

# CONSUMER DEFENSE GROUP ACTION

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**GRAHAM & MARTIN, LLP**

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## 60 Day Notice of Intent to Sue GSF Properties Inc. and Golden State Financial Corporation Under Health & Safety Code Section 25249.6

Consumer Defense Group Action, a California corporation (hereinafter "CDG" or "the Noticing Party") hereby gives Notice of Intent to Sue Under Health & Safety Code Section 25249.5 ("the Notice") to Levon Baladjanian, President and CEO of GSF Properties, Inc., a California corporation, on behalf of GSF Properties Inc. and Golden State Financial Corporation (hereinafter, collectively, "the Violator"), as well as the governmental entities on the attached proof of service. The Noticing Party must be contacted through its attorneys: Law Offices of Graham & Martin, LLP, 3 Park Plaza, Suite 2030, Irvine, California 92614.

This Notice is intended to inform the Violator that it has violated Proposition 65, the Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act (commencing with Health & Safety Code Section 25249.5) (hereinafter "Proposition 65") by failing and refusing to post clear and reasonable warnings at facilities listed on Exhibit A hereto (which are owned/managed by the Violator) (hereinafter "the Facilities") that the Violator (1) permits the smoking of tobacco products at the Facilities, which exposes customers, visitors and employees to tobacco smoke in the areas where smoking is permitted; and, (2) permits the operation of motor vehicles at the Facilities, which exposes customers, visitors and employees to diesel and gasoline exhaust fumes, and the chemicals contained in those fumes, in the areas where such vehicles are allowed to be operated.

### **Summary of Violation:**

Proposition 65 provides that when a party, such as the Violator, has been and is knowingly and intentionally exposing its customers, visitors, employees and the general public to chemicals designated by the State of California to cause cancer and reproductive toxicity ("the Designated Chemicals") it has violated the statute unless, prior to such exposure, it provides clear and reasonable warning of that potential exposure to the potentially exposed persons (Health & Safety Code Section 24249.6). Tobacco smoke, as well as the constituent chemicals contained in tobacco smoke, are Designated Chemicals. Similarly, diesel and gasoline exhaust fumes contain Designated Chemicals.

The Violator, in the ordinary course of business, controls much of the conduct and actions of its customers, visitors and employees at each of the Facilities. One of the actions the Violator controls is whether or not to allow its customers, visitors and employees at each of the Facilities to smoke tobacco products. Similarly, the Violator controls whether or not to allow its customers, visitors and employees at each of the Facilities to operate motor vehicles and the location of such operation at the Facilities.

Persons representing CDG have personally visited each of the Facilities in September 2003 (hereinafter referred to as the "Investigation Period"). During those investigations CDG discovered that the Facilities are owned and/or managed by the Violator, and that the Violator has more than nine employees. Those investigations showed that the Violator has chosen to allow its customers, visitors and

employees at each of the Facilities to smoke tobacco products, and has specifically chosen to allow smoking in certain areas. Those areas are the apartments, the lobbies, corridors and hallways of floors where apartments where smoking is allowed are located, areas adjacent to pools, entrances and common areas where smoking is permitted, public walkways and parking areas where smoking is permitted. Further, those investigations showed that the Violator has chosen to allow its customers, visitors and employees at each of the Facilities to operate motor vehicles in certain areas, the driveways and parking areas.

In the Facilities and areas noted the Violator has chosen to allow its customers, visitors and employees to be exposed to: (1) tobacco smoke via the breathing of second hand tobacco smoke and via contact with their skin and clothing; and, (2) diesel and gasoline exhaust fumes via the breathing of such fumes (inhalation) and by contact with the skin and clothing (dermal contact). Evidence that (1) the smoking of tobacco products was taking place and had taken place at the Facilities, and (2) that the operation of motor vehicles (and thus exposures to diesel and gasoline exhaust fumes) was taking place at the Facilities, was seen by the investigators for CDG at the Facilities during the Investigation Period. The investigation by CDG at the Facilities showed that the Violator has specifically chosen to ignore the requirements of Proposition 65 and has failed to post clear and reasonable warnings at any of the entrances to the Facilities, in the parking areas, in the areas leading into the Facilities from the parking areas, at the entrances to apartment buildings or floors where apartments where smoking is permitted are located, or in or near the walkways in the Facilities, so that its customers, visitors and employees, who may not wish to be exposed, can be warned that, upon entering any of those areas, they may be exposed to tobacco smoke. The investigation by CDG at the Facilities showed that the Violator has specifically chosen to ignore the requirements of Proposition 65 and has failed to post clear and reasonable warnings at the parking areas or in the areas leading into the Facilities from the parking areas to warn its customers, visitors and employees, who may not wish to be exposed, that, upon entering any of those areas, they may be exposed to diesel and/or gasoline exhaust fumes, and chemicals known to the State of California to cause cancer and/or reproductive toxicity.

It is clear therefore that for the entire period of time that the Violator has owned and/or controlled the Facilities prior to the Investigation Period, and during the Investigation Period itself, the Violator has failed to post clear and reasonable warning signs at the Facilities in compliance with Proposition 65. Given that the maximum period of potential liability pursuant to Proposition 65 and Business & Professions Code §17200 (which are the operative statutes pursuant to which a complaint will be filed against the Violator) is four years, this Notice is intended to inform the Violator that it has been in violation of Proposition 65 from the time period from four years prior to the last date of the Investigation Period noted above for each day on which it was the owner or operator of the Facilities, for every day upon which the Violator was the owner/operator of any facility listed on Exhibit A.

