



As You Sow

Tel: (415) 391-3212

A Foundation Planting Seeds for Social Change

Fax: (415) 391-3245

A NON-PROFIT CORPORATION

371 California Street, Suite 510

San Francisco, California 94104

www.asyousow.org

**ATTORNEY GENERAL COPY: CONTAINS OFFICIAL
INFORMATION PER EVIDENCE CODE SECTION 1040**

January 6, 2003

NOTICE OF VIOLATION OF CALIFORNIA HEALTH & SAFETY CODE §25249.5 ET SEQ.

Dear Public Enforcement Agencies:

As You Sow is a non-profit foundation organized under the State of California's Non-Profit Public Benefit Corporation Law. As You Sow is dedicated to, among other causes, the protection of the environment, the promotion of human health, the improvement of worker and consumer safety, and environmental education.

As You Sow has documented violations of California's Safe Drinking Water & Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986 ("Proposition 65"), codified at Health & Safety Code §25249.5 *et seq.* This letter serves to provide As You Sow's notification of these violations to the public enforcement agencies and to the violator. Pursuant to §25249.7(d) of the statute, As You Sow intends to bring an enforcement action sixty (60) days after effective service of this notice unless the public enforcement agencies have commenced and are diligently prosecuting an action to rectify these violations. A summary of the statute and its implementing regulations, which was prepared by the lead agency designated under the statute, is enclosed with the copy of this notice served upon the violator. The specific details of the violations that are the subject of this notice are provided below.

The noticing party is As You Sow. The name of the violator covered by this notice is **GROENIGER & COMPANY** ("Groeniger"). These violations involve discharges of, and exposures to, lead and lead compounds from a variety of products manufactured, distributed and/or sold by Groeniger as described more fully below.

These products are specifically copper alloy (both bronze and brass) curb stops (or curb valves), meter stops (or meter valves or service valves), main stops, corporation stops, tail pieces, couplings, compression tees (or service tees), and elbows that come into contact with drinking water in drinking water distribution systems, including but not limited to the products listed in Exhibit A attached hereto (the "Products"). The copper alloys used in these products contain high levels of **lead and lead compounds** that are discharged to sources of drinking water.

On February 27, 1987, the State of California officially listed lead as a chemical known to cause reproductive toxicity (Title 22 California Code of Regulations §12000, *et seq.*). On October 1, 1992, the State of California officially listed lead and lead compounds as chemicals known to cause cancer (Title 22 California Code of Regulations §12000, *et seq.*).

Curb stops (or curb valves) are valves used to open and/or close the water flow, often at the curb, near the water meter. These are typically accessed by the public water supplier to regulate the flow of water to an individual building. Meter stops (or meter valves or service valves) are valves used to open and close the water flow immediate upstream of a water meter. Main stops and corporation stops are

valves used to open and close the flow of water, typically at a point adjacent to the water main. Tail pieces are used to connect the water meter and/or curb stop to the supply line to a building. Couplings are used to connect two sections of drinking water supply lines. Compression tees (or service tees) are a "T" shaped device used to split the flow of water into two directions. Elbows are used to alter the direction of the flow of water.

Discharge into a source of drinking water. Groeniger is knowingly and intentionally discharging or releasing lead and lead compounds, chemicals known to the State of California to cause cancer and reproductive toxicity, into a source of drinking water, in violation of Health & Safety Code §25249.5. The discharges and releases occur from the leaching of lead and lead compounds from the Products into all sources of drinking water, including residential and commercial tap water, that come into contact with the Products.

Exposure without a clear and reasonable warning. In violation of Health & Safety Code §25249.6, Groeniger is knowingly and intentionally exposing individuals in the State of California to lead and lead compounds without providing a clear and reasonable warning. These toxic exposures have occurred and continue to occur primarily through ingestion of drinking water but also through dermal contact and inhalation exposure to water. A Certificate of Merit in support of these violations is being served concurrently on the Attorney General for the State of California. (Title 11 C.C.R. §3100 *et seq.*)

Individuals exposed. Persons consuming or using drinking water that has passed through or otherwise come into contact with the Products as described above.

Duration of violations. These ongoing violations of the statute have occurred every day since at least January 6, 1999, and will continue every day until clear and reasonable warnings are provided and until the ongoing discharges to sources of drinking water are terminated. Under Proposition 65, each discharge or release and exposure constitutes a separate violation. Health & Safety Code §25249.7(b). The maximum civil penalty for each such violation is \$2,500. *Id.* These same facts constitute a violation of Business and Professions Code §17200 *et seq.*

In keeping with its public interest mission and to expeditiously rectify these ongoing violations of California law, As You Sow is interested in seeking a constructive resolution of this matter without engaging in costly and protracted litigation. Please direct all communications regarding this notice to As You Sow's counsel in this matter:

Andrew L. Packard, Esq.
Law Offices of Andrew L. Packard
294 Page Street
San Francisco, CA 94102
Telephone: (415) 431-2970 Fax: (415) 431-0410

EXHIBIT A

Product ID Product Description

A. Y. McDonald Manufacturing Co.

3131B	Ball Valve Corporation Stop	3/4" MIP x MIP Main Stop
6101	Ball Style Curb Stop	3/4" FIP x FIP Ball Valve Curb Stop
6101W	Ball Style Curb Stop	3/4" FIP x FIP F/Port Straight Meter Valve w/Lockwing
4779M-22	Elbow	3/4" Comp x MIP Elbow Coupling
4754-22	Straight Coupling	3/4" Comp x FIP Coupling
4760-22	Service Tee	3/4" x 3/4" Comp Tee
6100-22	Ball Style Curb Stop	3/4" Comp x Comp Ball Valve Curb Stop

The Ford Meter Box Co., Inc.

B11-333W	Ball Valve Curb Stop	3/4" FIP x FIP F/Port Straight Meter Valve w/Lockwing
L84-33	Pack Joint Coupling	3/4" Comp x MIP Elbow Coupling
C14-33	Pack Joint Coupling	3/4" Comp x FIP Coupling
T444-333	Pack Joint Tee	3/4" x 3/4" Comp Tee
B11-777	Ball Valve Curb Stop	2" FIP x FIP Ball Valve w/Handle
BA13-444W	Angle Ball Meter Valve	1" FIP x Meter Nut F/Port Angle Meter Valve
B11-333	Ball Valve Curb Stop	3/4" FIP x FIP Ball Valve Curb Stop
FB500-3	Ballcorp Corporation Stop	3/4" MIP x MIP Main Stop
B44-333	Ball Valve Curb Stop	3/4" FIP x Comp Ball Valve Curb Stop

James Jones Company

J-1900	Ball Valve Curb Stop	3/4" FIP x FIP F/Port Straight
J-1900	Ball Valve Curb Stop	3/4" FIP x FIP Ball Valve w/Handle
J-1900	Ball Valve Curb Stop	2" FIP X FIP Ball Valve w/Handle
J-1943	Corporation Stop	3/4" MIP x MIP Main Stop
J-1949	Ball Valve Curb Stop	3/4" Comp x Comp Ball Valve Curb Stop
J-2607	Compression Connection	3/4" Comp x FIP Coupling
J-2617	Compression Connection	3/4" x 3/4" Comp Tee
J-2619	Compression Connection	3/4" Comp x MIP Elbow Coupling

Mueller Co.

H-15071	Straight Coupling	3/4" Comp x MIP Elbow Coupling
H-15381	Service Tee	3/4" x 3/4" Comp Tee
H-15531	Quarter Bend Coupling	3/4" Comp x MIP Elbow Coupling
B-20013	Ball Corporation Stop	3/4" MIP x MIP Main Stop
B-20200	Ball Straight Service Valve	3/4" FIP x FIP F/Port Straight Meter Valve w/Lockwing
B-20283	Ball Curb Valve	2" FIP x FIP Ball Valve with Handle
B-24265	Ball Angle Meter Valve	1" FIP x Meter Nut F/Port Meter Valve
P-25170	Ball Straight Service Valve	3/4" FIP x Comp B/V Curb Stop

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CERTIFICATE OF MERIT
**(for As You Sow's Notice of Proposition 65 Violation
on GROENIGER & COMPANY)**

I, Andrew L. Packard, declare:

1. This Certificate of Merit accompanies the attached sixty-day notice in which it is alleged that **GROENIGER & COMPANY** has violated Health & Safety Code §25249.6 by failing to provide clear and reasonable warnings.

2. I am an attorney for the noticing party.

3. I have consulted with one or more persons with relevant and appropriate experience or expertise who has reviewed facts, studies, or other data regarding the exposure to the listed chemicals that are the subject of the action.

4. Based on the information obtained through those consultations, and on all other information in my possession, I believe there is a reasonable and meritorious case for the private action. I understand that "reasonable and meritorious case for the private action" means that the information provides a credible basis that all elements of the plaintiffs' case can be established and that the information did not prove that the alleged violator will be able to establish any of the affirmative defenses set forth in the statute.

5. The copy of this Certificate of Merit served on the Attorney General attaches to it factual information sufficient to establish the basis for this certificate, including the information identified in Health and Safety Code §25249.7(h)(2), i.e., (1) the identity of the persons consulted with and relied on by the certifier, and (2) the facts, studies, or other data reviewed by those persons.

Dated: January 1, 2003

Attachments (for Attorney General Copy only)

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, the undersigned, declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the following is true and correct:

I am a citizen of the United States, over the age of 18 years, and not a party to the within action; my business address is: 311 California Street, Suite 510, San Francisco, California 94104.

