

Fines for Violations of Pollution Laws at SSFL

**Discharges of
Contaminants
Into Offsite Areas**

By Francine Paredes

Over the years
The Boeing
Company has
accumulated
numerous fines

for allowing contaminants to
migrate off the site at
excessive
levels in violation of its
National
Pollution Discharge
Elimination
System permit

These fines have been
issued by

The Los Angeles
Regional Water Quality
Control Board

The fines were implemented as an attempt to force the Boeing Company to take effective action to stop the ongoing migration of pollution from SSFL.

This analysis examines
those fines and whether
they have succeeded in
stopping the pollution
from migrating from
SSFL

April 29, 2002

The Regional Board Issued
Complaint No.R4-2002-0084
to The Boeing Company

Mandatory Minimum Penalty :

\$39,000

This fine was for
pollution discharge
violations which
occurred in 2000
and 2001.

Unfortunately,
the
pollution violations
continued.

July 25, 2007

**The Regional Board
Issued Complaint No.
R4-2007-0035**

Penalty: \$471,190

This fine was a
consequence of

79 violations

in 2004-2006

However, the
pollution
violations kept
continuing
thereafter.

April 15, 2010

3	GARY E. TAVETIAN (SBN 117125) / TRACK ASSIGNMENT	VENTURA SUPERIOR COURT
4	NOAH GOLDEN-KRASNER (SBN 214536) / DETAINER	FILED
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11	READ THE VENTURA COUNTY LOCAL RULES THAT GOVERN COMPLIANCE WITH FAST-TRACT ASSIGNED COURT <u>33</u>	
12	Attorneys for Plaintiff, the People of the State of California, <i>ex rel.</i> , California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region	
13	SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA	
14	FOR THE COUNTY OF VENTURA	
15	THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA, <i>ex rel.</i> , CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD, LOS ANGELES REGION,	CASE: 56-2010-00371686-CU-MC-SM
16	Plaintiff,	COMPLAINT FOR CIVIL LIABILITY, PENALTIES, AND INJUNCTIVE RELIEF
17	v.	Judge:
18	THE BOEING COMPANY, DOES 1 THROUGH 10,	
19	Defendant.	

June 2010

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7 ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFF PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF
8 CALIFORNIA EX REL. REGIONAL WATER QUALITY
CONTROL BOARD, LOS ANGELES REGION
9

10 **IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**
11 **FOR THE COUNTY OF VENTURA**

12 **PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA EX**
13 **REL. REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL**
14 **BOARD, LOS ANGELES REGION,**

15 **PLAINTIFF,**

16 **v.**

17 **THE BOEING COMPANY,**

18 **DEFENDANT.**
19
20

VENTURA
SUPERIOR COURT
FILED

JUN 02 2010

MICHAEL D. PLANET
Executive Officer and Clerk
BY: _____, Deputy

RACHEL JACOBS

Case No. 56-2010-00371686-CU-
MC-SIM

~~AMENDED PROPOSED~~
CONSENT JUDGMENT
PURSUANT TO STIPULATION
OF THE PARTIES; ~~PROPOSED~~
ORDER (Wat. Code, Division 7,
Chapter 5.5.)

Judge: Hon. David R. Worley
Courtroom: S3

In 2010 there was a CONSENT JUDGMENT

Penalty against The Boeing Company:

\$500,000

- \$300,000 implemented towards Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP)
- \$200,000 for civil penalty to the State Water Pollution Clean up and Abatement Account.

The pollution
violations have
unfortunately
continued.

Toxic contaminants
continue to migrate
from the site above
permissible limits.

The Consent Order
established
automatic penalties
for future
violations.

