties admit no facts or conclusions of law, including those regarding any violation of Proposition 65, or any other statutory, regulatory, common law, or equitable doctrine. Nothing in this Settlement Agreement shall be construed as an admission by the Parties of any fact, conclusion of law, issue of law, or violation of law. Nothing in this Settlement Agreement, nor compliance with its terms, shall constitute or be construed as evidence of an admission or evidence of fault, wrongdoing, or liability by Beck, its officers, directors, employees, or parent, subsidiary or affiliated corporations, in any administrative or judicial proceeding or litigation. Except for the cause of action and allegations settled and compromised, nothing in this Settlement Agreement shall prejudice, waive, or impair any right, remedy, argument, or defense that CAG or Beck may have against one another in any other pending legal proceeding involving allegations unrelated to those alleged in the Lawsuit.

## **2.0 Release**

2.1 CAG releases and forever discharges Beck and its affiliates, subsidiary and parent corporations, or their affiliated companies, and each of their officers, directors, agents, servants, partners, stockholders, attorneys, employees, representatives, and each of their respective successors and assigns (collectively, the "Released Parties") from all rights, claims, causes of action, damages, suits, penalties, liabilities, injunctive relief, declaratory relief, and attorney fees, costs and expenses related to or arising out of the facts and claims alleged in the Lawsuit. Without limiting the foregoing, the Parties intend the scope of this release to cover all Claims Covered (as defined in Section 3.1 below) as to the Released Parties put in controversy by the Notice and Lawsuit.

2.2 CAG is aware of the contents of Section 1542 of the Civil Code. CAG acknowledges that the claims released in this Lawsuit include known and

unknown claims and hereby waives any protections provided for by Section 1542 of the Civil Code. Section 1542 of the Civil Code provides as follows:

**A GENERAL RELEASE DOES NOT EXTEND TO CLAIMS WHICH THE CREDITOR DOES NOT KNOW OR SUSPECT TO EXIST IN HIS OR HER FAVOR AT THE TIME OF EXECUTING THE RELEASE, WHICH IF KNOWN BY HIM OR HER MUST HAVE MATERIALLY AFFECTED HIS OR HER SETTLEMENT WITH THE DEBTOR.**

CAG expressly waives all rights and benefits conferred upon it by Civil Code Section 1542.

### **3.0 Claims Covered**

3.1 This Settlement Agreement is a full, final and binding resolution between the CAG and the Released Parties of the following claims and causes of action: All claims, known or unknown, which were or could have been asserted in the Notice or Lawsuit arising out of allegations that the Released Parties violated Proposition 65 or any other law because of Released Parties' operations.

### **4.0 Defendant's Duties**

4.1 **Posting of Warning.** Within sixty (60) days after entering into this Settlement Agreement, Beck shall post the warning to its employees described in Exhibit A ("Warning"). Beck shall: (i) post a sign containing the Warning in a conspicuous location, such as a locker room where employees store their gear, or near a time clock where employees check in and out regularly, or where other legally required employment notices are posted, and under conditions that make it likely to be read and understood by employees prior to the alleged exposure for which the Warning is given; and (ii) distribute the Warning in writing to all employees receiving training as part of its Hazard Communication Program pursuant to Paragraph 4.2.

4.2 **Hazard Communication Program.** At the time Beck executes this Settlement Agreement, it shall simultaneously execute a declaration under penalty of perjury, in the form attached as Exhibit B to the Settlement Agreement, certifying that it has a Hazard Communication Program. Beck shall then submit the signed declaration to CAG.

4.3 **Alternative Warning Requirements.** The Legislature may amend Proposition 65 or administrative agencies of the State of California may initiate or promulgate regulations under Proposition 65 or issue other interpretive guidance, including a safe use determination, which may affect the requirement to provide warnings under Proposition 65 for the Covered Chemicals. If any action by any public entity permits any form(s) of warning other than the Warning attached

herein, or varies the form or content of the Warning, then Beck may satisfy the obligations under Paragraph 4.1 by providing warnings in a manner consistent with such subsequently promulgated law, regulation or interpretive guidance. Nothing in this Settlement Agreement, however, shall relieve Beck from the obligation to comply with any new requirement imposed by the State of California after the Parties execute this Settlement Agreement. If other statutes require warnings, Beck shall provide those warnings as required by those laws. If any law, rule, regulation, or final decision of any legislative, judicial or executive body renders invalid or unenforceable the warning requirements of Paragraph 4.1, Beck has no further obligations under Paragraph 4.1. Should CAG disagree it may petition the Court for enforcement of the Settlement Agreement. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Settlement, should Beck cease to implement or modify the warning required here due to the occurrence of the events described in this Paragraph, it shall provide written notice to CAG of its intent to do so no less than 30 days in advance. CAG shall notify Beck in writing of any objection within 30 days of its receipt of such notice.

