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13 CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

14 SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
15 COUNTY OF ALAMEDA

16 Coordination Proceeding Special Title: ) Judicial Council Coordination  
17 ) Proceeding  
18 PROPOSITION 65 COCAMIDE DEA CASES )  
19 ) Case No. 4765

20 This Document Relates To: ) ~~PROPOSED~~ CONSENT  
21 ) JUDGMENT AS TO FOUR SEASONS  
22 ) GENERAL MERCHANDISE, INC.  
23 *Center for Environmental Health v. Noevir* )  
24 *U.S.A., Inc., et al.*, A.C.S.C. Case No. RG 14- )  
25 739157 )

26 **1. INTRODUCTION**

27 1.1 The parties to this Consent Judgment (“Parties”) are the Center for  
28 Environmental Health (“CEH”) and defendant Four Seasons General Merchandise, Inc. (“Settling  
Defendant”). CEH and Settling Defendant are referred to collectively as the “Parties.”

1.2 Settling Defendant is a corporation that employs ten (10) or more persons and  
that manufactures, distributes, and/or sells shampoo and liquid soaps that contain coconut oil

1 diethanolamine condensate (cocamide diethanolamine) (hereinafter, “cocamide DEA”) in the  
2 State of California or has done so in the past.

3 1.3 On October 31, 2014, CEH served a 60-Day Notice of Violation under  
4 Proposition 65 (The Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986, California Health  
5 & Safety Code §§ 25249.5, *et seq.*) (“Notice”) to Settling Defendant, the California Attorney  
6 General, the District Attorneys of every County in the State of California, and the City Attorneys  
7 for every City in the State of California with a population greater than 750,000. The Notice  
8 alleges violations of Proposition 65 with respect to the presence of cocamide DEA in shampoo  
9 and liquid soaps that are manufactured, distributed, and/or sold by Settling Defendant.

10 1.4 On September 3, 2014, CEH filed the action entitled *CEH v. Noevir U.S.A.,*  
11 *Inc., et al.*, Case No. RG 14-739157, in the Superior Court of California for Alameda County. On  
12 October 6, 2014, the *Noevir* action was coordinated with several other related Proposition 65  
13 actions in the *Proposition 65 Cocamide DEA Cases*, Case No. JCCP 4765, currently pending  
14 before this Court. On or about March 5, 2015, CEH named Settling Defendant as a defendant in  
15 that action pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure § 474.

16 1.5 For purposes of this Consent Judgment only, the Parties stipulate that: (i) this  
17 Court has jurisdiction over the allegations of violations contained in the operative Complaint  
18 applicable to Settling Defendant (“Complaint”) and personal jurisdiction over Settling Defendant  
19 as to the acts alleged in the Complaint; (ii) venue is proper in the County of Alameda; and (iii)  
20 this Court has jurisdiction to enter this Consent Judgment.

21 1.6 Nothing in this Consent Judgment is or shall be construed as an admission by  
22 the Parties of any fact, conclusion of law, issue of law, or violation of law, nor shall compliance  
23 with the Consent Judgment constitute or be construed as an admission by the Parties of any fact,  
24 conclusion of law, issue of law, or violation of law. Nothing in this Consent Judgment shall  
25 prejudice, waive, or impair any right, remedy, argument, or defense the Parties may have in any  
26 other legal proceeding. This Consent Judgment is the product of negotiation and compromise and  
27 is accepted by the Parties for purposes of settling, compromising, and resolving issues disputed in  
28 this action.

1       **2.       DEFINITIONS**

2               2.1               “Covered Products” means shampoo and liquid soaps.

3               2.2               “Effective Date” means the date on which this Consent Judgment is entered by  
4 the Court.