17 **6. STIPULATED PENALTIES FOR FUTURE VIOLATIONS**

18 Boeing shall comply with its NPDES Permit. Should Boeing fail to comply with its
19 NPDES Permit, the parties consent to stipulated penalties as described below. These stipulated
20 penalties apply to Boeing's violations of its NPDES Permit(s) from January 1, 2010 through
21 December 31, 2014. Should Boeing violate any NPDES Permit terms after December 31, 2014,
22

Stipulated Penalty:

1st Quarter 2010

Amount:

\$68,600

Stipulated Penalty:

4th Quarter 2010

Amount:

\$26,900

Stipulated Penalty:

1st Quarter 2011

Amount:

\$30,000

Stipulated Penalty:

3rd Quarter 2011

Amount:

\$5,000

Stipulated Penalty:

4th Quarter 2011

Amount:

\$5,000

Stipulated Penalty:

1st Quarter 2012

Amount:

\$19,000

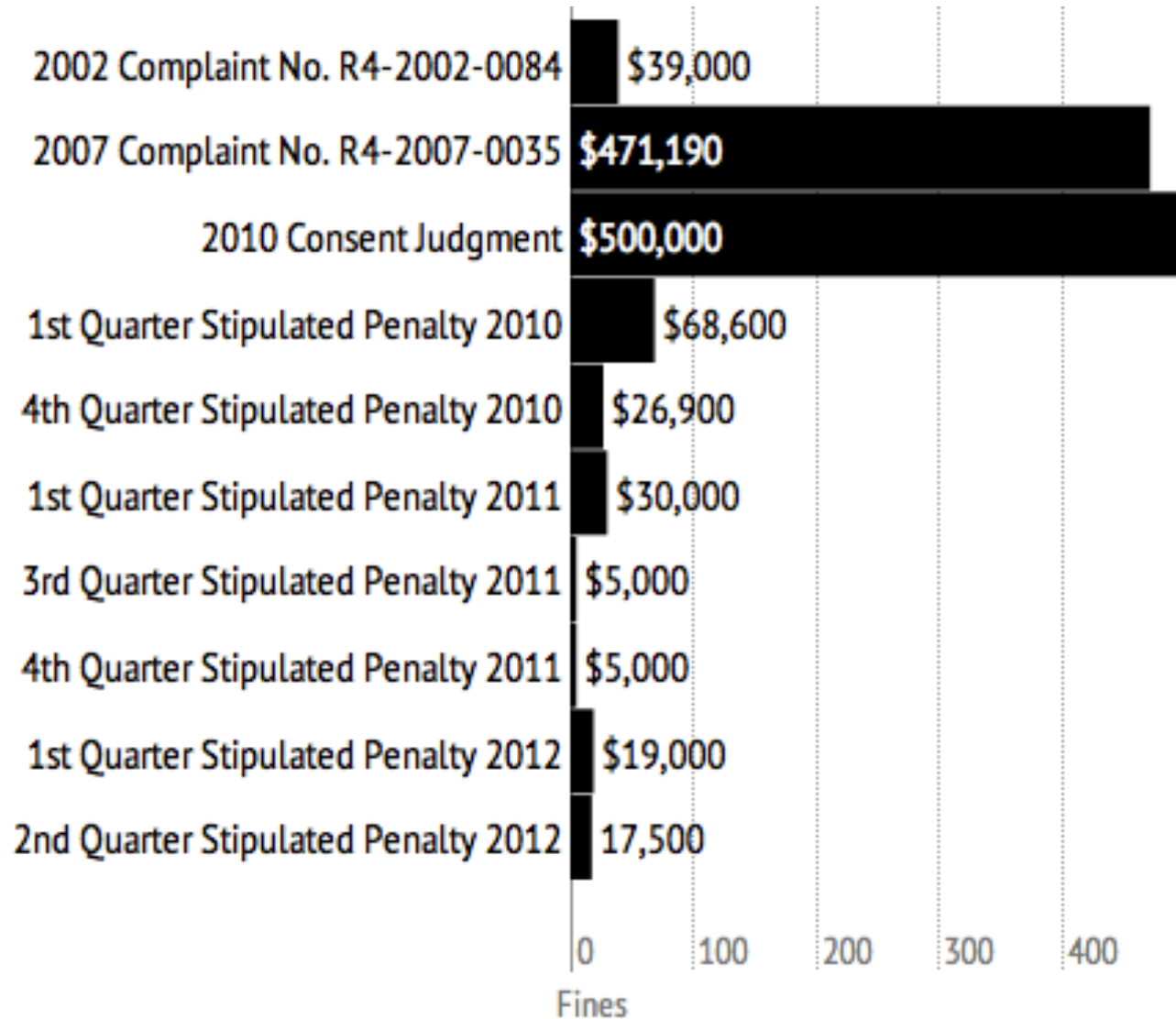
Stipulated Penalty:

