		CM-010
Charles W. Poss (SBN 325366)	n mhor nod address)	FOR COURT USE ONLY
Environmental Research Center, Inc. 3111 Camino Del Rio North, Suite 400		ELECTRONICALLY FILED
San Diego, CA 92108 TELEPHONE NO: 619-500-3090	FAX NO.: 706-858-0326	Superior Court of California,
ATTORNEY FOR (Name) Plaintiff Environmen		
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF A		Η Countγ of Alameda
STREET ADDRESS: 1225 Fallon Street		04/03/2023 at 07:25:09 AM
MALNG ADDRESS: 1225 Fallon Street		By: Angela Linhares,
CITY AND ZIP CODE: Oakland, CA 94612		Deputy Clerk
BRANCH NAME: Rene C. Davidson		
CASE NAME:		
Environmental Research Center, Inc		CASE NUMBER
CIVIL CASE COVER SHEET	Complex Case Designation	23CV030405
✓ Unlimited Limited	Counter Joinder	2007000400
(Amount (Amount demanded demanded is	Filed with first appearance by defendant	JUDGE
exceeds \$25,000) \$25,000 or less)	(Cal. Rules of Court, rule 3.402)	DEPT
Items 1–6 bei	ow must be completed (see instructions on p	age 2).
1. Check one box below for the case type that	t best describes this case:	
Auto Tort		visionally Complex Civil Litigation
Auto (22)		Rules of Court, rules 3.400–3.403)
Uninsured motorist (46)	Rule 3.740 collections (09)	Antitrust/Trade regulation (03)
Other PI/PD/WD (Personal Injury/Property	Other collections (09)	Construction defect (10)
Damage/Wrongful Death) Tort Asbestos (04)	Insurance coverage (18)	Mass tort (40)
Product liability (24)	Other contract (37)	Securities litigation (28)
Medical malpractice (45)	Real Property Eminent domain/Inverse	Environmental/Toxic tort (30)
Other Pl/PD/WD (23)	condemnation (14)	Insurance coverage claims arising from the above listed provisionally complex case
Non-PI/PD/WD (Other) Tort	Wrongful eviction (33)	types (41)
Business tort/unfair business practice (07	) Other real property (26) Enfo	prcement of Judgment
Civil rights (08)	Unlawful Detainer	Enforcement of judgment (20)
Defamation (13)	Commercial (31) Mise	ellaneous Civil Complaint
Fraud (16)	Residential (32)	RICO (27)
Intellectual property (19)	□ Drugs (38)	Other complaint (not specified above) (42)
Professional negligence (25)		ellaneous Civil Petition
Other non PI/PD/WD tort (35)	Asset forfeiture (05)	Partnership and corporate governance (21)
Employment	Petition re arbitration award (11)	Other petition (not specified above) (43)
Wrongful termination (36)	Writ of mandate (02)	
2 This case is $\checkmark$ is not com	Other judicial review (39)	of October Million and a land and a land
2. This case is is not com factors requiring exceptional judicial mana	plex under rule 3.400 of the California Rules	or Court. If the case is complex, mark the
a. Large number of separately repre		witnesses
b. Extensive motion practice raising		related actions pending in one or more courts
issues that will be time-consuming		states, or countries, or in a federal court
c. Substantial amount of documenta		dgment judicial supervision
2. Demodiles accessible (characteritette at accessible at		
3. Remedies sought (check all that apply): a	. 🖌 monetary b. 🖌 nonmonetary; decla	aratory or injunctive relief C punitive
4. Number of causes of action (specify): 2		
5. This case is is not a clas		una form CHA DAEL
6. If there are any known related cases, file a	and serve a notice of related case. (You may	use Iorm CM-015.)
Date: April 3, 2023		
Charles W. Poss (TYPE OR PRINT NAME)		TURE OF PARTY OF ATTORNEY FOR PARTY)
	NOTICE	
• Plaintiff must file this cover sheet with the	first paper filed in the action or proceeding (e	xcept small claims cases or cases filed
under the Probate Code, Family Code, or in sanctions.	Welfare and Institutions Code). (Cal. Rules o	r Court, rule 3.220.) Failure to file may result
<ul> <li>File this cover sheet in addition to any cov</li> </ul>	er sheet required by local court rule.	
<ul> <li>If this case is complex under rule 3.400 et</li> </ul>	seq. of the California Rules of Court, you mu	st serve a copy of this cover sheet on all
other parties to the action or proceeding.	2740 or a complete sees this serves at a th	ill be used for statistical purposes as he
Onless this is a collections case under rule	a 3.740 or a complex case, this cover sheet w	/ill be used for statistical purposes only. Page 1 of 2
Form Adopted for Mandatory Use	CIVIL CASE COVER SHEET	Cal. Rules of Court, rules 2.30, 3.220, 3.400-3 403, 3.740, Cal. Standards of Judicial Administration, etd. 3 10

