

State of California - Department of Justice - Attorney General's Office - Proposition 65 Enforcement Reporting

Attention: Prop 65 Coordinator, 1515 Clay Street, Suite 2000, Oakland, CA 94612

FORM JUS 1501
(03-01)

PRIVATE ENFORCEMENT FILING - Health and Safety Code section 25249.7(e) and (f)

REPORT OF SETTLEMENT

Please print or type required information Original Filing Supplemental Filing Corrected Filing

PARTIES TO THE ACTION	PLAINTIFF(S) Sandra Assareh				
	DEFENDANT(S) INVOLVED IN SETTLEMENT Vanco Truck Stop, Inc.				
CASE INFO	COURT DOCKET NUMBER N/A		COURT NAME		
	SHORT CASE NAME				
REPORT INFO	INJUNCTIVE RELIEF Warnings				
	PAYMENT: CIVIL PENALTY \$3,500		PAYMENT: ATTORNEYS FEES \$11,400	PAYMENT: OTHER N/A	For Internal Use Only
	WILL SETTLEMENT BE SUBMITTED TO COURT? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	IF YES, AFTER ENTRY OF JUDGMENT BY COURT, REPORT OF ENTRY OF JUDGMENT MUST BE SUBMITTED TO ATTORNEY GENERAL		DATE SETTLEMENT SIGNED 02 / 12 / 2024	
	COPY OF SETTLEMENT MUST BE ATTACHED				
NAME OF CONTACT Gilbert Alvandi, Esq.					
FILER INFO	ORGANIZATION Alvandi Law Group		TELEPHONE NUMBER ((949)) 777-9897		
	ADDRESS 20301 SW Acacia Street, 2nd Floor		FAX NUMBER ((949)) 777-9448		
	CITY Newport Beach	STATE CA	ZIP 92660-1732	E-MAIL ADDRESS nooshin@alvandigroup.com	

FILING INSTRUCTIONS: This form can be completed online and printed. If electronic filing is not available, mail the completed form with a copy of the settlement to the attention of the Prop 65 Coordinator at the address shown above. If you need additional space to complete this form please use an attachment.

PROPOSITION 65 SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT & RELEASE

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Parties. This Settlement Agreement and Release (“Agreement”) is entered into by and between SANDRA ASSAREH (“Assareh”), on the one hand, and Vanco Truck Stop, Inc., formerly known and referred to as 76 Gas #818808 - Vanco Truck & Auto Plaza (collectively, “VANCO”) on the other hand, with Assareh and VANCO each individually referred to as a “Party” and, collectively, the “Parties.” Assareh is an individual who resides in the State of California and seeks to promote awareness of exposures to toxic chemicals and to improve human health by reducing or eliminating hazardous substances present at commercial establishments as well as those contained in consumer products. Assareh alleges VANCO is a person in the course of doing business for purposes of California Health & Safety Code § 25249.11(b) (“Proposition 65”).

1.2 Subject Location. The location covered by this Settlement Agreement is the service station located at 1033 West Charter Way, Stockton, California 95206 (“Subject Location”).

1.3 Notice of Violation. On or about December 13, 2023, Assareh served VANCO, the California Attorney General, and the requisite public enforcement agencies with a Proposition 65 60-Day Notice of Violation (“Notice”), alleging VANCO was in violation of California Health & Safety Code § 25249.6, for failing to provide the requisite warnings to customers and other individuals who came onto the premises of the Subject Location. To the best of the Parties’ knowledge, no public enforcer has commenced and is diligently prosecuting an action to enforce the allegations in the Notice.

1.4 General Allegations. Unleaded gasoline (wholly vaporized) is listed pursuant to Proposition 65 as a chemical known to the State of California to cause cancer. Assareh alleges VANCO potentially exposed individuals to the chemical unleaded gasoline at the Subject Location without first providing individuals with the health hazard exposure warning required by Proposition 65.

1.5 No Admission. The Parties enter into this Agreement to settle disputed claims between them as set forth in the Notice concerning VANCO’s compliance with Proposition 65. VANCO expressly denies all factual and legal allegations contained in the Notice and maintains that the Subject Location has been, and is, in compliance with all laws, including, but not limited to Proposition 65 or any other statutory, regulatory, common law or equitable doctrine. Nothing in this Settlement Agreement shall constitute or be construed as, nor shall compliance with this Agreement constitute or be construed as an admission by VANCO of any fact, finding, conclusion of law, issue of law, or violation of law, including under Proposition 65. This section shall not, however, diminish or otherwise affect VANCO’s obligations, responsibilities and duties under this Settlement Agreement.

