

**Before the
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554**

In the Matter of)	
)	
Palo Cooperative Telephone Association)	File No.: EB-TCD-22-00034287
d/b/a Palo Communications)	NAL/CD Acct. No.: 202332170011
)	FRN: 0003748514
)	
)	

ORDER

Adopted: December 8, 2025**Released: December 8, 2025**

By the Acting Chief, Enforcement Bureau:

1. The Enforcement Bureau (Bureau) of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC or Commission) has entered into a Consent Decree to resolve its investigation into whether Palo Cooperative Telephone Association d/b/a Palo Communications (Palo Communications) failed to timely file monthly reports of permanently disconnected phone numbers to the Commission's Reassigned Numbers Database (Database) administrator (Administrator). The Database and the Commission's reporting rules play a role in the FCC's consumer protection efforts to protect consumers from unwanted calls and assist ethical telemarketers in ensuring that they are calling the intended recipient.¹ The Database allows persons to avoid placing calls to numbers previously assigned to a subscriber who provided consent for particular calls, but that (after the provision of such consent) were disconnected and reassigned to a new non-consenting subscriber.² Reporting carriers must inform the Administrator of subscriber disconnections on a monthly basis.³ Palo Communications failed to provide timely information to the Administrator on multiple occasions.⁴ To settle this matter, Palo Communications will implement a compliance plan and pay a \$12,000 voluntary contribution.

2. After reviewing the terms of the Consent Decree and evaluating the facts before us, we find that the public interest would be served by adopting the Consent Decree and resolving the Notice of Apparent Liability for Forfeiture (NAL) regarding Palo Communications' compliance with the Commission's Reassigned Number Database reporting rules under section 64.1200(1)(2) of the Commission's rules.⁵

¹ See *Advanced Methods to Target and Eliminate Unlawful Robocalls*, CG Docket No. 17-59, Second Report and Order, 33 FCC Rcd 12024, 12024-25, paras. 1-3 (2018) (*Reassigned Numbers Database Order*).

² *Id.* at 12029, para. 11.

³ 47 CFR § 64.1200(1)(2); *Reassigned Numbers Database Order*, 33 FCC Rcd at 12032, 12038, para. 39.

⁴ *Palo Cooperative Telephone Association d/b/a Palo Communications*, Notice of Apparent Liability for Forfeiture, 37 FCC Rcd 14544, (EB 2022).

⁵ 47 CFR § 64.1200(1)(2).

3. In the absence of material new evidence relating to this matter, we do not set for hearing the question of Palo Communications' basic qualifications to hold or obtain any Commission license or authorization.⁶

4. Accordingly, **IT IS ORDERED** that, pursuant to sections 4(i), and 503(b) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, 47 U.S.C. §§ 4(i), 503(b), section 1.93 of the Commission's rules, 47 CFR 1.93 and the authority delegated by sections 0.111 and 0.311 of the Commission's rules, 47 CFR §§ 0.111, 0.311, the attached Consent Decree **IS ADOPTED** and its terms incorporated by reference.

5. **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that the above-captioned matter **IS TERMINATED** and the NAL **IS RESOLVED** in accordance with the terms of the attached Consent Decree.

6. **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that a copy of this Order and Consent Decree shall be sent by first class mail and certified mail, return receipt requested, to Danny Gardemann, President, Palo Cooperative Telephone Association d/b/a Palo Communications, 807 2nd St., P.O. Box 169, Palo, Iowa 52324, and to John Pietila, Esq., Dentons Davis Brown PC, The Highland Building, 4201 Westown Pkwy, Ste. 300, West Des Moines, IA 50266.

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Patrick Webre
Acting Chief
Enforcement Bureau

⁶ See 47 CFR § 1.93(b).

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In the Matter of

Palo Cooperative Telephone Association
d/b/a Palo Communications

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File No.: EB-TCD-22-00034287
NAL/CD Acct. No.: 202332170011
FRN: 0003748514

CONSENT DECREE

1. The Enforcement Bureau of the Federal Communications Commission and Palo Cooperative Telephone Association d/b/a Palo Communications (Palo Communications or Company), by their authorized representatives, hereby enter into this Consent Decree for the purpose of terminating the Enforcement Bureau's investigation into whether Palo Communications violated section 64.1200(1)(2) (Reporting Rule) by failing to report disconnected numbers to the Commission's Reassigned Numbers Database administrator. To resolve this matter, Palo Communications agrees to maintain redundancy so that reporting continues if a Covered Employee leaves the company, implement a compliance plan, and pay a \$12,000 voluntary contribution.

