1 2 3 4 5 6	ENTORNO LAW, LLP Noam Glick (SBN 251582) Jake W. Schulte (SBN 293777) Craig M. Nicholas (SBN 178444) 225 Broadway, Suite 1900 San Diego, California 92101 Tel: (619) 629-0527 Email: noam@entornolaw.com Email: jake@entornolaw.com	ELECTRONICALLY FILED Superior Court of California, County of Alameda 09/16/2022 at 09:52:00 AM By: Angela Linhares, Deputy Clerk	
7 8	Attorneys for Plaintiff ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ADVOCATES, INC.		
9	SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA		
10	IN AND FOR THE	COUNTY OF ALAMEDA	
11	ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ADVOCATES, INC.,	Case No.: 220V018011	
12	Plaintiff, v.	COMPLAINT FOR CIVIL PENALTIES AND INJUNCTIVE RELIEF	
13	v. MIRAVALLE FOODS, INC., a California	(Health & Safety Code § 25249.6 et seq.)	
14 15	corporation, REHAN SPICES CORPORATION, a California corporation, and DOES 1 through 100, inclusive,		
16 17	Defendants.		
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I.
INTRODUCTION

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1. This Complaint is a representative action brought by Environmental Health Advocates,
 Inc. ("Plaintiff") in the public interest of the citizens of the State of California ("the People"). Plaintiff
 seeks to remedy Defendants' failure to inform the People of exposure to lead, a known carcinogen.
 Defendants expose consumers to lead by manufacturing, importing, selling, and/or distributing peppers
 including, but not limited to, Miravalle Japones Peppers ("Products"). Defendants know and intend that
 customers will ingest Products containing lead.

8 2. Under California's Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986, California
9 Health and Safety Code, section 25249.6 et seq. ("Proposition 65"), "[n]o person in the course of doing
10 business shall knowingly and intentionally expose any individual to a chemical known to the state to
11 cause cancer or reproductive toxicity without first giving clear and reasonable warning to such
12 individual..." (Health & Safety Code, § 25249.6.)

3. California identified and listed lead as a chemical known to cause cancer as early as
October 1, 1992, and as a chemical known to cause developmental/reproductive toxicity on February
27, 1987.

4. Defendants failed to sufficiently warn consumers and individuals in California about
potential exposure to lead in connection with Defendants' manufacture, import, sale, or distribution of
Products. This is a violation of Proposition 65.

Plaintiff seeks injunctive relief compelling Defendants to sufficiently warn consumers
 in California before exposing them to lead in Products. (Health & Safety Code, § 25249.7(a).) Plaintiff
 also seeks civil penalties against Defendants for its violations of Proposition 65 along with attorney's
 fees and costs. (Health & Safety Code, § 25249.7(b).)

II. <u>PARTIES</u>

6. Plaintiff ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ADVOCATES, INC. ("Plaintiff") is a
corporation in the State of California dedicated to protecting the health of California citizens through
the elimination or reduction of toxic exposure from consumer products. It brings this action in the public
interest pursuant to Health and Safety Code, section 25249.7.

7. Defendant MIRAVALLE FOODS, INC. ("Miravalle") is a corporation organized and
 existing under the laws of California. Miravalle is registered to do business in California, and does
 business in the County of Alameda, within the meaning of Health and Safety Code, section 25249.11.
 Miravalle manufactures, imports, sells, or distributes the Products in California and Alameda County.

8. Defendant REHAN SPICES CORPORATION ("Rehan") is a corporation organized
and existing under the laws of California. Rehan is registered to do business in California, and does
business in the County of Alameda, within the meaning of Health and Safety Code, section 25249.11.
Rehan manufactures, imports, sells, or distributes the Products in California and Alameda County.

9 9. Plaintiff does not know the true names and/or capacities, whether individual, partners, 10 or corporate, of the defendants sued herein as DOES 1 through 100, inclusive, and for that reason sues 11 said defendants under fictitious names. Plaintiff will seek leave to amend this Complaint when the true 12 names and capacities of these defendants have been ascertained. Plaintiff is informed and believes and 13 thereon alleges that these defendants are responsible in whole or in part for the remedies and penalties 14 sought herein.