		v. Elmhurst Milked LLC et al.
		SE COVER SHEET ADDENDUM
		ALL NEW UNLIMITED CIVIL CASE FILINGS IN THE
	SUPERIOR COURT	
DA Oakland Day	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	[ ] Hayward Hall of Justice (447)
	e C. Davidson Alameda County Courth	nouse (446) [ ] Pleasanton, Gale-Schenone Hall of Justice (448)
Civil Case Cover Sheet Category	Civil Case Cover Sheet Case Type	Alameda County Case Type (check only one)
Auto Tort	Auto tort (22)	[] 34 Auto tort (G)
		Is this an uninsured motorist case? [ ] yes [ ] no
Other PI /PD /	Asbestos (04)	[] 75 Asbestos (D)
WD Tort	Product liability (24)	[ ] 89 Product liability (not asbestos or toxic tort/environmental) (G)
	Medical malpractice (45)	[ ] 97 Medical malpractice (G)
	Other PI/PD/WD tort (23)	[ ] 33 Other PI/PD/WD tort (G)
Non - PI /PD /	Bus tort / unfair bus practice (07)	[ ] 79 Bus tort / unfair bus practice (G)
WD Tort	Civil rights (08)	[ ] 80 Civil rights (G)
	Defamation (13)	[] 84 Defamation (G)
	Fraud (16)	[] 24 Fraud (G)
	Intellectual property (19)	[] 87 Intellectual property (G)
	Professional negligence (25)	[ ] 59 Professional negligence non medical (G)
	Other non PI/PD/WD tort (35)	[] 03 Other non-PI/PD/WD tort (G)
Employment	Wrongful termination (36)	[] 38 Wrongful termination (G)
	Other employment (15)	[] 85 Other employment (G)
		[ ] 53 Labor comm award confirmation
		[] 54 Notice of appeal L.C.A.
Contract	Breach contract / Wrnty (06)	[ ] 04 Breach contract / Wrnty (G)
	Collections (09)	[ ] 81 Collections (G)
	Insurance coverage (18)	[ ] 86 Ins coverage - non complex (G)
	Other contract (37)	[] 98 Other contract (G)
Real Property	Eminent domain / Inv Cdm (14)	[] 18 Eminent domain / Inv Cdm (G)
	Wrongful eviction (33)	[ ] 17 Wrongful eviction (G)
	Other real property (26)	[] 36 Other real property (G)
Jnlawful Detainer	Commercial (31)	[ ] 94 Unlawful Detainer - commercial Is the deft. in posses
	Residential (32)	[ ] 47 Unlawful Detainer - residential of the property?
	Drugs (38)	[] 21 Unławful detainer - drugs [] Yes [] No
Judicial Review	Asset forfeiture (05)	[] 41 Asset forfeiture
	Petition re: arbitration award (11)	[] 62 Pet re: arbitration award
	Writ of Mandate (02)	[] 49 Writ of mandate Is this a CEQA action (Publ.Res.Code section 21000 et seq) [] Yes []
		[] 64 Other judicial review
	Other judicial review (39)	
<sup>o</sup> rovisionally	Antitrust / Trade regulation (03)	[] 77 Antitrust / Trade regulation
	Antitrust / Trade regulation (03)	[ ] 77 Antitrust / Trade regulation
	Antitrust / Trade regulation (03) Construction defect (10)	[]       77       Antitrust / Trade regulation         []       82       Construction defect         []       78       Claims involving mass tort
	Antitrust / Trade regulation (03) Construction defect (10) Claims involving mass tort (40) Securities litigation (28)	<ul> <li>[] 77 Antitrust / Trade regulation</li> <li>[] 82 Construction defect</li> <li>[] 78 Claims involving mass tort</li> <li>[] 91 Securities litigation</li> </ul>
	Antitrust / Trade regulation (03) Construction defect (10) Claims involving mass tort (40) Securities litigation (28) Toxic tort / Environmental (30)	<ul> <li>[] 77 Antitrust / Trade regulation</li> <li>[] 82 Construction defect</li> <li>[] 78 Claims involving mass tort</li> <li>[] 91 Securities litigation</li> </ul>
Complex	Antitrust / Trade regulation (03) Construction defect (10) Claims involving mass tort (40) Securities litigation (28)	<ul> <li>[] 77 Antitrust / Trade regulation</li> <li>[] 82 Construction defect</li> <li>[] 78 Claims involving mass tort</li> <li>[] 91 Securities litigation</li> <li>[] 93 Toxic tort / Environmental</li> <li>[] 95 Ins covrg from complex case type</li> </ul>
Complex Enforcement of	Antitrust / Trade regulation (03) Construction defect (10) Claims involving mass tort (40) Securities litigation (28) Toxic tort / Environmental (30) Ins covrg from cmplx case type (41)	[]       77       Antitrust / Trade regulation         []       82       Construction defect         []       78       Claims involving mass tort         []       91       Securities litigation         []       93       Toxic tort / Environmental         []       95       Ins covrg from complex case type         []       19       Enforcement of judgment
Complex Enforcement of Judgment	Antitrust / Trade regulation (03) Construction defect (10) Claims involving mass tort (40) Securities litigation (28) Toxic tort / Environmental (30) Ins covrg from cmplx case type (41)	[]       77       Antitrust / Trade regulation         []       82       Construction defect         []       78       Claims involving mass tort         []       91       Securities litigation         []       93       Toxic tort / Environmental         []       95       Ins covrg from complex case type         []       19       Enforcement of judgment         []       08       Confession of judgment
Complex Enforcement of Judgment	Antitrust / Trade regulation (03) Construction defect (10) Claims involving mass tort (40) Securities litigation (28) Toxic tort / Environmental (30) Ins covrg from cmplx case type (41) Enforcement of judgment (20) RICO (27)	[]       77       Antitrust / Trade regulation         []       82       Construction defect         []       78       Claims involving mass tort         []       91       Securities litigation         []       93       Toxic tort / Environmental         []       95       Ins covrg from complex case type         []       19       Enforcement of judgment         []       08       Confession of judgment         []       90       RICO (G)
Provisionally Complex Enforcement of Judgment Misc Complaint	Antitrust / Trade regulation (03) Construction defect (10) Claims involving mass tort (40) Securities litigation (28) Toxic tort / Environmental (30) Ins covrg from cmplx case type (41) Enforcement of judgment (20)	[]       77       Antitrust / Trade regulation         []       82       Construction defect         []       78       Claims involving mass tort         []       91       Securities litigation         []       93       Toxic tort / Environmental         []       95       Ins covrg from complex case type         []       19       Enforcement of judgment         []       08       Confession of judgment         []       90       RICO (G)

SUM-100

Deputy

FOR COURT USE ONLY (SOLO PARA USO DE LA CORTE)

ELECTRONICALLY FILED Superior Court of California County of Alameda

04/03/2023

Chad Finke, Executive Officer / Clerk of the Court A. Linhares

Bν:

# SUMMONS (CITACION JUDICIAL)

#### NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: (AVISO AL DEMANDADO):

ELMHURST MILKED LLC; ELMHURST MILKED DIRECT LLC; and **DOES 1-100** 

#### YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF: (LO ESTÁ DEMANDANDO EL DEMANDANTE): ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH CENTER, INC. a California non-profit corporation

NOTICE! You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the information below.

You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), your county law I brary, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court.

