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8 Attorneys for Plaintiff Environmental Research Center

ENDORSED  
FILED  
ALAMEDA COUNTY

OCT 30 2014

CLERK OF THE SUPERIOR COURT  
By           Mariana Carrera           Deputy

9 **SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**  
10 **COUNTY OF ALAMEDA**

11 **ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH CENTER,**  
12 **a California non-profit corporation**

13 **Plaintiff,**

14 vs.

15 **RIVER CANYON RETREAT, INC. dba**  
16 **EARTH CIRCLE ORGANICS and DOES 1-**  
17 **100**

18 **Defendants.**

CASE NO. **RG14746349**

**COMPLAINT FOR INJUNCTIVE  
AND DECLARATORY RELIEF AND  
CIVIL PENALTIES**

[Miscellaneous Civil Complaint (42)]  
Proposition 65, Health & Safety Code  
Section 25249.5 et seq.]

19 Plaintiff Environmental Research Center hereby alleges:

20 **I**

21 **INTRODUCTION**

22 1. Plaintiff Environmental Research Center (hereinafter "Plaintiff" or "ERC") brings this  
23 action as a private attorney general enforcer and in the public interest pursuant to Health & Safety  
24 Code section 25249.7, subdivision (d). This complaint seeks injunctive and declaratory relief and  
25 civil penalties to remedy Defendant River Canyon Retreat, Inc. dba Earth Circle Organics and Does  
26 1-100 (hereinafter "ECO")' failure to warn consumers that they have been exposed to lead from  
27 several of the company's nutritional health products. Lead is a chemical known to the State of  
28 California to cause cancer, birth defects and other reproductive harm. Based on the Safe Drinking  
Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986 (Health & Safety Code section 25249.5 *et seq.*) also

1 known as "Proposition 65," businesses with ten or more employees must provide a "clear and  
2 reasonable warning" prior to exposing people to this chemical.

3 **II**

4 **PARTIES**

5 2. Plaintiff ERC is a California non-profit corporation dedicated to, among other causes,  
6 helping safeguard the public from health hazards by reducing the use and misuse of hazardous and  
7 toxic chemicals, facilitating a safe environment for consumers and employees and encouraging  
8 corporate responsibility.

9 3. Defendant ECO is a business that imports, develops, manufactures, distributes and/or sells  
10 nutritional health products that have exposed users to lead in the State of California within the  
11 relevant statute of limitations period. These "Covered Products" are River Canyon Retreat, Inc. Earth  
12 Circle Organics Raw Organic Spirulina Powder, River Canyon Retreat, Inc. Earth Circle Organics  
13 Raw Organic Spirulina Tablets 250 mg, River Canyon Retreat, Inc. Earth Circle Foods Raw  
14 Chlorella & Spirulina Tablets 250 mg, River Canyon Retreat, Inc. Earth Circle Organics Raw  
15 Organic Dehydrated Alfalfa Grass Powder, River Canyon Retreat, Inc. Earth Circle Organics  
16 Organic Balinese Cacao Powder, and River Canyon Retreat, Inc. Earth Circle Foods Raw Chlorella  
17 Tablets 250 mg. ECO is a company subject to Proposition 65 as it employs ten or more persons, and  
18 has employed ten or more persons at all times relevant to this action.

19 4. Defendants Does 1-100, are named herein under fictitious names, as their true names and  
20 capacities are unknown to ERC. ERC is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that each of  
21 said Does is responsible, in some actionable manner, for the events and happenings hereinafter  
22 referred to, either through said Defendant's conduct, or through the conduct of its agents, servants or  
23 employees, or in some other manner, causing the harms alleged by ERC in this complaint. When  
24 said true names and capacities of Does are ascertained, ERC will seek leave to amend this complaint  
25 to set forth the same.

26 **III**

27 **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

28 5. This Court has jurisdiction pursuant to California Constitution Article VI, Section 10  
because this case is a cause not given by statute to other trial courts.



1 come into contact with a listed chemical through water, air, food, consumer products and any other  
2 environmental exposure as well as occupational exposures.” (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 27, § 25102,  
3 subd. (i).)

