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ELECTRONICALLY
FILED
Superior Court of California,
County of San Francisco

05/21/2026
Clerk of the Court
BY: JAMES FORONDA
Deputy Clerk

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

9 PRECILA BALABBO,

10 Plaintiff,

11 vs.

12 THE KROGER CO.,

13 Defendant.

Case No.:

CGC-26-637220

**COMPLAINT FOR CIVIL PENALTIES AND
INJUNCTIVE RELIEF**

**(Violation of Health & Safety Code § 25249.5 et
seq.)**

14 Plaintiff Precila Balabbo ("Plaintiff"), by and through her attorneys, alleges the following
15 cause of action in the public interest of the citizens of the State of California.

16 **BACKGROUND OF THE CASE**

17 1. Plaintiff brings this representative action on behalf of all California citizens to
18 enforce relevant portions of Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986, codified at
19 the Health and Safety Code § 25249.5 et seq ("Proposition 65"), which reads, in relevant part,
20 "[n]o person in the course of doing business shall knowingly and intentionally expose any
21 individual to a chemical known to the state to cause cancer or reproductive toxicity without first
22 giving clear and reasonable warning to such individual ...". Health & Safety Code § 25249.6.

23 2. This complaint is a representative action brought by Plaintiff in the public interest
24 of the citizens of the State of California to enforce the People's right to be informed of the health
25 hazards caused by exposure to lead and cadmium, toxic chemicals found in (a) *Kroger®* gluten
26 free corn and rice pasta blend rotini, UPC # 011110133403 (lead), (b) *Kroger®* ground turmeric,
27 UPC# 0111068337 (lead), and (c) *Kroger®* premium lump crab meat, UPC# 011110905710 (lead
28

1 and cadmium) manufactured, sold, and/or distributed by defendant The Kroger Co. (“Kroger” or
2 “Defendant”) in California.

3 3. Lead¹ and cadmium² are harmful chemicals known to the State of California to
4 cause cancer and birth defects or other reproductive harm.

5 4. Proposition 65 requires all businesses with ten (10) or more employees that operate
6 within California or sell products therein to comply with Proposition 65 regulations. Included in
7 such regulations is the requirement that businesses must label any product containing a Proposition
8 65-listed chemical that will create an exposure above safe harbor levels with a “clear and
9 reasonable” warning before “knowingly and intentionally” exposing any person to any such listed
10 chemical.

11 5. Proposition 65 allows for civil penalties of up to \$2,500.00 per day per violation
12 for up to 365 days (up to a maximum civil penalty amount per violation of \$912,000.00) to be
13 imposed upon defendants in a civil action for violations of Proposition 65. Health & Safety Code
14 § 25249.7(b). Proposition 65 also allows for any court of competent jurisdiction to enjoin the
15 actions of a defendant which “violate or threaten to violate” the statute. Health & Safety Code §
16 25249.7.

17 6. Plaintiff alleges that Defendant distributes and/or offers for sale in California,
18 without a requisite exposure warning, (a) *Kroger*® gluten free corn and rice pasta blend rotini,
19 UPC # 011110133403 (lead), (b) *Kroger*® ground turmeric, UPC# 0111068337 (lead), and (c)
20 *Kroger*® premium lump crab meat, UPC# 011110905710 (lead and cadmium) (collectively, the
21
22

23 ¹ On October 1, 1992, the state of California listed lead as a chemical known to cause cancer and
24 it has come under the purview of Proposition 65 regulations since that time. Cal. Code Regs. Tit.
25 27, § 27001(c); Health & Safety Code §§ 25249.8 & 25249.10(b). On February 27, 1987, the State
of California listed lead as a chemical known to cause birth defects or other reproductive harm.

26 ² On October 1, 1987, the state of California listed cadmium as a chemical known to cause cancer
27 and it has come under the purview of Proposition 65 regulations since that time. Cal. Code Regs.
28 Tit. 27, § 27001(c); Health & Safety Code §§ 25249.8 & 25249.10(b). On May 1, 1997, the State
of California listed cadmium as a chemical known to cause birth defects or other reproductive
harm.

1 “Products” and each a “Product”) that expose persons to lead and/or cadmium when consumed for
2 their intended purpose.

3 7. Defendant’s failure to warn consumers and other individuals in California of the
4 health hazards associated with exposure to lead and/or cadmium in conjunction with the sale and/or
5 distribution of the Products is a violation of Proposition 65 and subjects Defendant to the
6 enjoinder and civil penalties described herein.

