LEXINGTON LAW GROUP 1 Eric S. Somers, State Bar No. 139050 2 Joseph Mann, State Bar No. 207968 503 Divisadero Street 3 San Francisco, CA 94117 Telephone: (415) 913-7800 4 Facsimile: (415) 759-4112 esomers@lexlawgroup.com 5 jmann@lexlawgroup.com 6 Attorneys for Plaintiff CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH 7 8 9 SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA 10 **COUNTY OF ALAMEDA** 11 12 Case No. RG 19-026800 CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH, 13 a non-profit corporation, 14 FIRST AMENDED COMPLAINT Plaintiff, 15 FOR INJUNCTIVE RELIEF AND CIVIL PENALTIES v. 16 WHOLE FOODS MARKET CALIFORNIA, 17 Health & Safety Code §25249.6, et seq. INC.; ALLEGRO COFFEE COMPANY; KEURIG DR PEPPER INC.; and DOES 1 through 18 (Other) 200, inclusive, 19 Defendants. 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 DOCUMENT PREPARED ON RECYCLED PAPER FIRST AMENDED COMPLAINT FOR INJUNCTIVE RELIEF AND CIVIL PENALTIES

Plaintiff Center for Environmental Health, in the public interest, based on information and belief and investigation of counsel, except for information based on knowledge, hereby makes the following allegations:

INTRODUCTION

- 1. This Complaint seeks to remedy Defendants' continuing failure to warn individuals in California that they are being exposed to inorganic arsenic oxides and inorganic arsenic compounds (collectively, "Arsenic"), a chemical known to the State of California to cause cancer and birth defects or other reproductive harm. Such exposures have occurred, and continue to occur, when people consume bottled spring water that is sold by Defendants. Consumers, including pregnant women and children, are exposed to Arsenic when they consume Defendants' bottled spring water.
- 2. Under California's Proposition 65, Health & Safety Code §25249.5, et seq., it is unlawful for businesses to knowingly and intentionally expose individuals in California to chemicals known to the State to cause cancer, birth defects, or other reproductive harm without first providing clear and reasonable warnings to exposed individuals. Defendants introduce bottled spring water containing significant quantities of arsenic into the California marketplace, thereby exposing consumers of such bottled spring water, many of whom are pregnant women and children, to Arsenic.
- 3. Despite the fact that Defendants expose pregnant women, children, and other consumers to Arsenic, Defendants provide no warnings whatsoever about the carcinogenic or reproductive hazards associated with Arsenic exposure. Defendants' conduct thus violates the warning provision of Proposition 65. Health & Safety Code §25249.6.

PARTIES

4. Plaintiff CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ("CEH") is a non-profit corporation dedicated to protecting the public from environmental health hazards and toxic exposures. CEH is based in Oakland, California and incorporated under the laws of the State of California. CEH is a "person" within the meaning of Health & Safety Code §25249.11(a) and brings this enforcement action in the public interest pursuant to Health & Safety Code

§25249.7(d). CEH is a nationally recognized non-profit environmental advocacy group that has prosecuted a large number of Proposition 65 cases in the public interest. These cases have resulted in significant public benefit, including the reformulation of millions of products to remove toxic chemicals and to make them safer. CEH also provides information to Californians about the health risks associated with exposure to hazardous substances, where manufacturers and other responsible parties fail to do so.