There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web site (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), or by contacting your local court or county bar association. NOTE: The court has a statutory lien for waived fees and costs on any settlement or arbitration award of \$10,000 or more in a civil case. The court's lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case. ¡AVISO! Lo han demandado. Si no responde dentro de 30 días, la corte puede decidir en su contra sin escuchar su versión. Lea la información a continuación

Tiene 30 DÍAS DE CALENDARIO después de que le entreguen esta citación y papeles legales para presentar una respuesta por escrito en esta corte y hacer que se entregue una copia al demandante. Una carta o una llamada telefónica no lo protegen. Su respuesta por escrito tiene que estar en formato legal correcto si desea que procesen su caso en la corte. Es posible que hava un formulario que usted pueda usar para su respuesta. Puede encontrar estos formularios de la corte y más información en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California (www.sucorte.ca.gov), en la biblioteca de leyes de su condado o en la corte que le quede más cerca. Si no puede pagar la cuota de presentación, pida al secretario de la corte que le dé un formulario de exención de pago de cuotas. Si no presenta su respuesta a tiempo, puede perder el caso por incumplimiento y la corte le podrá guitar su sueldo, dinero y bienes sin más advertencia.

Hay otros requisitos legales. Es recomendable que llame a un abogado inmediatamente. Si no conoce a un abogado, puede llamar a un servicio de remisión a abogados. Si no puede pagar a un abogado, es posible que cumpla con los requisitos para obtener servicios legales gratuitos de un programa de servicios legales sin fines de lucro. Puede encontrar estos grupos sin fines de lucro en el sitio web de California Legal Services, (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California, (www.sucorte.ca.gov) o poniéndose en contacto con la corte o el colegio de abogados locales. AVISO: Por ley, la corte tiene derecho a reclamar las cuotas y los costos exentos por imponer un gravamen sobre cualquier recuperación de \$10.000 ó más de valor recibida mediante un acuerdo o una concesión de arbitraie en un caso de derecho civil. Tiene que pagar el gravamen de la corte antes de que la corte pueda desechar el caso.

#### The name and address of the court is:

(El nombre y dirección de la corte es): Alameda County Superior Court

CASE NUMBER: (Número del Caso):		
23CV	03040	5

. . . .

....

1225 Fallon Street

Oakland, California 94612

The name, address, and telephone number of plaintiff's attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney, is: (El nombre, la dirección y el número de teléfono del abogado del demandante, o del demandante que no tiene abogado, es): Charles W. Poss, ERC, Inc., 3111 Camino Del Rio North, Ste. 400, San Diego, CA 92108 (619) 500-3090

.......

...

DATE: <i>(Fecha)</i> 04/03/2023	Clerk, by Chad Finke, Exe (Secretario) <u>A. Linhares</u>	cutive Officer / Clerk of the Court, Deputy (Adjunto)
	summons, use Proof of Service of Summons (form POS-010).)         esta citatión use el formulario Proof of Service of Summons, (POS         NOTICE TO THE PERSON SERVED: You are served         1.       as an individual defendant.         2.       as the person sued under the fictitious name of (specify):         3.       on behalf of (specify):         under:       CCP 416.10 (corporation)         CCP 416.20 (defunct corporation)       CCP 416.40 (association or partnership)         other (specify):         4.       by personal delivery on (date):	
Come Advanted for Manufature (1)		

SUMMONS

1	Charles W. Poss (SBN 325366)	ELECTRONICALLY FILED
2	Environmental Research Center, Inc. 3111 Camino Del Rio North, Suite 400	Superior Court of California,
3	San Diego, CA 92108	County of Alameda
4	Ph: (619) 500-3090 Email: charles.poss@erc501c3.org	04/03/2023 at 07:25:09 AM By: Angela Linhares,
5	Attorney for Plaintiff Environmental Research Cen	
6		
7		
8	SUPERIOR COURT OF THE S	STATE OF CALIFORNIA
9	COUNTY OF ALAMEDA	
10		
11	ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH CENTER,	CASE NO. 230V030405
12	INC., a California non-profit corporation	<b>COMPLAINT FOR INJUNCTIVE</b>
13	Plaintiff,	AND DECLARATORY RELIEF AND CIVIL PENALTIES
14	VS.	CIVIL PENALTIES
15	ELMHURST MILKED LLC; ELMHURST MILKED DIRECT LLC; and DOES 1-100	[Miscellaneous Civil Complaint (42)] Proposition 65, Health & Safety Code
16	Defendants.	Section 25249.5 et seq.]
17	Defendants.	
18		
19	Plaintiff Environmental Research Center, Inc. herel	by alleges:
20	I	
21	INTRODUCTION	
22	1. Plaintiff Environmental Research Center, Inc. (hereinafter "Plaintiff" or "ERC") brings	
23	this action as a private attorney general enforcer and in the public interest pursuant to Health &	
24	Safety Code section 25249.7, subdivision (d). The Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement	
25	Act of 1986 (Health & Safety Code section 25249.5 et seq.) also known as "Proposition 65,"	
26	mandates that businesses with ten or more employe	es must provide a "clear and reasonable
27	warning" prior to exposing any individual to a cher	nical known to the state to cause cancer or
28	reproductive toxicity. Lead and mercury are chemi	cals known to the State of California to
	Page 1 of	f 9

Complaint for Injunctive and Declaratory Relief and Civil Penalties

cause cancer and/or birth defects, and other reproductive harm. This Complaint seeks injunctive and declaratory relief and civil penalties to remedy the ongoing failure of Defendants 3 Elmhurst Milked LLC and Elmhurst Milked Direct LLC (collectively "Elmhurst") and Does 1-100 (hereinafter individually referred to as "Defendant" or collectively as "Defendants"), to warn consumers that they have been exposed to lead and/or mercury from a number of Elmhurst's nutritional health products as set forth in paragraph 3 at levels exceeding the applicable Maximum Allowable Dose Level ("MADL") and requiring a warning pursuant to Health & Safety Code section 25249.6.

## Π

### PARTIES

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

3. Defendant Elmhurst is a business that develops, manufactures, markets, distributes, and/or sells nutritional health products that have exposed users to lead and/or mercury in the State of California within the relevant statute of limitations period. These "SUBJECT PRODUCTS" (as identified in the Notices of Violation dated January 5, 2023 and January 12, 2023 attached hereto as *Exhibits A* and *B*) are: (1) Elmhurst Plant Based Oat Creamer Unsweetened (lead), (2) Elmhurst Milked Oats Chocolate (lead, mercury), (3) Elmhurst Oat Latte Matcha (mercury), (4) Elmhurst Oat Latte Flash Brew (mercury), (5) Elmhurst Milked Oats Blueberry (lead, mercury), (6) Elmhurst Milked Cashews Barista Approved (lead), and (7) Elmhurst Plant Based Oat Barista Made From Whole Grain Oats (mercury). Elmhurst Milked LLC and Elmhurst Milked Direct LLC are companies subject to Proposition 65 as they employ ten or more persons and have employed ten or more persons at all times relevant to this action. 4. Defendants Does 1-100, are named herein under fictitious names, as their true names and capacities are unknown to ERC. ERC is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that each of said Does is responsible, in some actionable manner, for the events and happenings

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hereinafter referred to, either through said Does' conduct, or through the conduct of its agents,
 servants or employees, or in some other manner, causing the harms alleged by ERC in this
 Complaint. When said true names and capacities of Does are ascertained, ERC will seek leave
 to amend this Complaint to set forth the same.