7 8. Plaintiff seeks civil penalties against Defendant for its violations of Proposition 65
8 in accordance with Health and Safety Code § 25249.7(b).

9 9. Plaintiff also seeks injunctive relief, preliminarily and permanently, requiring
10 Defendant to provide purchasers or users of the Products with required warnings related to the
11 dangers and health hazards associated with exposure to lead and/or cadmium pursuant to Health
12 and Safety Code § 25249.7(a).

13 10. Plaintiff further seeks a reasonable award of attorney’s fees and costs.

14 **PARTIES**

15 11. Plaintiff is a citizen of the State of California acting in the interest of the general
16 public to promote awareness of exposures to toxic chemicals in products sold in California and to
17 improve human health by reducing hazardous substances contained in such items. She brings this
18 action in the public interest pursuant to Health and Safety Code § 25249.7(d).

19 12. Defendant The Kroger Co., through its business, effectively imports, distributes,
20 sells, and/or offers the Products for sale or use in the State of California, or it implies by its conduct
21 that it imports, distributes, sells, and/or offers the Products for sale or use in the State of California.
22 Plaintiff alleges that defendant The Kroger Co. is a “person” in the course of doing business within
23 the meaning of Health & Safety Code sections 25249.6 and 25249.11.

24 **VENUE AND JURISDICTION**

25 13. Venue is proper in the County of San Francisco because one or more of the
26 instances of wrongful conduct occurred, and continue to occur in this county and/or because
27 Defendant conducted, and continues to conduct, business in the County of San Francisco with
28 respect to the Products. Because the Products are distributed, marketed, and sold to consumers

1 throughout San Francisco County, the alleged Proposition 65 violations necessarily occurred here.
2 Upon information and belief, the Products are consistently in the stream of commerce and available
3 to consumers for purchase in the City and County of San Francisco.

4 14. This Court has jurisdiction over this action pursuant to California Constitution
5 Article VI, § 10, which grants the Superior Court original jurisdiction in all causes except those
6 given by statute to other trial courts. Health and Safety Code § 25249.7 allows for the enforcement
7 of violations of Proposition 65 in any Court of competent jurisdiction; therefore, this Court has
8 jurisdiction over this lawsuit.

9 15. This Court has jurisdiction over Defendant because Defendant is either a citizen of
10 the State of California, has sufficient minimum contacts with the State of California, is registered
11 with the California Secretary of State as foreign corporations authorized to do business in the State
12 of California, and/or has otherwise purposefully availed itself of the California market. Such
13 purposeful availment has rendered the exercise of jurisdiction by California courts consistent and
14 permissible with traditional notions of fair play and substantial justice. Public policy further
15 supports this conclusion.

16 **STATUTORY BACKGROUND**

17 16. The people of the State of California declared in Proposition 65 their right “[t]o be
18 informed about exposures to chemicals that cause cancer, birth defects, or other reproductive
19 harm.” (Section 1(b) of Initiative Measure, Proposition 65.)

20 17. To effect this goal, Proposition 65 requires that individuals be provided with a
21 “clear and reasonable warning” before being exposed to substances listed by the State of California
22 as causing cancer and birth defects or other reproductive harm. H&S Code § 25249.6 states, in
23 pertinent part:

24 No person in the course of doing business shall knowingly and intentionally expose any
25 individual to a chemical known to the state to cause cancer or reproductive toxicity without
first giving clear and reasonable warning to such individual...

26 18. In this case, exposures are caused by consumer products. A “Consumer Product” is
27 defined as “any article, or component part thereof, including food, that is produced, distributed, or
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1 sold for the personal use, consumption or enjoyment of a consumer.” (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 27, §
2 25600.1, subd. (d).) Food includes “dietary supplements” as defined in California Code of
3 Regulations, title 17, section 10200. (*Id.* at subd. (g).) An exposure to a chemical in a Consumer
4 Product is one “which results from a person’s acquisition, purchase, storage, consumption or other
5 reasonably foreseeable use of a consumer good, or any exposure that results from receiving a
6 consumer service.” (27 CCR § 25602, para (b).) H&S Code § 25603(c) states that “a person in the
7 course of doing business ... shall provide a warning to any person to whom the product is sold or
8 transferred unless the product is packaged or labeled with a clear and reasonable warning.”