I. DEFINITIONS

2. For the purposes of this Consent Decree, the following definitions shall apply:

- (a) "Act" means the Communications Act of 1934, as amended.¹
- (b) "Adopting Order" means an order of the Bureau adopting the terms of this Consent Decree without change, addition, deletion, or modification.
- (c) "Bureau" means the Enforcement Bureau of the Federal Communications Commission.
- (d) "NAL Acct. No." means account number 202332170011, associated with payment obligations described in paragraph 19 of this Consent Decree.
- (e) "Commission" and "FCC" mean the Federal Communications Commission and all of its bureaus and offices.
- (f) "Communications Laws" means collectively, the Act, the Rules, and the published and promulgated orders and decisions of the Commission to which Palo Communications is subject by virtue of its business activities, including but not limited to the Reporting Rule.
- (g) "Palo Communications" or "Company" means Palo Cooperative Telephone Association d/b/a Palo Communications and its affiliates, subsidiaries, predecessors-in-interest, and successors-in-interest.
- (h) "Compliance Plan" means the compliance obligations, program, and procedures described in this Consent Decree at paragraph 14.
- (i) "Covered Employees" means all employees and agents of Palo Communications who perform, supervise, oversee, or manage the performance of, duties that relate to Palo Communications' responsibilities under the Communications Laws, including

¹ 47 U.S.C. § 151 *et seq.*

the Reporting Rule.

- (j) “Database” means the Reassigned Numbers Database.
- (k) “Effective Date” means the date by which both the Bureau and Palo Communications have signed the Consent Decree and the Bureau has released an Adopting Order.
- (l) “Investigation” means the investigation commenced by the Bureau in EB-TCD-22-0034287 regarding whether Palo Communications violated the Reporting Rule.
- (m) “NAL” means the Notice of Apparent Liability for Forfeiture issued to Palo Communications on December 12, 2022 proposing a thirty-three thousand dollar (\$33,000) forfeiture for apparent violations of the Reporting Rule.
- (n) “Operating Procedures” means the standard internal operating procedures and compliance policies established by Palo Communications to implement the Compliance Plan.
- (o) “Parties” means Palo Communications and the Bureau, each of which is a “Party.”
- (p) “Reporting Rule” means 47 CFR § 64.1200(l)(2).
- (q) “Rules” means the Commission’s regulations found in Title 47 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

II. BACKGROUND

3. The Commission established a single, comprehensive Reassigned Numbers Database (Database) that identifies when a North American Numbering Plan (NANP) number has been reassigned to a new subscriber.² The purpose of the Database is to help callers confirm they are calling the intended subscriber.³ Autodialed or prerecorded calls are generally lawful only if the called party has given its prior consent.⁴ The Database allows persons to avoid placing calls to numbers previously assigned to a subscriber who provided consent for particular calls, but that (after the provision of such consent) were reassigned to a new non-consenting subscriber. This protects consumers by ensuring they do not receive calls that the prior owner of the reassigned number may have consented to. Additionally, the rule protects ethical telemarketers—those who check the RND prior to making calls—to ensure they are calling the intended recipient.

4. Carriers must inform the Database administrator (Administrator) of subscriber disconnections on a monthly basis.⁵ Section 64.1200(l)(2) requires carriers to report to the Administrator on the 15th day of each month the most recent date that each NANP telephone number allocated to or ported to the carrier was permanently disconnected.⁶

5. On December 12, 2022, the Bureau issued NALs to 12 local exchange carriers, including Palo Communications, for failure to file disconnection data with the RND in apparent violation of section 64.1200(l)(2). The Bureau proposed imposing a \$3,000 forfeiture for Palo Communications’ initial apparent violation, and a \$10,000 forfeiture for each subsequent apparent violation for a total proposed

² *Advanced Methods to Target and Eliminate Unlawful Robocalls*, CG Docket No. 17-59, Second Report and Order, 33 FCC Rcd 12024, 12025, para 3 (2018) (*Reassigned Numbers Database Order*).

³ *Id.*

⁴ 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(1)(A)-(B).

⁵ *Id.* at 12032, 12038, paras. 21, 39; *see also* 47 CFR § 64.1200(l)(2).