5       **3.       INJUNCTIVE RELIEF**

6               3.1               **Reformulation of Covered Products.** As of the Effective Date, Settling  
7 Defendant shall not manufacture, distribute, sell, or offer for sale any Covered Product that  
8 contains cocamide DEA and that will be sold or offered for sale to California consumers. For  
9 purposes of this Consent Judgment, a product “contains cocamide DEA” if cocamide DEA is an  
10 intentionally added ingredient in the product and/or part of the product formulation.

11              3.2               **Specification to Suppliers.** No more than thirty (30) days after the Effective  
12 Date, Settling Defendant shall issue specifications to its suppliers of Covered Products requiring  
13 that Covered Products not contain any cocamide DEA, and shall instruct each supplier to use  
14 reasonable efforts to eliminate Covered Products containing cocamide DEA on a nationwide  
15 basis.

16              3.3               **Action Regarding Specific Products.**

17                      3.3.1       On or before the Effective Date, Settling Defendant shall: (i) cease selling  
18 the Panrosa Vitabeads Collection Shampoo, SKU No. 6-51669-20073-9 (the “Section 3.3  
19 Product”); and (ii) cease shipping the Section 3.3 Product to any of its stores and/or customers  
20 that resell the Section 3.3 Product in California.

21                      3.3.2       Any destruction of the Section 3.3 Product shall be in compliance with all  
22 applicable laws.

23                      3.3.3       Within sixty (60) days of the Effective Date, Settling Defendant shall  
24 provide CEH with written certification from Settling Defendant confirming compliance with the  
25 requirements of this Section 3.3.

26       **4.       ENFORCEMENT**

27              4.1               CEH may, by motion or application for an order to show cause before the  
28 Superior Court of Alameda County, enforce the terms and conditions contained in this Consent

1 Judgment. Prior to bringing any motion or application to enforce the requirements of Section 3  
2 above, CEH shall provide Settling Defendant with a Notice of Violation and a copy of any test  
3 results which purportedly support CEH's Notice of Violation. The Parties shall then meet and  
4 confer regarding the basis for CEH's anticipated motion or application in an attempt to resolve it  
5 informally, including providing Settling Defendant a reasonable opportunity of at least thirty (30)  
6 days to cure any alleged violation. Should such attempts at informal resolution fail, CEH may  
7 file its enforcement motion or application. This Consent Judgment may only be enforced by the  
8 Parties.

9 **5. PAYMENTS**

10 5.1 **Payments by Settling Defendant.** Within five (5) business days of the Effective  
11 Date, Settling Defendant shall pay the total sum of \$17,500 as a settlement payment. Each  
12 settlement payment from Settling Defendant shall be paid in four separate checks delivered to  
13 counsel for CEH at the address set forth in Section 5.1 below. The funds paid by Settling  
14 Defendant shall be allocated between the following categories:

15 5.1.1 \$1,925 as a civil penalty pursuant to Health & Safety Code § 25249.7(b),  
16 such money to be apportioned by CEH in accordance with Health & Safety Code § 25249.12  
17 (25% to CEH and 75% to the State of California's Office of Environmental Health Hazard  
18 Assessment). The civil penalty check shall be made payable to the Center for Environmental  
19 Health.

20 5.1.2 \$2,625 as payment in lieu of civil penalty to CEH pursuant to Health &  
21 Safety Code § 25249.7(b), and California Code of Regulations, Title 11, § 3203(b). CEH will use  
22 such funds to continue its work educating and protecting people from exposures to toxic  
23 chemicals. CEH may also use a portion of such funds to monitor compliance with this Consent  
24 Judgment and to purchase and test Settling Defendant's products to confirm compliance. In  
25 addition, as part of its Community Environmental Action and Justice Fund, CEH will use four  
26 percent (4%) of such funds to award grants to grassroots environmental justice groups working to  
27 educate and protect people from exposures to toxic chemicals. The method of selection of such  
28 groups can be found at the CEH web site at [www.ceh.org/justicefund](http://www.ceh.org/justicefund). The payment in lieu of

1 penalty check shall be made payable to the Center for Environmental Health.