#### III

#### JURISDICTION AND VENUE

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

6. This Court has jurisdiction over Elmhurst because Elmhurst has sufficient minimum contacts with California, and otherwise intentionally avails itself of the California market through the marketing, distribution, and/or sale of the SUBJECT PRODUCTS in the State of California so as to render the exercise of jurisdiction over it by the California courts consistent with traditional notions of fair play and substantial justice.

7. The Complaint is based on allegations contained in the Notices of Violation dated January 5, 2023 and January 12, 2023, served on the California Attorney General, other public enforcers, and Elmhurst. The Notices of Violation constitute adequate notice to Elmhurst because they provided adequate information to allow Elmhurst to assess the nature of the alleged violations, consistent with Proposition 65 and its implementing regulations. A certificate of merit and a certificate of service accompanied each copy of the Notices of Violation, and both certificates comply with Proposition 65 and its implementing regulations. The Notices of Violation served on Elmhurst also included a copy of "The Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986 (Proposition 65): A Summary." Service of the Notices of Violation and accompanying documents complied with Proposition 65 and its implementing regulations. Attached hereto as *Exhibits A* and *B* are true and correct copies of the Notices of Violation and associated documents. More than 60 days have passed since ERC mailed the Notices of Violation and no public enforcement entity has filed a Complaint in this case.

1	8. This Court is the proper venue for the action because the causes of action have arisen in
2	the County of Alameda where some of the violations of law have occurred, and will continue to
3	occur, due to the ongoing sale of Elmhurst's products. Furthermore, venue is proper in this
4	Court under Code of Civil Procedure section 395.5 and Health & Safety Code section 25249.7.
5	IV
6	STATUTORY BACKGROUND
7	9. The Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986 is an initiative statute
8	passed as "Proposition 65" by an overwhelming majority vote of the people in November of
9	1986.
0	10. The warning requirement of Proposition 65 is contained in Health & Safety Code
1	section 25249.6, which provides:
2	No person in the course of doing business shall knowingly and
3	intentionally expose any individual to a chemical known to the state to cause cancer or reproductive toxicity without first giving clear and
4	reasonable warning to such individual, except as provided in Section 25249.10.
5	
6	11. The Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment ("OEHHA"), a division of Cal
7	EPA, is the lead agency in charge of the implementation of Proposition 65. OEHHA
8	administers the Proposition 65 program and administers regulations that govern Proposition 65
9	in general, including warnings to comply with the statute. The warning regulations are found at
0	Title 27 of the California Code of Regulations, Article 6. The regulations define expose as "to
1	cause to ingest, inhale, contact via body surfaces or otherwise come into contact with a listed
2	chemical. An individual may come into contact with a listed chemical through water, air, food,
3	consumer products and any other environmental exposure as well as occupational exposures."
4	(Cal. Code Regs., tit. 27, § 25102, subd. (i).)
5	12. In this case, the exposures are caused by consumer products. A consumer product is
6	defined as "any article, or component part thereof, including food, that is produced, distributed,
7	or sold for the personal use, consumption or enjoyment of a consumer." (Cal. Code Regs., tit.
8	27, § 25600.1, subd. (d).) Food "includes 'dietary supplements' as defined in California Code

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of Regulations, title 17, section 10200." (*Id.* at subd. (g).) A consumer product exposure is "an exposure that results from a person's acquisition, purchase, storage, consumption, or any reasonably foreseeable use of a consumer product, including consumption of a food." (*Id.* at subd. (e).)

13. On August 30, 2016, the Office of Administrative Law approved the adoption of OEHHA's amendments to Article 6, Clear and Reasonable Warnings of the California Code of Regulations. This action repealed virtually all of the regulatory provisions of Title 27 of the California Code of Regulations, Article 6 (sections 25601 *et seq.*) and replaced the repealed sections with new regulations set forth in two new Subarticles to Article 6 that became operative on August 30, 2018 (the "New Warning Regulations"). The New Warning Regulations provide, among other things, methods of transmission and content of warnings deemed to comply with Proposition 65. Elmhurst is subject to the warning requirements set forth in the New Warning Regulations that became operative on August 30, 2018.

14. Health & Safety Code section 25249.6 provides that "No person in the course of doing business shall knowingly and intentionally expose any individual to a chemical known to the state to cause cancer or reproductive toxicity without first giving clear and reasonable warning to such individual . . . ." The New Warning Regulations apply when clear and reasonable warnings are required under Section 25249.6. Pursuant to the New Warning Regulations, consumer product warnings "must be prominently displayed on a label, labeling, or sign, and must be displayed with such conspicuousness as compared with other words, statements, designs or devices on the label, labeling, or sign, as to render the warning likely to be seen, read, and understood by an ordinary individual under customary conditions of purchase or use." (*Id.* at § 25601, subd. (c).)

15. Proposition 65 establishes a procedure by which the State is to develop a list of chemicals "known to the State to cause cancer or reproductive toxicity." (Health & Safety Code, § 25249.8.) There is no duty to provide a clear and reasonable warning until 12-months after the chemical is published on the State list. (Health & Safety Code, § 25249.10, subd. (b).)
16. Lead was listed as a chemical known to the State of California to cause developmental

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toxicity in the fetus and male and female reproductive toxicity on February 27, 1987. Lead was
 listed as a chemical known to the State of California to cause cancer on October 1, 1992.
 (OEHHA Chemicals Considered or Listed Under Proposition 65 -

https://oehha.ca.gov/proposition-65/chemicals/lead-and-lead-compounds.) The MADL for lead as a chemical known to cause reproductive toxicity is 0.5 micrograms per day. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 27, §25805, subd. (b).) The No Significant Risk Level for lead as a carcinogen is 15 micrograms per day. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 27, §25705, subd. (b).)