9 19. Pursuant to H&S Code § 25603.1, the warning may be provided by using one or
10 more of the following methods individually or in combination:³

11 a. A warning that appears on a product’s label or other labeling.

12 b. Identification of the product at the retail outlet in a manner which provides
13 a warning. Identification may be through shelf labeling, signs, menus, or a combination
14 thereof.

15 c. The warnings provided pursuant to subparagraphs (a) and (b) shall be
16 prominently placed upon a product’s labels or other labeling or displayed at the retail outlet
17 with such conspicuousness, as compared with other words, statements, designs, or devices
18 in the label, labeling or display as to render it likely to be read and understood by an
19 ordinary individual under customary conditions of purchase or use.

20 d. A system of signs, public advertising identifying the system and toll-free
21 information services, or any other system that provides clear and reasonable warnings.

22 20. Proposition 65 provides that any “person who violates or threatens to violate” the
23 statute may be enjoined in a court of competent jurisdiction. (H&S Code § 25249.7.) The phrase
24 “threaten to violate” is defined to mean creating “a condition in which there is a substantial
25

26
27 ³ Alternatively, a person in the course of doing business may elect to comply with the warning
28 requirements set out in the amended version of 27 CCR 25601, *et.seq.* as amended on August 30,
2016, and operative on August 30, 2018.

1 probability that a violation will occur.” (H&S Code § 25249.11(e).) Violators are liable for civil
2 penalties of up to \$2,500.00 per day for each violation of the Act (H&S Code § 25249.7) for up to
3 365 days (up to a maximum civil penalty amount per violation of \$912,000.00).

4 **FACTUAL BACKGROUND**

5 21. On October 1, 1992, the state of California listed lead as a chemical known to cause
6 cancer and it has come under the purview of Proposition 65 regulations since that time. Cal. Code
7 Regs. Tit. 27, § 27001(c); Health & Safety Code §§ 25249.8 & 25249.10(b). On February 27,
8 1987, the State of California listed lead as a chemical known to cause birth defects or other
9 reproductive harm. In summary, lead was listed under Proposition 65 as a chemical known to the
10 State to cause cancer and birth defects or other reproductive harm.

11 22. On October 1, 1987, the state of California listed cadmium as a chemical known to
12 cause cancer and it has come under the purview of Proposition 65 regulations since that time. Cal.
13 Code Regs. Tit. 27, § 27001(c); Health & Safety Code §§ 25249.8 & 25249.10(b). On May 1,
14 1997, the State of California listed cadmium as a chemical known to cause birth defects or other
15 reproductive harm.

16 23. The exposures that are the subject of the Notices result from the purchase,
17 acquisition, and recommended consumption of the Products. The primary route of exposure to lead
18 and/or cadmium is through ingestion. When foods contaminated with lead and/or cadmium are
19 consumed, ingestion of lead and/or cadmium will occur. No clear and reasonable warning is
20 provided with the Products regarding the health hazards of exposure.

21 24. Defendant has processed, marketed, distributed, offered to sell and/or sold the
22 Products in California since at least March 13, 2025 with respect to the *Kroger*® gluten free corn
23 and rice pasta blend rotini; and since at least May 19, 2025 with respect to the *Kroger*® ground
24 turmeric and *Kroger*® premium lump crab meat. Upon information and belief, the Products are
25 consistently in the stream of commerce and available to consumers for purchase in the City and
26 County of San Francisco and the alleged Proposition 65 violations necessarily occurred here. The
27 Products continue to be distributed, offered for sale and/or sold in California without the requisite
28 warning information.

1 25. At all times relevant to this action, Defendant has knowingly and intentionally
2 exposed users and/or consumers of the Products to lead and/or cadmium without first giving a
3 clear and reasonable exposure warning to such individuals.

4 26. As a proximate result of acts by Defendant, as a person in the course of doing
5 business within the meaning of H&S Code § 25249.11, individuals throughout the State of
6 California, including in San Francisco County, have been exposed to lead and/or cadmium without
7 a clear and reasonable warning on the Products. The individuals subject to the violative exposures
8 include normal and foreseeable users and consumers that consumption the Products, as well as all
9 others exposed to the Products.

