

**JAN 10 2018**

Sherri R. Carter, Executive Officer/Clerk  
By Maria Frances Lopez Deputy  
Maria Frances Lopez

**REC'D**

**NOV 30 2017**

**FILING WINDOW**

1 MIGUEL A. CUSTODIO, JR., STATE BAR NO. 248744  
2 VINEET DUBEY, STATE BAR NO. 243208  
3 CUSTODIO & DUBEY LLP  
4 448 S. Hill St., Suite 612  
5 Los Angeles, CA 90013  
6 Telephone: (213) 785-2909  
7 Facsimile: (213) 785-2899

8 Attorneys for Plaintiff Ecological Alliance, LLC

9 SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

10 COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

11 (Unlimited Jurisdiction)

12 ECOLOGICAL ALLIANCE, LLC, a California  
13 limited liability company,

14 Plaintiff,

15 v.

16 RIDGEROCK TOOLS, INC., a California  
17 corporation; and DOES 1 through 10, inclusive,

18 Defendants.

19 Case No.: BC658917

D52

20 ~~PROPOSED~~ STIPULATED  
21 CONSENT JUDGMENT

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28

Plaintiff Ecological Alliance, LLC (“Plaintiff”), and Defendant Ridgerock Tools, Inc. (“Defendant”) hereby enter into this Stipulated Consent Judgment (“Consent Judgment”) as follows:

WHEREAS: On or about April 28, 2016, Plaintiff, through Plaintiff’s counsel, served a 60 Day Notice to Defendant, the California Attorney General, the District Attorneys of every County in the State of California, and the City Attorneys for every City in the State of California with a population greater than 750,000 (collectively, “Public Prosecutor(s)”) alleging that Defendant violated California’s Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986, California Health and Safety Code § 25249.6, et seq., and its implementing regulations (collectively, “Proposition 65”) and that Plaintiff intended to file an enforcement action in the public interest; and

WHEREAS: Plaintiff alleges that Defendant manufactured and/or distributed couplers (collectively the “Covered Products”) ( Couplers are small brass fittings typically hand installed and used for connecting many different products, including spark plugs, compressors, and air tools) that were sold or distributed for sale in California and further alleges that those Covered Products expose consumers in the State of California to chemicals including lead, which are listed by the State of California pursuant to California Health and Safety Code § 25249.8; and

WHEREAS: Plaintiff further alleges that persons in the State of California were exposed to lead in Covered Products without being provided the Proposition 65 warning set out at California Health and Safety Code § 25249.6 and its implementing regulations (“Proposition 65 Warning”); and

WHEREAS: Plaintiff seeks to provide the public with Proposition 65 warnings and believes that this objective is achieved by the actions described in this Consent Judgment; and

WHEREAS: Plaintiff and Defendant wish to resolve their differences without the delay and expense of litigation.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED AND AGREED UPON AS BETWEEN PLAINTIFF ACTING IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST AND DEFENDANT AS FOLLOWS:

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28

**1. INTRODUCTION**

1.1. On April 28, 2016, Plaintiff served the 60-Day Notice upon Defendant and on Public Prosecutors. No Public Prosecutors commenced an enforcement action. No Public Prosecutor having commenced an enforcement action, Plaintiff proceeded to file its Complaint against Defendant in the present action.

1.2. Defendant employs ten (10) or more persons.

1.3. For purposes of this Consent Judgment only, Plaintiff and Defendant (the “Parties”) stipulate that: 1) this Court has jurisdiction over the allegations of violation contained in the Complaint, and personal jurisdiction over Defendant as to the acts alleged in the Complaint; 2) venue is proper in the County of Los Angeles; and 3) this Court has jurisdiction to enter this Consent Judgment as a full and final resolution of all claims which were or could have been raised in the Complaint based on the facts alleged therein with respect to the Covered Products, and of all claims which were or could have been raised by any person or entity based in whole or in part, directly or indirectly, on the facts alleged in the 60-Day Notice, in the present action, or arising therefrom or related thereto, with respect to Covered Products, including any Proposition 65 claim arising out of an exposure to Covered Products (collectively, “Proposition 65 Claims”).