4.4 No Other Warnings Required. In the interests of a full and final resolution of this matter, the Parties agree that the Warning is sufficient. Beck maintains that the law requires no warning. CAG maintains that the law requires additional warnings beyond those provided here. Specifically, CAG maintains that environmental warnings are required for exposure to the Covered Chemicals in addition to the occupational warnings provided for here. Nonetheless, in recognition of and in consideration for the measures below that Beck will adopt and the effect those measures will have, CAG releases Beck from any obligation to warn for exposure to Covered Chemicals other than as provided here. This includes the need to provide any consumer product or environmental warnings.

4.5 New Scientific Data. Any warning obligation under Section 4 for any Covered Chemical may be eliminated if new scientific data causes: (a) the deletion of that Covered Chemical from the list published by the State pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 25249.8 or any successor legislation, or (b) that Covered Chemical to qualify for an exemption pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 25249.10 or any successor legislation. Beck may modify or remove the Warning to reflect that deletion or exemption, unless Beck exposes or causes to be exposed any individual to any other Covered Chemical requiring a Warning pursuant to this Settlement Agreement. Should CAG not agree with the modification or removal of a Warning pursuant to this paragraph, CAG may petition the Court.

4.6 Safe Use Determination. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Settlement Agreement, at any time after Beck executes this Settlement Agreement. Beck may seek a Safe Use Determination ("SUD") for one or more of the Covered Chemicals from the OEHHA (or its successor) pursuant to Section 12204 of Title 22 of the California Code of Regulations (or any successor

legislation or regulation). In such event, the terms of this Settlement Agreement shall not operate with any prejudice to the SUD. Provided Beck furnishes notice to CAG at least 30 days before filing the SUD application with the OEHHA, which shall include a copy of the application, so as to provide CAG a meaningful opportunity to comment to OEHHA on the matter, then, should OEHHA issue a SUD that there is no obligation to provide warnings under Proposition 65 with respect to the Covered Chemical(s) identified in the application, Beck shall have no obligation pursuant to Paragraph 4.1 as to the Covered Chemical(s) identified in the SUD.

4.7 **Exposure Reduction Measures.** Beck shall institute certain measures related to the use of the asphalt products in order to reduce or mitigate occupational or environmental exposure to one or more of the Covered Chemicals. Because of the benefits of these measures, CAG will not insist upon warnings for "environmental" exposures. To reduce potential exposure to the Covered Chemicals and reduce pollution in California, Beck shall limit the representative temperature of asphalt products in its control to either (a) no greater than 375°F, or (b) 25°F below the product's "flash point" (as determined by the AASHTO test method T48 or ASTM test method D92). Beck may choose between measures (a) and (b) at its discretion. No party shall deem either measure to be more effective than the other. The actions taken by Beck pursuant to this Paragraph are solely for purposes of compliance with this Settlement Agreement and are not meant to, and do not, change any manufacturer's or other project specifications. As with every other provision in this Settlement Agreement, only the Parties may enforce compliance with this Paragraph.

4.8 **Enforcement of Exposure Reduction Measures.** CAG intends to monitor compliance with Paragraph 4.7 through whatever lawful measures it deems appropriate. Should CAG believe that Beck is not complying with its obligations under Paragraph 4.7, CAG may seek enforcement of this Settlement Agreement.

## 5.0 Payments

5.1 **Defendants' Payment in Lieu of Civil Penalties.** Within 15 days following court approval of the Settlement Agreement, Beck shall pay CAG, a corporation commenced for the purpose of furthering environmental causes, \$500.00. Payment shall be to "Consumer Advocacy Group, Inc." CAG will use the payment for such projects and purposes related to environmental protection, worker health and safety, or reduction of human exposure to hazardous substances (including administrative and litigation costs arising from such projects), as CAG may choose.

5.2 **Payment to Yeroushalmi & Associates.** Within 15 days following court approval of the Settlement Agreement, Beck shall pay \$15,500.00 to CAG for its attorney fees and costs. Payment shall be to "Yeroushalmi & Associates."

**6.0 Authority to Enter Into Settlement Agreement**

6.1 CAG represents that the signatory to this Settlement Agreement has the authority to enter into this Settlement Agreement on behalf of CAG and to bind legally CAG. Beck represents that the signatories to this Settlement Agreement have the authority to enter into this Settlement Agreement on behalf of Beck and to bind legally Beck.

**7.0 Attorney General Review**

7.1 Consistent with section 3003(a) of Title 11 of the California Code of Regulations, CAG shall submit this Settlement Agreement to the Attorney General's Office for review within five days of the Parties' execution of this Settlement Agreement Settlement Agreement.