4 11. In this case, the exposures at issue are caused by consumer products. Implementing  
5 regulations for Proposition 65 define a consumer product exposure as “ an exposure which results  
6 from a person’s acquisition, purchase, storage, consumption, or other reasonably foreseeable use of a  
7 consumer good, or any exposure that results from receiving a consumer service.” (Cal. Code Regs.,  
8 tit. 27, § 25602, subd. (b).)

9 12. Whenever a clear and reasonable warning is required under Health & Safety Code  
10 section 25249.6, the “method employed to transmit the warning must be reasonably calculated  
11 considering the alternative methods available under the circumstances, to make the warning message  
12 available prior to exposure.” (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 27, § 25601.) The warning requirement may be  
13 satisfied by a warning that appears on a product’s label or other labeling, shelf labeling, signs, a  
14 system of signs, public advertising identifying the system and toll-free information services, or any  
15 other system, that provides clear and reasonable warnings. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 27, § 25603.1,  
16 subd. (a)-(d).)

17 13. Proposition 65 establishes a procedure by which the State is to develop a list of  
18 chemicals “known to the State to cause cancer or reproductive toxicity.” (Health & Safety Code,  
19 § 25249.8.) There is no duty to provide a clear and reasonable warning until 12-months after the  
20 chemical was published on the State list. (Health & Safety Code, § 25249.10, subd. (b).) Lead was  
21 listed as a chemical known to the State of California to cause developmental toxicity in the fetus and  
22 male and female reproductive toxicity on February 27, 1987. Lead was listed as a chemical known  
23 to the State of California to cause cancer on October 1, 1992. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 27, § 27001.)

24 14. The Maximum Allowable Dose Level for lead as a chemical known to cause  
25 reproductive toxicity is 0.5 micrograms per day. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 27, § 25805.) The No  
26 Significant Risk Level for lead as a carcinogen is 15 micrograms per day. (Cal. Code Regs., tit.  
27 27, § 25705.)

28 15. Proposition 65 may be enforced by any person in the public interest who provides notice  
sixty days before filing suit to both the violator and designated law enforcement officials. The

1 failure of law enforcement officials to file a timely complaint enables a citizen suit to be filed  
2 pursuant to Health & Safety Code section 25249.7, subdivisions (c) and (d).

3 16. Proposition 65 provides that any person “violating or threatening to violate” Proposition  
4 65 may be enjoined in any court of competent jurisdiction. (Health & Safety Code, § 25249.7, subd.  
5 (a).) To “threaten to violate” means “to create a condition in which there is a substantial probability  
6 that a violation will occur.” (Health & Safety Code, § 25249.11, subd. (e).) Furthermore, violators  
7 are subject to a civil penalty of up to \$2,500 per day for each violation. (Health & Safety Code, §  
8 25249.7, subd. (b)(1).)

9 V

10 **STATEMENT OF FACTS**

11 17. ECO has imported, developed, manufactured, distributed and/or sold the Covered  
12 Products containing lead into the State of California. Consumers have been ingesting these  
13 products for many years, without any knowledge of their exposure to lead, a very dangerous  
14 chemical.

15 18. For many years, ECO has knowingly and intentionally exposed numerous persons to  
16 lead, without providing a Proposition 65 warning. Both prior to and subsequent to ERC’s Notice of  
17 Violation, ECO failed to provide a warning on the label of the Covered Products or otherwise warn  
18 its customers of their exposure to lead. The company has at all times relevant hereto been aware that  
19 the Covered Products contained lead and that persons using these products have been exposed to the  
20 chemical. ECO is an experienced company in the nutritional supplement field, with a highly  
21 qualified staff. Given the company’s attention to product formulation, its team of nutritional experts  
22 involved in the importation, manufacture, formulation and distribution of the products, and the  
23 testing purportedly conducted on the ingredients used in the company’s products, ECO has  
24 undoubtedly been aware of the presence of lead in the Covered Products. The company’s website  
states:

25 - “Our mission at Earth Circle Organics is to educate, expand, and supply the market for  
26 sustainably-sourced raw and organic products and to operate with the highest integrity in all of our  
27 activities. ... We provide high-quality products at the best possible prices to a variety of organic  
28 sectors.”

1 - " At Earth Circle Organics we believe the quality of our food is one of the most important aspects  
2 of our lives. That is why we source food that is grown with the highest standards of quality and  
3 integrity...."