10 **SATISFACTION OF NOTICE REQUIREMENTS**

11 27. On March 13, 2025 (*Kroger®* gluten free corn and rice pasta blend rotini) and May
12 19, 2025 (*Kroger®* ground turmeric and *Kroger®* premium lump crab meat), Plaintiff purchased
13 the Products from Kroger in California. At the time of purchases, Defendant did not provide a
14 Proposition 65 exposure warning for lead and/or cadmium or any other Proposition 65 listed
15 chemical in a manner consistent with H&S Code § 25603.1 as described *supra*.

16 28. The Products were sent to a testing laboratory to determine if, and what amount of,
17 lead and/or cadmium a consumer would be exposed to per serving size.

18 29. The laboratory provided the results of its analysis. Results of these tests determined
19 the Products expose consumers to lead and/or cadmium (collectively, the “Chemical Test Reports”
20 and each a “Chemical Test Report”).

21 30. Plaintiff provided the Chemical Test Reports and Products to an analytical chemist
22 to determine if, based on the findings of the Chemical Test Reports and the reasonable and
23 foreseeable consumption of the Products, exposure to lead and/or cadmium will occur at levels
24 that require Proposition 65 warnings under the Clear and Reasonable Warnings section 25601 of
25 Title 27 of the California Code of Regulations.

26 31. On May 28, 2025 (*Kroger®* gluten free corn and rice pasta blend rotini) and
27 October 20, 2025 (*Kroger®* ground turmeric and *Kroger®* premium lump crab meat), Plaintiff
28 received from the analytical chemist exposure assessment reports which concluded that persons in

1 California who consume the Products will be exposed to levels of lead and/or cadmium that require
2 a Proposition 65 exposure warning.

3 32. On May 28, 2025 (*Kroger*® gluten free corn and rice pasta blend rotini) and
4 October 20, 2025 (*Kroger*® ground turmeric and *Kroger*® premium lump crab meat), Plaintiff
5 gave notice of alleged violation of Health and Safety Code § 25249.6 (collectively, the “Notices”
6 and each a “Notice”) to Defendant concerning the exposure of California citizens to lead and/or
7 cadmium contained in the Products without proper warning, subject to a private action to
8 Defendant and to the California Attorney General’s office and the offices of the County District
9 attorneys and City Attorneys for each city with a population greater than 750,000 persons wherein
10 the herein violations allegedly occurred. See attached at Exhibits “A” – “C” a true and correct copy
11 of each Notice.

12 33. The Notices complied with all procedural requirements of Proposition 65 including
13 the attachment of a Certificate of Merit affirming that Plaintiff’s counsel had consulted with at
14 least one person with relevant and appropriate expertise who reviewed relevant data regarding lead
15 and/or cadmium exposure, and that counsel believed there was meritorious and reasonable cause
16 for a private action.

17 34. After receiving the Notices, and to Plaintiff’s best information and belief, none of
18 the noticed appropriate public enforcement agencies have commenced and diligently prosecuted a
19 cause of action against Defendant under Proposition 65 to enforce the alleged violations which are
20 the subject of the Notice.

21 35. More than five business days after Defendant received the Notices, Plaintiff
22 purchased the Products a second time from Defendant in California. At the time of purchase,
23 Defendant did not provide a Proposition 65 compliant exposure warning.

24 36. Plaintiff is commencing this action more than sixty (60) days from the date of each
25 Notice to Defendant, as required by law.
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27
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FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

(By Plaintiff against Defendant for the Violation of Proposition 65)

37. Plaintiff hereby repeats and incorporates by reference paragraphs 1 through 36 of this Complaint as though fully set forth herein.

38. Defendant has, at all times mentioned herein, acted as distributor, and/or retailer of the Products.

39. Consumption of the Products will expose consumers to lead and/or cadmium, a hazardous chemical found on the Proposition 65 list of chemicals known to be hazardous to human health.

40. The Products do not comply with the Proposition 65 warning requirements.

41. Plaintiff, based on her best information and belief, avers that at all relevant times herein, and since at least May 28, 2025 with respect to the *Kroger*® gluten free corn and rice pasta blend rotini; and since at least October 20, 2025 with respect to the *Kroger*® ground turmeric and *Kroger*® premium lump crab meat, continuing until the present, that Defendant has continued to knowingly and intentionally expose California users and consumers of the Products to lead and/or cadmium without providing required warnings under Proposition 65.

