STATE OF LOUISIANA

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

IN THE MATTER OF:

WATER & WASTEWATER UTILITIES, INC.

AI # 146817

PROCEEDINGS UNDER THE LOUISIANA
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT
LA. R.S. 30:2001, ET SEQ.

SETTLEMENT

The following Settlement is hereby agreed to between Water & Wastewater Utilities, Inc. ("Respondent") and the Department of Environmental Quality ("DEQ" or "the Department"), under authority granted by the Louisiana Environmental Quality Act, La. R.S. 30:2001, et seq ("the Act").

I

Respondent is a corporation that owns and/or operates a sanitary treatment plant located in Carencro, Lafayette Parish, Louisiana ("the Facility").

II

On April 2, 2020, the Department issued to Respondent a Consolidated Compliance Order & Notice of Potential Penalty, Enforcement No. WE-CN-19-01126 (Exhibit 1).

III

Respondent denies it committed any violations or that it is liable for any fines, forfeitures and/or penalties.

IV

Nonetheless, Respondent, without making any admission of liability under state or federal
statute or regulation, agrees to pay, and the Department agrees to accept, a payment in the amount of FIVE THOUSAND AND NO/100 DOLLARS ($5,000.00), of which Seven Hundred Thirty-Four and 13/100 Dollars ($734.13) represents the Department’s enforcement costs, in settlement of the claims set forth in this agreement. The total amount of money expended by Respondent on cash payments to the Department as described above, shall be considered a civil penalty for tax purposes, as required by La. R.S. 30:2050.7(E)(1).

V

Respondent further agrees that the Department may consider the inspection report(s), permit record(s), the Consolidated Compliance Order & Notice of Potential Penalty and this Settlement for the purpose of determining compliance history in connection with any future enforcement or permitting action by the Department against Respondent, and in any such action Respondent shall be estopped from objecting to the above-referenced documents being considered as proving the violations alleged herein for the sole purpose of determining Respondent’s compliance history.

VI

This agreement shall be considered a final order of the Secretary for all purposes, including, but not limited to, enforcement under La. R.S. 30:2025(G)(2), and Respondent hereby waives any right to administrative or judicial review of the terms of this agreement, except such review as may be required for interpretation of this agreement in any action by the Department to enforce this agreement.

VII

This settlement is being made in the interest of settling the state’s claims and avoiding for both parties the expense and effort involved in litigation or an adjudicatory hearing. In agreeing to the compromise and settlement, the Department considered the factors for issuing civil penalties set

VIII

As required by law, the Department has submitted this Settlement Agreement to the Louisiana Attorney General for approval or rejection. The Attorney General’s concurrence is appended to this Settlement Agreement.

IX

The Respondent has caused a public notice advertisement to be placed in the official journal of the parish governing authority in Lafayette Parish, Louisiana. The advertisement, in form and wording approved by the Department, announced the availability of this settlement for public view and comment and the opportunity for a public hearing. Respondent has submitted an original proof-of-publication affidavit and an original public notice to the Department and, as of the date this Settlement is executed on behalf of the Department, more than forty-five (45) days have elapsed since publication of the notice.

X

Payment is to be made within ten (10) days from notice of the Secretary's signature. If payment is not received within that time, this Agreement is voidable at the option of the Department. Payments are to be made by check, payable to the Department of Environmental Quality, and mailed or delivered to the attention of Accountant Administrator, Financial Services Division, Department of Environmental Quality, Post Office Box 4303, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, 70821-4303. Each payment shall be accompanied by a completed Settlement Payment Form (Exhibit A).

XI

In consideration of the above, any claims for penalties are hereby compromised and settled in accordance with the terms of this Settlement.
XII

Each undersigned representative of the parties certifies that he or she is fully authorized to execute this Settlement Agreement on behalf of his or her respective party, and to legally bind such party to its terms and conditions.
WATER & WASTEWATER UTILITIES, INC.

BY: Flora Howell
(Signature)

Flora Howell
(Printed)

TITLE: Owner

THUS DONE AND SIGNED in duplicate original before me this 14th day of
January 20, 2021, at _________________________.

