

STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
DEPARTMENT OF TOXIC SUBSTANCES CONTROL

IN THE MATTER OF:

Mayan Patel, Property Owner  
13021 South Budlong Avenue  
Gardena, California 90247  
EPA ID Number CAD 051498202

Respondent.

Docket Number RPDD 06/07 SCC-4362

CORRECTIVE ACTION  
CONSENT AGREEMENT

Health and Safety Code  
Sections 25187 and 25200.14

INTRODUCTION

1. The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) and Mayan Patel (Respondent) enter into this Corrective Action Consent Agreement (Consent Agreement) and agree as follows:

1.1. Jurisdiction exists pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 25187 and 25200.14, which authorize DTSC to issue an order to require corrective action when DTSC determines that there is or may be a release of hazardous waste or hazardous waste constituents into the environment from a hazardous waste facility.

1.2. The parties enter into this Consent Agreement to avoid the expense of litigation and to carry out promptly the corrective action described below.

1.3. Respondent is the property owner of a hazardous waste facility located at 13021 South Budlong Avenue, Gardena, California (Facility). The Facility was formerly leased to Electronic Plating Services, Inc. (EPS). EPS changed its name to Connector Service Corporation (CSC) in January, 2001.

1.4. The Facility engaged in the management of hazardous waste pursuant to a Permit By Rule and Conditional Authorization issued by DTSC on August 2, 1993.

1.5. The terms used in this Consent Agreement are as defined in California Code of Regulations, title 22, section 66260.10, except as otherwise provided.

1.6. Respondent agrees to implement all DTSC-approved workplans and to undertake all actions required by the terms and conditions of this Consent Agreement, including any portions of this Consent Agreement incorporated by reference.

1.7. Respondent waives any right to request a hearing on this Consent Agreement pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 25187.

### FINDINGS OF FACT

2.1. In February, 1990, a preliminary environmental site assessment was conducted at the Facility by Environmental Strategies Corporation. Soil sample analysis results found nickel at 990 mg/kg, copper at 130 mg/kg, 1,2, dichloroethane (1,2-DCA) up to 28 ug/kg, 1,1,1-Trichloroethane (TCA) at 28 ug/kg, and trichloroethylene (TCE) of up to 9 ug/kg.

2.1.1. In November, 1995, Environmental Strategies Corporation conducted a Phase I Environmental Assessment at the Facility. The Phase I Environmental Report dated October 31, 1995 indicated that spills from the overflow of the plating tanks, and wastewater treatment neutralization tanks occurred in May 11, 1992, and August 9, 1994, respectively. The chemicals of concerns were nickel, copper and cyanide.

2.1.2. On December 3, 1996, CSC submitted a Phase I Environmental Assessment Checklist (Phase I Checklist) pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 25200.14. CSC indicated that the Facility is exempt from completing the checklist due to an environmental assessment that was completed in 1995.

2.1.3. On May 18, 2001, a Worker Adjustment and Retaining Notification Act notice regarding closure of the Facility was submitted to the Mayor's Office of the City of Gardena.

2.1.4. On June 15, 2001, the County of Los Angeles, Fire Department, Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA) referred to DTSC the corrective action needed at the Facility because the Facility could not achieve clean closure.

2.1.5. On June 21, 2001, DTSC conducted a site visit at the Facility. Based on the site visit and the information available to DTSC, DTSC has identified solid waste management units (SWMUs) and/or areas of concerns (AOCs) that either has released or may release hazardous waste or hazardous waste constituents into the environment. The SWMUs include the following:

SWMU-1	Plating process area, Bldg. 3
SWMU-2	Plating process area, Bldg. 4
SWMU-3	Plating process area, Bldg. 4A
SWMU-4	Wastewater Treatment Area
SWMU-5	Hazardous Waste Storage Area

2.5.2. On January 16, 2003, CSC signed a Corrective Action Consent Agreement, Docket Number 01/02 SCC-4276 with DTSC for the investigation of five SWMUs/AOCs described above.

2.5.3. On July 22, 2003, DTSC approved a Preliminary Endangerment Assessment Workplan (PEA Workplan) for the investigation of the five AOCs however, the PEA Workplan was never implemented because CSC filed for bankruptcy on September 24, 2003.

2.3. The hazardous waste and hazardous waste constituents of concern at the Facility are metals, corrosives, VOCs, semi-volatile organics and cyanide.

2.4. Hazardous wastes or hazardous waste constituents have migrated or may migrate from the Facility into the environment through the following pathways: groundwater, airborne dusts, and surface runoff water.