2 5.1.3 \$12,950 as reimbursement of a portion of CEH's reasonable attorneys' fees  
3 and costs. A check for \$11,200 shall be made payable to the Lexington Law Group, and a check  
4 for \$1,750 shall be made payable to the Center for Environmental Health.

5 **6. MODIFICATION**

6 6.1 **Written Consent.** This Consent Judgment may be modified from time to  
7 time by express written agreement of the Parties with the approval of the Court, or by an order of  
8 this Court upon motion and in accordance with law.

9 6.2 **Meet and Confer.** Any Party seeking to modify this Consent Judgment shall  
10 attempt in good faith to meet and confer with all affected Parties prior to filing a motion to  
11 modify the Consent Judgment.

12 **7. CLAIMS COVERED AND RELEASED**

13 7.1 This Consent Judgment is a full, final, and binding resolution between CEH on  
14 behalf of itself and the public interest and Settling Defendant, and its parents, subsidiaries,  
15 affiliated entities that are under common ownership, directors, officers, employees, and attorneys  
16 ("Defendant Releasees"), and each entity to whom they directly or indirectly distribute or sell  
17 Covered Products, including but not limited to distributors, wholesalers, customers, retailers,  
18 franchisees, cooperative members, licensors, and licensees ("Downstream Defendant Releasees")  
19 of any violation of Proposition 65 that was or could have been asserted in the Complaint against  
20 Settling Defendant, Defendant Releasees, and Downstream Defendant Releasees, based on failure  
21 to warn about alleged exposure to cocamide DEA contained in Covered Products that were sold  
22 by Settling Defendant prior to the Effective Date.

23 7.2 Compliance with the terms of this Consent Judgment by Settling Defendant  
24 and Defendant Releasees shall constitute compliance with Proposition 65 by Settling Defendant,  
25 Defendant Releasees, and Downstream Defendant Releasees with respect to any alleged failure to  
26 warn about cocamide DEA in Covered Products manufactured, distributed, or sold by Settling  
27 Defendant after the Effective Date.

28 7.3 Nothing in this Section 7 affects CEH's right to commence or prosecute an

1 action under Proposition 65 against any person other than Settling Defendant, Defendant  
2 Releasees, or Downstream Defendant Releasees.

3 **8. NOTICE**

4 8.1 When CEH is entitled to receive any notice under this Consent Judgment, the  
5 notice shall be sent by first class and electronic mail to:

6 Mark Todzo  
7 Lexington Law Group  
8 503 Divisadero Street  
9 San Francisco, CA 94117  
10 mtodzo@lexlawgroup.com

11 8.2 When Settling Defendant is entitled to receive any notice under this Consent  
12 Judgment, the notice shall be sent by first class and electronic mail to:

13 John Pourmoradi  
14 Four Seasons General Merchandise, Inc.  
15 2801 E. Vernon Avenue  
16 Los Angeles, CA 90058  
17 jp@4sgm.com

18 8.3 Any Party may modify the person and address to whom the notice is to be sent  
19 by sending the other Party notice by first class and electronic mail.

20 **9. COURT APPROVAL**

21 9.1 This Consent Judgment shall become effective upon entry by the Court. CEH  
22 shall prepare and file a Motion for Approval of this Consent Judgment and Settling Defendant  
23 shall support entry of this Consent Judgment.

24 9.2 If this Consent Judgment is not entered by the Court, it shall be of no force or  
25 effect and shall never be introduced into evidence or otherwise used in any proceeding for any  
26 purpose other than to allow the Court to determine if there was a material breach of Section 9.1.

27 **10. ATTORNEYS' FEES**

28 10.1 The prevailing party on any motion, application for an order to show cause, or  
other proceeding to enforce a violation of this Consent Judgment shall be entitled to its reasonable  
attorneys' fees and costs incurred as a result of such motion or application.

10.2 Except as otherwise provided in this Consent Judgment, each Party shall bear

1 its own attorneys' fees and costs.