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17. Mercury and mercury compounds were listed as chemicals known to the State of California to cause developmental toxicity in the fetus and male and female reproductive toxicity on July 1, 1990 (*see* https://oehha.ca.gov/proposition-65/chemicals/mercury-andmercury-compounds).

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

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

#### V

## STATEMENT OF FACTS

20. Elmhurst has developed, manufactured, marketed, distributed, and/or sold the SUBJECT PRODUCTS containing lead and/or mercury into the State of California. Consumption of the SUBJECT PRODUCTS according to the directions and/or recommendations provided for said products cause consumers to be exposed to lead at levels exceeding the 0.5 micrograms per day MADL and/or to be exposed to mercury and requiring a warning. Consumers have been

Page 6 of 9

ingesting these products for many years, without any knowledge of their exposure to these very dangerous chemicals.

21. For many years, Elmhurst has knowingly and intentionally exposed numerous persons to lead and/or mercury without providing any type of Proposition 65 warning. Prior to ERC's Notices of Violation and this Complaint, Elmhurst failed to provide a warning on the labels of the SUBJECT PRODUCTS or provide any other legally acceptable warning. Elmhurst has, at all times relevant hereto, been aware that the SUBJECT PRODUCTS contained lead and/or mercury and that persons using these products have been exposed to these chemicals. Elmhurst has been aware of the presence of lead and/or mercury in the SUBJECT PRODUCTS and has failed to disclose the presence of these chemicals to the public, who undoubtedly believe they have been ingesting totally healthy and pure products pursuant to the company's statements. 22. Both prior and subsequent to ERC's Notices of Violation, Elmhurst failed to provide consumers of the SUBJECT PRODUCTS with a clear and reasonable warning that they have been exposed to chemicals known to the State of California to cause cancer and/or birth defects and/or other reproductive harm. This failure to warn is ongoing.

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

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

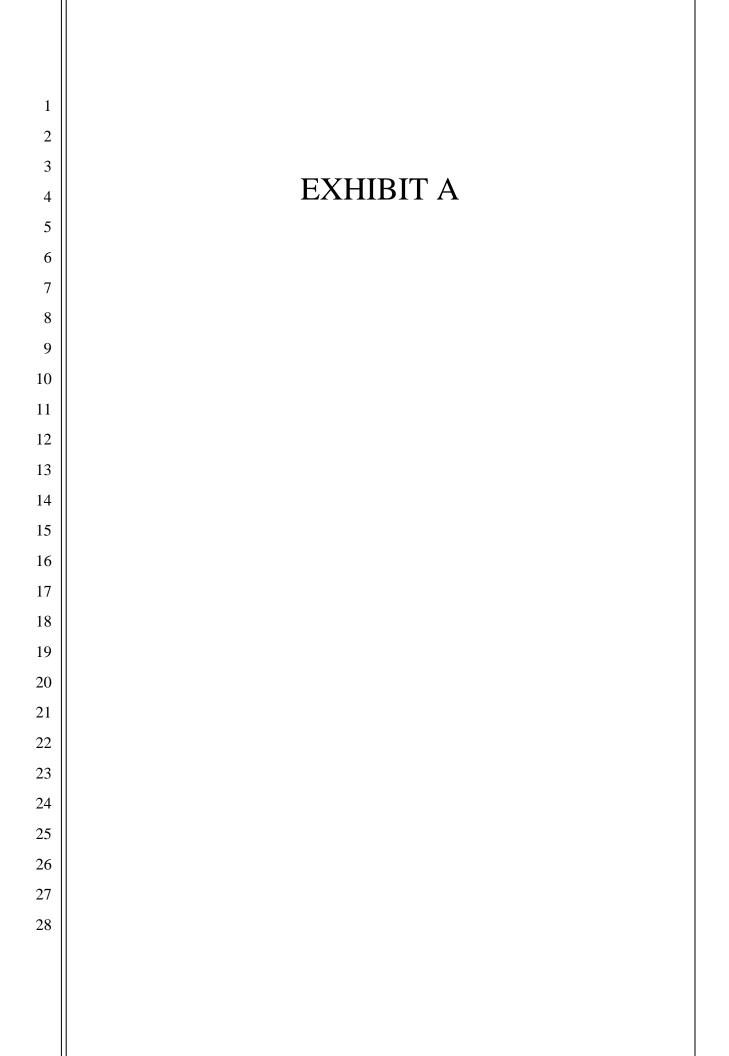
24. By committing the acts alleged above, Elmhurst has, in the course of doing business, knowingly and intentionally exposed users of the SUBJECT PRODUCTS to lead and/or mercury, chemicals known to the State of California to cause cancer and/or birth defects and/or other reproductive harm, without first giving clear and reasonable warning to such individuals within the meaning of Health & Safety Code section 25249.6. In doing so, Elmhurst has violated Health & Safety Code section 25249.6 and continues to violate the statute with each successive sale of the SUBJECT PRODUCTS.

25. Said violations render Elmhurst liable for civil penalties, up to \$2,500 per day for each

1

violation, and subject Elmhurst to injunction. 1 2 SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION (Declaratory Relief) 3 26. ERC refers to paragraphs 1-25, inclusive, and incorporates them herein by this 4 5 reference. 6 27. There exists an actual controversy relating to the legal rights and duties of the Parties, 7 within the meaning of Code of Civil Procedure section 1060, between ERC and Elmhurst, 8 concerning whether Elmhurst has exposed individuals to chemicals known to the State of 9 California to cause cancer and/or birth defects and/or other reproductive harm without providing 10 clear and reasonable warning. VI 11 12 PRAYER WHEREFORE ERC prays for relief as follows: 13 14 1. On the First Cause of Action, for civil penalties for each and every violation according 15 to proof: 16 2. On the First Cause of Action, and pursuant to Health & Safety Code section 25249.7, 17 subdivision (a), for such temporary restraining orders, preliminary and permanent injunctive 18 orders, or other orders as are necessary to prevent Elmhurst from exposing persons to lead 19 and/or mercury without providing clear and reasonable warning; 20 3. On the Second Cause of Action, for a declaratory judgment pursuant to Code of Civil 21 Procedure section 1060 declaring that Elmhurst has exposed individuals to lead and/or mercury 22 without providing clear and reasonable warning; and 23 4. On all Causes of Action, for reasonable attorneys' fees pursuant to Code of Civil 24 Procedure section 1021.5 or the substantial benefit theory; 25 5. For costs of suit herein: and 26 6. For such other relief as the Court may deem just and proper. 27 /// 28 /// Page 8 of 9 **Complaint for Injunctive and Declaratory Relief and Civil Penalties** 

DATED: April 3, 2023 ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH CENTER, INC. Charles In-House Counsel Page 9 of 9 Complaint for Injunctive and Declaratory Relief and Civil Penalties





January 5, 2023

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

Dear Alleged Violators and the Appropriate Public Enforcement Agencies:

I am the In-House Counsel for Environmental Research Center, Inc. ("ERC"). 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 Violators 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 Violators and the appropriate public enforcement agencies. Pursuant to Section 25249.7(d) of the statute, 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.