- 5. Defendant WHOLE FOODS MARKET CALIFORNIA, INC. is a person in the course of doing business within the meaning of Health & Safety Code §25249.11. Defendant WHOLE FOODS MARKET CALIFORNIA, INC. markets, distributes, or sells bottled spring water for sale or use in California. CEH's allegations and claims against Defendant WHOLE FOODS MARKET CALIFORNIA, INC. in this action are limited to bottled spring water sold under the "Starkey" brand.
- 6. Defendant ALLEGRO COFFEE COMPANY is a person in the course of doing business within the meaning of Health & Safety Code §25249.11. Defendant ALLEGRO COFFEE COMPANY markets, distributes, or sells bottled spring water for sale or use in California. CEH's allegations and claims against Defendant ALLEGRO COFFEE COMPANY in this action are limited to bottled spring water sold under the "Starkey" brand.
- 7. Defendant KEURIG DR PEPPER INC. is a person in the course of doing business within the meaning of Health & Safety Code §25249.11. Defendant KEURIG DR PEPPER INC. markets, distributes, or sells bottled spring water for sale or use in California. CEH's allegations and claims against Defendant KEURIG DR PEPPER INC. in this action are limited to bottled flavored and unflavored mineral spring water sold under the "Penafiel" brand.
- 8. DOES 1 through 200 are each a person in the course of doing business within the meaning of Health & Safety Code §25249.11. DOES 1 through 200 manufacture, distribute, or sell bottled spring water for sale or use in California.
- 9. The true names of DOES 1 through 200 are either unknown to CEH at this time or the applicable time period before which CEH may file a Proposition 65 action has not run. When

cause cancer or reproductive toxicity without first giving clear and reasonable warning to such individual. . .

- 16. On February 27, 1987, the State of California officially listed arsenic (inorganic arsenic compounds) as a chemical known to cause cancer. 27 California Code of Regulations ("C.C.R.") §27001(b). On February 27, 1988, one year after it was listed as a chemical known to cause cancer, arsenic (inorganic arsenic compounds) became subject to the clear and reasonable warning requirement regarding carcinogens under Proposition 65. Health & Safety Code §25249.10(b).
- 17. On May 1, 1997, the State of California officially listed arsenic (inorganic oxides) as a chemical known to cause reproductive toxicity. Arsenic (inorganic oxides) is specifically identified as a developmental toxicant, which means it tends to harm the developing fetus. 27 C.C.R. §27001(c). On May 1, 1998, one year after it was listed as a chemical known to cause reproductive toxicity, arsenic (inorganic oxides) became subject to the clear and reasonable warning requirement regarding reproductive toxicants under Proposition 65. Health & Safety Code §25249.10(b).
- 18. There is no safe level of exposure to Arsenic and even minute amounts of Arsenic have been proven harmful. *See*, *e.g.*, James, K., *et al.*, International Encyclopedia of Public Health (2d ed. 2017), p. 170-175. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") has set a "maximum contaminant level goal" for Arsenic in water the level below which there is no known or expected risk to health at zero. EPA states that exposure to Arsenic is linked to cancer of the skin, bladder, lung, kidney, nasal passages, liver, and prostate. *See* EPA, Technical Fact Sheet: Final Rule for Arsenic in Drinking Water (January 2001). With respect to reproductive hazards from Arsenic exposures, recent studies have demonstrated reproductive harm at very low exposure levels that continue to drop. *See*, *e.g.*, Wang, B., *et al.*, "Prenatal exposure to arsenic and neurobehavioral development of newborns in China," 121 Environmental International (2018), p. 421-427.
- 19. Bottled water is generally believed by consumers to be safer than tap water. This is one reason bottled water costs hundreds of times more than tap water. Defendants take

affirmative steps to promote this belief by using marketing language suggesting that their bottled spring water is a healthier alternative to tap water, such as terms like "pure," "filtered," or "mineralized." Consumers who purchase and drink bottled spring water thus are more likely to care about water safety issues than persons who drink tap water. This makes the failure to warn about Arsenic in Defendants' bottled spring water even more egregious.