Kenneth T. Toups
(Stamped or printed)

NOTARY PUBLIC (ID #74954)

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
Chuck Carr Brown, Ph.D., Secretary

BY: Cervina J. Case
(Stamped or printed)
Assistant Secretary
Office of Environmental Compliance

THUS DONE AND SIGNED in duplicate original before me this 15th day of
April, 2021, at Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

AMBER G. LITCHFIELD
Notary Public
State of Louisiana
Notary ID # 92503
East Baton Rouge Parish

(stamped or printed)

Approved: Lourdes Iturralde, Assistant Secretary

SA-WE-20-0084
CONSORTIUM COMPLIANCE ORDER &
NOTICE OF POTENTIAL PENALTY

This CONSOLIDATED COMPLIANCE ORDER & NOTICE OF POTENTIAL PENALTY is issued by the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (the Department), under the authority granted by the Louisiana Environmental Quality Act (the Act), La. R.S. 30:2001, et seq., and particularly by La. R.S. 30:2025(C), 30:2050.2 and 30:2050.3(B).

FINDINGS OF FACT

An authorized representative of the Department inspected the abovementioned facility and conducted a file review of the facility to determine the degree of compliance with regulations promulgated in the Louisiana Administrative Code, Title 33. The State regulatory citations for the violation(s) identified during the inspection and/or file review are indicated below.

Date of Violation Description of Violation

II. Inspection(s) & File Review 9/23/2019
2/17/2020
The Respondent failed to comply with LPDES permit LA0124222. Specifically, a review of Discharge Monitoring Reports (DMRs) between October 2014 and December 2015 revealed that the Respondent reported exceedances of permit effluent limitations for Fecal coliform, TSS, CBOD, and Ammonia-Nitrogen. See Attachment A. (LPDES permit LA0124222 (Effluent Limitations and Monitoring Requirements, pg. 1 of 3, and Standard Conditions, Section A2)., La. R.S. 30:2076(A)(3), and LAC 33:IX.501.A and D)

III. Inspection(s) 9/23/2019
2/12/2020
The Respondent failed to properly operate and maintain its sanitary treatment plant. Specifically, during the initial inspection the following were observed: Only one blower motor was operational, the sludge return line in cell two was not operational causing a back-up of sludge inside the clarifier which had a thick sludge blanket, and solids were noted in the clarifier contact chamber (CCC). A follow-up inspection was conducted after receiving a response from the facility stating that immediate action was taken to correct all areas of concern noted in the initial inspection. The response stated that the two blowers were operational, the sludge lines were replaced with two lines now working, and the CCC was pumped out. However, during the follow-up inspection the following was still observed: Only one blower motor was operational, and only two of the four sludge return lines (one in each cell) were operational. (LPDES permit LA0124222 (Standard Conditions, Sections A.2 and B.3.a.), La. R.S. 30:2076(A)(3), and LAC 33:IX.2701.E)

IV. Inspection(s) 9/23/2019
2/12/2020
The Respondent caused and/or allowed the discharge of pollutants from a source or location not authorized by the permit. Specifically, during the initial inspection, sludge was observed in the receiving ditch. A follow-up inspection was conducted after receiving a response from the facility stating that immediate action was taken to correct all areas of concern noted in the initial inspection. The response stated that sludge was pumped out of the receiving ditch. However, during the follow-up inspection, sludge was still observed in the receiving ditch. (La. R.S. 30:2076(A)(1)(a) and LAC 33:IX.501.A and D) Per the follow-up inspection, the Respondent informed the Department that after the September 23, 2018 inspection, the facility used their own vacuum truck to pump out sludge, and place it back into the plant's aeration basin, but stated that the worker failed to document the action. The Respondent, then, stated that the ditch and CCC will be pumped again and hauled offsite.

V. Inspection(s) & File Review 9/23/2019
2/17/2020

ORDER

Based on the foregoing, the Respondent is hereby ordered to comply with the requirements that are indicated below:

I. To take, immediately upon receipt of this COMPLIANCE ORDER, any and all steps necessary to meet and maintain compliance with the Water Quality Regulations. This shall include, but not be limited to, correcting all of the violations described in the "Findings of Fact" portion.