42. The exposures that are the subject of the Notices result from the purchase, acquisition, and recommended consumption of the Products. The primary route of exposure to lead and/or cadmium is through ingestion. When foods contaminated with lead and/or cadmium are consumed, ingestion of lead and/or cadmium will occur. No clear and reasonable warning is provided with the Products regarding the health hazards of exposure.

43. Plaintiff, based on her best information and belief, avers that such exposures will continue every day until clear and reasonable warnings are provided to purchasers and users or until these known toxic chemicals are removed from the Products.

44. Defendant has knowledge that the normal and reasonably foreseeable consumption of the Products exposes individuals to lead and/or cadmium, and Defendant intends that exposures to lead and/or cadmium will occur by its deliberate, non-accidental participation in the importation, distribution, sale and offering of the Products to consumers in California

1 45. Plaintiff has engaged in good faith efforts to resolve the herein claims prior to this
2 Complaint.

3 46. Pursuant to Health and Safety Code § 25249.7(b), as a consequence of the above
4 described acts, Defendant is liable for a maximum civil penalty of \$2,500 per day per violation.

5 47. Pursuant to Health and Safety Code § 25249.7(a), this Court is specifically
6 authorized to grant injunctive relief in favor of Plaintiff and against Defendant.

7 **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

8 WHEREFORE, Plaintiff demands judgment against Defendant and requests the following
9 relief:

10 A. That the court assess civil penalties against Defendant in the amount of \$2,500 per
11 day for each violation for up to 365 days (up to a maximum civil penalty amount per
12 violation of \$912,000.00) in accordance with Health and Safety Code § 25249.7(b);

13 B. That the court preliminarily and permanently enjoin Defendant mandating
14 Proposition 65 compliant warnings on the Products;

15 C. That the court grant Plaintiff reasonable attorney's fees and costs of suit, in the
16 amount of \$50,000.00.

17 D. That the court grant any further relief as may be just and proper.

18 Dated: May 21, 2026

BRODSKY SMITH

19 By: 

20 Evan J. Smith (SBN242352)

21 Ryan P. Cardona (SBN302113)

22 9465 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 300

23 Beverly Hills, CA 90212

24 Telephone: (877) 534-2590

25 Facsimile: (310) 247-0160

26 *Attorneys for Plaintiff*

EXHIBIT “A”

LAW OFFICES
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CHERRY HILL, NJ 08034
856.795.7250

NEW YORK OFFICE
240 MINEOLA BOULEVARD
MINEOLA, NY 11501
516.741.4977

PENNSYLVANIA OFFICE
TWO BALA PLAZA, STE. 805
BALA CYNWYD, PA 19004
610.667.6200

May 28, 2025

President/CEO The Kroger Co. c/o CSC-Lawyers Incorporating Service 2710 Gateway Oaks Drive, Suite 150N Sacramento, CA 95833	President/CEO The Kroger Co. 1014 Vine Street Cincinnati, OH 45202
President/CEO The Kroger Co. c/o Corporation Service Company 1160 Dublin Road, Suite 400 Columbus, OH 43215	President/CEO The Kroger Co. of Michigan c/o CSC-Lawyers Incorporating Service (Company) 3410 Belle Chase Way, Suite 600 Lansing, MI 48911
President/CEO The Kroger Co. of Michigan dba Food 4 Less c/o CSC-Lawyers Incorporating Service (Company) 3410 Belle Chase Way, Suite 600 Lansing, MI 48911	

60-Day Notice of Violation of California Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act¹

To Whom It May Concern:

This Notice of Violation (the "Notice") is provided to you pursuant to and in compliance with California Health & Safety Code § 25249.7(d).

Brodsky Smith represents Precila Balabbo ("Balabbo"), a citizen of the State of California acting in the interest of the general public to promote awareness of exposures to toxic chemicals from use of consumer products sold in California and to improve human health and the environment by reducing hazardous substances.

With respect to the Product herein, Balabbo has identified a violation of California's Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986 ("Proposition 65") codified at Cal. Health & Safety Code § 25249.5, et seq. This violation has occurred and continues to occur because the alleged Violator(s) failed to provide a clear and reasonable health hazard warning in connection with the sale or use of the Product in California. Health & Safety Code § 25249.6 provides that "[n]o 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 providing a clear and reasonable warning to such individual ..." Without proper warnings regarding the toxic effects of exposures to the Listed Chemical resulting from use of the Product, California citizens lack the information necessary to make informed decisions on

¹ The public enforcement agencies that have been served with copies of this Notice are identified in the attached distribution list accompanying the Certificate of Service.

whether and/or how to eliminate (or reduce) the risk of exposure to the Listed Chemical from the reasonably foreseeable use of the Product.