- 20. Defendants' bottled spring water contains sufficient quantities of Arsenic such that consumers, including pregnant women and children, who consume such bottled spring water are exposed to a significant amount of Arsenic. The primary route of exposure for the violations is direct ingestion when consumers drink such bottled spring water. These exposures occur in homes, workplaces, and everywhere else throughout California where Defendants' bottled spring water is consumed.
- 21. No clear and reasonable warning is provided with Defendants' bottled spring water regarding the carcinogenic or reproductive hazards of Arsenic.
- 22. Any person acting in the public interest has standing to enforce violations of Proposition 65 provided that such person has supplied the requisite public enforcers with a valid 60-Day Notice of Violation and such public enforcers are not diligently prosecuting the action within such time. Health & Safety Code §25249.7(d).
- 23. More than sixty days prior to naming each Defendant in this lawsuit, CEH provided a 60-Day "Notice of Violation" of Proposition 65 to the California Attorney General, to the District Attorneys of every county in California, to the City Attorneys of every California city with a population greater than 750,000, and to each of the named Defendants. In compliance with Health & Safety Code §25249.7(d) and 27 C.C.R. §25903(b), each Notice included the following information: (1) the name and address of each violator; (2) the statute violated; (3) the time period during which violations occurred; (4) specific descriptions of the violations, including (a) the routes of exposure to Arsenic from Defendants' bottled spring water, and (b) the specific type of products sold and used in violation of Proposition 65; and (5) the name of the specific Proposition 65-listed chemical that is the subject of the violations described in each Notice.

- 24. CEH also sent a Certificate of Merit for each Notice to the California Attorney General, to the District Attorneys of every county in California, to the City Attorneys of every California city with a population greater than 750,000, and to each of the named Defendants. In compliance with Health & Safety Code §25249.7(d) and 11 C.C.R. §3101, each Certificate certified that CEH's counsel: (1) has consulted with one or more persons with relevant and appropriate experience or expertise who reviewed facts, studies, or other data regarding the exposures to Arsenic alleged in each Notice; and (2) based on the information obtained through such consultations, believes that there is a reasonable and meritorious case for a citizen enforcement action based on the facts alleged in each Notice. In compliance with Health & Safety Code §25249.7(d) and 11 C.C.R. §3102, each Certificate served on the Attorney General included factual information provided on a confidential basis sufficient to establish the basis for the Certificate, including the identity of the person(s) consulted by CEH's counsel and the facts, studies, or other data reviewed by such persons.
- 25. None of the public prosecutors with the authority to prosecute violations of Proposition 65 has commenced or is diligently prosecuting a cause of action against Defendants under Health & Safety Code §25249.5, *et seq.*, based on the claims asserted in any of CEH's Notices regarding Arsenic in bottled spring water.
- 26. Defendants both know and intend that individuals, including pregnant women and children, will consume their bottled spring water, thus exposing such individuals to Arsenic.
- 27. For instance, in April 2019, Consumer Reports published an article reporting that its own testing found Arsenic levels above 3 parts per billion ("ppb") in bottled spring water sold under the following brands: Starkey (10 ppb), Penafiel (18 ppb), Crystal Geyser (3.8 ppb), Volvic (4 ppb) Crystal Creamery (5 ppb), and EartH₂0 (3 ppb).
- 28. In response to the April 2019 Consumer Reports article, Defendant WHOLE FOODS MARKET CALIFORNIA, INC. did not deny the reported Arsenic levels, despite admitting that the company tests "every production run of water before it is sold." Indeed, the Starkey Spring Water website displays a "2019 bottled Water Quality Report" stating that "Arsenic levels above 5 ppb and up to 10 ppb are present" in Starkey bottled spring water. That

report also contains a test result indicating that a sample of Starkey Spring Water contained 8 ppb Arsenic. Attached hereto as **Exhibit 1** is a true and correct copy of the "2019 bottled Water Quality Report," downloaded from the Starkey website (*see* https://tinyurl.com/starkeywaterasrenic) on July 10, 2019. Also, in 2016 and 2017, Defendant WHOLE FOODS MARKET CALIFORNIA, INC. issued two separate recalls of more than 2,000 cases of Starkey bottled spring water after tests by regulators showed Arsenic levels exceeding the federal drinking water threshold level of 10 ppb.

