2

8

10

11

13

14

12

15

16 17

18

19

20

21

22 23

24

26

25 27 28

- 2. Based on the Parties' consent and said general appearances, this Court has subject matter jurisdiction over the matters alleged in this action and personal jurisdiction over the Parties to this Final Judgment.
- 3. The Court finds this Final Judgment to be a fair and reasonable resolution of the matters alleged in the Complaint and is in the best interest of the public.
 - 4. The right to appeal is hereby waived.

1. **DEFINITIONS**

Except where otherwise expressly defined in this Final Judgment, all terms shall be interpreted consistent with the Hazardous Waste Control Law (Chapter 6.5 of the Health and Safety Code); Health and Safety Code Chapter 6.5 (Hazardous Materials Release Response Plans and Inventory); the Regulation for the Management of High-Global Warming Potential Refrigerants for Stationary Sources (RMP Regulation) (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 17, § 95380, et seq.); the Unfair Competition Law (Bus. & Prof. Code, § 17200 et seq.); the rules and regulations promulgated under each of these sections; and all other relevant federal, state, and local environmental laws.

1.1 **Special Definitions**

The following special definition/s additionally apply to this Final Judgment:

- 1.1.a. "Yolo Facility" means Defendant's current place of business at 225 Industrial Way, Suite C, in Woodland, California, within Yolo County;
- 1.1.b. "Included Facilities" means any additional facility/ies conducting business activities related to metal recycling over which Defendant assumes ownership, management, and/or authority and control subsequent to the Effective Date of the Final Judgment; and
- 1.1.c. The "Yolo Facility" and "Included Facilities" shall hereafter be jointly referred to as Defendant's "California Facilities."

2. **APPLICABILITY**

Subject to the Court's equitable powers, this Final Judgment is applicable to Defendant and all persons, partnerships, corporations, and other agents or entities acting under, by, through, on behalf of, or in concert with Defendant with actual or constructive knowledge of this Final Judgment,

including any of Defendant's respective successors-in-interest or assignees.

3. <u>INJUNCTIVE RELIEF</u>

3.1. General Injunctive Provisions

Pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 17203, Defendant is permanently enjoined from violating all applicable provisions of the Hazardous Waste Control Law; the Hazardous Materials Handling Law; the regulations promulgated under those chapters; and the RMP Regulation at any of its California Facilities. Notwithstanding any other provision in this Final Judgment, nothing in this Final Judgment shall relieve Defendant from prospectively complying with any and all applicable laws and regulations at its California Facilities.

3.2. Specific Injunctive Provisions

Pursuant to Health and Safety Code sections 25181, 25270.12, 25515.6, 41513, and Business and Professions Code section 17203, Defendant is enjoined, restrained, and prohibited from the following acts and/or omissions at its California Facilities:

- 3.2.a. Accepting for recycling or disposal any major appliance, or otherwise acting in the capacity of a Certified Appliance Recycler, without being a Certified Appliance Recycler, in violation of Health and Safety Code section 25211.4;
- 3.2.b. Removing from a major appliance any materials that require special handling (hereafter "MRSH"), in violation of Health and Safety Code section 25211.1;
- 3.2.c. Disposing or causing the disposal of hazardous waste at any point not authorized by law, in violation of Health and Safety Code sections 25189 and 25189.2;
- 3.2.d. Transporting or causing the transportation of hazardous waste to a point not authorized by law, in violation of Health and Safety Code section 25189.5(c);
- 3.2.e. Failing to manifest hazardous waste and to maintain manifests for three years, in violation of California Code of Regulations, title 22, section 66262.40;
- 3.2.f. Failing to properly close or label hazardous waste containers, in violation of California Code of Regulations, title 22, section 66262.16(b)(4);
- 3.2.g. Accumulating hazardous waste for more than one hundred eighty (180) days, and failing to track accumulation dates, in violation of California Code of Regulations, title 22,

3.2.h. Failing to establish, implement, or submit to the responsible Certified Unified Program Agency (hereafter "CUPA"), a hazardous materials business plan, in violation of Health and Safety Code sections 25505, 25507, and 25508, and California Code of Regulations, title 19, section 5030.2;

- 3.2.i. Failing to implement, maintain, and comply with an employee training program regarding hazardous materials that are within Defendant's California Facilities, including new employee training and annual refresher training for all employees that handle, manage or interact with hazardous materials at Defendant's California Facilities, as required by Health and Safety Code section 25505(a)(4) and California Code of Regulations, title 19, section 5030.10;
- 3.2.j. Failing to submit hazardous materials inventory forms to the relevant CUPA, as required under Health and Safety Code section 25504 and California Code of Regulations, title 19, section 5030.3;
- 3.2.k. Failing to report all hazardous materials inventory, as required by Health and Safety Code sections 25505 and 25506;
- 3.2.1. Accepting for recycling or disposal any appliance that could reasonably be expected to release refrigerant into the environment, in violation of California Code of Regulations, title 17, section 95380 et seq.; and
- 3.2.m. Intentionally disrupting, or directing any other person to disrupt, the refrigerant circuit of any appliance that could reasonably be expected to release refrigerant into the environment, in violation of California Code of Regulations, title 17, section 95390(a)(1).