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17 10. California Constitution Article VI, Section 10 grants the Superior Court original
18 jurisdiction in all cases except those given by statute to other trial courts. The Health and Safety Code
19 statute upon which this action is based does not give jurisdiction to any other court. As such, this Court
20 has jurisdiction.

III. <u>VENUE AND JUR</u>ISDICTION

21 11. Venue is proper in Alameda County Superior Court pursuant to Code of Civil
22 Procedure, sections 394, 395, and 395.5. Wrongful conduct occurred and continues to occur in this
23 County. Defendants conducted and continue to conduct business in this County as it relates to Products.

24 12. Defendants have sufficient minimum contacts in the State of California or otherwise
25 purposefully avail themselves of the California market. Exercising jurisdiction over Defendants would
26 be consistent with traditional notions of fair play and substantial justice.

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1	IV. CAUSES OF ACTION		
2	FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION		
3	(Violation of Proposition 65 – Against all Defendants)		
4	13. Plaintiff incorporates by reference each and every allegation contained above.		
5	14. Proposition 65 mandates that citizens be informed about exposures to chemicals that cause cancer, birth defects, and other reproductive harm.		
6	15. Defendants manufactured, imported, sold, and/or distributed Products containing lead		
7	in violation of Health and Safety Code, section 25249.6 et seq. Plaintiff is informed and believes such		
8	violations have continued after receipt of the Notice (defined <i>infra</i>) and will continue to occur into the		
9	future.		
10	16. In manufacturing, importing, selling, and/or distributing Products, Defendants failed to		
11	provide a clear and reasonable warning to consumers and individuals in California who may be exposed		
12	to lead through reasonably foreseeable use of the Products.		
13	17. Products expose individuals to lead through direct ingestion. This exposure is a natural		
14	and foreseeable consequence of Defendants placing Products into the stream of commerce. As such,		
15	Defendants intend that consumers will ingest Products, exposing them to lead.		
16	18. Defendants knew or should have known that the Products contained lead and exposed		
17	individuals to lead in the ways provided above. The Notice informed Defendants of the presence of lead		
18	in the Products. Likewise, media coverage concerning lead and related chemicals in consumer products		
19	provided constructive notice to Defendants.		
20	19. Defendants' actions in this regard were deliberate and not accidental.		
21	20. More than sixty days prior to naming each defendant in this lawsuit, Plaintiff issued a		
22	60-Day Notice of Violation ("Notice") as required by and in compliance with Proposition 65. Plaintiff		
23	provided the Notice to the various required public enforcement agencies along with a certificate of merit.		
24	The Notice alleged that Defendants violated Proposition 65 by failing to sufficiently warn consumers in		
25	California of the health hazards associated with exposures to lead contained in the Products.		
26	21. The appropriate public enforcement agencies provided with the Notice failed to		
27	commence and diligently prosecute a cause of action against Defendants.		
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1	22.	Individuals exposed to lead contained in Products through direct ingestion resulting	
2	from reasonably foreseeable use of the Products have suffered and continue to suffer irreparable harm.		
3	There is no other plain, speedy, or adequate remedy at law.		
4	23.	Defendants are liable for a maximum civil penalty of \$2,500 per day for each violation	
5	of Proposition	65 pursuant to Health and Safety Code, section 252497(b). Injunctive relief is also	
6	appropriate pursuant to Health and Safety Code, section 25249.7(a)		
7	PRAYER FOR RELIEF		
8	Wherefore, Plaintiff prays for judgment against Defendants as follows:		
9	1.	Civil penalties in the amount of \$2,500 per day for each violation. Plaintiff alleges that	
10	damages total	a minimum of \$1,000,000.00;	
11	2.	A preliminary and permanent injunction against Defendants from manufacturing,	
12	importing, selling, and/or distributing Products in California without providing a clear and reasonable		
13	warning as required by Proposition 65 and related Regulations;		
14	3.	Reasonable attorney's fees and costs of suit; and	
15	4.	Such other and further relief as may be just and proper.	
16	Respectfully	submitted:	
17	Dated: Septer	mber 16, 2022 ENTORNO LAW, LLP	
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19		By Noam Slich	
20		By: Noam Glick	
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22		Jake W. Schulte Craig M. Nicholas	
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24		Attorneys for Plaintiff Environmental Health Advocates, Inc.	
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