- 29. In response to the April 2019 Consumer Reports article, Defendant KEURIG DR PEPPER INC. confirmed that recent testing by the company showed that the Arsenic levels in Penafiel bottled spring water had an average of 17 ppb. Also, in June 2019, the company issued a recall of all Penafiel bottled unflavored mineral spring water in the U.S. "due to the presence of violative levels of arsenic." Notably, this recall did not involve or address Arsenic in any of the Penafiel flavored water products.
- 30. Nevertheless, Defendants continue to expose consumers, including pregnant women and children, to Arsenic without prior clear and reasonable warnings regarding the carcinogenic or reproductive hazards of Arsenic.
- 31. CEH has engaged in good-faith efforts to resolve the claims alleged herein prior to filing this Complaint.
- 32. Any person "violating or threatening to violate" Proposition 65 may be enjoined in any court of competent jurisdiction. Health & Safety Code §25249.7. "Threaten to violate" is defined to mean "to create a condition in which there is a substantial probability that a violation will occur." Health & Safety Code §25249.11(e). Proposition 65 provides for civil penalties not to exceed \$2,500 per day for each violation of Proposition 65.

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION (Violations of Health & Safety Code §25249.6)

33. CEH realleges and incorporates by reference as if specifically set forth herein Paragraphs 1 through 32, inclusive.

ON RECYCLED PAPER

1	4	1. That the Court, pursual	nt to Code of Civil Procedure §1021.5 or any other	
2	applicable theory, grant CEH its reasonable attorneys' fees and costs of suit; and			
3	4	5. That the Court grant su	nch other and further relief as may be just and proper.	
4				
5	Dated:	September 12, 2019	Respectfully submitted,	
6			LEXINGTON LAW GROUP	
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9			Eric S. Somers Attorneys for Plaintiff CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH	
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Exhibit 1

2019 BOTTLED WATER QUALITY REPORT Starkey Spring Water

Bottler's Name: Starkey Water

Address: 101 Council Avenue, Council, ID 83612

Telephone Number: 855-910-4844 Source(s): Starkey Hot Springs

Treatment process: 25 um Filtration, 2 um Filtration, 0.5 um Filtration, UV Disinfection

DEFINITIONS:

- Statement of quality: The quality standards of bottled water provide the maximum legal limits for a variety of substances that are allowed in bottled water, along with their monitoring requirements. The substances include microbiological contaminants, pesticides, inorganic contaminants, organic contaminants, radiological contaminants, and others. The standards have been established by the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA), based on the public drinking water standards of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). CDPH adopts the FDA regulations pertinent to the quality standards of bottled water.
- **Maximum contaminant level (MCL)**: MCL is the maximum level of a contaminant allowed in public drinking water.
- Primary drinking water standards (PDWS): PDWS are set to provide the maximum feasible protection to public health. The goal of setting PDWS is to identify MCLs, along with their monitoring and reporting requirements, which prevent adverse health effects. PDWS are established as close to the public health goal (PHG) or the maximum contaminant level goal (MCLG) as is economically and technologically feasible.
- **Public health goal (PHG)**: PHG is the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. PHGs are set by the California Environmental Protection Agency.

SOURCE WATER:

The sources of bottled water include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water naturally travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it can pick up naturally occurring substances as well as substances that are present due to animal and human activity. Substances that may be present in the source water include any of the following:

- (1) Inorganic substances, including, but not limited to, salts and metals, that can be naturally occurring or result from farming, urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, or oil and gas production.
- (2) Pesticides and herbicides that may come from a variety of sources, including, but not limited to, agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses.
- (3) Organic substances that are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, agricultural application, and septic systems.
- (4) Microbial organisms that may come from wildlife, agricultural livestock operations, sewage treatment plants, and septic systems.
- (5) Substances with radioactive properties that can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities."

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CONTAMINANTS IN WATER:

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the United States Food and Drug Administration, Food and Cosmetic Hotline (1-888-723-3366). In order to ensure that bottled water is safe to drink, the United States Food and Drug Administration and the State Department of Public Health prescribe laws and regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by bottled water companies.