4 - " We recognize that the popularity of superfood products is a global trend, and we are dedicated to  
5 providing the highest quality customized service to our customers around the world."

6 Despite ECO's mission to provide the highest quality products, ECO has failed to disclose  
7 the presence of lead to the public, who undoubtedly believe they have been ingesting totally healthy  
8 and pure products.

9 19. For years prior to ERC's Notice of Violation and continuing after receiving the Notice  
10 of Violation, ECO failed to provide consumers of the Covered Products with a clear and reasonable  
11 warning that they have been exposed to a chemical known to the State of California to cause cancer,  
12 birth defects and other reproductive harm.

### 13 FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

#### 14 (Violation of Section 25249.6 of the Health and Safety Code, Failure to Provide Clear 15 and Reasonable Warning under Proposition 65)

16 20. ERC refers to paragraphs 1-19, inclusive, and incorporates them herein by this reference.

17 21. By committing the acts alleged above, ECO has, in the course of doing business,  
18 knowingly and intentionally exposed users of the Covered Products to lead, a chemical known to the  
19 State of California to cause cancer, birth defects and other reproductive harm without first giving  
20 clear and reasonable warning to such individuals, within the meaning of Health & Safety Code  
21 section 25249.6.

22 22. Said violations render ECO liable for civil penalties up to \$2,500 per day, for each  
23 violation.

### 24 SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION

#### 25 (Declaratory Relief)

26 23. ERC refers to paragraphs 1-22, inclusive, and incorporates them herein by this reference.

27 24. There exists an actual controversy relating to the legal rights and duties of the parties,  
28 within the meaning of Code of Civil Procedure section 1060, between ERC and ECO concerning  
whether the company has exposed individuals to a chemical known to the State of California to

1 cause cancer, birth defects and other reproductive harm without providing clear and reasonable  
2 warning.

3  
4 VI

5 PRAYER

6 WHEREFORE ERC prays for relief as follows:

7 1. On the First Cause of Action, for civil penalties for each and every violation according to  
8 proof;

9 2. On the First Cause of Action, and pursuant to Health & Safety Code section 25249.7,  
10 subdivision (a), for such temporary restraining orders, preliminary and permanent injunctive orders,  
11 or other orders as are necessary to prohibit ECO from exposing persons to lead without providing  
12 clear and reasonable warning;

13 3. On the Second Cause of Action, for a declaratory judgment pursuant to Code of Civil  
14 Procedure section 1060 declaring that ECO has exposed individuals to a chemical known to the State  
15 of California to cause birth defects and other reproductive harm without providing clear and  
16 reasonable warning; and

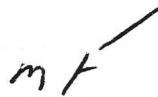
17 4. On all Causes of Action, for reasonable attorneys' fees pursuant to section 1021.5 of the  
18 Code of Civil Procedure or the substantial benefit theory;

19 5. For costs of suit herein; and

20 6. For such other relief as the Court may deem just and proper.

21 Dated: October 28, 2014

22 By



23 \_\_\_\_\_  
24 Michael Freund  
25 Ryan Hoffman  
26 Attorneys for Environmental Research Center  
27  
28

**Michael Freund & Associates**

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Berkeley, CA 94704  
Voice: 510.540.1992 • Fax: 510.540.5543

Michael Freund, Esq.  
Ryan Hoffman, Esq.

OF COUNSEL:  
Denise Ferkich Hoffman, Esq.

May 23, 2014

**NOTICE OF VIOLATION OF  
CALIFORNIA HEALTH & SAFETY CODE SECTION 25249.5 ET SEQ.  
(PROPOSITION 65)**

Dear Alleged Violator and the Appropriate Public Enforcement Agencies:

I represent Environmental Research Center (“ERC”), 3111 Camino Del Rio North, Suite 400, San Diego, CA 92108; Tel. (619) 500-3090. ERC’s Executive Director is Chris Heptinstall. ERC is a California non-profit corporation dedicated to, among other causes, helping safeguard the public from health hazards by bringing about a reduction in the use and misuse of hazardous and toxic chemicals, facilitating a safe environment for consumers and employees, and encouraging corporate responsibility.

