

1 Michael Freund SBN 99687  
2 Ryan Hoffman SBN 283297  
3 Michael Freund & Associates  
4 1919 Addison Street, Suite 105  
5 Berkeley, CA 94704  
6 Telephone: (510) 540-1992  
7 Facsimile: (510) 540-5543

8 Attorneys for Plaintiff Environmental Research Center, Inc.

ENDORSED  
FILED  
ALAMEDA COUNTY

FEB 28 2017

CLERK OF THE SUPERIOR COURT

By S. IYAMU Deputy

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

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

13 Plaintiff,

14 vs.

15 SPARTAN BRANDS, INC., individually and  
16 doing business as BEAUTIFUL NUTRITION  
17 and DOES 1-100

18 Defendants.

CASE NO. RG17851427

COMPLAINT FOR INJUNCTIVE  
AND DECLARATORY RELIEF AND  
CIVIL PENALTIES

[Toxic Tort/Environmental (30)]  
Proposition 65, Health & Safety Code  
Section 25249.5 et seq.]

19  
20 Plaintiff Environmental Research Center, Inc. hereby alleges:

21 I

22 INTRODUCTION

23 1. Plaintiff Environmental Research Center, Inc. (hereinafter "Plaintiff" or "ERC") brings  
24 this action as a private attorney general enforcer and in the public interest pursuant to Health &  
25 Safety Code section 25249.7, subdivision (d). The Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement  
26 Act of 1986 (Health & Safety Code section 25249.5 *et seq.*) also known as "Proposition 65,"  
27 mandates that businesses with ten or more employees must provide a "clear and reasonable  
28 warning" prior to exposing any individual to a chemical known to the state to cause cancer or

1 reproductive toxicity. Lead is a chemical known to the State of California to cause cancer, birth  
2 defects, and other reproductive harm. This complaint seeks injunctive and declaratory relief and  
3 civil penalties to remedy the ongoing failure of Defendants Spartan Brands, Inc., individually  
4 and doing business as Beautiful Nutrition ("Beautiful Nutrition") and Does 1-100 (hereinafter  
5 individually referred to as "Defendant" or collectively as "Defendants"), to warn consumers that  
6 they have been exposed to lead from one of Beautiful Nutrition's nutritional health products as  
7 set forth in paragraph 3 at a level exceeding the applicable Maximum Allowable Dose Level  
8 ("MADL") and requiring a warning pursuant to Health & Safety Code section 25249.6.

## 9 II

### 10 PARTIES

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

15 3. Defendant Spartan Brands, Inc., individually and doing business as Beautiful Nutrition,  
16 is a business that develops, manufactures, markets, distributes, and/or sells a nutritional health  
17 product that has exposed users to lead in the State of California within the relevant statute of  
18 limitations period. This "SUBJECT PRODUCT" is: Beautiful Nutrition LLC Beautritious Skin  
19 Firming Collagen Cocktail Line Reducing Drink Mix. Beautiful Nutrition is a company subject  
20 to Proposition 65 as it employs ten or more persons, and has employed ten or more persons at  
21 all times relevant to this action.

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

1 **III**

2 **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

3 5. This Court has jurisdiction pursuant to California Constitution Article VI, Section 10,  
4 which grants the Superior Court original jurisdiction in all causes except those given by statute  
5 to other trial courts. The statute under which this action is brought does not specify any other  
6 basis for jurisdiction.

7 6. This Court has jurisdiction over Beautiful Nutrition because Beautiful Nutrition is a  
8 business having sufficient minimum contacts with California, or otherwise intentionally  
9 availing itself of the California market through the marketing, distribution, and/or sale of the  
10 SUBJECT PRODUCT in the State of California to render the exercise of jurisdiction over it by  
11 the California courts consistent with traditional notions of fair play and substantial justice.