3.3. Enhanced Environmental Compliance Requirements at the Yolo Facility

Pursuant to the provisions of Health and Safety Code sections 41513, 25181, and 25515 et seq., and Business and Professions Code section 17203, Defendant shall implement the following enhanced environmental compliance requirements at its Yolo Facility:

3.3.a. "Major Appliance" Notice to All Employees. Defendant shall provide written notice to all Yolo Facility employees that they are prohibited from accepting any major appliance (as defined in Pub. Res. Code, § 42166) for recycling, including a list of prohibited appliances.

- 3.3.a.1. Defendant shall maintain three (3) years' worth of documentation at the Yolo Facility identifying which employee/s were notified and the date on which each employee received written notification. Records shall be maintained in a manner that allows retrieval of the records from the Yolo Facility.
- 3.3.a.2. Defendant shall provide this written notification to each new employee no later than his/her first day of work as part of the onboarding process. All existing employees shall be re-notified in writing no later than one hundred eighty (180) calendar days from the Effective Date of this Final Judgment.
- 3.3.a.3. Defendant shall review records semi-annually to ensure this requirement is met.
- 3.3.a.4. Defendant shall promptly make all training records maintained for the Yolo Facility available upon request by any CUPA Inspector, peace officer, and/or agent/s of the Department of Justice, California Environmental Protection Agency (including the California Air Resources Board), or District Attorney.
- 3.3.b. <u>Training.</u> Defendant shall ensure that any employee who handles, manages, or otherwise directly interacts with hazardous materials or hazardous wastes at their Yolo Facility receives adequate training in an amount no less than four (4) hours on proper waste handling, waste disposal, spill response, spill notification, and emergency procedures within California, relevant to their responsibilities during normal facility operations and during emergencies.
 - 3.3.b.1. For any training conducted in accordance with 3.3.b., Defendant shall maintain documentation at the Yolo Facility identifying which employees received training and the dates the employee received the training. Defendant shall maintain training documentation for a period of three (3) years from the date the training was conducted in a manner that allows retrieval of the records from the Yolo Facility.

4 5

6

7

8

9

10 11

12

13 14

15

16

17

18 19

20 21

23

22

24 25

26

27 28 within Yolo County, Defendant shall provide written notice of the move, change, and/or new facility by e-mail to the People's representative identified in section 17.

5. CIVIL PENALTIES, SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS, & COSTS

5.1. **Civil Penalties**

Pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 17206, Defendant shall pay ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTEEN THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$115,000.00) in civil penalties, in accordance with **Exhibit A**, attached.

5.2. **Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP)**

Defendant shall pay TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$10,000.00) to the Yolo County Central Landfill for use in its hazardous waste load check enforcement program, in accordance with Exhibit **B**, attached.

5.3. **Partial Cost Recovery**

Defendant shall pay FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$50,000.00) for partial reimbursement of costs of investigation and other costs of enforcement, in accordance with Exhibit C, attached.

5.4. Form and Manner of Payment

No later than thirty (30) days after the Effective Date of this Final Judgment, Defendant shall deliver its initial payment, and shall thereafter make the additional payments as set forth in **Exhibits** A through C to complete the payment obligations under Sections 5.1 through 5.3. These payments shall be made to the Yolo County District Attorney's Office, Attn.: Clara Morain Nabity, Deputy District Attorney, 301 Second Street, Woodland, CA 95695, for distribution pursuant to the terms of this Final Judgment. All payments must be made in the form of cashier's checks, money orders, or law firm checks issued by Defendant's counsel of record.

6. MATTERS RESOLVED BY THIS FINAL JUDGMENT

6.1 This Judgment is a final and binding resolution, settlement, and release of all civil claims (including, without limitation, attorneys fees and costs of investigation incurred by the People), violations, and causes of action stemming from, related to, or arising from the violations of law and operative facts alleged by the People in the Complaint against Defendant, including a release of Defendant's owners, officers, directors, agents, and employees stemming from, related to, or

3

8 9

10

11

12

13 14 15

17 18

16

19 20 21

24

22

23

arising out of the same violations of law or facts alleged in the Complaint, hereby known as "Covered Matters."

