

1 **ENTORNO LAW, LLP**  
2 Craig M. Nicholas (SBN 178444)  
3 Noam Glick (SBN 251582)  
4 Jake W. Schulte (SBN 293777)  
5 Gianna E. Tirrell (SBN 358788)  
6 225 Broadway, Suite 1900  
7 San Diego, California 92101  
8 Tel: (619) 629-0527  
9 Email: craig@entornolaw.com  
10 Email: noam@entornolaw.com  
11 Email: jake@entornolaw.com  
12 Email: gianna@entornolaw.com

13 Attorneys for Plaintiff  
14 Environmental Health Advocates, Inc.

15 **SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

16 **IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO**

17 ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ADVOCATES,  
18 INC.,

19 Plaintiff,

20 v.

21 TRADER JOE'S COMPANY, a California  
22 corporation; TAYLOR FRESH FOODS, INC.,  
23 a Delaware corporation; and DOES 1 through  
24 100, inclusive,

25 Defendants.

Case No.:

**COMPLAINT FOR CIVIL PENALTIES  
AND INJUNCTIVE RELIEF**

(Health & Safety Code § 25249.6 et seq.)

ELECTRONICALLY  
**FILED**  
Superior Court of California,  
County of San Francisco

**03/25/2026**  
Clerk of the Court

BY: MARIVIC VIRAY  
Deputy Clerk

**CGC-26-635242**

**I.**  
**INTRODUCTION**

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2           1.       This Complaint is a representative action brought by Environmental Health Advocates,  
3 Inc. (“Plaintiff”) in the public interest of the citizens of the State of California (“the People”). Plaintiff  
4 seeks to remedy Defendants’ failure to inform the People of exposure to cadmium, a known carcinogen  
5 and reproductive/developmental toxin. Defendants expose consumers to cadmium by manufacturing,  
6 importing, selling, and/or distributing pasta salad including, but not limited to, Trader Joe’s  
7 Mediterranean Style Orzo Pasta Salad (“Products”). Defendants know and intend that customers will  
8 ingest Products containing cadmium.

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

14           3.       California identified and listed cadmium as a chemical known to cause developmental/  
15 reproductive toxicity as early as May 1, 1997.

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

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

**II.**  
**PARTIES**

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

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1 **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

2 Wherefore, Plaintiff prays for judgment against Defendants as follows:

- 3 1. Civil penalties in the amount of \$2,500 per day for each violation. Plaintiff alleges that  
4 damages total a minimum of \$1,000,000;
- 5 2. A preliminary and permanent injunction against Defendants from manufacturing,  
6 importing, selling, and/or distributing Products in California without providing a clear and reasonable  
7 warning as required by Proposition 65 and related Regulations;
- 8 3. Reasonable attorney’s fees and costs of suit; and
- 9 4. Such other and further relief as may be just and proper.
- 10
- 11

12 Respectfully submitted:

13 Dated: March 25, 2026

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16  
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19 Gianna E. Tirrell

20 Attorneys for Plaintiff  
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