⁶ 47 CFR § 64.1200(l)(2).

forfeiture of \$33,000.⁷

6. As detailed in the NAL, Palo Communications apparently failed to report permanent disconnects by the 15th day of each month from June 2022 through September 2022.⁸ The Administrator sent notices of noncompliance to Palo Communications for each month the Company failed to timely report the permanent disconnects.⁹ Such notices emphasized that noncompliance with section 64.1200(1)(2) could result in monetary penalties, and alerted the Company that the Administrator would refer each matter to the Commission.¹⁰ The notices also gave instructions by which the Company could submit data for missed months.¹¹

7. In response to the NAL, Palo Communications filed a statement with the Bureau providing additional context surrounding the Company's failure to timely report permanent disconnects from June 2022 through September 2022.¹² Palo Communications noted that the Company took immediate action to remedy the missed filings after receiving the NAL, and that the Company successfully submitted fix filings for missed months by December 13, 2022.¹³ Palo Communications also stated that the Company has taken measures to mitigate the risk of future missed filings.¹⁴ Such measures include hiring additional staff, providing additional training related to reporting requirements, and retaining an industry consultant to provide regulatory and technical support.¹⁵ Palo Communications also discussed the Company's previous compliance with the Commission's rules, including timely filings with the RND each month from October 2021 through May 2022.¹⁶

III. TERMS OF AGREEMENT

8. **Adopting Order.** The provisions of this Consent Decree shall be incorporated by the Bureau in an Adopting Order.

9. **Jurisdiction.** Palo Communications agrees that the Bureau has jurisdiction over it and the matters contained in this Consent Decree and has the authority to enter into and adopt this Consent Decree.

10. **Effective Date.** The Parties agree that this Consent Decree shall become effective on the Effective Date as defined herein. As of the Effective Date, the Parties agree that this Consent Decree shall have the same force and effect as any other order of the Commission.

11. **Termination of Investigation.** In express reliance on the covenants and representations in this Consent Decree and to avoid further expenditure of public resources, the Bureau agrees to terminate the Investigation. In consideration for the termination of the Investigation and dismissal of the NAL, Palo Communications agrees to the terms, conditions, and procedures contained herein. The Bureau further agrees that, in the absence of new material evidence, it will not use the facts developed in the

⁷ *In the Matter of Palo Cooperative Telephone Association d/b/a Palo Communications*, Notice of Apparent Liability for Forfeiture, 37 FCC Rcd 14544 (EB 2022) (NAL).

⁸ NAL at 14556, para. 6.

⁹ *Id.*

¹⁰ *Id.* at 14556-57, para. 6-7.

¹¹ *Id.* at 14557, para. 7.

¹² *Statement Seeking Cancellation or Reduction of Proposed Forfeiture and Request for Confidential Treatment*, from Palo Cooperative Telephone Association d/b/a Palo Communications (on file at EB-TCD-22-0034287) (NAL Response).

¹³ NAL Response at 3.

¹⁴ *Id.*

¹⁵ *Id.*

¹⁶ *Id.* at 2.

Investigation through the Effective Date, or the existence of this Consent Decree, to institute any new proceeding on its own motion against Palo Communications concerning the matters that were the subject of the Investigation, or to set for hearing the question of Palo Communications' basic qualifications to be a Commission licensee or hold Commission licenses or authorizations based on the matters that were the subject of the Investigation.¹⁷

12. **Admission of Facts.** Palo admits for the purpose of this Consent Decree and for Commission civil enforcement purposes, and in express reliance on the provisions of paragraph 11 herein, that paragraphs 6 and 7 of this Consent Decree contain a true and accurate description of the facts underlying the Investigation.

13. **Compliance Officer.** Within thirty (30) calendar days after the Effective Date, Palo shall designate a senior corporate manager with the requisite corporate and organizational authority to serve as a Compliance Officer and to discharge the duties set forth below. The person designated as the Compliance Officer shall be responsible for developing, implementing, and administering the Compliance Plan and ensuring that Palo Communications complies with the terms and conditions of the Compliance Plan and this Consent Decree. In addition to the general knowledge of the Communications Laws necessary to discharge his or her duties under this Consent Decree, the Compliance Officer shall have specific knowledge of the Reporting Rule.