2.5. The Facility is located in an industrial area, approximately one-half mile west of the Harbor 110 Freeway, and is located within the West Coast Basin of the Coastal Plain of Los Angeles County. The Gardena Aquifer lies at 210 and 260 feet below ground surface (bgs), and water logs taken in the general vicinity indicate that groundwater may be encountered between 150 and 180 feet bgs.

2.6. Releases from the Facility have migrated to soil or toward the groundwater. The contaminated soil on the Facility has a potential to become airborne and affect nearby residents, transients, and wildlife. Workers at the Facility may become exposed to the contaminated soil on site during work related activities, including development and construction activities. Groundwater contamination has a potential to migrate and contaminate the nearby drinking water wells. Workers at the Facility may become exposed to the contaminated soil during work related activities, including development and construction activities.

### PROJECT COORDINATOR

3. Within 14 days of the effective date of this Consent Agreement, DTSC and Respondent shall each designate a Project Coordinator and shall notify each other in writing of the Project Coordinator selected. Each Project Coordinator shall be responsible for overseeing the implementation of this Consent Agreement and for designating a person to act in his/her absence. All communications between Respondent and DTSC, and all documents, report approvals, and other correspondence concerning the activities performed pursuant to this Consent Agreement shall be directed through the Project Coordinators. Each party may change its Project Coordinator with at least seven days prior written notice.

### WORK TO BE PERFORMED

4. Respondent agrees to perform the work required by this Consent Agreement in accordance with the applicable state and federal laws, their implementing regulations, and the applicable DTSC and the United States Environmental Protection Agency guidance documents.

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## PRELIMINARY ENDANGERMENT ASSESSMENT

5. Respondent shall conduct a Preliminary Endangerment Assessment (PEA) for the entire Facility, and if necessary, further investigation and remediation of any release of hazardous waste or hazardous waste constituents at or from the Facility. Within 30 days of the effective date of this Consent Agreement, Respondent shall submit to DTSC a PEA Workplan and an implementation schedule for approval. Respondent shall implement the DTSC-approved PEA Workplan and schedule. Within 60 days upon completion of the PEA activities, Respondent shall submit to DTSC a Final PEA Report for approval. Respondent shall conduct the PEA in accordance with the Preliminary Endangerment Assessment Guidance Manual (State of California Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Toxic Substances Control, June 1999); DTSC/RWQCB Advisory-Active Soil Gas Investigation Guidelines, January 28, 2003; and the RWQCB Interim Guidance for Active Soil Gas Investigation, February 25, 1997.

## ADDITIONAL WORK

6. If DTSC determines that further investigation and remediation are necessary at the Facility, DTSC and Respondent will negotiate another consent agreement or amend this Consent Agreement to address the additional work. If another consent agreement or an amendment is not reached within 60 days, DTSC reserves its right to issue an order or take any other action provided for by law. DTSC's costs incurred in negotiating the subsequent consent agreement or the amendment are considered costs incurred pursuant to this Consent Agreement and are payable under this Consent Agreement.

## CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT

7. DTSC must comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) insofar as activities required by this Consent Agreement are projects subject to CEQA. Respondent shall provide all information necessary to facilitate any CEQA analysis. DTSC will make an initial determination regarding the applicability of CEQA. If the activities are not exempt from CEQA, DTSC will conduct an Initial Study. Based on the results of the Initial Study, DTSC will determine if a Negative Declaration or an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) should be prepared. DTSC will prepare and process any such Negative Declaration. However, should DTSC determine that an EIR is necessary such an EIR would be prepared under a separate agreement between DTSC and Respondent.

## DTSC APPROVAL

8.1. Respondent shall revise any workplan, report, specification, or schedule in accordance with DTSC's written comments. Respondent shall submit to DTSC any revised documents by the due date specified by DTSC. Revised submittals are subject to DTSC's approval or disapproval.

8.2. Upon receipt of DTSC's written approval, Respondent shall commence work and implement any approved workplan in accordance with the schedule and provisions contained therein.

8.3. Any DTSC-approved workplan, report, specification, or schedule required under this Consent Agreement shall be deemed incorporated into this Consent Agreement.

8.4. Verbal advice, suggestions, or comments given by DTSC representatives will not constitute an official approval or decision.

### SUBMITTALS

9.1. Beginning with the first full month following the effective date of this Consent Agreement, Respondent shall provide DTSC with quarterly progress reports of corrective action activities conducted pursuant to this Consent Agreement. Progress reports are due on the tenth day of the first month following the close of each reporting period. The progress reports shall conform to the Scope of Work for Progress Reports contained in Attachment 1. DTSC may adjust the frequency of progress reporting to be consistent with site-specific activities.