ERC has identified violations of California’s Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986 (“Proposition 65”), which is codified at California Health & Safety Code §25249.5 *et seq.*, with respect to the products identified below. These violations have occurred and continue to occur because the alleged Violator identified below failed to provide required clear and reasonable warnings with these products. This letter serves as a notice of these violations to the alleged Violator and the appropriate public enforcement agencies. Pursuant to Health and Safety Code Section 25249.7(c), ERC intends to file a private enforcement action in the public interest 60 days after effective service of this notice unless the public enforcement agencies have commenced and are diligently prosecuting an action to rectify these violations.

**General Information about Proposition 65.** A copy of a summary of Proposition 65, prepared by the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, is enclosed with this letter served to the alleged Violator identified below.

**Alleged Violator.** The name of the company covered by this notice that violated Proposition 65 (hereinafter the “Violator”) is:

**River Canyon Retreat Inc. dba Earth Circle Organics**

**Consumer Products and Listed Chemicals.** The products that are the subject of this notice and the chemical in those products identified as exceeding allowable levels are:

- 1) River Canyon Retreat, Inc. Earth Circle Organics Raw Organic Spirulina Powder – Lead
- 2) River Canyon Retreat, Inc. Earth Circle Organics Raw Organic Spirulina Tablets 250 mg – Lead
- 3) River Canyon Retreat, Inc. Earth Circle Foods Raw Chlorella & Spirulina Tablets 250 mg – Lead
- 4) River Canyon Retreat, Inc. Earth Circle Organics Raw Organic Dehydrated Alfalfa Grass Powder – Lead
- 5) River Canyon Retreat, Inc. Earth Circle Organics Organic Balinese Cacao Powder - Lead
- 6) River Canyon Retreat, Inc. Earth Circle Foods Raw Chlorella Tablets 250 mg – Lead

On February 27, 1987, the State of California officially listed lead as a chemical known to cause developmental toxicity, and male and female reproductive toxicity. On October 1, 1992, the State of California officially listed lead and lead compounds as chemicals known to cause cancer.



Notice of Violation of California Health & Safety Code §25249.5 *et seq.*

May 23, 2014

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It should be noted that ERC may continue to investigate other products that may reveal further violations and result in subsequent notices of violations.

**Route of Exposure.** The consumer exposures that are the subject of this notice result from the purchase, acquisition, handling and recommended use of these products. Consequently, the primary route of exposure to these chemicals has been and continues to be through ingestion, but may have also occurred and may continue to occur through inhalation and/or dermal contact.

**Approximate Time Period of Violations.** Ongoing violations have occurred every day since at least May 23, 2011, as well as every day since the products were introduced into the California marketplace, and will continue every day until clear and reasonable warnings are provided to product purchasers and users or until these known toxic chemicals are either removed from or reduced to allowable levels in the products. Proposition 65 requires that a clear and reasonable warning be provided prior to exposure to the identified chemicals. The method of warning should be a warning that appears on the product label. The Violator violated Proposition 65 because it failed to provide persons handling and/or using these products with appropriate warnings that they are being exposed to these chemicals.

Consistent with the public interest goals of Proposition 65 and a desire to have these ongoing violations of California law quickly rectified, ERC is interested in seeking a constructive resolution of this matter that includes an enforceable written agreement by the Violator to: (1) reformulate the identified products so as to eliminate further exposures to the identified chemicals, or provide appropriate warnings on the labels of these products; and (2) pay an appropriate civil penalty. Such a resolution will prevent further unwarned consumer exposures to the identified chemicals, as well as an expensive and time consuming litigation.

ERC has retained me as legal counsel in connection with this matter. **Please direct all communications regarding this Notice of Violation to my attention at the law office address and telephone number indicated on the letterhead or at [rrhoffma@gmail.com](mailto:rrhoffma@gmail.com).**

Sincerely,



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Ryan Hoffman

Attachments

Certificate of Merit

Certificate of Service

OEHHA Summary (to River Canyon Retreat Inc. dba Earth Circle Organics and its Registered Agent for Service of Process only)

Additional Supporting Information for Certificate of Merit (to AG only)

**CERTIFICATE OF MERIT**

**Re: Environmental Research Center's Notice of Proposition 65 Violations by River Canyon Retreat Inc. dba Earth Circle Organics**

I, Ryan Hoffman, declare:

1. This Certificate of Merit accompanies the attached 60-day notice in which it is alleged that the party identified in the notice violated California Health & Safety Code Section 25249.6 by failing to provide clear and reasonable warnings.