<u>General Information about Proposition 65</u>. A copy of a summary of Proposition 65, prepared by the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, is attached with the copy of this letter served to the alleged Violators identified below.

<u>Alleged Violators</u>. The names of the companies covered by this notice that violated Proposition 65 (hereinafter the "Violators") are:

Elmhurst Milked LLC Elmhurst Milked Direct LLC

<u>Consumer Products and Listed Chemicals</u>. The products that are the subject of this notice and the chemicals in those products identified as exceeding allowable levels are:

- 1. Elmhurst Plant Based Oat Creamer Unsweetened Lead
- 2. Elmhurst Milked Oats Chocolate Lead, Mercury
- 3. Elmhurst Oat Latte Matcha Mercury
- 4. Elmhurst Oat Latte Flash Brew Mercury

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.

On July 1, 1990, the State of California officially listed mercury and mercury compounds as chemicals known to cause developmental toxicity and male and female reproductive toxicity.

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

**<u>Route of Exposure</u>**. The consumer exposures that are the subject of this notice result from the recommended use of these products. Consequently, the route of exposure to these chemicals has been and continues to be through ingestion.

Approximate Time Period of Violations. Ongoing violations have occurred every day since at least January 5, 2020, 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 Violators violated Proposition 65 because they failed to provide persons ingesting 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 Violators 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; (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 products in the last three years. Such a resolution will prevent further unwarned consumer exposures to the identified chemicals, as well as expensive and time-consuming litigation.

Please direct all questions concerning this notice to my attention, or Chris Heptinstall, Executive Director of ERC, at the above listed address and telephone number.

Sincerely,

Charles Poss In-House Counsel Environmental Research Center

Attachments

Certificate of Merit Certificate of Service OEHHA Summary (to Elmhurst Milked LLC, Elmhurst Milked Direct LLC, and their Registered Agents for Service of Process only) 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 Elmhurst Milked LLC and Elmhurst Milked Direct LLC

I, Charles Poss, declare:

1. This Certificate of Merit accompanies the attached 60-day notice in which it is alleged the parties 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 Violators 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: January 5, 2023

Charles Poss

#### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE PURSUANT TO 27 CCR § 25903**

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 and over the age of 18 years of age. 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 January 5, 2023, between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p m. Eastern Time, I served the following documents: NOTICE OF VIOLATIONS 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 each of the parties listed below and depositing it in a U.S. Postal Service Office with the postage fully prepaid for delivery by Certified Mail:

Current President or CEO Elmhurst Milked LLC and Elmhurst Milked Direct LLC 1150 Maple Rd Elma, NY 14059

National Registered Agents, Inc. (Registered Agent for Elmhurst Milked LLC) 7700 E Arapahoe Rd, Ste 220 Centennial, CO 80112 National Registered Agents, Inc. (Registered Agent for Elmhurst Milked LLC and Elmhurst Milked Direct LLC) 1209 N. Orange St Wilmington, DE 19801

The LLC (Registered Agent for Elmhurst Milked LLC) 1150 Maple Rd Elma, NY 14059

On January 5, 2023, between 8:00 a m. and 5:00 p m. Eastern Time, 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 Post Office Box 70550 Oakland, CA 94612-0550

On January 5, 2023, between 8:00 a m. and 5:00 p m. Eastern Time, 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:

Nancy O'Malley, District Attorney Alameda County 7677 Oakport Street, Suite 650 Oakland, CA 94621 CEPDProp65@acgov.org Barbara Yook, District Attorney Calaveras County 891 Mountain Ranch Road San Andreas, CA 95249 Prop65Env@co.calaveras.ca.us

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

Lisa A. Smittcamp, District Attorney Fresno County 2100 Tulare Street Fresno, CA 93721 consumerprotection@fresnocountyca.gov

Thomas L. Hardy, District Attorney Inyo County 168 North Edwards Street Independence, CA 93526 inyoda@inyocounty.us

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

Walter W. Wall, District Attorney Mariposa County P.O. Box 730 Mariposa, CA 95338 mcda@mariposacounty.org

Kimberly Lewis, District Attorney Merced County 550 West Main St Merced, CA 95340 Prop65@countyofmerced.com

Jeannine M. Pacioni, District Attorney Monterey County 1200 Aguajito Road Monterey, CA 93940 Prop65DA@co.monterey.ca.us

Allison Haley, District Attorney Napa County 1127 First Street, Ste C Napa, CA 94559 CEPD@countyofnapa.org

Clifford H. Newell, District Attorney Nevada County 201 Commercial St Nevada City, CA 95959 DA.Prop65@co nevada.ca.us Todd Spitzer, District Attorney Orange County 300 N Flower St Santa Ana, CA 92703 Prop65notice@da.ocgov.com

Morgan Briggs Gire, District Attorney Placer County 10810 Justice Center Drive Roseville, CA 95678 Prop65@placer.ca.gov

David Hollister, District Attorney Plumas County 520 Main St Quincy, CA 95971 davidhollister@countyofplumas.com

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

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

Summer Stephan, District Attorney San Diego County 330 West Broadway San Diego, CA 92101 SanDiegoDAProp65@sdcda.org

Mark Ankcorn, Deputy City Attorney San Diego City Attorney 1200 Third Avenue San Diego, CA 92101 CityAttyProp65@sandiego.gov

Alexandra Grayner, Assistant District Attorney San Francisco District Attorney's Office 350 Rhode Island Street San Francisco, CA 94103 Alexandra.grayner@sfgov.org