9.2. Any report or other document submitted by Respondent pursuant to this Consent Agreement shall be signed and certified by the project coordinator, a responsible corporate officer, or a duly authorized representative.

9.3. The certification required by paragraph 9.2 above, shall be in the following form:

I certify that the information contained in or accompanying this submittal is true, accurate, and complete. As to those portions of this submittal for which I cannot personally verify the accuracy, I certify that this submittal and all attachments were prepared at my direction in accordance with procedures designed to assure that qualified personnel properly gathered and evaluated the information submitted.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

9.4. Respondent shall provide three copies of all documents, including but not limited to, workplans, reports, and correspondence. Submittals specifically exempted from this copy requirement are all progress reports and correspondence of less than 15 pages, of which one copy is required.

9.5. Unless otherwise specified, all reports, correspondence, approvals, disapprovals, notices, or other submissions relating to this Consent Agreement shall be in writing and shall be sent to the current Project Coordinators.

### PROPOSED CONTRACTOR/CONSULTANT

10. All work performed pursuant to this Consent Agreement shall be under the direction and supervision of a professional engineer or registered geologist, registered in California, with expertise in hazardous waste site cleanup. Respondent's contractor or consultant shall have the technical expertise sufficient to fulfill his or her responsibilities. Within 14 days of the effective date of this Consent Agreement, Respondent shall notify DTSC Project Coordinator in writing of the name, title, and qualifications of the professional engineer or registered geologist and of any contractors or consultants and their personnel to be used in carrying out the terms of this Consent Agreement.

### QUALITY ASSURANCE

11.1. All sampling and analyses performed by Respondent under this Consent Agreement shall follow applicable DTSC and USEPA guidance for sampling and analysis. Workplans shall contain quality assurance/quality control and chain of custody procedures for all sampling, monitoring, and analytical activities. Any deviations from the approved workplans must be approved by DTSC prior to implementation, must be documented, including reasons for the deviations, and must be reported in the applicable report.

11.2. The names, addresses, and telephone numbers of the California State certified analytical laboratories Respondent proposes to use must be specified in the applicable workplans.

### SAMPLING AND DATA/DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY

12.1. Respondent shall submit to DTSC upon request the results of all sampling and/or tests or other data generated by its employees, agents, consultants, or contractors pursuant to this Consent Agreement.

12.2. Respondent shall notify DTSC in writing at least seven days prior to beginning each separate phase of field work approved under any workplan required by this Consent Agreement. If Respondent believes it must commence emergency field activities without delay, Respondent may seek emergency telephone authorization from DTSC Project Coordinator or, if the Project Coordinator is unavailable, his/her Branch Chief, to commence such activities immediately.

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12.3. At the request of DTSC, Respondent shall provide or allow DTSC or its authorized representative to take split or duplicate samples of all samples collected by Respondent pursuant to this Consent Agreement. Similarly, at the request of Respondent, DTSC shall allow Respondent or its authorized representative to take split or duplicate samples of all samples collected by DTSC under this Consent Agreement.

### ACCESS

13. Subject to the Facility's security and safety procedures, Respondent agrees to provide DTSC and its representatives access at all reasonable times to the Facility and any off-site property to which access is required for implementation of this Consent Agreement and shall permit such persons to inspect and copy all records, files, photographs, documents, including all sampling and monitoring data, that pertain to work undertaken pursuant to this Consent Agreement and that are within the possession or under the control of Respondent or its contractors or consultants.

### RECORD PRESERVATION

14.1. Respondent shall retain, during the pendency of this Consent Agreement and for a minimum of six years after its termination, all data, records, and documents that relate in any way to the performance of this Consent Agreement or to hazardous waste management and/or disposal at the Facility. Respondent shall notify DTSC in writing 90 days prior to the destruction of any such records, and shall provide DTSC with the opportunity to take possession of any such records. Such written notification shall reference the effective date, caption, and docket number of this Consent Agreement and shall be addressed to:

Stephen W. Lavinger, Branch Chief  
Tiered Permitting Corrective Action Branch  
Department of Toxic Substances Control  
5796 Corporate Avenue  
Cypress, California 90630

14.2. If Respondent retains or employs any agent, consultant, or contractor for the purpose of carrying out the terms of this Consent Agreement, Respondent will require any such agents, consultants, or contractors to provide Respondent a copy of all documents produced pursuant to this Consent Agreement.

14.3. All documents pertaining to this Consent Agreement shall be stored in a central location at the Facility, or at a location otherwise agreed to by the parties, to afford easy access by DTSC and its representatives.