2. I am an attorney for the noticing party.

3. I have consulted with one or more persons with relevant and appropriate experience or expertise who have reviewed facts, studies, or other data regarding the exposure to the listed chemicals that are the subject of the notice.

4. Based on the information obtained through those consultants, and on 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 plaintiff's case can be established and that the information did not prove that the alleged Violator will be able to establish any of the affirmative defenses set forth in the statute.

5. Along with the copy of this Certificate of Merit served on the Attorney General is attached additional factual information sufficient to establish the basis for this certificate, including the information identified in California Health & Safety Code §25249.7(h)(2), i.e., (1) the identity of the persons consulted with and relied on by the certifier, and (2) the facts, studies, or other data reviewed by those persons.

Dated: May 23, 2014



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Ryan Hoffman

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I, the undersigned, declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the following is true and correct:

I am a citizen of the United States, over the age of 18 years of age, and am not a party to the within entitled action. My business address is 306 Joy Street, Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia 30742. I am a resident or employed in the county where the mailing occurred. The envelope or package was placed in the mail at Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia.

On May 23, 2014, I served the following documents: **NOTICE OF VIOLATION OF CALIFORNIA HEALTH & SAFETY CODE §25249.5 ET SEQ.; CERTIFICATE OF MERIT; "THE SAFE DRINKING WATER AND TOXIC ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 1986 (PROPOSITION 65): A SUMMARY"** on the following parties by placing a true and correct copy thereof in a sealed envelope, addressed to the party listed below and depositing it at a U.S. Postal Service Office with the postage fully prepaid for delivery by Certified Mail:

Current President or CEO  
River Canyon Retreat Inc. dba  
Earth Circle Organics  
355 Crown Point Circle, Suite D  
Grass Valley, CA 95945

Eric Allen Botner  
(River Canyon Retreat Inc. dba Earth Circle Organic's  
Registered Agent for Service of Process)  
355 Crown Point Circle, Suite D  
Grass Valley, CA 95945

On May 23, 2014, I electronically served the following documents: **NOTICE OF VIOLATION, CALIFORNIA HEALTH & SAFETY CODE §25249.5 ET SEQ.; CERTIFICATE OF MERIT; ADDITIONAL SUPPORTING INFORMATION FOR CERTIFICATE OF MERIT AS REQUIRED BY CALIFORNIA HEALTH & SAFETY CODE §25249.7(d)(1)** on the following party by uploading a true and correct copy thereof on the California Attorney General's website, which can be accessed at <https://oag.ca.gov/prop65/add-60-day-notice>:

Office of the California Attorney General  
Prop 65 Enforcement Reporting  
1515 Clay Street, Suite 2000  
Oakland, CA 94612-0550

On May 23, 2014, I served the following documents: **NOTICE OF VIOLATION, CALIFORNIA HEALTH & SAFETY CODE §25249.5 ET SEQ.; CERTIFICATE OF MERIT** on each of the parties on the Service List attached hereto by placing a true and correct copy thereof in a sealed envelope, addressed to each of the parties on the Service List attached hereto, and depositing it at a U.S. Postal Service Office with the postage fully prepaid for delivery by Priority Mail.

Executed on May 23, 2014, in Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia.