2nd Quarter 2012

Amount:

\$17,500

Fines

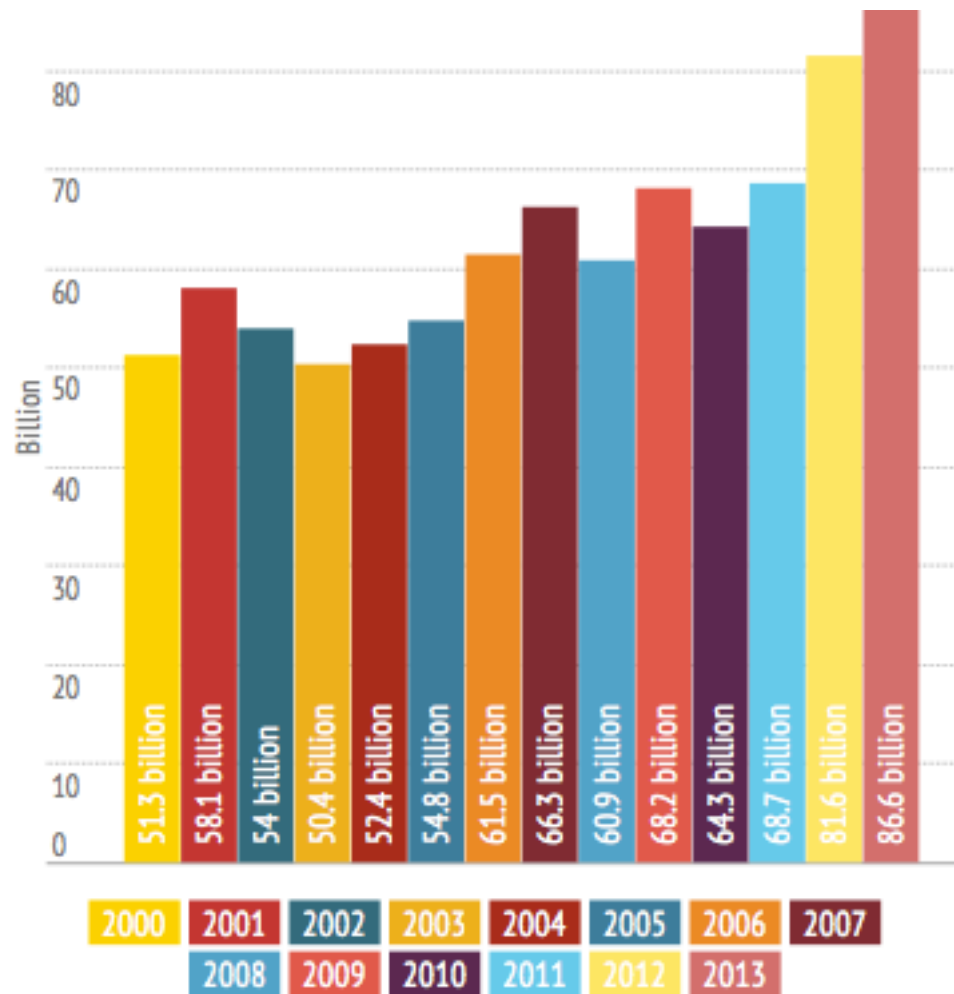


Sum of
accumulated fines
= \$1,182,190
≈ \$1.2 Million

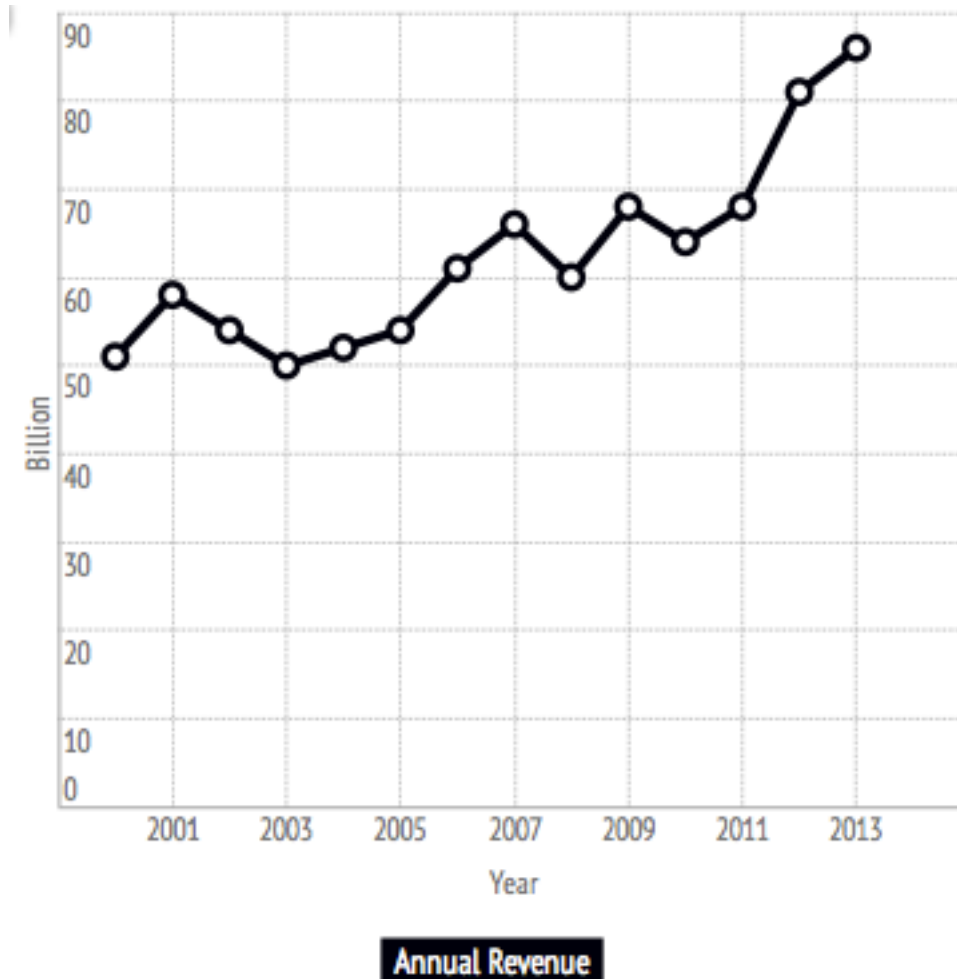
Over the last 12
Years, Boeing has
paid an average of
\$100,000 per year
In fines

During the same period
Boeing's annual income
has steadily increased,
reaching
\$86.6 billion
last year

Boeing Annual Revenue in billions 2000-2013



Increase in Annual Revenue



The average annual fine
for violating pollution
limits at the Santa
Susana Field represents
thus only about

one-millionth

of Boeing's annual
income.

According to the United States
Census Bureau,

**The Median Household income
for 2008-2012 is \$ 53,046**

Therefore,

The equivalent fine for a median
household family would be a

SIX CENT fine

Conclusion

The fines Boeing has received for violating pollution discharge limits clearly haven't succeeded in stopping the violations.

Toxic contaminants
continue to leave the
site
at levels in excess of
legal
limits.

So long as it is
cheaper to violate the
pollution
limits than comply,
continuing violations
are likely.

If the site is not
fully cleaned up,
contaminants will
continue to
migrate