12 7. The Complaint is based on allegations contained in a Notice of Violation dated  
13 December 16, 2016, served on the California Attorney General, other public enforcers, and  
14 Spartan Brands, Inc., individually and doing business as Beautiful Nutrition. The Notice of  
15 Violation constitutes adequate notice to Beautiful Nutrition because it provided adequate  
16 information to allow Beautiful Nutrition to assess the nature of the alleged violations, consistent  
17 with Proposition 65 and its implementing regulations. A certificate of merit and a certificate of  
18 service accompanied each copy of the Notice of Violation, both of which comply with  
19 Proposition 65 and its implementing regulations. The Notice of Violation served on Spartan  
20 Brands, Inc., individually and doing business as Beautiful Nutrition, also included a copy of  
21 “The Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986 (Proposition 65): A Summary.”  
22 Service of the Notice of Violation and accompanying documents complied with Proposition 65  
23 and its implementing regulations. Attached hereto as **Exhibit A** is a true and correct copy of this  
24 Notice of Violation and associated documents. More than 60 days have passed since ERC  
25 mailed the Notice of Violation and no public enforcement entity has filed a complaint in this  
26 case.

27 8. This Court is the proper venue for the action because the causes of action have arisen in  
28 the County of Alameda where some of the violations of law have occurred, and will continue to

1 occur, due to the ongoing sale of Beautiful Nutrition’s product. Furthermore, venue is proper in  
2 this Court under Code of Civil Procedure section 395.5 and Health & Safety Code section  
3 25249.7.

4 **IV**

5 **STATUTORY BACKGROUND**

6 9. The Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986 is an initiative statute  
7 passed as “Proposition 65” by an overwhelming majority vote of the people in November of  
8 1986.

9 10. The warning requirement of Proposition 65 is contained in Health & Safety Code  
10 section 25249.6, which provides:

11 No person in the course of doing business shall knowingly and  
12 intentionally expose any individual to a chemical known to the state to  
13 cause cancer or reproductive toxicity without first giving clear and  
14 reasonable warning to such individual, except as provided in Section  
15 25249.10.

16 11. Implementing regulations for Proposition 65 define expose as “to cause to ingest, inhale,  
17 contact via body surfaces or otherwise come into contact with a listed chemical.” An individual  
18 may come into contact with a listed chemical through water, air, food, consumer products and  
19 any other environmental exposure as well as occupational exposures.” (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 27,  
20 § 25102, subd. (i).)

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

26 13. Whenever a clear and reasonable warning is required under Health & Safety Code  
27 section 25249.6, the “method employed to transmit the warning must be reasonably calculated  
28 considering the alternative methods available under the circumstances, to make the warning  
message available prior to exposure.” (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 27, §25601.) The warning

1 requirement may be satisfied by a warning that appears on a product’s label or other labeling,  
2 shelf labeling, signs, a system of signs, public advertising identifying the system and toll-free  
3 information services, or any other system, that provides clear and reasonable warnings. (Cal.  
4 Code Regs., tit. 27, §25603.1, subd. (a)-(d).)

5 14. Proposition 65 establishes a procedure by which the State is to develop a list of  
6 chemicals “known to the State to cause cancer or reproductive toxicity.” (Health & Safety Code,  
7 § 25249.8.) There is no duty to provide a clear and reasonable warning until 12-months after the  
8 chemical is published on the State list. (Health & Safety Code, § 25249.10, subd. (b).)

9 15. Lead was listed as a chemical known to the State of California to cause developmental  
10 toxicity in the fetus and male and female reproductive toxicity on February 27, 1987. Lead was  
11 listed as a chemical known to the State of California to cause cancer on October 1, 1992. (State  
12 of California EPA OEHHA Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986  
13 Chemicals Known to the State to Cause Cancer and Reproductive Toxicity.) The MADL for  
14 lead as a chemical known to cause reproductive toxicity is 0.5 micrograms per day. (Cal. Code  
15 Regs., tit. 27, §25805, subd. (b).) The No Significant Risk Level for lead as a carcinogen is 15  
16 micrograms per day. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 27, §25705, subd. (b).)