Tiffany Capehart

Notice of Violation of California Health & Safety Code §25249.5 *et seq.*

May 23, 2014

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Service List

District Attorney, Alameda County 1225 Fallon Street, Suite 900 Oakland, CA 94612	District Attorney, Los Angeles County 210 West Temple Street, Suite 18000 Los Angeles, CA 90012	District Attorney, San Diego County 330 West Broadway, Suite 1300 San Diego, CA 92101	District Attorney, Tuolumne County 423 N. Washington Street Sonora, CA 95370
District Attorney, Alpine County P.O. Box 248 Markleeville, CA 96120	District Attorney, Madera County 209 West Yosemite Avenue Madera, CA 93637	District Attorney, San Francisco County 850 Bryant Street, Suite 322 San Francisco, CA 94103	District Attorney, Ventura County 800 South Victoria Ave, Suite 314 Ventura, CA 93009
District Attorney, Amador County 708 Court Street Jackson, CA 95642	District Attorney, Marin County 3501 Civic Center Drive, Room 130 San Rafael, CA 94903	District Attorney, San Joaquin County 222 E. Weber Ave. Rm. 202 Stockton, CA 95202	District Attorney, Yolo County 301 2 <sup>nd</sup> Street Woodland, CA 95695
District Attorney, Butte County 25 County Center Drive, Suite 245 Oroville, CA 95965	District Attorney, Mariposa County Post Office Box 730 Mariposa, CA 95338	District Attorney, San Luis Obispo County 1035 Palm St, Room 450 San Luis Obispo, CA 93408	District Attorney, Yuba County 215 Fifth Street, Suite 152 Marysville, CA 95901
District Attorney, Calaveras County 891 Mountain Ranch Road San Andreas, CA 95249	District Attorney, Mendocino County Post Office Box 1000 Ukiah, CA 95482	District Attorney, San Mateo County 400 County Ctr., 3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor Redwood City, CA 94063	Los Angeles City Attorney's Office City Hall East 200 N. Main Street, Suite 800 Los Angeles, CA 90012
District Attorney, Colusa County 346 Fifth Street Suite 101 Colusa, CA 95932	District Attorney, Merced County 550 W. Main Street Merced, CA 95340	District Attorney, Santa Barbara County 1112 Santa Barbara Street Santa Barbara, CA 93101	San Diego City Attorney's Office 1200 3 <sup>rd</sup> Avenue, Ste 1620 San Diego, CA 92101
District Attorney, Contra Costa County 900 Ward Street Martinez, CA 94553	District Attorney, Modoc County 204 S Court Street, Room 202 Alturas, CA 96101-4020	District Attorney, Santa Clara County 70 West Hedding Street San Jose, CA 95110	San Francisco, City Attorney City Hall, Room 234 1 Dr Carlton B Goodlett PL San Francisco, CA 94102
District Attorney, Del Norte County 450 H Street, Room 171 Crescent City, CA 95531	District Attorney, Mono County Post Office Box 617 Bridgeport, CA 93517	District Attorney, Santa Cruz County 701 Ocean Street, Room 200 Santa Cruz, CA 95060	San Jose City Attorney's Office 200 East Santa Clara Street, 16 <sup>th</sup> Floor San Jose, CA 95113
District Attorney, El Dorado County 515 Main Street Placerville, CA 95667	District Attorney, Monterey County Post Office Box 1131 Salinas, CA 93902	District Attorney, Shasta County 1355 West Street Redding, CA 96001	
District Attorney, Fresno County 2220 Tulare Street, Suite 1000 Fresno, CA 93721	District Attorney, Napa County 931 Parkway Mall Napa, CA 94559	District Attorney, Sierra County PO Box 457 Downieville, CA 95936	
District Attorney, Glenn County Post Office Box 430 Willows, CA 95988	District Attorney, Nevada County 201 Commercial Street Nevada City, CA 95959	District Attorney, Siskiyou County Post Office Box 986 Yreka, CA 96097	
District Attorney, Humboldt County 825 5th Street 4 <sup>th</sup> Floor Eureka, CA 95501	District Attorney, Orange County 401 West Civic Center Drive Santa Ana, CA 92701	District Attorney, Solano County 675 Texas Street, Ste 4500 Fairfield, CA 94533	
District Attorney, Imperial County 940 West Main Street, Ste 102 El Centro, CA 92243	District Attorney, Placer County 10810 Justice Center Drive, Ste 240 Roseville, CA 95678	District Attorney, Sonoma County 600 Administration Drive, Room 212J Santa Rosa, CA 95403	
District Attorney, Inyo County 230 W. Line Street Bishop, CA 93514	District Attorney, Plumas County 520 Main Street, Room 404 Quincy, CA 95971	District Attorney, Stanislaus County 832 12 <sup>th</sup> Street, Ste 300 Modesto, CA 95354	
District Attorney, Kern County 1215 Truxtun Avenue Bakersfield, CA 93301	District Attorney, Riverside County 3960 Orange Street Riverside, CA 92501	District Attorney, Sutter County 446 Second Street Yuba City, CA 95991	
District Attorney, Kings County 1400 West Lacey Boulevard Hanford, CA 93230	District Attorney, Sacramento County 901 "G" Street Sacramento, CA 95814	District Attorney, Tehama County Post Office Box 519 Red Bluff, CA 96080	
District Attorney, Lake County 255 N. Forbes Street Lakeport, CA 95453	District Attorney, San Benito County 419 Fourth Street, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor Hollister, CA 95023	District Attorney, Trinity County Post Office Box 310 Weaverville, CA 96093	
District Attorney, Lassen County 220 South Lassen Street, Ste. 8 Susanville, CA 96130	District Attorney, San Bernardino County 316 N. Mountain View Avenue San Bernardino, CA 92415-0004	District Attorney, Tulare County 221 S. Mooney Blvd., Room 224 Visalia, CA 93291	