On January 6, 2003, I served the following documents:

- Notice of Violation of California Health & Safety Code §25249.5 et seq., including Exhibit A
- Certificate of Merit
- "The Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986 (Proposition 65): A Summary"

on the following party by placing a true and correct copy thereof in a sealed envelope, addressed to the party listed below, and depositing it at a United States Postal Service Office for delivery by Certified Mail:

**Groeniger & Company
M. H. Groeniger, CEO
27750 Industrial Boulevard
Hayward, CA 94540-3629**

On January 6, 2003, I served the following document(s):

- Notice of Violation of California Health & Safety Code §25249.5 et seq., including Exhibit A
- Certificate of Merit ("Attorney General Copy")

on the following party by placing a true and correct copy thereof in a sealed envelope, addressed to the party listed below, and depositing it at a United States Postal Service Office for delivery by Certified Mail:

**Attn: Craig Thompson, Deputy Attorney General
California Department of Justice
1300 I Street, Suite 125
Post Office Box 944255
Sacramento, CA 94244-2550**

On January 6, 2003, I served the following document(s):

- Notice of Violation of California Health & Safety Code §25249.5 et seq., including Exhibit A
- Certificate of Merit

on each of the parties on the service list attached hereto by placing a true and correct copy thereof in a sealed envelope, addressed to each of the parties on the service list attached hereto, and depositing it at United States Postal Service mail box for delivery by First Class Mail.

Executed on January 6, 2003, at San Francisco, California.

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PUBLIC ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES SERVICE LIST (updated 09/23/02)

THE HONORABLE THOMAS J ORLOFF ALAMEDA COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY 1225 FALLON ST RM 900 OAKLAND CA 94612	THE HONORABLE PHILIP MCDOWELL INYO COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY PO DRAWER D INDEPENDENCE CA 93526	THE HONORABLE DEAN FLIPPO MONTEREY COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY 240 CHURCH ST #101 SALINAS CA 93902
THE HONORABLE L ALAN TURNER ALPINE COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY PO BOX 248 MARKLEEVILLE CA 96120	THE HONORABLE EDWARD R JAGELS KERN COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY 1215 TRUXTUN AVE BAKERSFIELD CA 93301	THE HONORABLE GARY LIEBERSTEIN NAPA COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY 931 PARKWAY MALL NAPA CA 94559
THE HONORABLE TODD D RIEBE AMADOR COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY 708 COURT ST STE 202 JACKSON CA 95642	THE HONORABLE RON CALHOUN KINGS COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY 1400 W LACEY BLVD HANFORD CA 93230	THE HONORABLE MICHAEL FERGUSON NEVADA COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY 201 CHURCH ST STE 8 NEVADA CITY CA 95959
THE HONORABLE MICHAEL RAMSEY BUTTE COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY 25 COUNTY CTR DR OROVILLE CA 95965	THE HONORABLE GARY LUCK LAKE COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY 255 N FORBES ST LAKEPORT CA 95453	THE HONORABLE TONY RACKAUCKAS ORANGE COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY 401 CIVIC CTR DR SANTA ANA CA 92701
THE HONORABLE JEFFREY TUTTLE CALAVERAS COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY 891 MTN RANCH RD SAN ANDREAS CA 95249	THE HONORABLE ROBERT BURNS LASSEN COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY 220 S LASSEN ST STE 8 SUSANVILLE CA 96130	THE HONORABLE BRAD FENOCCHIO PLACER COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY 11562 B AVE AUBURN CA 95603
THE HONORABLE JOHN POYNER COLUSA COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY 547 MARKET ST COLUSA CA 95932	THE HONORABLE STEVE COOLEY LA COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY 210 W TEMPLE ST STE 18000 LOS ANGELES CA 90012-3210	THE HONORABLE JAMES REICHLER PLUMAS COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY 520 MAIN ST RM 404 QUINCY CA 95971
THE HONORABLE GARY T YANCEY CONTRA COSTA COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY PO BOX 670 MARTINEZ CA 94553	THE HONORABLE ERNEST LICALSI MADERA COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY 209 W YOSEMITE AVE MADERA CA 93637	THE HONORABLE GROVER C TRASK II RIVERSIDE COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY 4075 MAIN ST RIVERSIDE CA 92501
THE HONORABLE ROBERT J DROSSEL DEL NORTE COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY 450 H ST CRESCENT CITY CA 95531	THE HONORABLE PAULA FRESCHI KAMENA MARIN COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY 3501 CIVIC CTR DR RM 130 SAN RAFAEL CA 94903	THE HONORABLE JAN SCULLY SACRAMENTO COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY 901 G ST SACRAMENTO CA 95814
THE HONORABLE GARY L LACY EL DORADO COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY 515 MAIN ST PLACERVILLE CA 95667	THE HONORABLE CHRISTINE A JOHNSON MARIPOSA COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY PO BOX 748 MARIPOSA CA 95338	THE HONORABLE HARRY J DAMKAR SAN BENITO COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY 419 FOURTH ST HOLLISTER CA 95023-3801
THE HONORABLE EDWARD W HUNT FRESNO COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY 2220 TULARE ST STE 1000 FRESNO CA 93721	THE HONORABLE NORMAN VROMAN MENDOCINO COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY PO BOX 1000 UKIAH CA 95482	THE HONORABLE DENNIS L STOUT SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY 316 N MTN VIEW AVE SAN BERNARDINO CA 92415-0004
THE HONORABLE ROBERT HOLZAPFEL GLENN COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY PO BOX 430 WILLOWS CA 95988	THE HONORABLE GORDON SPENCER MERCED COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY 2222 M ST MERCED CA 95340	THE HONORABLE PAUL PFINGST SAN DIEGO COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY 330 W BROADWAY RM 1300 SAN DIEGO CA 92112
THE HONORABLE TERRY R FARMER HUMBOLDT COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY 825 FIFTH ST EUREKA CA 95501	THE HONORABLE TOM BUCKWALTER MODOC COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY PO BOX 1171 ALTURAS CA 96101	THE HONORABLE TERENCE HALLINAN SAN FRANCISCO COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY 880 BRYANT ST STE 325 SAN FRANCISCO CA 94103
THE HONORABLE GILBERT OTERO IMPERIAL COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY 939 W MAIN ST EL CENTRO CA 92243	THE HONORABLE GEORGE BOOTH MONO COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY PO BOX 617 BRIDGEPORT CA 93517	THE HONORABLE JOHN D PHILLIPS SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY 222 E WEBER ST RM 202 STOCKTON CA 95202