II. To submit to the Enforcement Division, within thirty (30) days after receipt of this COMPLIANCE ORDER, a written report that includes a detailed description of the circumstances surrounding the cited violation(s) and actions taken or to be taken to achieve compliance with the "Order" portion of this COMPLIANCE ORDER. This report and all other reports or information required to be submitted to the Enforcement Division by this COMPLIANCE ORDER shall be submitted to the Department at the address specified in this document.

III. To immediately cease, upon receipt of this COMPLIANCE ORDER, any unauthorized discharges from the Respondent's facility to waters of the state.
IV. To submit to the Enforcement Division, within thirty (30) days after receipt of this COMPLIANCE ORDER, a copy of the notice of issuance of the "Findings of Fact" portion of this Order.

V. To submit to the Enforcement Division, within thirty (30) days after receipt of this COMPLIANCE ORDER, properly completed DMRs for the monitoring periods of the last three (3) years mentioned in Paragraph V of the "Findings of Fact" portion of this Order. If you are submitting copies of DMRs, please be advised that each copy of the DMR shall be signed and certified. If no sampling or monitoring was conducted during a monitoring period, the Respondent should indicate this in the space provided for "Comment and Explanation of Any Violations."

RIGHT TO APPEAL

I. The Respondent has a right to an adjudicatory hearing on a disputed issue of material fact or of law arising from this COMPLIANCE ORDER. This right may be exercised by filing a written request with the Secretary no later than thirty (30) days after receipt of this COMPLIANCE ORDER.

II. The request for an adjudicatory hearing shall specify the provisions of the COMPLIANCE ORDER on which the hearing is requested and shall briefly describe the basis for the request. This request should reference the Enforcement Tracking Number and Agency Interest Number, which are located in the upper left-hand corner of the first page of this document and should be directed to the address specified in this document.

III. Upon the Respondent's timely filing of a request for a hearing, a hearing on the disputed issue of material fact or of law regarding this COMPLIANCE ORDER may be scheduled by the Secretary of the Department. The hearing shall be governed by the Act, the Administrative Procedure Act (La. R.S. 49:950, et seq.), and the Division of Administrative Law's (DAL) Procedural Rules. The Department may amend or supplement this COMPLIANCE ORDER prior to the hearing, after providing sufficient notice and an opportunity for the preparation of a defense for the hearing.

IV. This COMPLIANCE ORDER shall become a final enforcement action unless the request for hearing is timely filed. Failure to timely request a hearing constitutes a waiver of the Respondent's right to a hearing on a disputed issue of material fact or of law under Section 2050.4 of the Act for the violation(s) described herein.

V. The Respondent's failure to request a hearing or to file an appeal or the Respondent's withdrawal of a request for hearing on this COMPLIANCE ORDER shall not preclude the Respondent from contesting the findings of fact in any subsequent enforcement action addressing the same violation(s), although the Respondent is estopped from objecting to this COMPLIANCE ORDER becoming a permanent part of its enforcement history.

VI. Civil penalties of not more than thirty-two thousand five hundred dollars ($32,500) may be assessed for each day of violation. The Respondent's failure or refusal to comply with this COMPLIANCE ORDER and the provisions herein will subject the Respondent to possible enforcement procedures under La. R.S. 30:2025, which could result in the assessment of a civil penalty in an amount of not more than fifty thousand dollars ($50,000) for each day of continued violation or noncompliance.

VII. For each violation described herein, the Department reserves the right to seek civil penalties in any manner allowed by law, and nothing herein shall be construed to preclude the right to seek such penalties.

NOTICE OF POTENTIAL PENALTY

I. Pursuant to La. R.S. 30:2050.3(B), you are hereby notified that the issuance of a penalty assessment is being considered for the violation(s) described herein. Written comments may be filed regarding the violation(s) and the contemplated penalty. If you elect to submit comments, it is requested that they be submitted within ten (10) days of receipt of this notice.