I. DESCRIPTION OF THE VIOLATION

1. **Enforcer:** Precila Balabbo, 285 6th Street, Unit 209, San Pedro, CA 90731; (Ph) 818-434-4023.
2. **Alleged Violator(s):** The Kroger Co.; The Kroger Co. of Michigan; The Kroger Co. of Michigan dba Food 4 Less
3. **Time Period of Exposure:** Violations have been occurring since at least May 28, 2025 and are continuing to this day.
4. **Listed Chemical:** Lead. Lead is listed under Proposition 65 as a chemical known to the State to cause cancer and birth defects or other reproductive harm.
5. **Product:**

Product ²	Non- Exclusive Examples of the Product
Pasta	Kroger Gluten Free Corn & Rice Pasta Blend Rotini UPC# 0 11110 13340 3

6. **Description of Exposure:** The exposures that are the subject of this Notice result from the purchase and recommended use of the Product. The primary route of exposure to the Listed Chemical is through ingestion. When foods contaminated with the Listed Chemical are consumed, ingestion of the Listed Chemical will occur which will increase BLLs. No clear and reasonable warning is provided with the Products regarding the health hazards of exposure to the Listed Chemical.

II. PROPOSITION 65 INFORMATION

For the Violators' reference, enclosed is a copy of "Proposition 65: A Summary" that has been prepared by the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment ("OEHHA"). For more information concerning the provisions of Proposition 65, contact OEHHA at 916.445.6900.

III. RESOLUTION OF THE CLAIMS

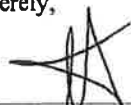
Based on the allegations set forth in this Notice, Brodsky Smith intends to file a citizen enforcement lawsuit on behalf of Balabbo against the alleged Violator(s) unless such Violator(s) agree in a binding written agreement to: (1) recall Products already sold; (2) provide Proposition 65 compliant exposure warnings for Products sold in the future or reformulate the Products to eliminate exposures to the Listed Chemical; and (3) pay an appropriate civil penalty based on the factors enumerated in Health & Safety Code § 25249.7(b). Consistent with the public interest goals of Proposition 65 and the desire to have

² The specifically identified example of the Product in this Notice is to assist the recipients' investigation of, among other things, the magnitude of potential exposures to the Listed Chemical from other items within the definition of Products. This example is not intended to be an exhaustive or comprehensive identification of each specific offending Product. It is Balabbo's position that the alleged Violators are obligated to conduct a good faith investigation into other Products that may have been manufactured, distributed, sold, shipped, stored (or otherwise within the alleged Violators' custody or control) during the relevant period to ensure that requisite health hazard warnings were and are provided to California citizens prior to purchase and use.

these violations of California law quickly rectified, Balabbo is interested in seeking a constructive resolution of the claims in this Notice without engaging in costly and protracted litigation.

Balabbo has retained me as legal counsel in connection with this Notice. **Please direct all communications regarding this Notice to my attention at Brodsky Smith, 9465 Wilshire Blvd., Ste. 300, Beverly Hills, CA 90212, (877) 534-2590, esmith@brodskysmith.com.**

Sincerely,



Evan J. Smith

Attachments

Certificate of Merit

Certificate of Service

The Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Action of 1986 (Proposition 65): A Summary

EXHIBIT “B”

LAW OFFICES
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CHERRY HILL, NJ 08034
856.795.7250

NEW YORK OFFICE
240 MINEOLA BOULEVARD
MINEOLA, NY 11501
516.741.4977

PENNSYLVANIA OFFICE
TWO BALA PLAZA, STE. 805
BALA CYNWYD, PA 19004
610.667.6200

October 20, 2025

President/CEO The Kroger Co. c/o Corporation Service Company 1160 Dublin Road, Suite 400 Columbus, OH 43215	President/CEO The Kroger Co. dba Ralphs c/o CSC-Lawyers Incorporating Service 2710 Gateway Oaks Drive, Suite 150N Sacramento, A 95833
President/CEO Ralphs Grocery Company c/o CSC-Lawyers Incorporating Service 2710 Gateway Oaks Drive, Suite 150N Sacramento, CA 95833	President/CEO The Kroger Co. of Michigan c/o CSC-Lawyers Incorporating Service (Company) 3410 Bell Chase Way, Suite 600 Lansing, MI 48911

60-Day Notice of Violation of California Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act¹

To Whom It May Concern:

This Notice of Violation (the "Notice") is provided to you pursuant to and in compliance with California Health & Safety Code § 25249.7(d).