17 16. Proposition 65 provides that any person “violating or threatening to violate” Proposition  
18 65 may be enjoined in any court of competent jurisdiction. (Health & Safety Code, §25249.7,  
19 subd. (a).) To “threaten to violate” means “to create a condition in which there is a substantial  
20 probability that a violation will occur.” (Health & Safety Code, § 25249.11, subd. (e).)  
21 Furthermore, violators are subject to a civil penalty of up to \$2,500 per day for each violation.  
22 (Health & Safety Code, § 25249.7, subd. (b)(1).)

23 17. Proposition 65 may be enforced by any person in the public interest who provides notice  
24 sixty days before filing suit to both the violator and designated law enforcement officials. The  
25 failure of law enforcement officials to file a timely complaint enables a citizen suit to be filed  
26 pursuant to Health & Safety Code section 25249.7, subdivisions (c) and (d).

V

**STATEMENT OF FACTS**

18. Beautiful Nutrition has developed, manufactured, marketed, distributed, and/or sold the SUBJECT PRODUCT containing lead into the State of California. Consumption of the SUBJECT PRODUCT according to the directions and/or recommendations provided for said products causes consumers to be exposed to lead at levels exceeding the 0.5 micrograms per day MADL and requiring a warning. Consumers have been ingesting this product for many years, without any knowledge of their exposure to lead, a very dangerous chemical.

19. For many years, Beautiful Nutrition has knowingly and intentionally exposed numerous persons to lead without providing a Proposition 65 warning. Prior to ERC’s Notice of Violation and this Complaint, Beautiful Nutrition failed to provide a warning on the labels of the SUBJECT PRODUCT. Beautiful Nutrition has at all times relevant hereto been aware that the SUBJECT PRODUCT contained lead and that persons using this product have been exposed to this chemical. Beautiful Nutrition has been aware of the presence of lead in the SUBJECT PRODUCT and has failed to disclose the presence of this chemical to the public, who undoubtedly believe they have been ingesting a totally healthy and pure product pursuant to the company’s statements.

20. Both prior and subsequent to ERC’s Notice of Violation, Beautiful Nutrition failed to provide consumers of the SUBJECT PRODUCT with a clear and reasonable warning that they have been exposed to a chemical known to the State of California to cause cancer, birth defects and other reproductive harm. This failure to warn is ongoing.

**FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION**  
**(Violation of Section 25249.6 of the Health and Safety Code, Failure to Provide Clear and Reasonable Warning under Proposition 65)**

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

22. By committing the acts alleged above, Beautiful Nutrition has, in the course of doing business, knowingly and intentionally exposed users of the SUBJECT PRODUCT to lead, a

1 chemical known to the State of California to cause cancer, birth defects, and other reproductive  
2 harm, without first giving clear and reasonable warning to such individuals within the meaning  
3 of Health & Safety Code section 25249.6. In doing so, Beautiful Nutrition has violated Health  
4 & Safety Code section 25249.6, and continues to violate the statute with each successive sale of  
5 the SUBJECT PRODUCT.

6 23. Said violations render Beautiful Nutrition liable for civil penalties, up to \$2,500 per day  
7 for each violation, and subject Beautiful Nutrition to injunction.

8 **SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION**  
9 **(Declaratory Relief)**

10 24. ERC refers to paragraphs 1-23, inclusive, and incorporates them herein by this  
11 reference.

12 25. There exists an actual controversy relating to the legal rights and duties of the Parties,  
13 within the meaning of Code of Civil Procedure section 1060, between ERC and Beautiful  
14 Nutrition, concerning whether Beautiful Nutrition has exposed individuals to a chemical known  
15 to the State of California to cause cancer, birth defects, and other reproductive harm without  
16 providing clear and reasonable warning.