- Any claim, violation, or cause of action that is not a Covered Matter is a "Reserved 6.2 Claim." Reserved Claims include, without limitation, any unknown violation, any violation that occurs after the filing of this Final Judgment, any violation outside the scope of this Final Judgment, and any future claim, violation, or cause of action against Defendant and their owners, officers, directors, agents, or employees. Reserved Claims also include any claims or causes of action against Defendant for performance of cleanup, corrective action, or response action for any actual past or future releases, spills, or disposals of hazardous waste or hazardous substances that were caused or contributed to by Defendant at the Yolo Facility.
- 6.3 In any subsequent action that may be brought against Defendant by the People based on any Reserved Claim, Defendant agree they will not assert that failing to pursue any Reserved Claim as part of this action constitutes claim-splitting. However, Defendant is not precluded from asserting lack of personal jurisdiction or the statute of limitations or any other legal or equitable defenses that may be applicable to any Reserved Claim.
- 6.4 Any claim by Defendant, civil or administrative, against the People or against any agency of the State of California, or any county or city in the State of California, or any local agency, or against any of their officers, employees, representatives, agents, or attorneys, arising out of or related to any Covered Matter are hereby merged into and extinguished by this Final Judgment; provided, however, that if any of the above mentioned agencies initiate claims against Defendant relating to a Covered Matter, Defendant retains any and all rights and defenses against said agency, including but not limited to the defense of res judicata.

7. **TERMINATION**

Defendant may move by noticed motion, pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure section 533 and Civil Code section 3424, to terminate the injunctive provisions in Paragraphs 3.3 and 4 at any time after this Final Judgment has been in effect for five (5) years, provided that Defendant has paid and expended all amounts required under this Final Judgment and have remained in compliance with the Final Judgment during its existence.

Absent the filing of such a motion, after the Final Judgment has been in effect for seven (7) years, and Defendant has paid and expended all amounts required under the Final Judgment in full, the injunctive provisions in sections 3.3 and 4 will terminate automatically.

The termination of the injunctive provisions of this Final Judgment has no effect on Defendant's obligation thereafter to comply with all statutes, regulations, ordinances, or laws applicable to them in California.

8. <u>MODIFICATION</u>

The injunctive provisions of this Final Judgment may be modified only on noticed motion by one of the Parties with approval of the Court, or upon stipulation by the Parties and the approval of the Court.

9. <u>EFFECT OF FINAL JUDGMENT</u>

Except as expressly provided in this Final Judgment, nothing in this Final Judgment is intended, nor shall it be construed, to preclude the People, or any state, county, city, or local regulatory or enforcement agency, department, or board from exercising its authority under any law, statute, or regulation. The People may move this Court for additional relief for any violation of any provision of this Final Judgment including, but not limited to, failing to make full payment of civil penalties, and failing to provide timely notice or written reports to the People, as set forth within this Final Judgment.

10. NO WAIVER OF RIGHT TO ENFORCE

The failure of the People to enforce any provision of this Final Judgment shall neither be deemed a waiver of such provision nor in any way affect the validity of this Final Judgment. The failure of the People to enforce any such provision shall not preclude them from later enforcing the same or any other provision of this Final Judgment. No oral advice, guidance, suggestions, or comments by employees or officials of any party regarding matters covered in this Judgment shall be construed to relieve any party of its obligations required by this Judgment. Except as expressly provided in this Final Judgment, Defendant retains all defenses allowed by law to any such later enforcement action.

11. ABILITY TO INSPECT AND COPY RECORDS AND DOCUMENTS

Upon reasonable written notice provided by the People, Defendant shall permit any duly authorized representative of the People to inspect and copy records and documents relevant to determine compliance with the terms of this Final Judgment so long as any such records and documents are not protected from disclosure pursuant to the attorney-client privilege, the attorney work product doctrine, or any other privilege or legal doctrine under which Defendant's records and documents may be kept confidential. If Defendant objects to providing any relevant record or document on the basis of any claim of privilege, Defendant shall provide the People with a privilege log containing sufficient factual information for the People to evaluate the merits of each claim, in accordance with Code of Civil Procedure section 2031.240(c)(1).

12. <u>INCORPORATION OF EXHIBITS</u>

Exhibits A through C are incorporated herein by reference.

13. FUTURE REGULATORY CHANGES

Nothing in this Final Judgment shall excuse Defendant from meeting any more-stringent requirement that may be imposed by applicable existing law or by any change in the applicable law. To the extent any future statutory or regulatory change makes Defendant's obligations less stringent than those provided for in this Final Judgment, Defendant's compliance with the changed law shall be deemed compliance with this Final Judgment; however, any change in law or regulation shall not reduce or diminish Defendant's obligation to comply with sections 3.1 through 3.2, above.

14. <u>INTERPRETATION</u>

This Final Judgment was mutually agreed to by all Parties. Accordingly, any and all rules of construction holding that ambiguity is construed against the drafting party shall not apply to the interpretation of this Final Judgment.