14. **Compliance Plan.** For purposes of settling the matters set forth herein, Palo Communications agrees that it shall, within sixty (60) calendar days after the Effective Date, develop and implement a Compliance Plan designed to ensure future compliance with the Communications Laws and with the terms and conditions of this Consent Decree. With respect to the Reporting Rule, Palo Communications shall implement, at a minimum, the following procedures:

- (a) **Operating Procedures.** Within thirty (30) calendar days after the Effective Date, Palo Communications shall establish Operating Procedures that all Covered Employees must follow to help ensure Palo Communications' compliance with the Reporting Rule. Palo Communications' Operating Procedures shall include internal procedures and policies specifically designed to ensure that Palo Communications maintains redundancy so that if a Covered Employee who is assigned to report disconnected numbers to the Database as required by the Reporting Rule leaves or is unable to perform his/her duty, another Covered Employee will take over those responsibilities without any interruption reporting. Palo Communications shall also develop a Compliance Checklist that describes the steps that a Covered Employee must follow to ensure compliance with the Reporting Rule.
- (b) **Compliance Manual.** Within sixty (60) calendar days after the Effective Date, the Compliance Officer shall develop and distribute a Compliance Manual to all Covered Employees. The Compliance Manual shall explain the Reporting Rule and set forth the Operating Procedures that Covered Employees shall follow to ensure Palo Communications' compliance with the Reporting Rule. Palo Communications shall periodically review and revise the Compliance Manual as necessary to ensure that the information set forth therein remains current and accurate. Palo Communications shall distribute any revisions to the Compliance Manual promptly to all Covered Employees.
- (c) **Compliance Training Program.** Palo Communications shall establish and implement a Compliance Training Program on compliance with the Reporting Rule and the Operating Procedures. As part of the Compliance Training Program, Covered Employees shall be advised of Palo Communications' obligation to report any noncompliance with the Reporting Rule under paragraph 15 of this Consent Decree and shall be instructed on how to disclose noncompliance to the Compliance

¹⁷ See 47 CFR § 1.93(b).

Officer. All Covered Employees shall be trained pursuant to the Compliance Training Program within sixty (60) calendar days after the Effective Date, except that any person who becomes a Covered Employee at any time after the initial Compliance Training Program shall be trained within thirty (30) calendar days after the date such person becomes a Covered Employee. Palo Communications shall repeat compliance training on an annual basis and shall periodically review and revise the Compliance Training Program as necessary to ensure that it remains current and complete and to enhance its effectiveness.

15. **Reporting Noncompliance.** Palo Communications shall report any noncompliance with the Reporting Rule and with the terms and conditions of this Consent Decree within fifteen (15) calendar days after discovery of such noncompliance. Such reports shall include a detailed explanation of: (i) each instance of noncompliance; (ii) the steps that Palo Communications has taken or will take to remedy such noncompliance; (iii) the schedule on which such remedial actions will be taken; and (iv) the steps that Palo Communications has taken or will take to prevent the recurrence of any such noncompliance. All reports of noncompliance shall be submitted to EnforcementBureauTCD@fcc.gov with a copy to Daniel Stepanicich, Deputy Division Chief, Telecommunications Consumers Division, FCC Enforcement Bureau at Daniel.Stepanicich@fcc.gov.

16. **Compliance Reports.** Palo Communications shall file compliance reports with the Commission ninety (90) calendar days after the Effective Date, twelve (12) months after the Effective Date, and twenty-four (24) months after the Effective Date.

- (a) Each Compliance Report shall include a detailed description of Palo Communications' efforts during the relevant period to comply with the terms and conditions of this Consent Decree and the Reporting Rule. In addition, each Compliance Report shall include a certification by the Compliance Officer, as an agent of and on behalf of Palo Communications, stating that the Compliance Officer has personal knowledge that Palo Communications: (i) has established and implemented the Compliance Plan; (ii) has complied with the Operating Procedures since the implementation of the Compliance Plan; (iii) has reported any instances of noncompliance in conformance with paragraph 15 of this Consent Decree and the dates of any such reports; and (iv) is otherwise not aware of any instances of noncompliance with the terms and conditions of this Consent Decree, including the reporting obligations set forth in paragraph 15 of this Consent Decree.
- (b) The Compliance Officer's certification shall be accompanied by a statement explaining the basis for such certification and shall comply with section 1.16 of the Rules and be subscribed to as true under penalty of perjury in substantially the form set forth therein.¹⁸
- (c) If the Compliance Officer cannot provide the requisite certification, the Compliance Officer, as an agent of and on behalf of Palo Communications, shall provide the Commission with a detailed explanation of the reason(s) for non-compliance.
- (d) All Compliance Reports shall be submitted to Daniel.Stepanicich@fcc.gov, with a copy submitted electronically to EnforcementBureauTCD@fcc.gov.