Some persons may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons, including, but not limited to, persons with cancer who are undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, persons with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly persons, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These persons should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. The United States Environmental Protection Agency and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

Arsenic levels above 5 ppb and up to 10 ppb are present in your drinking water. While your drinking water meets the current EPA standard for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. The standard balances the current understanding of arsenic's possible health effects against the costs of removing arsenic from drinking water. The State Department of Public Health continues to research the health effects of low levels of arsenic, which is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and is linked to other health effects, including, but not limited to, skin damage and circulatory problems

INFORMATION on PRODUCT RECALLS:

If you would like to know whether a particular bottled water product has been recalled or is being recalled, please visit the FDA's website http://www.fda.gov/opacom/7alerts.html.

indicates that maximum levels have been exceeded, or in the case of pH, is either too high or too low indicates that none of this analyte has been detected at or above the specified detection level indicates maximum contaminant level as established by EPA and/or FDA or state indicates laboratory reporting limit for method NOTE:

"ND"

"MCL" "RL"

ANALYSIS PERFORMED	MCL ⁱ (mg/L)	RL (mg/L)	STARKEY SPRING WATER S-0001603079 (mg/L)
	(mg/L)	(IIIg/L)	0-0001003073 (mg/L)
Primary Inorganics			
Antimony	0.006	0.0002	0.0002
Arsenic	0.010	0.001	0.008
Barium	2	0.001	ND
Beryllium	0.004	0.0002	ND
Cadmium	0.005	0.0002	ND
Chromium	0.1	0.0002	ND ND
Cyanide	0.2	0.005	ND ND
Fluoride	See endnote	0.003	0.9
Lead	0.005	0.0005	ND
Mercury	0.003	0.0003	ND ND
Nickel	0.002	0.0002	ND ND
Nitrogen, Nitrate	10	0.0005	ND
Nitrogen, Nitrate Nitrogen, Nitrite	1.0	0.004	ND ND
Nitrogen, Nitrite Selenium	0.05	0.004	ND ND
Thallium	0.002	0.0002	ND
La			
Secondary Inorganics		0.04	0.00
Aluminum	0.2	0.01	0.02
Chloride	250 ⁱⁱⁱ	2	14
Copper	1	0.001	ND
Iron	0.3***	0.02	ND
Manganese	0.05	0.001	ND
Phenol	0.001	0.001	ND
Silver	0.1	0.001	ND MA
Sulfate	250 iii	125	140
TDS	500 iii	5	340
Zinc	5 ⁱⁱⁱ	0.01	ND
Dissolved			
Physical Color	15 ⁱⁱⁱ CU	5	ND
Odor	3 [™] TON	1	1 1
	5 NTU	0.1	ND
Turbidity	SNIO	0.1	NU
Microbiological			
Total Coliform	Absence	Absence	ND
E.Coli in Water	cfu/mL	Absence	ND ND
E.Coli III Water	CTU/ML	Absence	NU
Radiologicals	1		
Gross Alpha	15 pCi/L	3	ND
Gross Beta	50 pCi/L	3 4	ND ND
Radium 226/228	5 pCi/L	1/1	ND ND
Uranium	30 ug/L	0.001	ND

