1	WILLIAM VERICK, SBN 140972 Klamath Environmental Law Center	SUMMONS ISSUED FILED San Francisco County Superior Court  JUN - 3 2009
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9 10	Attorneys for Plaintiff, MATEEL ENVIRONMENTAL JUST	ICE FOUNDATION
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12	SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA	
13	COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO (Unlimited Jurisdiction)	
14	MATERI ENURONDAENTAI	CASEN 6.G C • 0 9 • 488991
15	MATEEL ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE FOUNDATION,	CASE NO. U U
16	Plaintiff,	
17	<b>v.</b>	COMPLAINT FOR INJUNCTIVE RELIEF AND CIVIL PENALTIES
18		
	NEMOX S.p.A.	TOXIC TORT/ENVIRONMENTAL
19	Defendant.	TOXIC TORT/ENVIRONMENTAL
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21	MATEEL ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE FOUNDATION alleges as follows:	
22	INTRODUCTION	
23	1. This Complaint seeks civil penalties and an injunction to remedy the continuing	
24	failure of defendant NEMOX S.p.A. (hereinafter "Nemox" or "Defendant"), to give clear and	
25	reasonable warnings to those residents of California, who handle, use, and drink beverages made	
26	in espresso machines and coffee makers that utilize leaded brass components (hereinafter	
27	collectively referred to as "espresso machines"), that handling and use of these espresso	
28	machines causes those residents to be exposed to lead and lead compounds, lead acetate, lead	
	COMPLAINT FOR INJUNCTION . AND CIVIL PENALTIES	1

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phosphate, and lead subacetate (hereinaster, collectively, "lead"). The types of products to which this Complaint pertains are those types listed in the Proposition 65 Notice of Violation Letter that is attached to and incorporated by reference into this Complaint. Lead is known to the State of California to cause cancer, birth defects and male and female reproductive toxicity. Defendant distributes, and/or markets espresso machines. These products cause exposures to lead and lead compounds, which are chemicals known to the State of California to cause cancer, birth defects and other reproductive harm.

- 2. Defendant markets, and/or distributes espresso machines. Defendant intends that residents of California handle, use and drink beverages made using the espresso machines that Defendant markets, and/or distributes. When these products are handled and used in their normally intended manner and when people drink beverages made from water that has been heated in them, these espresso machines expose people to lead. In spite of knowing that residents of California were and are being exposed to these chemicals when they handle, use and drink beverages made using espresso machines, Defendant did not and does not provide clear and reasonable warnings that these products cause exposure to chemicals known to cause cancer, birth defects and other reproductive harm.
- 3. Plaintiff seeks injunctive relief pursuant to Health & Safety Code Section 25249.7 to compel Defendant to bring its business practices into compliance with section 25249.5 et seq. by providing a clear and reasonable warning to each individual who has been and who in the future may be exposed to the above mentioned toxic chemicals from the use of Defendant's products. Plaintiff seeks an order that Defendant identify and locate each individual person who in the past has purchased espresso machines and to provide to each such purchaser a clear and reasonable warning that the espresso machines will cause exposures to chemicals known to cause birth defects.
- 4. In addition to injunctive relief, plaintiff seeks civil penalties to remedy the failure of Defendant to provide clear and reasonable warnings regarding exposure to chemicals known to cause cancer, birth defects and other reproductive harm.

### **PARTIES**

- 5. Plaintiff MATEEL ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE FOUNDATION ("Mateel") is a non-profit organization dedicated to, among other causes, the protection of the environment, promotion of human health, environmental education, and consumer rights. Mateel is based in Eureka, California, and is incorporated under the laws of the State of California. Mateel is a "person" pursuant to Health & Safety Code Section 25118. Mateel brings this enforcement action in the public interest pursuant to Health & Safety Code §25249.7(d). Residents of California are regularly exposed to lead and lead compounds from espresso machines manufactured, distributed or marketed by Defendant and are so exposed without a clear and reasonable Proposition 65 warning.
- 6. Defendant is a person doing business within the meaning of Health & Safety Code Section 25249.11. Defendant is a business that distributes, and/or markets espresso machines in California, including the City and County of San Francisco. Distribution and/or marketing of these products in the City and County of San Francisco and/or to people who live in San Francisco, causes people to be exposed to lead and lead compounds while they are physically present in the City and County of San Francisco.
- 7. Plaintiff brings this enforcement action against Defendant pursuant to Health & Safety Code Section 25249.7(d). Attached hereto and incorporated by reference is a copy of a Notice of Violation letter, dated January 29, 2009, which Mateel sent to California's Attorney General. Substantively identical letters were sent to every District Attorney in the state, and to the City Attorneys of every California city with a population greater than 750,000, and to the Defendant. Attached to the Notice of Violation Letter sent to the Defendant was a summary of Proposition 65 that was prepared by California's Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment. In addition, each Notice of Violation Letter plaintiff sent was accompanied by a Certificate of Service attesting to the service of the Notice of Violation Letter on each entity which received it. Pursuant to California Health & Safety Code Section 25249.7(d), a Certificate of Merit attesting to the reasonable and meritorious basis for the action was also sent with each