Valerie Lopez, Deputy City Attorney San Francisco City Attorney 1390 Market Street, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor San Francisco, CA 94102 Valerie.Lopez@sfcityatty.org Starla.Sousa@sfcityatty.org

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

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

Christopher Dalbey, Deputy District Attorney Santa Barbara County 1112 Santa Barbara Street Santa Barbara, CA 93101 DAProp65@co.santa-barbara.ca.us

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

Nora V. Frimann, City Attorney San Jose City Attorney 200 E. Santa Clara Street, 16<sup>th</sup> Floor San Jose, CA 96113 Proposition65notices@sanjoseca.gov Jeffrey S. Rosell, District Attorney Santa Cruz County 701 Ocean Street Santa Cruz, CA 95060 Prop65DA@santacruzcounty.us

Jill Ravitch, District Attorney Sonoma County 600 Administration Dr Sonoma, CA 95403 Jeannie.Barnes@sonoma-county.org

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

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

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

On January 5, 2023, between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time, I served the following documents: NOTICE OF VIOLATIONS, 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 with the U.S. Postal Service with the postage fully prepaid for delivery by First Class Mail.

Executed on January 5, 2023, in Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia.

hyllis Junior

Phyllis Dunwoody

#### Service List

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, Colusa County 310 6<sup>th</sup> St Colusa, CA 95932

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

District Attorney, El Dorado County 778 Pacific St. Placerville, CA 95667

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, 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 Hall of Justice 211 West Temple St., Ste 1200 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, Mendocino County Post Office Box 1000 Ukiah, CA 95482

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

District Attorney,San Bernardino County 303 West Third Street San Bernadino, CA 92415

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

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

District Attorney, Sierra County Post Office Box 457 100 Courthouse Square, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor 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 463 2<sup>nd</sup> 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

## 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 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

<sup>&</sup>lt;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.

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: <u>http://www.oehha.ca.gov/prop65/prop65\_list/Newlist.html</u>.

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 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 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 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 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.

<sup>&</sup>lt;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 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.

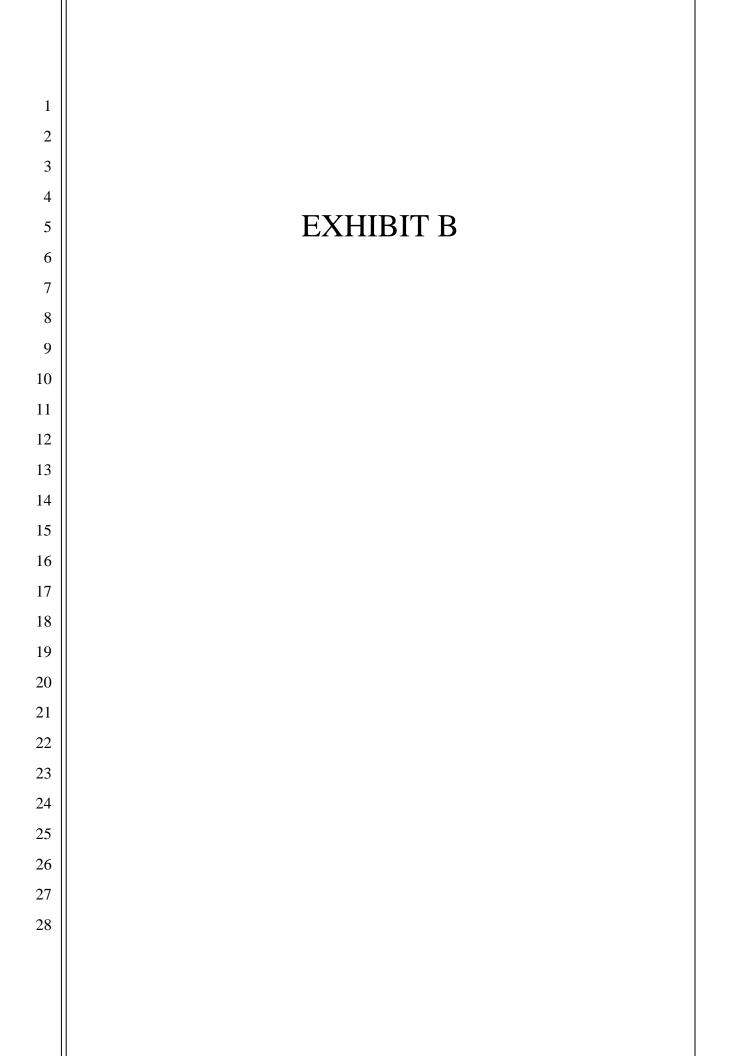
A copy of the notice of special compliance procedure and proof of compliance form is included in Appendix B and can be downloaded from OEHHA's website at: http://oehha.ca.gov/prop65/law/p65law72003.html.

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.

Revised: May 2017

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.





January 12, 2023

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

Dear Alleged Violators and the Appropriate Public Enforcement Agencies:

I am the In-House Counsel for Environmental Research Center, Inc. ("ERC"). 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 Violators 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 Violators and the appropriate public enforcement agencies. Pursuant to Section 25249.7(d) of the statute, 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.

<u>General Information about Proposition 65</u>. A copy of a summary of Proposition 65, prepared by the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, is attached with the copy of this letter served to the alleged Violators identified below.

<u>Alleged Violators</u>. The names of the companies covered by this notice that violated Proposition 65 (hereinafter the "Violators") are:

Elmhurst Milked LLC Elmhurst Milked Direct LLC

<u>Consumer Products and Listed Chemicals</u>. The products that are the subject of this notice and the chemicals in those products identified as exceeding allowable levels are:

- 1. Elmhurst Milked Oats Blueberry Lead, Mercury
- 2. Elmhurst Milked Cashews Barista Approved Lead
- 3. Elmhurst Plant Based Oat Barista Made From Whole Grain Oats Mercury

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.

On July 1, 1990, the State of California officially listed mercury and mercury compounds as chemicals known to cause developmental toxicity and male and female reproductive toxicity.

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

**<u>Route of Exposure</u>**. The consumer exposures that are the subject of this notice result from the recommended use of these products. Consequently, the route of exposure to these chemicals has been and continues to be through ingestion.

Approximate Time Period of Violations. Ongoing violations have occurred every day since at least January 12, 2020, 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 Violators violated Proposition 65 because they failed to provide persons ingesting 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 Violators 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; (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 products in the last three years. Such a resolution will prevent further unwarned consumer exposures to the identified chemicals, as well as expensive and time-consuming litigation.