## APPENDIX A

### OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH HAZARD ASSESSMENT CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

#### THE SAFE DRINKING WATER AND TOXIC ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 1986 (PROPOSITION 65): A SUMMARY

The following summary has been prepared by the California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA), the lead agency for the implementation of the Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986 (commonly known as "Proposition 65"). A copy of this summary must be included as an attachment to any notice of violation served upon an alleged violator of the Act. The summary provides basic information about the provisions of the law, and is intended to serve only as a convenient source of general information. It is not intended to provide authoritative guidance on the meaning or application of the law. The reader is directed to the statute and OEHHA's implementing regulations (see citations below) for further information.

FOR INFORMATION CONCERNING THE BASIS FOR THE ALLEGATIONS IN THE NOTICE RELATED TO YOUR BUSINESS, CONTACT THE PERSON IDENTIFIED ON THE NOTICE.

Proposition 65 appears in California law as Health and Safety Code Sections 25249.5 through 25249.13. The statute is available online at: <http://oehha.ca.gov/prop65/law/P65law72003.html>. Regulations that provide more specific guidance on compliance, and that specify procedures to be followed by the State in carrying out certain aspects of the law, are found in Title 27 of the California Code of Regulations, sections 25102 through 27001.<sup>1</sup> These implementing regulations are available online at: <http://oehha.ca.gov/prop65/law/P65Regs.html>.

#### *WHAT DOES PROPOSITION 65 REQUIRE?*

**The "Governor's List."** Proposition 65 requires the Governor to publish a list of chemicals that are known to the State of California to cause cancer and/or reproductive toxicity. This means that chemicals are placed on the Proposition 65 list if they are known to cause cancer and/or birth defects or other reproductive harm, such as

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<sup>1</sup> All further regulatory references are to sections of Title 27 of the California Code of Regulations unless otherwise indicated. The statute, regulations and relevant case law are available on the OEHHA website at: <http://www.oehha.ca.gov/prop65/law/index.html>.

damage to female or male reproductive systems or to the developing fetus. This list must be updated at least once a year. The current Proposition 65 list of chemicals is available on the OEHHA website at:  
[http://www.oehha.ca.gov/prop65/prop65\\_list/Newlist.html](http://www.oehha.ca.gov/prop65/prop65_list/Newlist.html).

Only those chemicals that are on the list are regulated under this law. Businesses that produce, use, release or otherwise engage in activities involving listed chemicals must comply with the following:

***Clear and reasonable warnings.*** A business is required to warn a person before "knowingly and intentionally" exposing that person to a listed chemical unless an exemption applies; for example, when exposures are sufficiently low (see below). The warning given must be "clear and reasonable." This means that the warning must: (1) clearly make known that the chemical involved is known to cause cancer, or birth defects or other reproductive harm and (2) be given in such a way that it will effectively reach the person before he or she is exposed. Some exposures are exempt from the warning requirement under certain circumstances discussed below.

***Prohibition from discharges into drinking water.*** A business must not knowingly discharge or release a listed chemical into water or onto land where it passes or probably will pass into a source of drinking water. Some discharges are exempt from this requirement under certain circumstances discussed below.

