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ELECTRONICALLY

FILED

Superior Court of California,
County of San Francisco

06/01/2026

Clerk of the Court

BY: BENJAMIN YUST

Deputy Clerk

CGC-26-637481

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ADVOCATES,
INC.,

Plaintiff,

v.

BUMBLE BEE FOODS, LLC, a Delaware
limited liability company; GELSON'S
MARKETS, a California corporation; and
DOES 1 through 100, inclusive,

Defendants.

Case No.:

**COMPLAINT FOR CIVIL PENALTIES
AND INJUNCTIVE RELIEF**

(Health & Safety Code § 25249.6 et seq.)

I.
INTRODUCTION

1. This Complaint is a representative action brought by Environmental Health Advocates, Inc. (“Plaintiff”) in the public interest of the citizens of the State of California (“the People”). Plaintiff seeks to remedy Defendants’ failure to inform the People of exposure to cadmium, a known carcinogen and reproductive/developmental toxin, and lead, a known carcinogen and reproductive/developmental toxin. Defendants expose consumers to cadmium and lead by manufacturing, importing, selling, and/or distributing crabmeat including, but not limited to, Bumble Bee Lump Crabmeat (“Products”). Defendants know and intend that customers will direct ingestion Products containing cadmium and lead.

2. Under California’s Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986, California Health and Safety Code, section 25249.6 et seq. (“Proposition 65”), “[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 giving clear and reasonable warning to such individual. . . .” (Health & Safety Code, § 25249.6.)

3. California identified and listed cadmium as a chemical known to cause cancer as early as October 1, 1987 and as a chemical known to cause developmental/ reproductive toxicity as early as May 1, 1997.

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

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

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

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8. Defendant BUMBLE BEE FOODS, LLC ("Bumble Bee") is a limited liability company organized and existing under the laws of Delaware. Bumble Bee is registered to do business in California, and does business in the County of San Francisco, within the meaning of Health and Safety Code, section 25249.11. Bumble Bee manufactures, imports, sells, or distributes the Products in California and San Francisco County.

10. Plaintiff does not know the true names and/or capacities, whether individual, partners, or corporate, of the Defendants sued herein as DOES 1 through 100, inclusive, and for that reason sues said Defendants under fictitious names pursuant to Cal. Civ. Proc. § 474. Plaintiff will seek leave to amend this Complaint when the true names and capacities of these Defendants have been ascertained. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that these Defendants are responsible in whole or in part for the remedies and penalties sought herein.

11. At all times mentioned, Defendants were the agents, alter egos, servants, joint venturers, joint employers, or employees for each other. Defendants acted with the consent of the other Co-Defendants and acted within the course, purpose, and scope of their agency, service, or employment. All conduct was ratified by Defendants, and each of them.

12. California Constitution Article VI, Section 10 grants the Superior Court original jurisdiction in all cases except those given by statute to other trial courts. The Health and Safety Code

1 statute upon which this action is based does not give jurisdiction to any other court. As such, this Court
2 has jurisdiction.

3 13. Venue is proper in San Francisco County Superior Court pursuant to Code of Civil
4 Procedure, sections 394, 395, and 395.5. Wrongful conduct occurred and continues to occur in this
5 County. Defendants conducted and continue to conduct business in this County as it relates to Products.

6 14. Defendants have sufficient minimum contacts in the State of California or otherwise
7 purposefully avail themselves of the California market. Exercising jurisdiction over Defendants would
8 be consistent with traditional notions of fair play and substantial justice.

9 **IV.**
10 **CAUSES OF ACTION**

11 **FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION**
12 **(Violation of Proposition 65 – Against all Defendants)**

13 15. Plaintiff incorporates by reference each and every allegation contained above.

14 16. Proposition 65 mandates that citizens be informed about exposures to chemicals that
15 cause cancer, birth defects, and other reproductive harm.

16 17. Defendants manufactured, imported, sold, and/or distributed Products containing
17 cadmium and lead in violation of Health and Safety Code, section 25249.6 et seq. Plaintiff is informed
18 and believes such violations have continued after receipt of the Notice (defined *infra*) and will continue
19 to occur into the future.

20 18. In manufacturing, importing, selling, and/or distributing Products, Defendants failed to
21 provide a clear and reasonable warning to consumers and individuals in California who may be exposed
22 to cadmium and lead through reasonably foreseeable use of the Products.

23 19. Products expose individuals to cadmium and lead through direct ingestion. This
24 exposure is a natural and foreseeable consequence of Defendants placing Products into the stream of
25 commerce. As such, Defendants intend that consumers will direct ingestion Products, exposing them to
26 cadmium and lead.

27 20. Defendants knew or should have known that the Products contained cadmium and lead
28 and exposed individuals to cadmium and lead in the ways provided above. The Notice informed

1 Defendants of the presence of cadmium and lead in the Products. Likewise, media coverage concerning
2 cadmium, lead, and related chemicals in consumer products provided constructive notice to Defendants.

3 21. Defendants' actions in this regard were deliberate and not accidental.

4 22. More than sixty days prior to naming each defendant in this lawsuit, Plaintiff issued a
5 60-Day Notice of Violation ("Notice") as required by and in compliance with Proposition 65. Plaintiff
6 provided the Notice to the various required public enforcement agencies along with a certificate of merit.
7 The Notice alleged that Defendants violated Proposition 65 by failing to sufficiently warn consumers in
8 California of the health hazards associated with exposures to cadmium and lead contained in the
9 Products.

10 23. The appropriate public enforcement agencies provided with the Notice failed to
11 commence and diligently prosecute a cause of action against Defendants.

12 24. Individuals exposed to cadmium and lead contained in Products through direct ingestion
13 resulting from reasonably foreseeable use of the Products have suffered and continue to suffer
14 irreparable harm. There is no other plain, speedy, or adequate remedy at law.

15 25. Defendants are liable for a maximum civil penalty of \$2,500 per day for each violation
16 of Proposition 65 pursuant to Health and Safety Code, section 252497(b). Injunctive relief is also
17 appropriate pursuant to Health and Safety Code, section 25249.7(a).

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1 **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

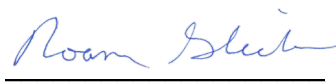
2 Wherefore, Plaintiff prays for judgment against Defendants as follows:

- 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: June 1, 2026

ENTORNO LAW, LLP

14 By: 
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16 Craig M. Nicholas
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19 Attorneys for Plaintiff
20 Environmental Health Advocates, Inc.

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