17. **Termination Date.** Unless stated otherwise, the requirements set forth in paragraphs 13 through 16 of this Consent Decree shall expire twenty-four (24) months after the Effective Date.

18. **Section 208 Complaints; Subsequent Investigations.** Nothing in this Consent Decree shall prevent the Commission or its delegated authority from adjudicating complaints filed pursuant to section 208 of the Act¹⁹ against Palo Communications or its affiliates for alleged violations of the Act, or for any

¹⁸ 47 CFR § 1.16.

¹⁹ 47 U.S.C. § 208.

other type of alleged misconduct, regardless of when such misconduct took place. The Commission's adjudication of any such complaint will be based solely on the record developed in that proceeding. Except as expressly provided in this Consent Decree, this Consent Decree shall not prevent the Commission from investigating new evidence of noncompliance by Palo Communications with the Communications Laws.

19. **Voluntary Contribution.** Palo Communications shall pay a voluntary contribution to the United States Treasury in the amount of twelve thousand dollars (\$12,000) within thirty (30) calendar days of the Effective Date. Palo Communications acknowledges and agrees that upon execution of this Consent Decree, the Voluntary Contribution shall become a "Claim" or "Debt" as defined in 31 U.S.C. § 3701(b)(1).²⁰ Upon an Event of Default, as defined in paragraph 20 all procedures for collection as permitted by law may, at the Commission's discretion, be initiated. Palo Communications shall send electronic notification of payment to EnforcementBureauTCD@fcc.gov on the date said payment is made. Payment of the Voluntary Contribution must be made by credit card using the Commission's Registration System (CORES) at <https://apps.fcc.gov/core/userLogin.do>, ACH (Automated Clearing House) debit from a bank account, or by wire transfer from a bank account. The Commission no longer accepts Voluntary Contribution payments by check or money order. Below are instructions that payors must follow based on the form of payment selected:²¹

- Payment by wire transfer must be made to ABA Number 021030004, receiving bank TREAS/NYC, and Account Number 27000001. In the OBI field, enter the FRN(s) captioned above and the letters "FORF". In addition, a completed Form 159²² or printed CORES form²³ must be faxed to the Federal Communications Commission at 202-418-2843 or e-mailed to RROGWireFaxes@fcc.gov on the same business day the wire transfer is initiated. Failure to provide all required information in Form 159 or CORES may result in payment not being recognized as having been received. When completing FCC Form 159 or CORES, enter the Account Number in block number 23A (call sign/other ID), enter the letters "FORF" in block number 24A (payment type code), and enter in block number 11 the FRN(s) captioned above (Payor FRN).²⁴ For additional detail and wire transfer instructions, go to <https://www.fcc.gov/licensing-databases/fees/wire-transfer>.
- Payment by credit card must be made by using CORES at <https://apps.fcc.gov/core/userLogin.do>. To pay by credit card, log-in using the FCC Username associated to the FRN captioned above. If payment must be split across FRNs, complete this process for each FRN. Next, select "Manage Existing FRNs | FRN Financial | Bills & Fees" from the CORES Menu, then select FRN Financial and the view/make payments option next to the FRN. Select the "Open Bills" tab and find the bill number associated with the CD Acct. No. The bill number is the CD Acct. No. with the first two digits excluded (e.g., CD 1912345678 would be associated with FCC Bill Number 12345678). After selecting the bill for payment, choose the "Pay by Credit Card" option. Please note that there is a \$24,999.99 limit on credit card transactions.
- Payment by ACH must be made by using CORES at <https://apps.fcc.gov/core/userLogin.do>. To pay by ACH, log in using the FCC Username associated to the FRN captioned above. If payment must be split across FRNs, complete this process for each FRN. Next, select "Manage Existing FRNs | FRN Financial | Bills & Fees" on the CORES Menu, then select FRN Financial and the

²⁰ Debt Collection Improvement Act of 1996, Pub. L. No. 104-134, 110 Stat. 1321, 1321-358 (Apr. 26, 1996).

²¹ For questions regarding payment procedures, please contact the Financial Operations Group Help Desk by phone at 1-877-480-3201 (option #6).

²² FCC Form 159 is accessible at <https://www.fcc.gov/licensing-databases/fees/fcc-remittance-advice-form-159>.

²³ Information completed using the Commission's Registration System (CORES) does not require the submission of an FCC Form 159. CORES is accessible at <https://apps.fcc.gov/core/userLogin.do>.