15. INTEGRATION

This Judgment constitutes the entire agreement between the parties as to the matters addressed herein and shall not be amended or supplemented except upon order of this Court.

27 II

28 11//

///

16. **CONTINUING JURISDICTION**

The Parties submit to the exclusive jurisdiction of this Court for the following purposes of enforcing the terms of this Final Judgment and to address any other matters arising out of or regarding this Final Judgment.

17. NOTICE

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

All submissions and notices required by this Judgment shall be sent to:

For the People:

Clara Morain Nabity, Deputy District Attorney
Office of the District Attorney
County of Yolo
301 Second Street
Woodland, CA 95695
clara.nabity@yolocounty.gov

For Defendant:

Eric Jacobsen Green Zone Recycling, Inc 225 Industrial Way, Suite C Woodland, CA 95776 office@greenzonerecycling.com

With a Copy to its Counsel:

Robert P. Soran Downey Brand, LLP 621 Capitol Mall | 18th Floor Sacramento, CA 95814 rsoran@downeybrand.com

Any party may change the individual or the address for purpose of notices to that party by a notice specifying a new individual or address, but no such change is effective until the notice is actually received by the party sought to be charged with its contents. All notices and other communications required or permitted under this Judgment that are addressed as provided in this Paragraph are effective upon delivery if delivered personally or by overnight mail, or are effective five (5) days following deposit in the United States mail, postage paid, if delivered by mail.

27 ///

PAYMENT OF DEFENDANT'S ATTORNEYS' FEES AND INVESTIGATION 18. **EXPENSES** Pursuant to the Stipulation, Defendant's right to request future payment of any of their attorneys' fees, costs, or any other costs of investigation incurred to date from the People is hereby waived. 19. **EFFECTIVE DATE OF FINAL JUDGMENT** This Final Judgment shall become effective on the date that it is signed by the Court. Defendant authorizes their counsel of record to accept service of Notice of Entry of Judgment and the accompanying papers. The People will provide the Notice of Entry of Judgment and accompanying papers to Defendant by e-mail to counsel for Defendant, upon receipt of the signed Final Judgment. IT IS SO ORDERED. Dated: 11/8/2024 By: JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT David Rosenberg

1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	
9	
10	
11	
12	Exhibit A
13	
14	
15	
16	
17	
18	
19	
20	
21	
22	
23	
24	
25	
26	
27	
28	

PEOPLE v. GREEN ZONE RECYCLING, INC., et al.

EXHIBIT A – CIVIL PENALTIES

PAYEE	PURPOSE	AMOUNT	DATE DUE
Yolo County District Attorney's Office	Civil Penalties	\$40,000.00	Twelve (12)
	[Bus. & Prof.		months from
	Code, § 17203]		Effective
			Date
Yolo County District Attorney's Office	Civil Penalties	\$20,000.00	Six (6)
	[Health & Saf.		months from
	Code, § 25515.5]		Effective
			Date
Yolo County Department of	Civil Penalties	\$20,000.00	Six (6)
Environmental Health	[Health & Saf.		months from
	Code, § 25515.5]		Effective
			Date
California Air Resources Board	Civil Penalties	\$35,000.00	Three (3)
	[Health & Saf.		months from
	Code, § 42402.2]		Effective
	_		Date
TOTAL:		\$115,000.00	

1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	
9	
10	
11	Exhibit B
12	EXIIIDIL D
13	
14	
15	
16	
17	
18	
19	
20	
21	
22	
23	
24	
25	
26	
27	
28	

PEOPLE v. GREEN ZONE RECYCLING, INC., et al. EXHIBIT B – SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECT

PAYEE	PURPOSE	AMOUNT	DATE DUE
Yolo County Central Landfill	SEP	\$10,000.00	Within thirty
(Load Check Program)			(30) days of
			Effective
			Date
TOTAL:		\$10,000.00	

1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	
9	
10	
11	
12	Exhibit C
13	
14	
15	
16	
17	
18	
19	
20	
21	
22	
23	
24	
25	
26	
27	
28	

PEOPLE v. GREEN ZONE RECYCLING, INC., et al.

EXHIBIT C – PARTIAL COST RECOVERY

PAYEE	PURPOSE	AMOUNT	DATE DUE
Yolo County District Attorney's Office	Partial Cost	\$25,000.00	Within thirty
	Recovery		(30) days of
	-		Effective
			Date
California Air Resources Board	Partial Cost	\$9,500.00	Within thirty
	Recovery		(30) days of
			Effective
			Date
Yolo County Department of	Partial Cost	\$3,000.00	Within thirty
Environmental Health	Recovery		(30) days of
	-		Effective
			Date
California Department of Toxic	Partial Cost	\$12,500.00	Within thirty
Substances Control	Recovery		(30) days of
			Effective
			Date
TOTAL:		\$50,000.00	