II. Prior to the issuance of additional appropriate enforcement action(s), you may request a meeting with the Department to present any mitigating circumstances concerning the violation(s). If you would like to have such a meeting, please contact Scott B. Pierce at (225) 219-3723 within ten (10) days of receipt of this NOTICE OF POTENTIAL PENALTY.

III. The Department is required by La. R.S. 30:2025(E)(3)(a) to consider the gross revenues of the Respondent and the monetary benefits of noncompliance to determine whether a penalty will be assessed and the amount of such penalty. Please forward the Respondent's most current annual gross revenue statement along with a statement of the monetary benefits of noncompliance for the cited violation(s) to the above named contact person within ten (10) days of receipt of this NOTICE OF POTENTIAL PENALTY. Include with your statement of monetary benefits the method(s) you utilized to arrive at the sum. If you assert that no monetary benefits have been gained, you are to fully justify that statement. If the Respondent chooses not to submit the requested most current annual gross revenue statement within ten (10) days, it will be viewed by the Department as an admission that the Respondent has the ability to pay the statutory maximum penalty as outlined in La. R.S. 30:2025.

IV. This CONSOLIDATED COMPLIANCE ORDER & NOTICE OF POTENTIAL PENALTY is effective upon receipt.

CONTACTS AND SUBMITTAL OF INFORMATION

Enforcement Division:
Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality
Office of Environmental Compliance
Water Enforcement Division
Post Office Box 4312
Baton Rouge, LA 70821
Attn: Scott B. Pierce

Hearing Requests:
Department of Environmental Quality
Office of the Secretary
Post Office Box 4302
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821-4302
Attn: Hearings Clerk, Legal Division
Re: Enforcement Tracking No. WE-CN-19-01126
Agency Interest No. 146517

Physical Address (if hand delivered):

Water Permits Division (if necessary):
Department of Environmental Quality
Office of Environmental Services
Post Office Box 4313
Baton Rouge, LA 70821-4313
Attn: Water Permits Division

Department of Environmental Quality
602 N Fifth Street
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

HOW TO REQUEST CLOSURE OF THIS CONSOLIDATED COMPLIANCE ORDER & NOTICE OF POTENTIAL PENALTY

• To appeal the CONSOLIDATED COMPLIANCE ORDER & NOTICE OF POTENTIAL PENALTY, the Respondent must follow the guidelines set forth in the "Right to Appeal" portion of this CONSOLIDATED COMPLIANCE ORDER & NOTICE OF POTENTIAL PENALTY.
To request closure of the COMPLIANCE ORDER portion, the Respondent must demonstrate compliance with the "Order" portion of this COMPLIANCE ORDER by completing the attached "CONSOLIDATED COMPLIANCE ORDER AND NOTICE OF POTENTIAL PENALTY REQUEST TO CLOSE" form and returning it to the address specified.

- Before requesting closure of the COMPLIANCE ORDER portion, please contact the Financial Services Division at 225-219-3865 or email them at _DEQ-WWFFinancialServices@la.gov to determine if you owe outstanding fees.

To expedite closure of the NOTICE OF POTENTIAL PENALTY portion, the Respondent may offer a settlement amount to resolve any claim for civil penalties for the violation(s) described herein.

- The Department assesses civil penalties based on LAC 33:1:Subpart1:Chapter7.
- The Respondent may offer a settlement amount; but the Department is under no obligation to enter into settlement negotiations. It is decided upon a discretionary basis.
- The settlement offer amount may be entered on the attached "CONSOLIDATED COMPLIANCE ORDER AND NOTICE OF POTENTIAL PENALTY REQUEST TO CLOSE" form. The Respondent must include a justification of the offer.
- **DO NOT** submit payment of the offer amount with the form. The Department will review the settlement offer and notify the Respondent as to whether the offer is or is not accepted.
- Before requesting closure of the NOTICE OF POTENTIAL PENALTY portion, please contact the Financial Services Division at 225-219-3865 or email them at _DEQ-WWFFinancialServices@la.gov to determine if you owe outstanding fees.

If you have questions or need more information, you may contact Scott B. Pierce at (225) 219-3723 or scott.pierce@la.gov.

