**MODEL LANGUAGE**

**CONSENT ORDER**

**IN-KIND PARAGRAPHS**

***[If an In-kind project is to be part of the requirements of a Consent order, please use the following model language]***

In lieu of making cash payment of $\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in civil penalties as set forth in paragraph \_\_\_ above, Respondent may elect to off-set this amount by implementing an in-kind penalty project, which must be approved by the Department. An in-kind project must be either an environmental enhancement, environmental restoration or a capital/facility improvement project. The Department may also consider the donation of environmentally sensitive land as an in-kind project. The value of the in-kind penalty project shall be one and a half times the civil penalty off-set amount, which in this case is the equivalent of at least $\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. If Respondent chooses to implement an in-kind project, Respondent shall notify the Department of its election by certified mail within 15 days of the effective date of this Consent Order. Notwithstanding the election to implement an in-kind project, payment of the remaining $\_\_\_\_\_\_ in costs must be paid within 30 days of the effective date of the Consent Order.

If Respondent elects to implement an in-kind project as provided in paragraph \_\_\_, then Respondent shall comply with all the requirements and time frames in Exhibit \_\_ entitled In-Kind Projects.

[***If an In-kind project is to be allowed to offset stipulated penalties as part of the requirements of a Consent order, please ALSO use the following model language]***

In lieu of making cash payment of the amount required under paragraph \_\_\_ (stipulated penalties) above, the Department, at its discretion, may allow Respondent to off-set this amount by implementing an in-kind project, which must be approved by the Department. An in-kind project must be either an environmental enhancement, environmental restoration or a capital/facility improvement project. The Department may also consider the donation of environmentally sensitive land as an in-kind project. The value of the in-kind penalty project shall be one and a half times the portion of the stipulated penalty amount for which the approved project off-sets. The Respondent shall request consideration of applying stipulated penalties toward an in-kind project within 15 days of notification by the Department that stipulated penalties are being assessed under paragraph \_\_\_. If acceptable, the Respondent shall comply with all the requirements and timeframes in Consent Order Exhibit A, entitled In-Kind Projects. If not acceptable, the Respondent will pay the stipulated penalties within 30 days of receipt of the Department’s notification that applying the stipulated penalties to an in-kind project is not acceptable. Notwithstanding the election to implement an in-kind project, payment of the remaining $\_\_\_\_\_\_ in costs must be paid within 30 days of the effective date of the Consent Order.

Exhibit \_\_

**In-Kind Projects**

I. Introduction

 An in-kind project

a. Within 60 days of the effective date of this Consent Order, or, of the Department’s notification that applying stipulated penalties to an in-kind project is acceptable, Respondent shall submit, by certified mail, a detailed in-kind project proposal to the Department for evaluation. The proposal shall include a summary of benefits, proposed schedule for implementation and documentation of the estimated costs which are expected to be incurred to complete the project. These costs shall not include those incurred in developing the proposal or obtaining approval from the Department for the in-kind project.

b. If the Department requests additional information or clarification due to a partially incomplete in-kind project proposal or requests modifications due to deficiencies with Department guidelines, Respondent shall submit, by certified mail, all requested additional information, clarification, and modifications within 15 days of receipts of written notice.

c. If upon review of the in-kind project proposal, the Department determines that the project cannot be accepted due to a substantially incomplete proposal or due to substantial deficiencies with minimum Department guidelines; Respondent shall be notified, in writing, of the reason(s) which prevent the acceptance of the proposal. Respondent shall correct and redress all of the matters at issue and submit, by certified mail, a new proposal within 30 days of receipt of written notice. In the event that the revised proposal is not approved by the Department, Respondent shall make cash payment of the civil penalties as set forth in paragraph \_\_\_ above, within 30 days of Department notice.

d. Within 120 days of the effective date of this Consent Order, or, of the Department’s notification that applying stipulated penalties to an in-kind project is acceptable Respondent shall obtain approval for an in-kind project from the Department. If an in-kind project proposal is not approved by the Department within 120 days of the effective date of this Consent Order, or, of the Department’s notification that applying stipulated penalties to an in-kind project is acceptable then Respondent shall make cash payment of the civil penalties as set forth in paragraph \_\_\_ above, within 30 days of Department notice.

e. Within 180 days of obtaining Department approval for the in-kind proposal or in accordance with the approved schedule submitted pursuant to paragraph 2(a) above, Respondent shall complete the entire in-kind project.

f. During the implementation of the in-kind project, Respondent shall place appropriate sign(s) at the project site indicating that Respondent’s involvement with the project is the result of a Department enforcement action. Respondent may remove the sign(s) after the project has been completed. However, after the project has been completed Respondent shall not post any sign(s) at the site indicating that the reason for the project was anything other than a Department enforcement action.

g. In the event, Respondent fails to timely submit any requested information to the Department, fails to complete implementation of the in-kind project or otherwise fails to comply with any provision of this paragraph, the in-kind penalty project option shall be forfeited, and the entire amount of civil penalties shall be due from the Respondent to the Department within 30 days of Department notice. If the in-kind penalty project is terminated and Respondent timely remits the $\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ penalty, no additional penalties shall be assessed under paragraph 4 for failure to complete the requirement of this paragraph.

h. Within 15 days of completing the in-kind project, Respondent shall notify the Department, by certified mail, of the project completion and request a verification letter from the Department. Respondent shall submit supporting information verifying that the project was completed in accordance with the approved proposal and documentation showing the actual costs incurred to complete the project. These costs shall not include those incurred in developing the proposal or obtaining approval from the Department for the project.

 i. If upon review of the notification of completion, the Department determines that the project cannot be accepted due to a substantially incomplete notification of completion or due to substantial deviations form the approved in-kind project; Respondent shall be notified, in writing, of the reason(s) which prevent the acceptance of the project. Respondent shall correct and redress all of the matters at issue and submit, by certified mail, a new notification of completion within 15 days of receipt of the Department’s notice. If upon review of the new submittal, the Department determines that the in-kind project is still incomplete or not in accordance with the approved proposal, the in-kind penalty project option shall be forfeited, and the entire amount of civil penalty shall be due from the Respondent to the Department within 30 days of Department notice. If the in-kind penalty project is terminated and Respondent timely remits the $\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, no additional penalties shall be assessed under paragraph XX for failure to complete the requirements of this paragraph.