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Notice of Violation Letter. Factual information sufficient to establish the basis of the Certificate of Merit was enclosed with the Notice of Violation letter Mateel sent to the Attorney General.

8. Defendant employs more than ten people.

# <u>JURISDICTION</u>

- 9. The Court has jurisdiction over this action pursuant to California Health & Safety Code Section 25249.7. California Constitution Article VI, Section 10 grants the Superior Court "original jurisdiction in all causes except those given by statute to other trial courts." Chapter 6.6 of the Health & Safety Code, which contains the statutes under which this action is brought, does not grant jurisdiction to any other trial court.
- 10. This Court also has jurisdiction over Defendant because it is a business that has sufficient minimum contacts in California and within the City and County of San Francisco. Defendant intentionally availed itself of the California and San Francisco County markets for espresso machines. It is thus consistent with traditional notions of fair play and substantial justice for the San Francisco Superior Court to exercise jurisdiction over Defendant.
- 11. Venue is proper in this Court because Defendant markets its products in and around San Francisco and thus causes people to be exposed to lead and lead compounds while those people are physically present in San Francisco. Liability for Plaintiff's causes of action, or some parts thereof, has accordingly arisen in San Francisco during the times relevant to this Complaint and Plaintiff seeks civil penalties imposed by statute.

# FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION (Claim for Injunctive Relief)

- Plaintiff realleges and incorporates by reference into this First Cause of Action, as 12. if specifically set forth herein, paragraphs 1 through 11, inclusive.
- 13. The People of the State of California have declared by referendum under Proposition 65 (California Health & Safety Code § 25249.5 et seq.) their right "[t]o be informed about exposures to chemicals that cause cancer, birth defects, and reproductive harm."
- 14. To effectuate this goal, Section 25249.6 of the Health and Safety Code mandates that businesses that knowingly and intentionally expose any individual to a chemical known to

the State of California to cause cancer or birth defects must first provide a clear and reasonable warning to such individual prior to the exposure.

- 15. Since at least January 29, 2006, Defendant has engaged in conduct that violates Health and Safety Code Section 25249.6 et seq. This conduct includes knowingly and intentionally exposing to the above mentioned toxic chemicals, those California residents who handle, use or drink beverages made using espresso machines. The normally intended use of espresso machines causes exposure to lead and lead compounds, which are chemicals known to the State of California to cause cancer, birth defects and other reproductive harm. Defendant has not provided clear and reasonable warnings, within the meaning of Health & Safety Code Sections 25249.6 and 25249.11.
- 16. At all times relevant to this action, Defendant knew that the espresso machines it distributed or marketed were causing exposures to lead and lead compounds. Defendant intended that residents of California handle, use and drink beverages made using espresso machines in such ways as would lead to significant exposures to these chemicals.
- 17. By the above described acts, Defendant has violated Cal. Health & Safety Code § 25249.6 and is therefore subject to an injunction ordering it to stop violating Proposition 65, to provide warnings to all present and future customers and to provide warnings to its past customers who purchased Defendant's products without receiving a clear and reasonable warning.

# SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION (Claim for Civil Penalties)

- 18. Plaintiff realleges and incorporates by reference into this Second Cause of Action, as if specifically set forth herein, paragraphs 1 through 17, inclusive.
- 19. By the above described acts, Defendant is liable and should be liable pursuant to Health & Safety Code § 25249.7(b), for a civil penalty of \$2,500.00 per day for each individual exposed without proper warning to lead and lead compounds from the handling, use of, or the drinking of beverages made using Defendant's espresso machines.