### DISPUTE RESOLUTION

15.1. The parties agree to use their best efforts to resolve all disputes informally. The parties agree that the procedures contained in this section are the sole

administrative procedures for resolving disputes arising under this Consent Agreement. If Respondent fails to follow the procedures contained in this section, it shall have waived its right to further consideration of the disputed issue.

15.2. If Respondent disagrees with any written decision by DTSC pursuant to this Consent Agreement, Respondent's Project Coordinator shall orally notify DTSC's Project Coordinator of the dispute. The Project Coordinators shall attempt to resolve the dispute informally.

15.3. If the Project Coordinators cannot resolve the dispute informally, Respondent may pursue the matter formally by placing its objection in writing. Respondent's written objection must be forwarded to Chief, Tiered Permitting Corrective Action Branch, Department of Toxic Substances Control, with a copy to DTSC's Project Coordinator. The written objection must be mailed to the Branch Chief within 14 days of Respondent's receipt of DTSC's written decision. Respondent's written objection must set forth the specific points of the dispute and the basis for Respondent's position.

15.4. DTSC and Respondent shall have 14 days from DTSC's receipt of Respondent's written objection to resolve the dispute through formal discussions. This period may be extended by DTSC for good cause. During such period, Respondent may meet or confer with DTSC to discuss the dispute.

15.5. After the formal discussion period, DTSC will provide Respondent with its written decision on the dispute. DTSC's written decision will reflect any agreements reached during the formal discussion period and be signed by the Branch Chief or his/her designee.

15.6. During the pendency of all dispute resolution procedures set forth above, the time periods for completion of work required under this Consent Agreement that are affected by such dispute shall be extended for a period of time not to exceed the actual time taken to resolve the dispute. The existence of a dispute shall not excuse, toll, or suspend any other compliance obligation or deadline required pursuant to this Consent Agreement.

#### RESERVATION OF RIGHTS

16.1. DTSC reserves all of its statutory and regulatory powers, authorities, rights, and remedies, which may pertain to Respondent's failure to comply with any of the requirements of this Consent Agreement. Respondent reserves all of its statutory and regulatory rights, defenses and remedies, as they may arise under this Consent Agreement. This Consent Agreement shall not be construed as a covenant not to sue, release, waiver, or limitation on any powers, authorities, rights, or remedies, civil or criminal, that DTSC or Respondent may have under any laws, regulations or common law.

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16.2. DTSC reserves the right to disapprove of work performed by Respondent pursuant to this Consent Agreement and to request that Respondent perform additional tasks.

16.3. DTSC reserves the right to perform any portion of the work consented to herein or any additional site characterization, feasibility study, and/or remedial actions it deems necessary to protect human health and/or the environment. DTSC may exercise its authority under any applicable state or federal law or regulation to undertake response actions at any time. DTSC reserves its right to seek reimbursement from Respondent for costs incurred by the State of California with respect to such actions. DTSC will notify Respondent in writing as soon as practicable regarding the decision to perform any work described in this section.

16.4. If DTSC determines that activities in compliance or noncompliance with this Consent Agreement have caused or may cause a release of hazardous waste and/or hazardous waste constituents, or a threat to human health and/or the environment, or that Respondent is not capable of undertaking any of the work required, DTSC may order Respondent to stop further implementation of this Consent Agreement for such period of time as DTSC determines may be needed to abate any such release or threat and/or to undertake any action which DTSC determines is necessary to abate such release or threat. The deadlines for any actions required of Respondent under this Consent Agreement affected by the order to stop work shall be extended to take into account DTSC's actions.

16.5. This Consent Agreement is not intended to be nor shall it be construed to be a permit. This Consent Agreement is not a substitute for, and does not preclude DTSC from requiring, any hazardous waste facility permit, post closure permit, closure plan or post closure plan. The parties acknowledge and agree that DTSC's approval of any workplan, plan, and/or specification does not constitute a warranty or representation that the workplans, plans, and/or specifications will achieve the required cleanup or performance standards. Compliance by Respondent with the terms of this Consent Agreement shall not relieve Respondent of its obligations to comply with the Health and Safety Code or any other applicable local, state, or federal law or regulation.

#### OTHER CLAIMS

17. Except as provided in this Consent Agreement, nothing in this Consent Agreement shall constitute or be construed as a release by DTSC or Respondent from any claim, cause of action, or demand in law or equity against any person, firm, partnership, or corporation for any liability it may have arising out of or relating in any way to the generation, storage, treatment, handling, transportation, release, or disposal of any hazardous constituents, hazardous substances, hazardous wastes, pollutants, or contaminants found at, taken to, or taken or migrating from the Facility.