**8.0 Execution in Counterparts and Facsimile**

8.1 This Settlement Agreement may be executed in counterparts, which taken together shall be deemed to constitute the same document. A facsimile or pdf signature shall be as valid as the original.

**9.0 Entry of Judgment Pursuant to Settlement Agreement Required**

9.1 CAG shall submit this Settlement Agreement to the Court for approval as required by Health and Safety Code section 25249.7, subdivision (f)(4) and Code of Civil Procedure section 664.6. CAG will provide the Court with the necessary information to allow the Court to make the findings required by Health and Safety Code section 25249.7, subdivision (f)(4)(A)-(C).

9.2 This Settlement Agreement shall be void in the event the Court does not approve this Settlement Agreement as required by Health and Safety Code section 25249.7, subdivision (f)(4)(A)-(C) and Code of Civil Procedure section 664.6, and it cannot be used in any proceeding for any purpose.

**10.0 Entire Agreement**

10.1 This Settlement Agreement contains the sole and entire agreement and understanding of the Parties with respect to the entire subject matter hereof, and all related prior discussions, negotiations, commitments, and understandings. No other agreements, oral or otherwise, exist to bind any of the Parties.

**11.0 Modification of Settlement Agreement**

11.1 Any modification to this Settlement Agreement shall be in writing by the Parties. If the purpose of the modification is to relieve any Party of an obligation imposed by this Settlement Agreement, then such modification must be made upon a duly noticed motion and entry of a modified Settlement Agreement by the Court.

**12.0 Application of Settlement Agreement**

12.1 This Settlement Agreement shall apply to, be binding upon, and inure to the benefit of, the CAG and the Released Parties identified above.

**13.0 Severability**

13.1 In the event that a court of competent jurisdiction finds unenforceable any of the provision of this Settlement, such finding shall not affect adversely the validity of the enforceable provisions.

**14.0 Governing Law**

14.1 The laws of the State of California shall govern the terms of this Settlement Agreement.

**15.0 Attorneys' Fees**

15.1 Except as specifically stated in this Settlement Agreement, each party shall bear its own costs and attorneys' fees.

15.2 In the event that a dispute arises concerning any provision(s) of the Settlement Agreement, and such disputes are resolved by the Court or through any alternative dispute resolution proceeding, the prevailing party in such action or proceeding shall be entitled to recover costs and reasonable attorneys' fees.

**16.0 Notification Requirements**

16.1 Any notice required or permitted hereunder shall be effective only if in writing and delivered in person or sent by telecopy, certified or registered mail return receipt requested, or traceable overnight delivery service, to the following designees:

For CAG:

Reuben Yeroushalmi  
Yeroushalmi & Associates  
3700 Wilshire Blvd, Suite 480  
Los Angeles, CA 90010  
Fax: 213.382.3430

For Beck:

Peter M. Morrisette  
Cox, Castle & Nicholson T.J.P  
555 California Street, 10<sup>th</sup> Floor  
San Francisco, CA 94104

Any party may change its designee(s) for purposes of notification by providing notice of such change pursuant to this section.

Dated: 9/15/08

By: *Ann H. Marcus, Pres*  
CONSUMER ADVOCACY GROUP, INC.

Dated: Aug 29, 2008

By: *Paul Beck, President*  
PAUL T. BECK CONTRACTORS, INC.

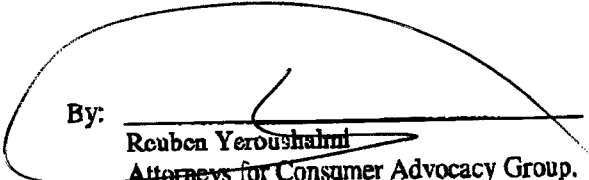
//



As to form only:


YEROUSHALMI & ASSOCIATES

Dated: 9/15/08

By:   
Reuben Yeroushalmi  
Attorneys for Consumer Advocacy Group.  
Inc.

COX, CASTLE & NICHOLSON LLP

Dated: 9/5/2008

By:   
Peter M. Morrisette, Esq.  
Attorneys for Paul T. Beck Contractors, Inc.

**EXHIBIT B - DECLARATION REGARDING HCP**

1. David Beck, declare and state as follows:

1. I am the President of Paul T. Beck Contractors, Inc. Grading and Paving, Inc. ("Defendant"), and I have the authority to make this declaration on Defendant's behalf.

2. I have personal knowledge of the matters stated herein and, if called upon to testify, could competently testify thereto.

3. Defendant has in effect a Hazard Communication Program, which Defendant adopted and now administers pursuant to California law and the governing regulations. I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed this 29<sup>th</sup> of August, 2008, at Castroville, California.

David Beck  
Signature

Print name: David Beck

For: Paul T Beck Contractors, Inc  
Name of Defendant