1.4. The Parties enter into this Consent Judgment as a full and final settlement of the Proposition 65 Claims, for the purpose of avoiding prolonged and costly litigation and of resolving the issues raised therein both as to past and future conduct. By execution of this Consent Judgment and agreeing to comply with its terms, the Parties do not admit any fact, conclusion of law, or violation of law, nor shall Defendant’s compliance with the Consent Judgment constitute or be construed as an admission by Defendant of any fact, conclusion of law, or violation of law. Defendant denies the material, factual, and legal allegations in the 60-Day Notice and the Complaint and expressly denies any wrongdoing whatsoever.

**2. DEFINITIONS**

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28

2.1. “Effective Date” shall mean, with respect to this Consent Judgment, the date the Consent Judgment has been approved and entered by the Court.

**3. INJUNCTIVE RELIEF**

3.1. For each Covered Product, Defendant agrees to either undertake, or cause to be undertaken on its behalf, either (a) reformulation of the Covered Product to bring it within the Proposition 65 exemption identified in Section 3.2 below, or (b) provide a warning as prescribed in Sections 3.3-3.4 below. Compliance with this Section 3.1 will constitute compliance by Defendant with all requirements of Proposition 65 relating to lead exposure in the Covered Products:

3.2. Proposition 65 Exemption for the Covered Products

Subject to section 3.5, any Covered Product that is sold, or offered for sale, to consumers in the State of California after the Effective Date shall be deemed to comply with Proposition 65, and be exempt from any Proposition 65 warning requirements with respect to lead, if no “Accessible Component Part” of such Covered Product contains more than 100 ppm of lead. For purposes of this Consent Judgment, “Accessible Component Part” shall mean components of the Covered Products to which a person would be exposed to lead by direct contact during normal use of the Covered Product.

3.3. Warning Option

Subject to section 3.5, Covered Products that do not meet the warning exemption standard set forth in Section 3.2 above, shall be accompanied by a warning as described in Section 3.4 below. This warning requirement shall only be required as to Covered Products that are manufactured, distributed, marketed, sold or shipped for sale to consumers by Defendant in the State of California, after the Effective Date. No Proposition 65 warning shall be required as to any Covered Products that are already in the stream of commerce as of the Effective Date, and all such Covered Products are hereby deemed to be exempt from Proposition 65 with respect to lead.

3.4. Warning Language

1  
2 Where required to meet the criteria set forth in Section 3.3, Defendant shall provide one of  
3 the following warning statements on or within the unit packaging of the Covered  
4 Products, or affixed to the Covered Products, displayed in a reasonably conspicuous  
5 manner:

6 (1) **[California Proposition 65] WARNING: This product**  
7 **contains chemicals known to the state of California to**  
8 **cause cancer, and birth defects or other reproductive**  
9 **harm.**

10 (2) **[California Proposition 65] WARNING: This product may**  
11 **expose you to chemicals including lead known to the State**  
12 **of California to cause cancer, and birth defects or other**  
13 **reproductive harm. For more information go to**  
14 **[www.P65warnings.ca.gov](http://www.P65warnings.ca.gov)**

15  
16 3.5. 90-Day Grace Period

17 Although Defendant shall be deemed in compliance on the Effective Date, Defendant  
18 shall have a ninety (90)-day grace period from the Effective Date to complete the  
19 reformulation or warning steps provided in Sections 3.1 – 3.4.

20 **4. MONETARY RELIEF**

21 4.1. Within ten (10) days of the Effective Date but no sooner than October 1, 2017,  
22 Defendant shall pay to Plaintiff the total sum of \$30,000 which includes \$6,000 in civil  
23 penalties and \$24,000 in payment of Plaintiff's costs and reasonable attorney's fees. The  
24 \$6,000 civil penalty shall be apportioned pursuant to Health and Safety Code section  
25 25249.12 (d), with 75%, or \$4,500, paid to the State of California's Office of  
26 Environmental Health Hazard Assessment and 25%, or \$1,500, payable to Plaintiff.