# PRAYER FOR RELIEF

Wherefore, plaintiff prays for judgment against Defendant, as follows:

- 1. Pursuant to the First Cause of Action, that Defendant be enjoined, restrained, and ordered to comply with the provisions of Section 25249.6 of the California Health & Safety Code;
- 2. Pursuant to the Second Cause of Action, that Defendant be assessed a civil penalty in an amount equal to \$2,500.00 per day per individual exposed, in violation of Section 25249.6 of the California Health & Safety Code, to lead and lead compounds as the result of Defendant's distributing or marketing of espresso machines;
- 3. That Defendant be ordered to identify and locate each individual who purchased espresso machines and provide a warning to each such person that the espresso machines the person purchased will expose that person to chemicals known to cause birth defects.
- 4. That, pursuant to Civil Procedure Code § 1021.5, Defendant be ordered to pay to Plaintiff the attorneys fees and costs it incurred in bringing this enforcement action.
  - 5. For such other relief as this court deems just and proper.

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KLAMATH ENVIRONMENTAL LAW CENTER

William Verick

Attorney for Plaintiff

Mateel Environmental Justice Foundation

Dated: May 26, 2009



January 29, 2009

EDWARD G. WEIL
DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
P.O. BOX 70550
OAKLAND CA 94612-0550

Greetings:

This office and the Mateel Environmental Justice Foundation ("Mateel") give you notice that Nemox SpA has been, is, will be and threatens to be in violation of Cal. Health & Safety Code § 25249.6. Both this office and Mateel are private enforcers of Proposition 65, both may be contacted at the below listed address and telephone number, and I am a responsible individual at both Mateel and this office. The above referenced violations occur when California residents drink espresso, cappucino, cafe au lait, cafe latte (collectively "espresso drinks") and tea that are made using water that was heated in espresso machines marketed by Nemox SpA (hereinafter "Nemox") These Nemox espresso machines utilize leaded brass components (brass group heads, boilers, tubes, fittings, steam wands and porta filters, (collectively hereinafter "leaded brass plumbing"). Specific examples of the specific types of products are: CAFFE' NAPOLETANA ESPRESSO ITALIAN CASA UPC CODE: 819458 421011; and CAFFE' NAPOLETANA COFFE MAKER 10CZ UPC CODE: 819458 42101 Though specific model and code numbers are given as examples, this notice pertains to all espresso machines that utilize brass components. Lead and lead compounds ("lead") are chemicals known to cause cancer, birth defects and other reproductive harm. California residents are exposed to lead whenever they drink beverages (such as coffee, espresso drinks or tea) that are made from water that has flowed through the leaded brass plumbing. Lead leaches from the leaded brass plumbing into the water that flows through this plumbing and is then made into drinks that are drunk. These lead exposures thus occur via the ingestion route of exposure. Nemox did not and does not provide people with clear and reasonable warnings before it exposes them to lead. These violations have occurred every day since at least January 29, 2006, and will continue every day until the lead is removed from the brass plumbing in these machines, until Nemox uses different espresso machines that do not impart lead to beverages made using the machines or until clear and reasonable warnings are given. The above-referenced violations are alleged for occupational exposures as well as for consumer and environmental exposures. We do not, however, allege occupational exposure violations as to any beverages made outside of California, except as to workplaces Nemox itself maintains in California. Exposures constituting Proposition 65 environmental exposure violations occur both on and off Nemox's property and in each of California's 58 counties.

Corplially,

William Verick

EDWARD G. WEIL
DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY
GENERAL
P O. BOX 70550
OAKLAND CA 94612-0550

OFFICE OF THE CITY ATTORNEY CITY OF OAKLAND 505 14TH ST 12TH FLOOR OAKLAND, CA 94612

OFFICE OF THE CITY ATTORNEY CITY OF SAN FRANCISCO CITY HALL ROOM 206 400 VAN NESS SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102

OFFICE OF THE CITY ATTORNEY CITY OF SACRAMENTO PO BOX 1948 SACRAMENTO, CA 95812-1948

OFFICE OF THE CITY ATTORNEY CITY OF SAN JOSE 200 EAST SANTA CLARA STREET SAN JOSE CA 95113

OFFICE OF THE CITY ATTORNEY CITY OF LOS ANGELES 200 N. MAIN ST. LOS ANGELES, CA 90012

OFFICE OF THE CITY ATTORNEY CITY OF SAN DIEGO CONSUMER & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION 1200 THIRD AVENUE, SUITE 700 SAN DIEGO, CA 92101