1.6 Effective Date. For purposes of this Settlement Agreement, the term “Effective Date” shall mean

the date this Settlement Agreement is fully executed by the Parties.

2. INJUNCTIVE RELIEF: WARNINGS

2.1 Clear and Reasonable Warning. As of the Effective Date, and continuing thereafter, a clear and reasonable exposure warning in English as set forth in this § 2.1 must be provided at the Subject Location so long as VANCO is doing business there. The warning shall consist of the following text:

▲ **WARNING:** Breathing the air in this area or skin contact with petroleum products can expose you to chemicals including benzene, motor vehicle exhaust and carbon monoxide, which are known to the State of California to cause cancer and birth defects or other reproductive harm. Do not stay in this area longer than necessary. For more information go to www.P65Warnings.ca.gov/service-station

The words “**WARNING:**” shall be in all capital letters and in bold font, followed by a colon. The warning symbol to the left of the words “**WARNING:**” shall be a black exclamation point in a yellow equilateral triangle with a black outline. The symbol must be in a size no smaller than the height of the words “**WARNING:**”.

The warning shall be posted on a sign at each gas pump at the Subject Location and the warning must be printed in no smaller than 22-point type and be enclosed in a box. If other signage at the Subject Location is provided for the public in a language other than English, the warning must be provided in English and that other language.

2.2 Compliance with Warning Regulations. The warning requirements set forth herein under § 2.1 are imposed pursuant to the terms of this Agreement and are recognized by the Parties as not being the exclusive manner of providing a warning at the Subject Location. The Parties agree that VANCO shall be deemed to be in compliance with this Settlement Agreement by either adhering to § 2.1 of this Settlement Agreement or by providing warnings that comply with Health and Safety Code § 25249.6 or by complying with warning requirements adopted by the State of California’s Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (“OEHHA”) after the Effective Date. Compliance with the terms of this Settlement Agreement constitutes compliance with Proposition 65 with respect to exposures to the listed chemical at the Subject Location, as set forth in the notice of violation.

3. PENALTIES PURSUANT TO HEALTH & SAFETY CODE § 25249.7(b)

Pursuant to California Health and Safety Code § 25249.7(b)(2), and in settlement of all the claims alleged in the Notice or referred to in this Settlement Agreement, VANCO shall collectively pay a total of three thousand five hundred dollars (\$3,500.00) as a Civil Penalty in accordance with this Section. The Civil Penalty payment shall be allocated in accordance with California Health & Safety Code §§ 25249.12(c)(1) and (d), with 75% of the Penalty remitted to OEHHA and the remaining 25% of the Penalty remitted to Assareh. The Civil Penalty payments shall

be delivered to the addresses identified in § 3.2, below.

3.1 Date for Payment of Civil Penalty. Within fourteen (14) days of the Effective Date, VANCO shall collectively issue two separate checks for the Civil Penalty payment: one check made payable to “OEHHA” in the amount of two thousand six hundred twenty-five dollars (\$2,625.00); and one check made payable to (b) “Sandra Assareh” in the amount of eight hundred seventy-five dollars (\$875.00). The Civil Penalty payments shall be delivered to the addresses identified in § 3.2, below.

3.2 Payment Procedures.

(a) Issuance of Payments. Payments shall be delivered as follows:

(i) The payment owed to Assareh, pursuant to § 3 shall be delivered to the following payment address:

Alvandi Law Group, P.C.
Alvandi Plaza
20301 SW Acacia Street, Second Floor
Newport Beach, CA 92660

(ii) The payment owed to OEHHA pursuant to § 3 shall be delivered directly to OEHHA (Memo Line “Prop 65 Penalties”) at the following addresses:

For United States Postal Service Delivery:

Mike Gyurics
Fiscal Operations Branch Chief
Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment
P.O. Box 4010
Sacramento, CA 95812-4010

For Non-United States Postal Service Delivery:

Mike Gyurics
Fiscal Operations Branch Chief
Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment 1001 I
Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

(b) Copy of Payments to OEHHA. VANCO agrees to provide Assareh’s counsel with a copy of the check payable to OEHHA, simultaneously with its penalty payment to Assareh, which copy shall be delivered to the address provided in § 3.2(a)(i), as proof of payment to OEHHA.

(c) Tax Documentation. VANCO agrees to provide a completed IRS 1099 for its payments to Assareh, and Assareh agrees to provide IRS W-9 forms for, each of the following payees under this Settlement Agreement:

- i. “Sandra Assareh” whose address and tax identification number shall be provided within five (5) days after this Settlement Agreement is executed by Parties;
- ii. “Alvandi Law Group, P.C.” (EIN:27-1441376) at the address provided in Section 3.1(a)(i); and
- iii. “Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment” (EIN: 68 - 0284486) 1001 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814.

