



## Southern California Valve

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September 23, 2005

Dear Greg Swallina,

In 1984, our company took an order for (6) 4" 1500# SCV gate valves. They were sold to a Houston company and when they were delivered, they did not say Crane on them. Obviously, the people we sold them to welded Crane on them. Crane found out about this and sued us and our customer. We did some research on this matter and found out who welded the name on the valves and we obtained a copy of the check they paid for it with.

Crane Valve, at that point, knew who did this. They said they would not drop the suit unless we signed a paper saying that their trademark had been violated, even though they knew we were not at fault. They threatened to spend a million dollars on this case if we did not sign and pay. We signed the paperwork with the clause "we did not do it" and paid the nuisance fee. A million dollars back in 1985 is like two million now. We were a small company back then and we could not afford to hire a defense team. We would have been put out of business. So, we signed and paid.

We did not change the name to Crane on those valves and Crane knows this. We improved upon and redesigned a valve that looked like a valve they patented 35 years before. Crane agreed that we did not violate their patent but, nevertheless, they came after us with a vengeance.

Southern California Valve Maintenance has not existed since December 1, 1999 as you can see by looking at the 3<sup>rd</sup> page of the partnership agreement. The name has been changed, the address has changed, Elijah Bullard has passed away, and Don Bullard is retired. At the time of the alleged problem, these two were the only two partners of the company. If you look at the company's website ([www.socalvalve.com](http://www.socalvalve.com)) you will see that "Maintenance" is no longer part of our name.

The problem that CMA had with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission having to do with Cliff Ashley altering forged steel valves, had nothing to do with Southern California Valve Maintenance. He was merely an acquaintance and we occasionally bought and sold large absolutely unaltered valves from and to him. There were never forged steel valves involved in our transactions.

Sincerely,

Matthew Bullard  
Southern California Valve  
Partner