27 4.2. The payment specified in Section 4.1. shall be made by wire transfer to Plaintiff's  
28 counsel Custodio & Dubey LLP:

1  
2 Bank: Bank of America, N.A.  
3 Routing Transit No.: 026009593  
4 Account No.: 325054144600  
5 Beneficiary: Custodio & Dubey LLP

6 **5. CLAIMS COVERED AND RELEASE**

7 5.1. This Consent Judgment is a full, final, and binding resolution between Plaintiff, on  
8 behalf of itself, and acting in the public interest, and Defendant, and all of Defendant's  
9 parent companies, as well as all of Defendant's officers, directors, members,  
10 shareholders, employees, attorneys, agents, parent companies, subsidiaries, divisions,  
11 affiliates, suppliers, franchisees, licensees, and retailers, their parent and all subsidiaries,  
12 and affiliates, thereof, their respective employees, agents and assigns, as well as all other  
13 upstream and downstream entities in the distribution chain for any of the Covered  
14 Products, and the predecessors, successors, and assigns of any of them (collectively, the  
15 "Released Parties"), for any alleged violation of Proposition 65, and its implementing  
16 regulations, for failure to provide Proposition 65 warnings for the Covered Products with  
17 respect to lead, and fully resolves all claims that have been brought, or which could have  
18 been brought in this action up to and including the Effective Date. Plaintiff on behalf of  
19 itself, and in the public interest, hereby discharges the Released Parties from any and all  
20 claims, actions, causes of action, suits, demands, liabilities, damages, penalties, fees,  
21 costs and expenses asserted, or that could have been asserted, with respect to any alleged  
22 violation of Proposition 65 arising from the failure to provide Proposition 65 warnings  
23 about exposures to lead for any or all of the Covered Products, through and including the  
24 Effective Date.

25 5.2. It is possible that other claims not known to the Parties arising out of the facts  
26 contained in the 60-Day Notice, or alleged in the Complaint, relating to the Covered  
27 Products, will hereafter be discovered or developed. Plaintiff, on behalf of itself only, on  
28 the one hand, and Defendant, on the other hand, acknowledge that this Consent Judgment  
is expressly intended to cover and include all such claims through and including the

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28

Effective Date, including all rights of action therefore. Plaintiff and Defendant acknowledge that the claims released in Sections 5.1 and 5.2 may include unknown claims, and nevertheless intend to release such claims, and in doing so waive California Civil Code § 1542 which reads as follows:

A GENERAL RELEASE DOES NOT EXTEND TO CLAIMS WHICH THE CREDITOR DOES NOT KNOW OR SUSPECT EXIST IN HIS OR HER FAVOR AT THE TIME OF EXECUTING THE RELEASE, WHICH IF KNOWN BY HIM OR HER MUST HAVE MATERIALLY AFFECTED HIS SETTLEMENT WITH THE DEBTOR.

5.3. Plaintiff understands and acknowledges that the significance and consequence of this waiver of California Civil Code § 1542 is that even if Plaintiff suffers future damages arising out of or resulting from, or related directly or indirectly to, in whole or in part, the Covered Products, including but not limited to any exposure to, or failure to warn with respect to exposure to, the Covered Products, Plaintiff will not be able to make any claim for those damages against any of the Released Parties.

5.4. Compliance by Defendant with the terms of this Consent Judgment shall constitute compliance with Proposition 65 with respect to exposure to lead in the Covered Products as set forth in the 60 Day Notice and/or the Complaint.

**6. COMPLIANCE WITH HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE SECTION 25249.7(F)**

6.1. Plaintiff and its attorneys agree to comply with the reporting form requirements referenced in California Health and Safety Code § 25249.7(f).

**7. PROVISION OF NOTICE**

7.1. When any Party is entitled to receive any notice or writing under this Consent Judgment, the notice or writing shall be sent by first class certified mail with return receipt requested, or by electronic mail, as follows:

To Defendant:  
Kalab A. Honey, Esq.

1  
2 Law Offices of Kalab A. Honey, P.C.  
3 2600 E. Pacific Coast Hwy., Suite 225  
4 Corona Del Mar, CA 92625  
5 Email: [khoney@honeylegal.com](mailto:khoney@honeylegal.com)

6 To Plaintiff:  
7 Vineet Dubey, Esq.  
8 Custodio & Dubey LLP  
9 448 S. Hill St., Ste 612  
10 Los Angeles, CA 90013  
11 [dubey@cd-lawyers.com](mailto:dubey@cd-lawyers.com)

12 7.2. Any party may modify the person and address to whom the notice is to be sent by  
13 sending the other Party notice that is transmitted in the manner set forth in section 6.1.