17 **VI**

18 **PRAYER**

19 WHEREFORE ERC prays for relief as follows:

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

22 2. On the First Cause of Action, and pursuant to Health & Safety Code section 25249.7,  
23 subdivision (a), for such temporary restraining orders, preliminary and permanent injunctive  
24 orders, or other orders as are necessary to prevent Beautiful Nutrition from exposing persons to  
25 lead without providing clear and reasonable warning;

26 3. On the Second Cause of Action, for a declaratory judgment pursuant to Code of Civil  
27 Procedure section 1060 declaring that Beautiful Nutrition has exposed individuals to lead  
28 without providing clear and reasonable warning; and

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

3 5. For costs of suit herein; and

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

5  
6 DATED: February 27, 2017

MICHAEL FREUND & ASSOCIATES

7  
8 

9 Michael Freund

Ryan Hoffman

10 Attorneys for Plaintiff

ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH CENTER, INC.



**Michael Freund & Associates**

1919 Addison Street, Suite 105  
Berkeley, CA 94704  
Voice: 510.540.1992 • Fax: 510.540.5543

**Michael Freund, Esq.**  
**Ryan Hoffman, Esq.**

OF COUNSEL:  
**Denise Ferkich Hoffman, Esq.**

December 16, 2016

**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, Inc. (“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 product 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 this product. 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(d), 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:

**Spartan Brands, Inc., individually and doing business as Beautiful Nutrition**

**Consumer Product and Listed Chemical.** The product that is the subject of this notice and the chemical in that product identified as exceeding allowable levels are:

**Beautiful Nutrition LLC Beautritious Skin Firming Collagen Cocktail Line Reducing Drink Mix - 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.

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 recommended use of this product. Consequently, the route of exposure to this chemical has been and continues to be through ingestion.


**Exhibit A**

**Approximate Time Period of Violations.** Ongoing violations have occurred every day since at least December 16, 2013, as well as every day since the product was introduced into the California marketplace, and will continue every day until clear and reasonable warnings are provided to product purchasers and users or until this known toxic chemical is either removed from or reduced to allowable levels in the product. Proposition 65 requires that a clear and reasonable warning be provided prior to exposure to the identified chemical. 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 this product with appropriate warnings that they are being exposed to this chemical.

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 product so as to eliminate further exposures to the identified chemical, or provide appropriate warnings on the labels of this product; (2) pay an appropriate civil penalty; and (3) provide clear and reasonable warnings compliant with Proposition 65 to all persons located in California who purchased the above product in the last three years. Such a resolution will prevent further unwarned consumer exposures to the identified chemical, 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,



---

Ryan Hoffman

Attachments

Certificate of Merit

Certificate of Service

OEHHA Summary (to Spartan Brands, Inc., individually and doing business as Beautiful Nutrition)

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

**CERTIFICATE OF MERIT**

**Re: Environmental Research Center, Inc.’s Notice of Proposition 65 Violations by Spartan Brands, Inc., individually and doing business as Beautiful Nutrition**

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 chemical that is 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: December 16, 2016



---

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 December 16, 2016, 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 CEO or President  
Spartan Brands, Inc., individually and doing  
business as Beautiful Nutrition  
451 Park Avenue South, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York, NY 10016

Current CEO or President  
Spartan Brands, Inc., individually and doing  
business as Beautiful Nutrition  
Post Office Box 467  
New York, NY 10156

Current CEO or President  
Spartan Brands, Inc., individually and doing  
business as Beautiful Nutrition  
220 East 23<sup>rd</sup> Street, Suite 601  
New York, NY 10010

Current CEO or President  
Spartan Brands, Inc., individually and doing  
business as Beautiful Nutrition  
1210 Sesqui Street  
Allentown, PA 18103

On December 16, 2016, I verified the following documents **NOTICE OF VIOLATIONS, 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)** were served on the following party when a true and correct copy thereof was uploaded 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 December 16, 2016, I verified the following documents **NOTICE OF VIOLATIONS, CALIFORNIA HEALTH & SAFETY CODE §25249.5 ET SEQ.; CERTIFICATE OF MERIT** were served on the following parties when a true and correct copy thereof was sent via electronic mail to each of the parties listed below:

Stacey Grassini, Deputy District Attorney  
Contra Costa County  
900 Ward Street  
Martinez, CA 94553  
sgrassini@contracostada.org

Gary Lieberstein, District Attorney  
Napa County  
931 Parkway Mall  
Napa, CA 94559  
CEPD@countyofnapa.org

Michelle Latimer, Program Coordinator  
Lassen County  
220 S. Lassen Street  
Susanville, CA 96130  
mlatimer@co.lassen.ca.us

Paul E. Zellerbach, District Attorney  
Riverside County  
3072 Orange Street  
Riverside, CA 92501  
Prop65@rivcoda.org

Dije Ndreu, Deputy District Attorney  
Monterey County  
1200 Aguajito Road  
Monterey, CA 93940  
Prop65DA@co.monterey.ca.us

Anne Marie Schubert, District Attorney  
Sacramento County  
901 G Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
Prop65@sacda.org

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

December 16, 2016

Page 5

Gregory Alker, Assistant District Attorney  
San Francisco County  
732 Brannan Street  
San Francisco, CA 94103  
gregory.alker@sfgov.org

Stephan R. Passalacqua, District Attorney  
Sonoma County  
600 Administration Dr  
Sonoma, CA 95403  
jbarnes@sonoma-county.org

Tori Verber Salazar, District Attorney  
San Joaquin County  
222 E. Weber Avenue, Room 202  
Stockton, CA 95202  
DAConsumer.Environmental@sjcda.org

Phillip J. Cline, District Attorney  
Tulare County  
221 S Mooney Blvd  
Visalia, CA 95370  
Prop65@co.tulare.ca.us

Eric J. Dobroth, Deputy District Attorney  
San Luis Obispo County  
County Government Center Annex, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408  
edobroth@co.slo.ca.us

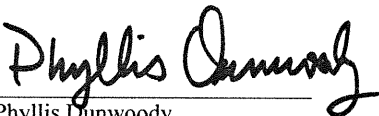
Gregory D. Totten, District Attorney  
Ventura County  
800 S Victoria Ave  
Ventura, CA 93009  
daspecialops@ventura.org

Yen Dang, Supervising Deputy District Attorney  
Santa Clara County  
70 W Hedding St  
San Jose, CA 95110  
EPU@da.sccgov.org

Jeff W. Reisig, District Attorney  
Yolo County  
301 Second Street  
Woodland, CA 95695  
cfepd@yolocounty.org

On December 16, 2016, 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 December 16, 2016, in Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia.

  
Phyllis Dunwoody

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

December 16, 2016

Page 6

Service List

District Attorney, Alameda County  
1225 Fallon Street, Suite 900  
Oakland, CA 94612

District Attorney, Alpine  
County  
P.O. Box 248  
Markleeville, CA 96120

District Attorney, Amador  
County  
708 Court Street, Suite 202  
Jackson, CA 95642

District Attorney, Butte  
County  
25 County Center Drive, Suite  
245  
Oroville, CA 95965

District Attorney, Calaveras  
County  
891 Mountain Ranch Road  
San Andreas, CA 95249

District Attorney, Colusa  
County  
346 Fifth Street Suite 101  
Colusa, CA 95932

District Attorney, Del Norte  
County  
450 H Street, Room 171  
Crescent City, CA 95531

District Attorney, El Dorado  
County  
515 Main Street  
Placerville, CA 95667

District Attorney, Fresno  
County  
2220 Tulare Street, Suite 1000  
Fresno, CA 93721

District Attorney, Glenn  
County  
Post Office Box 430  
Willows, CA 95988

District Attorney, Humboldt  
County  
825 5th Street 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Eureka, CA 95501

District Attorney, Imperial  
County  
940 West Main Street, Ste 102  
El Centro, CA 92243

District Attorney, Inyo County  
230 W. Line Street  
Bishop, CA 93514

District Attorney, Kern County  
1215 Truxtun Avenue  
Bakersfield, CA 93301

District Attorney, Kings  
County  
1400 West Lacey Boulevard  
Hanford, CA 93230