The Parties acknowledge that VANCO cannot issue any settlement payments pursuant to Section 3 above until after VANCO receives the requisite W-9 forms from Assareh or her counsel.

4. REIMBURSEMENT OF FEES AND COSTS

The Parties acknowledge that Assareh and her counsel offered to reach preliminary agreement on the material terms of this dispute before reaching terms on the amount of fees and costs to be reimbursed to them. The Parties thereafter reached an accord on the compensation due to Assareh and her counsel under general contract principles and the private attorney general doctrine and principles codified at California Code of Civil Procedure § 1021.5, for all work performed through the settlement of this matter. Under these legal principles, VANCO shall reimburse Assareh’s counsel for fees and costs incurred as a result of investigating and bringing this matter to VANCO’s attention and negotiating a settlement in the public interest. Within fourteen (14) days of the Effective Date, VANCO shall collectively issue one check payable to “Alvandi Law Group P.C.” in the amount of eleven thousand four hundred dollars (\$11,400.00) and deliver it to the address identified in § 3.1(a)(i), above.

5. RELEASE OF ALL CLAIMS

5.1 Release of VANCO and all affiliated entities. This Settlement Agreement is a full, final and binding resolution between Assareh, and VANCO of any violation of Proposition 65 that was or could have been asserted by Assareh or on behalf of her past and current agents, representatives, attorneys, successors, and/or assigns (“Releasers”) against VANCO and its respective parents, subsidiaries, assigns, predecessors, successors, affiliated entities, directors, officers, members, marketplaces, employees, agents, and attorneys (“Releasees”), based on the alleged failure to warn about exposures to the listed chemical under Proposition 65 at the Subject Location up through the Effective Date, as alleged in the Notice. In further consideration of the promises and agreements herein contained, and for the payments to be made pursuant to §§ 3 and 4 above, Assareh, on behalf of herself, her past and current agents, representatives, attorneys, successors and/or assignees, hereby covenants not to sue and waives any right to institute, participate in, directly or indirectly, any form of legal action against VANCO and hereby fully releases and discharges all claims that she may have, including without limitation, all actions and causes of action in law and in equity, all obligations,

expenses (including without limitation all attorneys' fees, expert fees, and investigation fees, and costs), damages, losses, liabilities and demands against any of the Releasees of any nature, character, or kind, whether known or unknown, suspected or unsuspected, limited to and arising out of the alleged or actual exposure to Proposition 65 listed constituents at the Subject Property.

5.2 VANCO's Release of Assareh. VANCO, on behalf of itself, its past and current agents, representatives, attorneys, successors and/or assignees, hereby waive any and all claims against Assareh, her attorneys and other representatives, for any and all actions taken or statements made (or those that could have been taken or made) by Assareh and/or her attorneys and other representatives, whether in the course of investigating claims, otherwise seeking to enforce Proposition 65 against them in this matter, or with respect to the Subject Location.

5.3 Mutual Waiver of California Civil Code § 1542. It is possible that other claims not known to the Parties arising out of the facts alleged in the Notice and relating to alleged violations of Proposition 65 at the Subject Location will develop or be discovered. Assareh on behalf of herself only, on one hand, and VANCO, on the other hand, acknowledge that this Settlement Agreement is expressly intended to cover and include all such claims up through the Effective Date, including all rights of action therefor. The Parties acknowledge that the claims released in §§ 5.1 and 5.2, above, may include unknown claims, and nevertheless waive California Civil Code § 1542 as to any such unknown claims. California Civil Code § 1542 reads as follows:

A GENERAL RELEASE DOES NOT EXTEND TO CLAIMS THAT THE CREDITOR OR RELEASING PARTY DOES NOT KNOW OR SUSPECT TO EXIST IN HIS OR HER FAVOR AT THE TIME OF EXECUTING THE RELEASE AND THAT, IF KNOWN BY HIM OR HER, WOULD HAVE MATERIALLY AFFECTED HIS OR HER SETTLEMENT WITH THE DEBTOR OR RELEASED PARTY.

Assareh and VANCO each acknowledge and understand the significance and consequences of this specific waiver of California Civil Code § 1542.

5.4. Public Benefit. It is VANCO's understanding that the commitments agreed to herein, and actions to be taken under this Settlement Agreement, would confer a significant benefit to the general public, as set forth in California Code of Civil Procedure § 1021.5 and California Code of Regulations tit. 11, § 3201. As such, it is the intent of VANCO that to the extent any other private party initiates an action alleging a violation of Proposition 65 with respect to VANCO's alleged failure to provide Proposition 65 service station warnings at the Subject Location, such private party action would not confer a significant benefit on the general public as to the Subject Location, provided that VANCO is in material compliance with this Settlement Agreement.