THE HONORABLE GERALD T SHEA
SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY
COUNTY GOVERNMENT CTR RM 450
SAN LUIS OBISPO CA 93408

THE HONORABLE DAVID L CROSS
TRINITY COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY
PO BOX 310
WEAVERVILLE CA 96093

THE HONORABLE JAMES P FOX
SAN MATEO COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY
400 COUNTY CTR FL 3
REDWOOD CITY CA 94063

THE HONORABLE PHILLIP J CLINE
TULARE COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY
221 S MOONEY BLVD # 224
VISALIA CA 93291

THE HONORABLE THOMAS W SNEDDON JR
SANTA BARBARA COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY
1105 SANTA BARBARA ST
SANTA BARBARA CA 93101

THE HONORABLE DONALD I SEGERSTROM
TUOLUMNE COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY
2 S GREEN ST
SONORA CA 95370

THE HONORABLE GEORGE KENNEDY
SANTA CLARA COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY
70 W HEDDING ST
SAN JOSE CA 95110

THE HONORABLE MICHAEL D BRADBURY
VENTURA COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY
800 S VICTORIA AVE
VENTURA CA 93009

THE HONORABLE RONALD L RUIZ
SANTA CRUZ COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY
701 OCEAN ST STE 200
SANTA CRUZ CA 95060

THE HONORABLE DAVID C HENDERSON
YOLO COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY
301 SECOND ST
WOODLAND CA 95695

THE HONORABLE MCGREGOR SCOTT
SHASTA COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY
1525 COURT ST FL 3
REDDING CA 96001

THE HONORABLE PATRICK MCGRATH
YUBA COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY
215 FIFTH ST
MARYSVILLE CA 95901

THE HONORABLE SHARON O SULLIVAN
SIERRA COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY
PO BOX 457
DOWNIEVILLE CA 95936

LOS ANGELES CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
200 N MAIN ST RM 1800
LOS ANGELES CA 90012

THE HONORABLE PETER F KNOLL
SISKIYOU COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY
PO BOX 986
YREKA CA 96097

SAN DIEGO CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
CIVIC CENTER PLAZA
1200 THIRD AVE STE 1200
SAN DIEGO CA 92101

THE HONORABLE DAVID W PAULSON
SOLANO COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY
600 UNION AVE
FAIRFIELD CA 94533

SAN JOSE CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
151 W MISSION ST
SAN JOSE CA 95110

THE HONORABLE J MICHAEL MULLINS
SONOMA COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY
600 ADMINISTRATION DR RM 212
SANTA ROSA CA 95403

SAN FRANCISCO CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
CITY HALL, ROOM 234
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102

THE HONORABLE JAMES C BRAZELTON
STANISLAUS COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY
PO BOX 442
MODESTO CA 95353

THE HONORABLE CARL V ADAMS
SUTTER COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY
446 SECOND ST
YUBA CITY CA 95991

THE HONORABLE GREGG COHEN
TEHAMA COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY
PO BOX 519
RED BLUFF CA 96080