District Attorney, Lake County  
255 N. Forbes Street  
Lakeport, CA 95453

District Attorney, Los Angeles  
County  
210 West Temple Street, Suite  
18000  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

District Attorney, Madera  
County  
209 West Yosemite Avenue  
Madera, CA 93637

District Attorney, Marin  
County  
3501 Civic Center Drive,  
Room 130  
San Rafael, CA 94903

District Attorney, Mariposa  
County Post Office Box 730  
Mariposa, CA 95338

District Attorney, Mendocino  
County  
Post Office Box 1000  
Ukiah, CA 95482

District Attorney, Merced  
County  
550 W. Main Street  
Merced, CA 95340

District Attorney, Modoc  
County  
204 S Court Street, Room 202  
Alturas, CA 96101-4020

District Attorney, Mono  
County  
Post Office Box 617  
Bridgeport, CA 93517

District Attorney, Nevada  
County  
201 Commercial Street  
Nevada City, CA 95959

District Attorney, Orange  
County  
401 West Civic Center Drive  
Santa Ana, CA 92701

District Attorney, Placer  
County  
10810 Justice Center Drive,  
Ste 240  
Roseville, CA 95678

District Attorney, Plumas  
County  
520 Main Street, Room 404  
Quincy, CA 95971

District Attorney, San Benito  
County  
419 Fourth Street, 2nd Floor  
Hollister, CA 95023

District Attorney, San  
Bernardino County  
316 N. Mountain View  
Avenue  
San Bernardino, CA 92415-  
0004

District Attorney, San Diego  
County  
330 West Broadway, Suite  
1300  
San Diego, CA 92101

District Attorney, San Mateo  
County  
400 County Ctr., 3rd Floor  
Redwood City, CA 94063

District Attorney, Santa  
Barbara County  
1112 Santa Barbara Street  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

District Attorney, Santa Cruz  
County  
701 Ocean Street, Room 200  
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

District Attorney, Shasta  
County  
1355 West Street  
Redding, CA 96001

District Attorney, Sierra  
County  
PO Box 457  
Downieville, CA 95936

District Attorney, Siskiyou  
County  
Post Office Box 986  
Yreka, CA 96097

District Attorney, Solano  
County  
675 Texas Street, Ste 4500  
Fairfield, CA 94533

District Attorney, Stanislaus  
County  
832 12th Street, Ste 300  
Modesto, CA 95354

District Attorney, Sutter  
County  
446 Second Street  
Yuba City, CA 95991

District Attorney, Tehama  
County  
Post Office Box 519  
Red Bluff, CA 96080

District Attorney, Trinity  
County  
Post Office Box 310  
Weaverville, CA 96093

District Attorney, Tuolumne  
County  
423 N. Washington Street  
Sonora, CA 95370

District Attorney, Yuba  
County  
215 Fifth Street, Suite 152  
Marysville, CA 95901

Los Angeles City Attorney's  
Office  
City Hall East  
200 N. Main Street, Suite 800  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

San Diego City Attorney's  
Office  
1200 3rd Avenue, Ste 1620  
San Diego, CA 92101

San Francisco, City Attorney  
City Hall, Room 234  
1 Dr Carlton B Goodlett PL  
San Francisco, CA 94102

San Jose City Attorney's  
Office  
200 East Santa Clara Street,  
16th Floor  
San Jose, CA 95113

**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. Please refer 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.

The text of Proposition 65 (Health and Safety Code Sections 25249.5 through 25249.13) 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 “Proposition 65 List.”** Under Proposition 65, the lead agency (OEHHA) publishes a list of chemicals that are known to the State of California to cause cancer and/or reproductive toxicity. 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 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 Proposition 65. 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. The warning given must be “clear and

reasonable.” This means that the warning must: (1) clearly say 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 to that chemical. 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 Periods.*** 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 under Proposition 65 as known to the State to cause cancer, a warning is not required if the business causing the exposure 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 causing the exposure 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 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 Food.*** Certain exposures to chemicals that naturally occur in foods (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 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.