2 10.3 Nothing in this Section 10 shall preclude a Party from seeking an award of  
3 sanctions pursuant to law.

4 **11. OTHER TERMS**

5 11.1 The terms of this Consent Judgment shall be governed by the laws of the State  
6 of California.

7 11.2 This Consent Judgment shall apply to and be binding upon CEH and Settling  
8 Defendant, and its respective divisions, subdivisions, and subsidiaries, and the successors or  
9 assigns of any of them.

10 11.3 This Consent Judgment contains the sole and entire agreement and  
11 understanding of the Parties with respect to the entire subject matter hereof, and any and all prior  
12 discussions, negotiations, commitments, or understandings related thereto, if any, are hereby  
13 merged herein and therein. There are no warranties, representations, or other agreements between  
14 the Parties except as expressly set forth herein. No representations, oral or otherwise, express or  
15 implied, other than those specifically referred to in this Consent Judgment have been made by any  
16 Party hereto. No other agreements not specifically contained or referenced herein, oral or  
17 otherwise, shall be deemed to exist or to bind any of the Parties hereto. No supplementation,  
18 modification, waiver, or termination of this Consent Judgment shall be binding unless executed in  
19 writing by the Party to be bound thereby. No waiver of any of the provisions of this Consent  
20 Judgment shall be deemed or shall constitute a waiver of any of the other provisions hereof  
21 whether or not similar, nor shall such waiver constitute a continuing waiver.

22 11.4 Nothing in this Consent Judgment shall release, or in any way affect any rights  
23 that Settling Defendant might have against any other party, whether or not that party is a settling  
24 defendant.

25 11.5 This Court shall retain jurisdiction of this matter to implement or modify the  
26 Consent Judgment.

27 11.6 The stipulations to this Consent Judgment may be executed in counterparts  
28 and by means of facsimile or portable document format (pdf), which taken together shall be

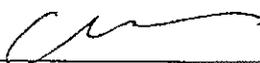
1 deemed to constitute one document.

2 11.7 Each signatory to this Consent Judgment certifies that he or she is fully  
3 authorized by the Party he or she represents to stipulate to this Consent Judgment and to enter into  
4 and execute the Consent Judgment on behalf of the Party represented and legally to bind that  
5 Party.

6 11.8 The Parties, including their counsel, have participated in the preparation of  
7 this Consent Judgment and this Consent Judgment is the result of the joint efforts of the Parties.  
8 This Consent Judgment was subject to revision and modification by the Parties and has been  
9 accepted and approved as to its final form by all Parties and their counsel. Accordingly, any  
10 uncertainty or ambiguity existing in this Consent Judgment shall not be interpreted against any  
11 Party as a result of the manner of the preparation of this Consent Judgment. Each Party to this  
12 Consent Judgment agrees that any statute or rule of construction providing that ambiguities are to  
13 be resolved against the drafting Party should not be employed in the interpretation of this Consent  
14 Judgment and, in this regard, the Parties hereby waive California Civil Code § 1654.

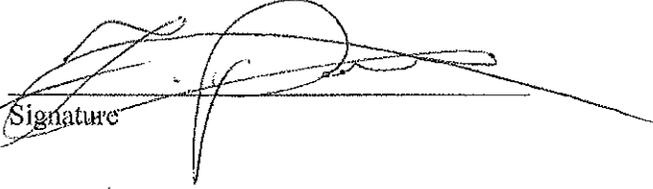
15  
16 **IT IS SO STIPULATED:**

17 **CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH**

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20 \_\_\_\_\_  
21 Charlie Pizarro  
22 Associate Director  
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FOUR SEASONS GENERAL MERCHANDISE, INC.

  
Signature

JOHN POURMORADI

Printed Name

PRESIDENT

Title

IT IS SO ORDERED:

Dated: APR 16 2015, 2015

GEORGE C. HERNANDEZ, JR.

Judge of the Superior Court