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## COMPLIANCE WITH WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS

18. Respondent shall comply with all applicable waste discharge requirements issued by the State Water Resources Control Board or a California regional water quality control board.

## OTHER APPLICABLE LAWS

19. All actions required by this Consent Agreement shall be conducted in accordance with the requirements of all local, state, and federal laws and regulations. Respondent shall obtain or cause its representatives to obtain all permits and approvals necessary under such laws and regulations.

## REIMBURSEMENT OF DTSC'S COSTS

20.1. Respondent shall pay DTSC's costs incurred in the implementation of this Consent Agreement

20.2. An estimate of DTSC's costs is attached as Exhibit A showing the amount of \$25,796.00. It is understood by the parties that this amount is only a cost estimate for the activities shown on Exhibit A and it may differ from the actual costs incurred by DTSC in overseeing these activities or in implementing this Consent Agreement. DTSC will provide additional cost estimates to Respondent as the work progresses under the Consent Agreement.

20.3. Respondent shall make an advance payment to DTSC in the amount of \$6,449.00 within 30 days of the effective date of this Consent Agreement. If the advance payment exceeds DTSC's costs, DTSC will refund the balance within 120 days after the execution of the Acknowledgment of Satisfaction pursuant to Section 22 of this Consent Agreement.

20.4. DTSC will provide Respondent with a billing statement at least quarterly, which will include the name(s) of the employee(s), identification of the activities, the amount of time spent on each activity, and the hourly rate charged. If Respondent does not pay an invoice within 60 days of the date of the billing statement, the amount is subject to interest as provided by Health and Safety Code section 25360.1.

20.5. DTSC will retain all costs records associated with the work performed under this Consent Agreement as required by state law. DTSC will make all documents that support the DTSC's cost determination available for inspection upon request, as provided by the Public Records Act.

20.6. Any dispute concerning DTSC's costs incurred pursuant to this Consent Agreement is subject to the Dispute Resolution provision of this Consent Agreement and the dispute resolution procedures as established pursuant to Health and

Safety Code section 25269.2. DTSC reserves its right to recover unpaid costs under applicable state and federal laws.

20.7. All payments shall be made within 30 days of the date of the billing statement by check payable to the Department of Toxic Substances Control and shall be sent to:

Accounting Unit  
Department of Toxic Substances Control  
1001 "I" Street/P. O. Box 806  
Sacramento, California 95812-0806

All checks shall reference the name of the Facility, the Respondent's name and address, and the docket number of this Consent Agreement. Copies of all checks and letters transmitting such checks shall be sent simultaneously to DTSC's Project Coordinator.

#### MODIFICATION

21.1. This Consent Agreement may be modified by mutual agreement of the parties. Any agreed modification shall be in writing, shall be signed by both parties, shall have as its effective date the date on which it is signed by all the parties, and shall be deemed incorporated into this Consent Agreement.

21.2. Any requests for revision of an approved workplan requirement must be in writing. Such requests must be timely and provide justification for any proposed workplan revision. DTSC has no obligation to approve such requests, but if it does so, such approval will be in writing and signed by the Chief, Tiered Permitting Corrective Action Branch, Department of Toxic Substances Control, or his or her designee. Any approved workplan revision shall be incorporated by reference into this Consent Agreement.

#### TERMINATION AND SATISFACTION

22. The provisions of this Consent Agreement shall be deemed satisfied upon the execution by both parties of an Acknowledgment of Satisfaction (Acknowledgment). DTSC will prepare the Acknowledgment for Respondent's signature. The Acknowledgment will specify that Respondent has demonstrated to the satisfaction of DTSC that the terms of this Consent Agreement including payment of DTSC's costs have been satisfactorily completed. The Acknowledgment will affirm Respondent's continuing obligation to preserve all records after the rest of the Consent Agreement is satisfactorily completed.

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EFFECTIVE DATE

23. The effective date of this Consent Agreement shall be the date on which this Consent Agreement is signed by all the parties. Except as otherwise specified, "days" means calendar days.

SIGNATORIES

24. Each undersigned representative certifies that he or she is fully authorized to enter into this Consent Agreement.

Date: October 1, 2006

Original signed by Mayan M. Patel  
Mayan Patel, Property Owner

Date: October 11, 2006

Original signed by Stephen W. Lavinger  
Stephen W. Lavinger, Branch Chief  
Tiered Permitting Corrective Action Branch  
Department of Toxic Substances Control

This Corrective Action Consent Agreement posted on DTSC's website does not include all attachments from the original document. If you need copies of a specific document, please contact the DTSC project manager listed in the document.