#### ***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 Title 27 and sections 3100-3103 of Title 11. A private party may not pursue an independent enforcement action under Proposition 65 if one of the governmental officials noted above initiates an enforcement 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.

A private party may not file an enforcement action based on certain exposures if the alleged violator meets specific conditions. For the following types of exposures, the Act provides an opportunity for the business to correct the alleged violation:

- An exposure to alcoholic beverages that are consumed on the alleged violator's premises to the extent onsite consumption is permitted by law;
- An exposure to a Proposition 65 listed chemical in a food or beverage prepared and sold on the alleged violator's premises that is primarily intended for immediate consumption on- or off- premises. This only applies if the chemical was not intentionally added to the food, and was formed by cooking or similar preparation of food or beverage components necessary to render the food or beverage palatable or to avoid microbiological contamination;

- An exposure to environmental tobacco smoke caused by entry of persons (other than employees) on premises owned or operated by the alleged violator where smoking is permitted at any location on the premises;
- An exposure to listed chemicals in engine exhaust, to the extent the exposure occurs inside a facility owned or operated by the alleged violator and primarily intended for parking non-commercial vehicles.

If a private party alleges that a violation occurred based on one of the exposures described above, the private party must first provide the alleged violator a notice of special compliance procedure and proof of compliance form.

A private party may not file an action against the alleged violator for these exposures, or recover in a settlement any payment in lieu of penalties any reimbursement for costs and attorney's fees, if the notice was served on or after October 5, 2013, and the alleged violator has done *all* of the following within 14 days of being served notice:

- Corrected the alleged violation;
  - Agreed to pay a civil penalty of \$5B500 (subject to change as noted below) to the private party within 30 days;
- and
- Notified the private party serving the notice in writing that the violation has been corrected.

The written notification to the private-party must include a notice of special compliance procedure and proof of compliance form completed by the alleged violator as directed in the notice. On April 1, 2019, and every five years thereafter, the dollar amount of the civil penalty will be adjusted by the Judicial Council based on the change in the annual California Consumer Price Index. The Judicial Council will publish the dollar amount of the adjusted civil penalty at each five-year interval, together with the date of the next scheduled adjustment.

An alleged violator may satisfy these conditions only one time for a violation arising from the same exposure in the same facility or on the same premises. The satisfaction of these conditions does not prevent the Attorney General, a district attorney, a city attorney of a city of greater than 750,000 population, or any full-time city prosecutor with the consent of the district attorney, from filing an enforcement action against an alleged violator. The amount of any civil penalty for a violation shall be reduced to reflect any payment made by the alleged violator for the same alleged violation to a private-party.

A copy of the notice of special compliance procedure and proof of compliance form is included with this notice and can be downloaded from OEHHA's website at: <http://oehha.ca.gov/prop65/law/p65law72003.html>.

The notice is reproduced here:

Date: December 16, 2016

Name of Noticing Party or attorney for Noticing Party: Environmental Research Center, Inc.

Address: 3111 Camino Del Rio North, Suite 400, San Diego, CA 92108

Phone number: 619-500-3090

## **SPECIAL COMPLIANCE PROCEDURE**

### **PROOF OF COMPLIANCE**

You are receiving this form because the Noticing Party listed above has alleged that you are violating California Health and Safety Code §25249.6 (Prop. 65).

**The Noticing Party may not bring any legal proceedings against you for the alleged violation checked below if:**

- 1. You have actually taken the corrective steps that you have certified in this form**
- 2. The Noticing Party has received this form at the address shown above, accurately completed by you, postmarked within 14 days of your receiving this notice**
- 3. The Noticing Party receives the required \$500 penalty payment from you at the address shown above postmarked within 30 days of your receiving this notice.**
- 4. This is the first time you have submitted a Proof of Compliance for a violation arising from the same exposure in the same facility on the same premises.**

### **PART 1: TO BE COMPLETED BY THE NOTICING PARTY OR ATTORNEY FOR THE NOTICING PARTY**

The alleged violation is for an exposure to: (check one)

Alcoholic beverages that are consumed on the alleged violator's premises to the extent on-site consumption is permitted by law.