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY COUNTY OF ALAMEDA 1225 FALLON STREET ROOM 900 OAKLAND. CA 94612

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY COUNTY OF ALPINE P.O. BOX 248 MARKLEEVILLE, CA 96120

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY COUNTY OF AMADOR 708 COURT STREET JACKSON, CA 95642

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY COUNTY OF BUTTE 25 COUNTY CENTER DR. OROVILLE, CA 95965

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY COUNTY OF CALAVERAS GOVERNMENT CENTER 891 MOUNTAIN RANCH ROAD SAN ANDREAS, CA95249

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY COUNTY OF COLUSA 547 MARKET STREET COLUSA, CA 95932

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY COUNTY OF CONTRA COSTA P.O. BOX 670 MARTINEZ, CA 94553

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY COUNTY OF DEL NORTE 450 H ST #171 CRESCENT CITY, CA 95531

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY COUNTY OF EL DORADO 515 MAIN ST. PLACERVILLE, CA 95667

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY COUNTY OF FRESNO 2220 TULARE ST #1000 FRESNO, CA 93721 OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY COUNTY OF GLENN P O. BOX 430 WILLOWS, CA 95988

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT 825 5TH ST. EUREKA, CA 95501

COUNTY OF IMPERIAL COURTHOUSE, FLOOR 2 939 W. MAIN ST EL CENTRO, CA 92243

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY COUNTY OF INYO P O. DRAWER D INDEPENDENCE, CA 93526

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY COUNTY OF KERN 1215 TRUXTUN AVE. FLOOR 4 BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY COUNTY OF KINGS 1400 W. LACEY BLVD. HANFORD, CA 93230

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY COUNTY OF LAKE 255 N. FORBES ST # 424 LAKEPORT. CA 95453

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY COUNTY OF LASSEN 220 SOUTH LASSEN ST. STE 8 SUSANVILLE, CA 96130

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES 18000 CRIMINAL COURTS BUILDING 210 W. TEMPLE ST. LOS ANGELES, CA 90012

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY COUNTY OF MADERA 209 W. YOSEMITE AVE. MADERA, CA 93637

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY COUNTY OF MARIN HALL OF JUSTICE #183 SAN RAFAEL CA 94903

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY COUNTY OF MARIPOSA P.O. BOX 730 MARIPOSA, CA 95318

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY COUNTY OF MENDOCTNO PO BOX 1000 UKIAH. CA 95482

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY COUNTY OF MERCED 2222 M ST. MERCED, CA 95340

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY COUNTY OF MODOC 204 SOUTH COURT STREET ALTURAS, CA 96101

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY COUNTY OF MONO P O BOX 617 BRIDGEPORT, CA 93517

### SERVICE LIST

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY COUNTY OF MONTEREY 240 CHURCH STREET P.O. BOX 1131 SALINAS, CA 93902

COUNTY OF NAPA 931 PARKWAY MALL P O. BOX 720 NAPA, CA 94559-0720

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY COUNTY OF NEVADA COURTHOUSE ANNEX NEVADA CITY, CA 95959

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY COUNTY OF ORANGE 401 CIVIC CENTER DR WEST SANTA ANA, CA 92701

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY COUNTY OF PLACER 11562 B AVE AUBURN, CA 95603.2687

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY COUNTY OF PLUMAS 520 MAIN STREET #404 QUINCY, CA 95971

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE 4073 MAIN ST. RIVERSIDE, CA 92501

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO 901 G STREET SACRAMENTO, CA 95814

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY COUNTY OF SAN BENTTO 419 4TH ST HOLLISTER, CA 95023

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO 316 MT. VIEW AVE. SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92415-0004

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO 330 W. BROADWAY SAN DIEGO, CA 92101

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO 850 BRYANT ST 8322 SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94103

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY COUNTY OF SAN JOAQUIN 222 B. WEBER AVE #202 STOCKTON, CA 95202

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER #450 SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA 93408

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY COUNTY OF SAN MATEO HALL OF JUSTICE AND RECORDS REDWOOD CITY, CA 94063

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA 1112 SANTA BARBARA ST. SANTA BARBARA, CA 93101