Please direct all questions concerning this notice to my attention, or Chris Heptinstall, Executive Director of ERC, at the above listed address and telephone number.

Sincerely,

Charles Poss In-House Counsel Environmental Research Center

Attachments

Certificate of Merit Certificate of Service OEHHA Summary (to Elmhurst Milked LLC, Elmhurst Milked Direct LLC, and their Registered Agents for Service of Process only) 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 Elmhurst Milked LLC and Elmhurst Milked Direct LLC

I, Charles Poss, declare:

1. This Certificate of Merit accompanies the attached 60-day notice in which it is alleged the parties 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 Violators 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: January 12, 2023

Charles Poss

#### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE PURSUANT TO 27 CCR § 25903**

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 and over the age of 18 years of age. 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 January 12, 2023, between 8:00 a m. and 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time, I served the following documents: NOTICE OF VIOLATIONS 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 each of the parties listed below and depositing it in a U.S. Postal Service Office with the postage fully prepaid for delivery by Certified Mail:

Current President or CEO Elmhurst Milked LLC and Elmhurst Milked Direct LLC 1150 Maple Rd Elma, NY 14059

National Registered Agents, Inc. (Registered Agent for Elmhurst Milked LLC) 7700 E Arapahoe Rd, Ste 220 Centennial, CO 80112 National Registered Agents, Inc. (Registered Agent for Elmhurst Milked LLC and Elmhurst Milked Direct LLC) 1209 N. Orange St Wilmington, DE 19801

The LLC (Registered Agent for Elmhurst Milked LLC) 1150 Maple Rd Elma, NY 14059

On January 12, 2023, between 8:00 a m. and 5:00 p m. Eastern Time, 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 Post Office Box 70550 Oakland, CA 94612-0550

On January 12, 2023, between 8:00 a m. and 5:00 p m. Eastern Time, 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:

Nancy O'Malley, District Attorney Alameda County 7677 Oakport Street, Suite 650 Oakland, CA 94621 CEPDProp65@acgov.org Barbara Yook, District Attorney Calaveras County 891 Mountain Ranch Road San Andreas, CA 95249 Prop65Env@co.calaveras.ca.us

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

Lisa A. Smittcamp, District Attorney Fresno County 2100 Tulare Street Fresno, CA 93721 consumerprotection@fresnocountyca.gov

Thomas L. Hardy, District Attorney Inyo County 168 North Edwards Street Independence, CA 93526 inyoda@inyocounty.us

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

Walter W. Wall, District Attorney Mariposa County P.O. Box 730 Mariposa, CA 95338 mcda@mariposacounty.org

Kimberly Lewis, District Attorney Merced County 550 West Main St Merced, CA 95340 Prop65@countyofmerced.com

Jeannine M. Pacioni, District Attorney Monterey County 1200 Aguajito Road Monterey, CA 93940 Prop65DA@co.monterey.ca.us

Allison Haley, District Attorney Napa County 1127 First Street, Ste C Napa, CA 94559 CEPD@countyofnapa.org

Clifford H. Newell, District Attorney Nevada County 201 Commercial St Nevada City, CA 95959 DA.Prop65@co nevada.ca.us Todd Spitzer, District Attorney Orange County 300 N Flower St Santa Ana, CA 92703 Prop65notice@da.ocgov.com

Morgan Briggs Gire, District Attorney Placer County 10810 Justice Center Drive Roseville, CA 95678 Prop65@placer.ca.gov

David Hollister, District Attorney Plumas County 520 Main St Quincy, CA 95971 davidhollister@countyofplumas.com

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

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

Summer Stephan, District Attorney San Diego County 330 West Broadway San Diego, CA 92101 SanDiegoDAProp65@sdcda.org

Mark Ankcorn, Deputy City Attorney San Diego City Attorney 1200 Third Avenue San Diego, CA 92101 CityAttyProp65@sandiego.gov

Alexandra Grayner, Assistant District Attorney San Francisco District Attorney's Office 350 Rhode Island Street San Francisco, CA 94103 Alexandra.grayner@sfgov.org

Valerie Lopez, Deputy City Attorney San Francisco City Attorney 1390 Market Street, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor San Francisco, CA 94102 Valerie.Lopez@sfcityatty.org Starla.Sousa@sfcityatty.org

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

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

Christopher Dalbey, Deputy District Attorney Santa Barbara County 1112 Santa Barbara Street Santa Barbara, CA 93101 DAProp65@co.santa-barbara.ca.us

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

Nora V. Frimann, City Attorney San Jose City Attorney 200 E. Santa Clara Street, 16<sup>th</sup> Floor San Jose, CA 96113 Proposition65notices@sanjoseca.gov Jeffrey S. Rosell, District Attorney Santa Cruz County 701 Ocean Street Santa Cruz, CA 95060 Prop65DA@santacruzcounty.us

Jill Ravitch, District Attorney Sonoma County 600 Administration Dr Sonoma, CA 95403 Jeannie.Barnes@sonoma-county.org

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

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

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

On January 12, 2023, between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time, I served the following documents: NOTICE OF VIOLATIONS, 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 with the U.S. Postal Service with the postage fully prepaid for delivery by First Class Mail.

Executed on January 12, 2023, in Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia.

Phyllis Junio

Phyllis Dunwood

#### Service List

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, Colusa County 310 6<sup>th</sup> St Colusa, CA 95932

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

District Attorney, El Dorado County 778 Pacific St. Placerville, CA 95667

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, 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 Hall of Justice 211 West Temple St., Ste 1200 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, Mendocino County Post Office Box 1000 Ukiah, CA 95482

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

District Attorney,San Bernardino County 303 West Third Street San Bernadino, CA 92415

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

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

District Attorney, Sierra County Post Office Box 457 100 Courthouse Square, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor 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 463 2<sup>nd</sup> 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

## 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 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

<sup>&</sup>lt;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.

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: <u>http://www.oehha.ca.gov/prop65/prop65\_list/Newlist.html</u>.

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 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 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 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 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.

<sup>&</sup>lt;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 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 copy of the notice of special compliance procedure and proof of compliance form is included in Appendix B and can be downloaded from OEHHA's website at: http://oehha.ca.gov/prop65/law/p65law72003.html.

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.

Revised: May 2017

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.