ANALYSIS PERFORMED	MCL (mg/L)	RL (mg/L)	STARKEY SPRING WATER S-0001603079 (mg/L)
	(mg/L)	(mg/L)	0-0001000013 (mg/z)
Volatile Organic Compounds			
Total Trihalomethanes	0.010 ^{iv}	0.0005	ND
Benzene	0.005	0.0005	ND
Carbon tetrachloride	0.005	0.0005	ND
Chlorobenzene	0.1	0.0005	ND
1,2-Dichlorobenzene	0.6	0.0005	ND
1,4-Dichlorobenzene	0.075	0.0005	ND
1,2-Dichloroethane	0.005	0.0005	ND
1,1-Dichloroethene	0.007	0.0005	ND
cis-1,2-Dichloroethene	0.07	0.0005	ND
trans-1,2-Dichloroethene	0.1	0.0005	ND
1,2-Dichloropropane	0.005	0.0005	ND
Ethylbenzene	0.7	0.0005	ND
Methylene chloride	0.005	0.0005	ND ND
Styrene	0.003	0.0005	ND ND
Tetrachloroethene	0.005	0.0005	ND ND
Toluene	0.005	0.0005	ND ND
1,2,4-Trichlorobenzene	0.07	0.0005	ND ND
1,1,1-Trichloroethane	0.07	0.0005	ND ND
1,1,2-Trichloroethane	0.20	0.0005	ND ND
	0.005	0.0005	
Trichloroethene			ND ND
Vinyl chloride	0.002	0.0005 0.0005	ND ND
Total Xylenes	10	0.0005	ND
		1	
Add'I Organics	0.00005	0.00004	ND
Ethylene Dibromide	0.00005	0.00001	ND ND
Dibromochloropropane	0.0002	0.00001	ND
	0.000	0.0004	l ND
Alachlor	0.002	0.0001	ND ND
Atrazine	0.003	0.0001	ND ND
Chlordane	0.002	0.0001	ND ND
Endrin	0.002	0.0001	ND ND
Heptachlor	0.0004	0.00004	ND ND
Heptachlor epoxide	0.0002	0.00002	ND ND
Hexachlorobenzene	0.001	0.0001	ND ND
Hexachlorocyclopentadiene	0.05	0.0001	ND ND
Lindane	0.0002	0.00002	ND ND
Methoxychlor Tatal BCDs	0.04	0.0001	ND ND
Total PCBs	0.0005	0.0001	ND ND
Simazine	0.004	0.00007	ND ND
Toxaphene	0.003	0.0001	ND
0.4.5	0.07	0.0004	l ND
2,4-D	0.07	0.0001	ND ND
Dalapon	0.2	0.001	ND ND
Dinoseb	0.007	0.0002	ND ND
Pentachlorophenol	0.001	0.00004	ND ND
Picloram	0.5	0.0001	ND ND
2,4,5-TP (Silvex)	0.05	0.0002	ND

ANALYSIS PERFORMED	MCL (mg/L)	RL (mg/L)	STARKEY SPRING WATER S-0001603079 (mg/L)
Benzo(a)pyrene Di(2-ethylhexyl)adipate	0.0002 0.4	0.00002 0.0006	ND ND
Di(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate	0.4	0.0006	ND
Carbofuran	0.04	0.0005	ND ND
Oxamyl (VYDATE)	0.2	0.0005	ND
Glyphosate	0.7	0.006	ND
Endothall	0.1	0.009	ND
Diquat	0.02	0.0004	ND
2,3,7,8-TCDD (DIOXIN)	3x10-8	5 pg/L	ND
Disinfection Byproducts			
Bromate Chlorite	0.010 1.0	0.005 0.010	ND ND
Haloacetic Acids, Total	0.060	0.001	ND
	'		
Total Trihalomethanes	0.010	0.0005	ND
Residual Disinfectants			
Residual Chlorine, Total Chloramines	4.0 4.0	0.05 0.05	ND ND
Chlorine Dioxide	0.8	0.1	ND

EPA approved methods were used in all of the analyses and a listing is available upon request.

[†] The EPA, some State agencies and/or the IBWA may have established alternate MCLs for some of these analytes. Please refer to Federal, State and Industry codes. [®] Fluoride MCL is determined by annual average of maximum daily air temperatures where the bottled water is sold. Refer to tables found in 21 CFR 165.

iiiMineral water is exempt from allowable level. The exemptions are aesthetically based allowable levels and do not relate to a health concern. iv The FDA has established the MCL for THMs at 0.080 mg/L.