Brodsky Smith represents Precila Balabbo ("Balabbo"), a citizen of the State of California acting in the interest of the general public to promote awareness of exposures to toxic chemicals from use of consumer products sold in California and to improve human health and the environment by reducing hazardous substances.

With respect to the Product herein, Balabbo has identified a violation of California's Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986 ("Proposition 65") codified at Cal. Health & Safety Code § 25249.5, et seq. This violation has occurred and continues to occur because the alleged Violator(s) failed to provide a clear and reasonable health hazard warning in connection with the sale or use of the Product in California. Health & Safety Code § 25249.6 provides that "[n]o 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 providing a clear and reasonable warning to such individual ...". Without proper warnings regarding the toxic effects of exposures to the Listed Chemical resulting from use of the Product, California citizens lack the information necessary to make informed decisions on whether and/or how to eliminate (or reduce) the risk of exposure to the Listed Chemical from the reasonably foreseeable use of the Product.

¹ The public enforcement agencies that have been served with copies of this Notice are identified in the attached distribution list accompanying the Certificate of Service.

I. DESCRIPTION OF THE VIOLATION

1. **Enforcer:** Precila Balabbo, 810 N. Western Ave., San Pedro, CA 90732; (Ph) 818-434-4023.
2. **Alleged Violator(s):** The Kroger Co.; The Kroger Co. dba Ralphs; Ralphs Grocery Company; The Kroger Co. of Michigan
3. **Time Period of Exposure:** Violations have been occurring since at least October 20, 2025 and are continuing to this day.
4. **Listed Chemicals:** Lead. Lead is listed under Proposition 65 as a chemical known to the State to cause cancer and birth defects or other reproductive harm.
5. **Product:**

Product ²	Non- Exclusive Examples of the Product
Ground Turmeric	Kroger Ground Turmeric UPC#0 11110 68337

6. **Description of Exposure:** The exposures that are the subject of this Notice result from the purchase and recommended use of the Product. The primary route of exposure to the Listed Chemical is through ingestion. When foods contaminated with the Listed Chemical are consumed, ingestion of the Listed Chemical will occur which will increase BLLs. No clear and reasonable warning is provided with the Products regarding the health hazards of exposure to the Listed Chemical.

II. PROPOSITION 65 INFORMATION

For the Violators' reference, enclosed is a copy of "Proposition 65: A Summary" that has been prepared by the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment ("OEHHA"). For more information concerning the provisions of Proposition 65, contact OEHHA at 916.445.6900.

III. RESOLUTION OF THE CLAIMS

Based on the allegations set forth in this Notice, Brodsky Smith intends to file a citizen enforcement lawsuit on behalf of Balabbo against the alleged Violator(s) unless such Violator(s) agree in a binding written agreement to: (1) recall Products already sold; (2) provide Proposition 65 compliant exposure warnings for Products sold in the future or reformulate the Products to eliminate exposures to the Listed Chemical; and (3) pay an appropriate civil penalty based on the factors enumerated in Health & Safety Code § 25249.7(b). Consistent with the public interest goals of Proposition 65 and the desire to have these violations of California law quickly rectified, Balabbo is interested in seeking a constructive resolution of the claims in this Notice without engaging in costly and protracted litigation.

² The specifically identified example of the Product in this Notice is to assist the recipients' investigation of, among other things, the magnitude of potential exposures to the Listed Chemical from other items within the definition of Products. This example is not intended to be an exhaustive or comprehensive identification of each specific offending Product. It is Balabbo's position that the alleged Violators are obligated to conduct a good faith investigation into other Products that may have been manufactured, distributed, sold, shipped, stored (or otherwise within the alleged Violators' custody or control) during the relevant period to ensure that requisite health hazard warnings were and are provided to California citizens prior to purchase and use.

Balabbo has retained me as legal counsel in connection with this Notice. **Please direct all communications regarding this Notice to my attention at Brodsky Smith, 9465 Wilshire Blvd., Ste. 300, Beverly Hills, CA 90212, (877) 534-2590, esmith@brodskysmith.com.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'EJ Smith', written over a horizontal line.