#### 14 **8. COURT APPROVAL**

15 8.1. Upon execution of his Consent Judgment by all parties, Plaintiff shall prepare and  
16 file, at its sole cost and expense, a Motion for Approval of this Consent Judgment that  
17 Defendant shall support. This Consent Judgment shall not become effective until  
18 approved and entered by the Court. If this Consent Judgment is not entered by the Court,  
19 it shall be of no force or effect, and shall not be introduced into evidence or otherwise  
20 used in any proceeding for any purpose.

#### 21 **9. GOVERNING LAW AND CONSTRUCTION**

22 9.1. The terms of this Consent Judgment shall be governed by the laws of the State of  
23 California.

#### 24 **10. ENTIRE AGREEMENT**

25 10.1. This Consent Judgment contains the sole and entire agreement and understanding  
26 of the Parties with respect to the entire subject matter hereof, and any and all prior  
27 discussions, negotiations, commitments, or understandings related thereto, if any, are  
28 hereby merged herein and therein.

10.2. There are no warranties, representations, or other agreements between the Parties  
except as expressly set forth herein. No representations, oral or otherwise, express or  
implied, other than those specifically referred to in this Consent Judgment have been



1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28

made by any Party hereto.

10.3. No other agreements not specifically contained or referenced herein, oral or otherwise, shall be deemed to exist or to bind any of the Parties hereto. Any agreements specifically contained or referenced herein, oral or otherwise, shall be deemed to exist or to bind any of the Parties hereto only to the extent that they are expressly incorporated herein.

10.4. No supplementation, modification, waiver, or termination of this Consent Judgment shall be binding unless executed in writing by the Party to be bound thereby.

10.5. No waiver of any of the provisions of this Consent Judgment shall be deemed or shall constitute a waiver of any of the other provisions hereof whether or not similar, nor shall such waiver constitute a continuing waiver.

**11. RETENTION OF JURISDICTION**

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

**12. NO EFFECT ON OTHER SETTLEMENTS**

12.1. Nothing in this Consent Judgment shall preclude Plaintiff from resolving any claim against another entity on terms that are different from those contained in this Consent Judgment.

**13. EXECUTION IN COUNTERPARTS**

13.1. This Consent Judgment may be executed in counterparts, each of which shall be deemed to be an original, and all of which, taken together, shall constitute the same document. Execution of the Consent Judgment by e-mail, facsimile, or other electronic means, shall constitute legal and binding execution and delivery. Any photocopy of the executed Consent Judgment shall have the same force and effect as the original.

**14. AUTHORIZATION**

14.1. The undersigned are authorized to stipulate to, enter into, and execute this Consent Judgment on behalf of their respective parties, and have read, understood, and agree to all of the terms and conditions of this Consent Judgment.

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28

**15. SEVERABILITY**

15.1. If subsequent to Court approval of this Consent Judgment, any part or provision is declared by a Court to be invalid, void, or unenforceable, the remaining portions or provisions shall continue in full force and effect.

**AGREED TO:**

**Ecological Alliance LLC**

Date: 11/28/2017  
By: [Signature]  
Harmony Welsh, Managing Member

**AGREED TO:**

**Ridgerock Tools, Inc.**

Date: 11/27/2017  
By: [Signature]  
Len Hong Wu, Secretary

Approved as to Form and Content:

**Custodio & Dubey LLP**

**Law Offices of Kalab A. Honey, PC**

Date: 11/29/17  
By: [Signature]  
Vineet Dubey, Counsel for Plaintiff

Date: 11/27/2017  
By: [Signature]  
Kalab A. Honey, Counsel for Defendant

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED. ADJUDGED AND DECREED that, pursuant to Health & Safety Code § 25249.7(f)(4) and Code of Civil Procedure § 664.6, judgment is hereby entered.

Dated: 1/10/18

Judge Susan Bryant-Deason  
JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT  
**Susan Bryant-Deason**