#### ***DOES PROPOSITION 65 PROVIDE ANY EXEMPTIONS?***

Yes. You should consult the current version of the statute and regulations (<http://www.oehha.ca.gov/prop65/law/index.html>) to determine all applicable exemptions, the most common of which are the following:

***Grace Period.*** Proposition 65 warning requirements do not apply until 12 months after the chemical has been listed. The Proposition 65 discharge prohibition does not apply to a discharge or release of a chemical that takes place less than 20 months after the listing of the chemical.

***Governmental agencies and public water utilities.*** All agencies of the federal, state or local government, as well as entities operating public water systems, are exempt.

***Businesses with nine or fewer employees.*** Neither the warning requirement nor the discharge prohibition applies to a business that employs a total of nine or fewer employees. This includes all employees, not just those present in California.

**Exposures that pose no significant risk of cancer.** For chemicals that are listed as known to the State to cause cancer ("carcinogens"), a warning is not required if the business can demonstrate that the exposure occurs at a level that poses "no significant risk." This means that the exposure is calculated to result in not more than one excess case of cancer in 100,000 individuals exposed over a 70-year lifetime. The Proposition 65 regulations identify specific "No Significant Risk Levels" (NSRLs) for many listed carcinogens. Exposures below these levels are exempt from the warning requirement. See OEHHA's website at: <http://www.oehha.ca.gov/prop65/getNSRLs.html> for a list of NSRLs, and Section 25701 *et seq.* of the regulations for information concerning how these levels are calculated.

**Exposures that will produce no observable reproductive effect at 1,000 times the level in question.** For chemicals known to the State to cause reproductive toxicity, a warning is not required if the business can demonstrate that the exposure will produce no observable effect, even at 1,000 times the level in question. In other words, the level of exposure must be below the "no observable effect level" divided by a 1,000. This number is known as the Maximum Allowable Dose Level (MADL). See OEHHA's website at: <http://www.oehha.ca.gov/prop65/getNSRLs.html> for a list of MADLs, and Section 25801 *et seq.* of the regulations for information concerning how these levels are calculated.

**Exposures to Naturally Occurring Chemicals in a Food.** Certain exposures to chemicals that occur in foods naturally (i.e., that do not result from any known human activity, including activity by someone other than the person causing the exposure) are exempt from the warning requirements of the law. If the chemical is a contaminant<sup>2</sup> it must be reduced to the lowest level feasible. Regulations explaining this exemption can be found in Section 25501.

**Discharges that do not result in a "significant amount" of the listed chemical entering into any source of drinking water.** The prohibition from discharges into drinking water does not apply if the discharger is able to demonstrate that a "significant amount" of the listed chemical has not, does not, or will not pass into or probably pass into a source of drinking water, and that the discharge complies with all other applicable laws, regulations, permits, requirements, or orders. A "significant amount" means any detectable amount, except an amount that would meet the "no significant risk" level for chemicals that cause cancer or that is 1,000 times below the "no observable effect" level for chemicals that cause reproductive toxicity, if an individual were exposed to that amount in drinking water.

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<sup>2</sup> See Section 25501(a)(4)

### *HOW IS PROPOSITION 65 ENFORCED?*

Enforcement is carried out through civil lawsuits. These lawsuits may be brought by the Attorney General, any district attorney, or certain city attorneys. Lawsuits may also be brought by private parties acting in the public interest, but only after providing notice of the alleged violation to the Attorney General, the appropriate district attorney and city attorney, and the business accused of the violation. The notice must provide adequate information to allow the recipient to assess the nature of the alleged violation. The notice must comply with the information and procedural requirements specified in Section 25903 of the regulations and in Title 11, sections 3100-3103. A private party may not pursue an independent enforcement action under Proposition 65 if one of the governmental officials noted above initiates an action within sixty days of the notice.

A business found to be in violation of Proposition 65 is subject to civil penalties of up to \$2,500 per day for each violation. In addition, the business may be ordered by a court to stop committing the violation.

### *FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THE LAW OR REGULATIONS...*

Contact the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment's Proposition 65 Implementation Office at (916) 445-6900 or via e-mail at [P65Public.Comments@oehha.ca.gov](mailto:P65Public.Comments@oehha.ca.gov).

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NOTE: Authority cited: Section 25249.12, Health and Safety Code. Reference: Sections 25249.5, 25249.6, 25249.9, 25249.10 and 25249.11, Health and Safety Code.