Lourdes Iturralde,
Assistant Secretary
Office of Environmental Compliance

cc: Dove Environmental, Inc.
c/o Randy Savoy
P. O. Box 430
Scott, LA 70583

ccc: DHQ/Office of Public Health

Attachment(s)
- Request to Close
- Attachment A

Date: 4-2-2020
CONSOLIDATED COMPLIANCE ORDER & NOTICE OF POTENTIAL PENALTY
REQUEST TO CLOSE

Agency Interest (AI) No. 145817
Alternate ID No. LAD124792

Respondent: Water & Wastewater Utilities, Inc.
C/o Flora Howell
Agent for Service of Process
208 Acomb Drive
Lafayette, LA 70508

Facility Name: Malapart Place Subdivision
Physical Location: off Malapart Rd. & Commons Pointes Dr.
City, State, Zip: Carencro, LA 70520
Parish: Lafayette

STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE
A written report was submitted in accordance with Paragraph II of the “Order” portion of the COMPLIANCE ORDER.

All necessary documents were submitted to the Department within 30 days of receipt of the COMPLIANCE ORDER in accordance with Paragraphs IV and V of the “Order” portion of the COMPLIANCE ORDER.

All items in the “Findings of Fact” portion of the COMPLIANCE ORDER were addressed and the facility is being operated to meet and maintain the requirements of the “Order” portion of the COMPLIANCE ORDER. Final compliance was achieved as of:

SETTLEMENT OFFER (OPTIONAL)
(check the applicable option)

The Respondent is not interested in entering into settlement negotiations with the Department with the understanding that the Department has the right to assess civil penalties based on LC 33.1 Subpart 1 Chapter 7.

In order to resolve any claim for civil penalties for the violations in NOTICE OF POTENTIAL PENALTY (WE-CN-19-01125), the Respondent is interested in entering into settlement negotiations with the Department and would like to set up a meeting to discuss settlement procedures.

In order to resolve any claim for civil penalties for the violations in NOTICE OF POTENTIAL PENALTY (WE-CN-19-01125), the Respondent is interested in entering into settlement negotiations with the Department and offers to pay $_____, which shall include DEQ enforcement costs and any monetary benefit of non-compliance.

- Beneficial Environmental Project (BEP) component (optional): $_____

- DO NOT SUBMIT PAYMENT OF THE OFFER WITH THIS FORM; the Department will review the settlement offer and notify the Respondent as to whether the offer is or is not accepted.

The Respondent has reviewed the violations noted in NOTICE OF POTENTIAL PENALTY (WE-CN-19-01125) and has attached a justification of its offer and a description of any BEPs if included in settlement offer.

CERTIFICATION STATEMENT
I certify, under provisions in Louisiana and United States law that provide criminal penalties for false statements, that based on information and belief formed after reasonable inquiry, the statements and information attached and the compliance statement above, are true, accurate, and complete. I also certify that I do not owe outstanding fees or penalties to the Department for this facility or any other facility I own or operate. I further certify that I am either the Respondent or an authorized representative of the Respondent.

Respondent’s Signature

Respondent’s Printed Name

Respondent’s Title

Respondent’s Physical Address

Respondent’s Phone #: Date

MAIL COMPLETED DOCUMENT TO THE ADDRESS BELOW:

Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality
Office of Environmental Compliance
Enforcement Division
Post Office Box 4312
Baton Rouge, LA 70821
Attn: Scott B. Pierce

If you have questions or need more information, you may contact Scott B. Pierce at (225) 219-3723 or scott.pierce@la.gov.
### ATTACHMENT "A"

**WATER & WASTEWATER UTILITIES, INC.-LA0124222**

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<th>MP End Date</th>
<th>Outlet</th>
<th>Parameter</th>
<th>Limit</th>
<th>DMR Value</th>
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<td>17</td>
<td>mg/L</td>
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<td>#/100mL</td>
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<td>18</td>
<td>mg/L</td>
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<td>001-A</td>
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<td>mg/L</td>
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<td>Solids, total suspended</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>mg/L</td>
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</table>

1 - Result of sample taken by the Department during the inspection. Respondent/Facility declined to split sample.