²⁴ Instructions for completing the form may be obtained at <http://www.fcc.gov/Forms/Form159/159.pdf>.

view/make payments option next to the FRN. Select the "Open Bills" tab and find the bill number associated with the CD Acct. No. The bill number is the CD Acct. No. with the first two digits excluded (e.g., CD 1912345678 would be associated with FCC Bill Number 12345678). Finally, choose the "Pay from Bank Account" option. Please contact the appropriate financial institution to confirm the correct Routing Number and the correct account number from which payment will be made and verify with that financial institution that the designated account has authorization to accept ACH transactions.

20. **Event of Default.** Palo Communications agrees that an Event of Default shall occur upon the failure by Palo Communications to pay the full amount of the Voluntary Contribution [on or before the due date specified in paragraph 19 of this Consent Decree.

21. **Interest, Charges for Collection, and Acceleration of Maturity Date.** After an Event of Default has occurred under this Consent Decree, the then unpaid amount of the Voluntary Contribution shall accrue interest, computed using the U.S. Prime Rate in effect on the date of the Event of Default plus 4.75%, from the date of the Event of Default until payment in full. Upon an Event of Default, the then unpaid amount of the Voluntary Contribution, together with interest, any penalties permitted and/or required by the law, including but not limited to 31 U.S.C. § 3717 and administrative charges, plus the costs of collection, litigation, and attorneys' fees, shall become immediately due and payable, without notice, presentment, demand, protest, or notice of protest of any kind, all of which are waived by Palo Communications.

22. **Waivers.** As of the Effective Date, Palo Communications waives any and all rights it may have to seek administrative or judicial reconsideration, review, appeal or stay, or to otherwise challenge or contest the validity of this Consent Decree and the Adopting Order. Palo Communications shall retain the right to challenge Commission interpretation of the Consent Decree or any terms contained herein. If either Party (or the United States on behalf of the Commission) brings a judicial action to enforce the terms of the Consent Decree or the Adopting Order, neither Palo Communications nor the Commission shall contest the validity of the Consent Decree or the Adopting Order, and Palo Communications shall waive any statutory right to a trial *de novo*. Palo Communications hereby agrees to waive any claims it may otherwise have under the Equal Access to Justice Act²⁵ relating to the matters addressed in this Consent Decree.

23. **Severability.** The Parties agree that if any of the provisions of the Consent Decree shall be held unenforceable by any court of competent jurisdiction, such unenforceability shall not render unenforceable the entire Consent Decree, but rather the entire Consent Decree shall be construed as if not containing the particular unenforceable provision or provisions, and the rights and obligations of the Parties shall be construed and enforced accordingly.

24. **Invalidity.** In the event that this Consent Decree in its entirety is rendered invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction, it shall become null and void and may not be used in any manner in any legal proceeding.

25. **Subsequent Rule or Order.** The Parties agree that if any provision of the Consent Decree conflicts with any subsequent Rule or order adopted by the Commission (except an order specifically intended to revise the terms of this Consent Decree to which Palo Communications does not expressly consent) that provision shall be superseded by such Rule or order.

26. **Successors and Assigns.** Palo Communications agrees that the provisions of this Consent Decree shall be binding on its successors, assigns, and transferees.

27. **Final Settlement.** The Parties agree and acknowledge that this Consent Decree shall constitute a final settlement between the Parties with respect to the Investigation.

28. **Modifications.** This Consent Decree cannot be modified without the advance written

²⁵ See 5 U.S.C. § 504.

consent of both Parties.

29. **Paragraph Headings.** The headings of the paragraphs in this Consent Decree are inserted for convenience only and are not intended to affect the meaning or interpretation of this Consent Decree.

30. **Authorized Representative.** Each Party represents and warrants to the other that it has full power and authority to enter into this Consent Decree. Each person signing this Consent Decree on behalf of a Party hereby represents that he or she is fully authorized by the Party to execute this Consent Decree and to bind the Party to its terms and conditions.

31. **Counterparts.** This Consent Decree may be signed in counterpart (including electronically or by facsimile). Each counterpart, when executed and delivered, shall be an original, and all of the counterparts together shall constitute one and the same fully executed instrument.

Patrick Webre
Acting Chief
Enforcement Bureau

Date

Danny Gardemann
President
Palo Cooperative Telephone Association
d/b/a/ Palo Communications

Date