Evan J. Smith

Attachments

Certificate of Merit

Certificate of Service

The Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Action of 1986 (Proposition 65): A Summary

EXHIBIT “C”

LAW OFFICES
BRODSKY SMITH

9465 WILSHIRE BLVD., STE. 300
BEVERLY HILLS, CA 90212
877.534.2590
www.brodskysmith.com

NEW JERSEY OFFICE
20 BRACE RD., STE. 350
CHERRY HILL, NJ 08034
856.795.7250

NEW YORK OFFICE
240 MINEOLA BOULEVARD
MINEOLA, NY 11501
516.741.4977

PENNSYLVANIA OFFICE
TWO BALA PLAZA, STE. 805
BALA CYNWYD, PA 19004
610.667.6200

October 20, 2025

President/CEO The Kroger Co. c/o Corporation Service Company 1160 Dublin Road, Suite 400 Columbus, OH 43215	President/CEO The Kroger Co. dba Ralphs c/o CSC-Lawyers Incorporating Service 2710 Gateway Oaks Drive, Suite 150N Sacramento, A 95833
President/CEO Ralphs Grocery Company c/o CSC-Lawyers Incorporating Service 2710 Gateway Oaks Drive, Suite 150N Sacramento, CA 95833	President/CEO The Kroger Co. of Michigan c/o CSC-Lawyers Incorporating Service (Company) 3410 Bell Chase Way, Suite 600 Lansing, MI 48911

60-Day Notice of Violation of California Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act¹

To Whom It May Concern:

This Notice of Violation (the "Notice") is provided to you pursuant to and in compliance with California Health & Safety Code § 25249.7(d).

Brodsky Smith represents Precila Balabbo ("Balabbo"), a citizen of the State of California acting in the interest of the general public to promote awareness of exposures to toxic chemicals from use of consumer products sold in California and to improve human health and the environment by reducing hazardous substances.

With respect to the Product herein, Balabbo has identified a violation of California's Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986 ("Proposition 65") codified at Cal. Health & Safety Code § 25249.5, et seq. This violation has occurred and continues to occur because the alleged Violator(s) failed to provide a clear and reasonable health hazard warning in connection with the sale or use of the Product in California. Health & Safety Code § 25249.6 provides that "[n]o 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 providing a clear and reasonable warning to such individual ..." Without proper warnings regarding the toxic effects of exposures to the Listed Chemical resulting from use of the Product, California citizens lack the information necessary to make informed decisions on whether and/or how to eliminate (or reduce) the risk of exposure to the Listed Chemical from the reasonably foreseeable use of the Product.

¹ The public enforcement agencies that have been served with copies of this Notice are identified in the attached distribution list accompanying the Certificate of Service.

I. DESCRIPTION OF THE VIOLATION

1. **Enforcer:** Precila Balabbo, 810 N. Western Ave., San Pedro, CA 90732; (Ph) 818-434-4023.
2. **Alleged Violator(s):** The Kroger Co.; The Kroger Co. dba Ralphs; Ralphs Grocery Company; The Kroger Co. of Michigan
3. **Time Period of Exposure:** Violations have been occurring since at least October 20, 2025 and are continuing to this day.
4. **Listed Chemicals:** Lead and cadmium. Lead and cadmium are listed under Proposition 65 as chemicals known to the State to cause cancer and birth defects or other reproductive harm.
5. **Product:**

Product ²	Non- Exclusive Examples of the Product
Crab Meat	Kroger Premium Lump Crab Meat UPC# 0 11110 90571 0

6. **Description of Exposure:** The exposures that are the subject of this Notice result from the purchase and recommended use of the Product. The primary route of exposure to the Listed Chemical is through ingestion. When foods contaminated with the Listed Chemical are consumed, ingestion of the Listed Chemical will occur which will increase BLLs. No clear and reasonable warning is provided with the Products regarding the health hazards of exposure to the Listed Chemical.

II. PROPOSITION 65 INFORMATION

For the Violators' reference, enclosed is a copy of "Proposition 65: A Summary" that has been prepared by the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment ("OEHHA"). For more information concerning the provisions of Proposition 65, contact OEHHA at 916.445.6900.

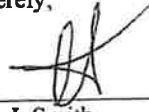
III. RESOLUTION OF THE CLAIMS

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