5.5 No Pending Claims. Other than the material, factual, and legal allegations contained in the notice

of violation, Assareh: (a) is not aware of any complaint, claim or action pending by her, or by any other person or entity, against VANCO in any federal, state or local court or government agency or before any arbitrator or other tribunal; (b) is not aware of any conduct by any of VANCO which Assareh believes violated or currently violates any law, rule, regulation, or public policy; and (c) has no present intention of participating in any claim against VANCO for the material, factual, or legal allegations contained in the notice of violation.

6. SEVERABILITY

If, subsequent to the execution of this Settlement Agreement, any of the provisions of this Settlement Agreement are deemed by a court to be unenforceable, the validity of the enforceable provisions remaining shall not be adversely affected but only to the extent the deletion of the provision deemed unenforceable does not materially affect, or otherwise result in the effect of the Settlement Agreement being contrary to the intent of the Parties in entering into this Settlement Agreement.

7. GOVERNING LAW

The terms of this Settlement Agreement shall be governed by the law of the State of California and apply within the State of California. In the event that Proposition 65 is repealed, preempted, or is otherwise rendered inapplicable or limited by reason of law generally, or as to the listed chemical referenced in the notice of violation, then VANCO may provide written notice to Assareh of any asserted change in the law, and shall have no further obligations pursuant to this Settlement Agreement with respect to, and to the extent that, the Subject Location is so affected.

8. NOTICES

Unless specified herein, all correspondence and notices required to be provided pursuant to this Settlement Agreement to any Party shall be in writing and personally delivered or sent to that Party—via: (i) email; (ii) first-class registered or certified mail with return receipt requested; or (iii) overnight or two-day courier—at the following addresses:

For Assareh:
Civil@alvandigroup.com
Alvandi Law Group, P.C.
Alvandi Plaza
20301 SW Acacia Street, Second Floor
Newport Beach, CA 92660
Phone: (949) 777-9897
Fax: (949) 777-9448

For VANCO:
mbrowner@downeybrand.com
Monica Browner, Esq.
Downey Brand LLP

621 Capitol Mall, 18th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814
916.520.5377

Any party, from time to time, may specify in writing to the other parties a change of address to which all notices and other communications shall be sent.

9. COUNTERPARTS: SIGNATURES

This Settlement Agreement may be executed in counterparts and by facsimile, .pdf signature, or DocuSign signature, each of which shall be deemed an original, and all of which, when taken together, shall constitute one and the same document.

10. COMPLIANCE WITH HEALTH & SAFETY CODE § 25249.7(f)

Assareh agrees to comply with the reporting requirements referenced in California Health & Safety Code § 25249.7(f).

11. MODIFICATION

This Settlement Agreement may be modified only by a written agreement of the Parties.

12. CONSTRUCTION

The language in all parts of this Settlement Agreement shall be construed according to its plain and ordinary meaning, except as to those terms defined by law, in the Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986, California Health & Safety Code sections 25249.6 et seq., or specifically herein. The captions and paragraph headings used in this Settlement Agreement are for reference only and shall not affect the construction of this Settlement Agreement.

13. COMPUTING TIME

In computing any period of time under this Settlement Agreement, where the last day of such period falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or Federal or State Holiday, the period runs until the close of business on the next day that is not a Saturday, Sunday, or Federal or State Holiday.

14. ENTIRE AGREEMENT

This Agreement contains the sole and entire agreement and understanding of the Parties with respect to the entire subject matter hereof, and any and all prior discussions, negotiations, commitments, or understandings related thereto, if any, are hereby merged herein and therein. There are no warranties, representations, or other agreements between the Parties except as expressly set forth herein. No representations, oral or otherwise, express or implied, other than those specifically referred to in this Agreement have been made by any Party hereto. No other agreements

not specifically contained or referenced herein, oral or otherwise, shall be deemed to exist or to bind any of the Parties hereto. It is expressly understood and agreed that the Settlement Agreement has been freely and voluntarily entered into by the parties with and upon advice of counsel.


15. AUTHORIZATION

The undersigned are authorized to execute this Settlement Agreement and have read, understood, and agree to all of the terms and conditions contained of this Settlement Agreement.

AGREED TO AND ACCEPTED:

Date: 12/02/2024

By: SANDRA ASSAREH

Signature 
Sandra Assareh (Feb 12, 2024 16:04 PST)

AGREED TO AND ACCEPTED:

Date: 2-12-2024

By: VANCO TRUCK STOP, INC.

Name and Title: Mike Boparai
President

Signature 