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA 70 W. HEDDING ST. SAN JOSE, CA 95110

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ 701 OCEAN ST. #200 SANTA CRUZ. CA 95060

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY COUNTY OF SHASTA 1525 COURT ST. REDDING, CA 96001

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY COUNTY OF SIERRA P O. BOX 457 DOWNIEVILLE, CA 95936 OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY COUNTY OF SISKIYOU P.O. BOX 986 YREKA, CA 96097

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY COUNTY OF SOLANO 600 UNION AVE FAIRFIELD, CA 94533

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY COUNTY OF SONOMA
600 ADMINISTRATION DR. #2121
SANTA ROSA, CA 95403

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY COUNTY OF STANISLAUS 1100 1 ST. #200 MODESTO, CA 95354

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
COUNTY OF SUTTER
1160 CIVIC CENTER BLVD. #A
YUBA CITY, CA 95993

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY COUNTY OF TEHAMA P.O. BOX 519 REDBLUFF, CA 96080

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY COUNTY OF TRINITY P.O. BOX 310 WEAVERVILLE, CA 96093

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY COUNTY OF TULARE COURTHOUSE #224 VISALIA, CA 93291

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY COUNTY OF TUOLUMNE 2 S. GREEN ST. SONORA, CA 95370

VENTURA COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE 800 SOUTH VICTORIA AVE VENTURA, CA 93009

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY COUNTY OF YOLO 301 SECOND STREET WOODLAND, CA 95695

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY COUNTY OF YUBA 215 5TH ST. MARYSVILLE, CA 95901

GIORGIO GUERRINI, DIRECTOR NEMOX S.P.A. VIA ENRICO MATTEI, 14 25026 PONTEVICO BRESCIA, ITALY

# CERTIFICATE OF MERIT

I, William Verick, hereby declare: This Certificate of Merit accompanies the attached sixty-day notice(s) in which it is alleged the parties identified in the notices have violated Health and Safety Code section 25249.6 by failing to provide clear and reasonable warnings. I am the attorney for the noticing party. I have consulted with one or more persons with relevant and appropriate experience or expertise who has reviewed facts, studies, or other data regarding the exposure to the listed chemical that is the subject of the action. Based on the information obtained through those consultations, and on all other information in my possession, I believe there is a reasonable and meritorious case for the private action. I understand that "reasonable and meritorious case for the private action" means that the information provides a credible basis that all elements of the plaintiffs' case can be established and the information did not prove that the alleged violator will be able to establish any of the affirmative defenses set forth in the statute. The copy of this Certificate of Merit served on the Attorney General attaches to it factual information sufficient to establish the basis for this certificate, including the information identified in Health and Safety Code section 25249.7(h)(2), i.e., (1) the identity of the person(s) consulted with and relied on by the certifier, and (2) the facts, studies, or other data reviewed by those persons.

Dated: January 29, 2009

William Verick

This notice alleges the violation of Proposition 65 with respect to occupational exposures governed by the California State Plan for Occupational Safety and Health. The State Plan incorporates the provisions of Proposition 65, as approved by Federal OSHA on June 6, 1997. This approval specifically placed certain conditions on Proposition 65, including that it does not apply to the conduct of manufacturers occurring outside the State of California. The approval also provides that an employer may use the means of compliances in the general hazard communication requirements to comply with Proposition 65. It also requires that supplemental enforcement is subject to the supervision of the California Occupational Safety and Health Administration. Accordingly, any settlement, civil complaint, or substantive court orders in this matter must be submitted to the Attorney General.

#### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

### I, Nicole Frank, declare:

If called, I could and would testify as follows: I am over eighteen. My business address is 424 First Street, Eureka, California, 95501. On January 29, 2009, I caused the attached 60-DAY NOTICE LETTER, or a letter identical in substance, to be served by U.S. Mail on those public enforcement agencies listed on the attached SERVICE LIST; in addition on the same date and by U.S. Mail I caused the attached 60-DAY NOTICE LETTER and PROPOSITION 65: A SUMMARY to be sent by Certified U.S. Mail to the private business entities also listed on the attached SERVICE LIST. I deposited copies of these documents in envelopes, postage pre-paid, with the U.S. Postal Service on the day on which the mail is collected. I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct and that this declaration was executed on January 29, 2009, at Eureka, California.

Nicole Frank