A chemical known to the state to cause cancer or reproductive toxicity in a food or beverage prepared and sold on the alleged violator's premises for immediate consumption on or off premises to the extent: (1) the chemical was not intentionally added; and (2) the chemical was formed by cooking or similar preparation of food or beverage components necessary to render the food or beverage palatable or to avoid microbiological contamination.

Environmental tobacco smoke caused by entry of persons (other than employees) on premises owned or operated by the alleged violator where smoking is permitted at any location on the premises.

Chemicals known to the State to cause cancer or reproductive toxicity in engine exhaust, to the extent the exposure occurs inside a facility owned or operated by the alleged violator and primarily intended for parking noncommercial vehicles.

### **IMPORTANT NOTES:**

- 1. You have no potential liability under California Health and Safety Code §25249.6 if your business has nine (9) or fewer employees.**
- 2. Using this form will NOT prevent the Attorney General, a district attorney, a city attorney, or a prosecutor in whose jurisdiction the violation is alleged to have occurred from filing an action over the same alleged violations, and that in any such action, the amount of civil penalty shall be reduced to reflect any payment made at this time.**

Date: December 16, 2016

Name of Noticing Party or attorney for Noticing Party: Environmental Research Center, Inc.

Address: 3111 Camino Del Rio North, Suite 400, San Diego, CA 92108

Phone number: 619-500-3090

**PART 2: TO BE COMPLETED BY THE ALLEGED VIOLATOR OR AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE**

**Certification of Compliance**

Accurate completion of this form will demonstrate that you are now in compliance with California Health and Safety Code §25249.6 for the alleged violation listed above. You must complete and submit the form below to the Noticing Party at the address shown above, postmarked within 14 days of you receiving this notice.

I hereby agree to pay, within 30 days of completion of this notice, a civil penalty of \$500 to the Noticing Party only and certify that I have complied with Health and Safety Code §25249.6 by (check only one of the following):

- Posting a warning or warnings about the alleged exposure that complies with the law, and attaching a copy of that warning and a photograph accurately showing its placement on my premises;
- Posting the warning or warnings demanded in writing by the Noticing Party, and attaching a copy of that warning and a photograph accurately its placement on my premises; OR
- Eliminating the alleged exposure, and attaching a statement accurately describing how the alleged exposure has been eliminated.

**Certification**

My statements on this form, and on any attachments to it, are true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief and are made in good faith. I have carefully read the instructions to complete this form. I understand that if I make a false statement on this form, I may be subject to additional penalties under the Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986 (Proposition 65).

---

Signature of alleged violator or authorized representative Date

---

Name and title of signatory

*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).

Revised: May 2014

---

<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>.

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

Note: Authority cited: Section 25249.12, Health and Safety Code. Reference: Sections 25249.5, 25249.6, 25249.7, 25249.9, 25249.10 and 25249.11, Health and Safety Code.

## **HISTORY**

1. New Appendix A filed 4-22-97; operative 4-22-97 pursuant to Government Code section 11343.4(d) (Register 97, No. 17).
2. Amendment filed 1-7-2003; operative 2-6-2003 (Register 2003, No. 2).
3. Change without regulatory effect renumbering title 22, section 12903 and Appendix A to title 27, section 25903 and Appendix A, including amendment of appendix, filed 6-18-2008 pursuant to section 100, title 1, California Code of Regulations (Register 2008, No. 25).
4. Amendment filed 11-19-2012; operative 12-19-2012 (Register 2012, No. 47).
5. Amendment of appendix and Note filed 11-19-2014; operative 1-1-2015 (Register 2014, No. 47).

This database is current through 9/18/15 Register 2015, No. 38

27 CCR Appendix A, 27 CA ADC Appendix A