The written reports prepared by the investigators for CDG, prepared contemporaneously with the investigations conducted during the Initial Investigation Period, together with supporting photographic and other evidence from the Facilities, has been provided to the Office of the Attorney General responsible for Proposition 65 enforcement.

**Environmental Exposures:**

While in the course of doing business at the Facilities, during the Investigation Period, and for up to four years prior to that time, the Violator has been and is knowingly and intentionally exposing its customers and the public to tobacco smoke and other chemicals listed below and designated by the State of California to cause cancer and reproductive toxicity without first giving clear and reasonable warning of that fact to the exposed persons (Health & Safety Code Section 24249.6). The source of exposure is (1)

tobacco smoke caused by the smoking of tobacco products by persons who the Violator permits to smoke tobacco products at the Facilities, and (2) diesel and gasoline exhaust fumes produced by the operation of motor vehicles which the Violator permits at the Facilities. The areas at the Facilities where customers, visitors and employees are being exposed to tobacco smoke are the apartments, the lobbies, corridors and hallways of floors where apartments where smoking is allowed are located, areas adjacent to pools, entrances and common areas where smoking is permitted, public walkways and parking areas where smoking is permitted. The areas at the Facilities where customers, visitors and employees are being exposed to diesel and gasoline exhaust fumes the apartments and public walkways near to driveways and parking areas, and those driveways and parking areas.

**Occupational Exposures:**

While in the course of doing business at the Facilities, during the Investigation Period, and for up to four years prior to that time, the Violator has been and is knowingly and intentionally exposing its employees to tobacco and tobacco smoke, diesel and gasoline exhaust fumes and other chemicals listed below and designated by the State of California to cause cancer and reproductive toxicity without first giving clear and reasonable warning of that fact to the exposed person (Health & Safety Code Section 25249.6). The source of exposure is (1) tobacco smoke caused by the smoking of tobacco products by persons who the Violator permits to smoke tobacco products at the Facilities, and (2) diesel and gasoline exhaust fumes produced by the operation of motor vehicles which the Violator permits at the Facilities. The source of exposure includes tobacco and tobacco smoke at the locations in Exhibit A. Employees include and are not limited to security personnel, maintenance workers, service personnel and administrative personnel. The areas at the Facilities where employees are being exposed to tobacco smoke are the apartments, the lobbies, corridors and hallways of floors where apartments where smoking is allowed are located, areas adjacent to pools, entrances and common areas where smoking is permitted, public walkways and parking areas where smoking is permitted. The areas at the Facilities where employees are being exposed to diesel and gasoline exhaust fumes are the apartments and public walkways near to driveways and parking areas, and those driveways and parking areas.

The route of exposure for Occupational Exposures and Environmental Exposures to the chemicals listed below has been inhalation and dermal contact with (1) tobacco smoke and (2) diesel and gasoline exhaust fumes at the Facilities. In other words, via breathing and contact with the skin of (1) tobacco smoke and (2) diesel and gasoline exhaust fumes.

For each such type and means of exposure, the Violator has exposed and is exposing the above referenced persons to the chemicals listed on the document attached hereto entitled "LIST OF CARCINOGENS/TOXINS."

Proposition 65 requires that notice and intent to sue be given to the Violator sixty days before a suit is filed. With this letter, CDG gives notice of the alleged violations to the Violator and the appropriate governmental authorities. This notice covers all violations of Proposition 65 that are currently known to CDG from information now available to them. CDG reserves the right to amend this Notice to inform the Violator of other violations and/or exposures as it gathers further information. With the copy of this amended notice submitted to the Violator, a copy is provided of "The Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986 (Proposition 65): A Summary".

Dated: February 11, 2004

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## GSF PROPERTIES, INC.

<p><b>Country Club Vista Apartments</b></p> <p>3815 Columbus Street</p> <p>Bakersfield, CA 93306</p> <p>78 Apartment</p>	<p><b>Highland Oaks</b></p> <p>5112 Fairfax Road</p> <p>Bakersfield, CA 93306</p> <p>64 Apartments</p>
<p><b>Lacey Gardens</b></p> <p>1809 Lacey Avenue</p> <p>Bakersfield, CA 93304</p> <p>19 Apartments</p>	<p><b>Ming Gardens Apartments</b></p> <p>6301 Ming Avenue</p> <p>Bakersfield, CA 93309</p> <p>73 Apartments</p>
<p><b>Raintree Gardens Apartments</b></p> <p>5051 Ming Avenue</p> <p>Bakersfield, CA 93309</p> <p>68 Apartments</p>	<p><b>Sonora Apartments</b></p> <p>4401 Belle Terrace</p> <p>Bakersfield, CA 93309</p> <p>58 Apartments</p>
<p><b>Raintree Gardens Apartments</b></p> <p>5051 Ming Avenue</p> <p>Bakersfield, CA 93309</p> <p>68 Apartments</p>	<p><b>Sonora Apartments</b></p> <p>4401 Belle Terrace</p> <p>Bakersfield, CA 93309</p> <p>58 Apartments</p>
<p><b>The Brookside Senior Apartments</b></p> <p>2605 Brookside Drive</p> <p>Bakersfield, CA 93311</p> <p>120 Apartments</p>	<p><b>Westridge Gardens</b></p> <p>2004 Courtleigh</p> <p>Bakersfield, CA 93309</p> <p>48 Apartments</p>

## GSF PROPERTIES, INC.

<p><b>Westside Manor</b></p> <p>4753 Marsha</p> <p>Bakersfield, CA 93309</p> <p>28 Apartments</p>	<p><b>Alamos Garden Apartments</b></p> <p>2205 Peach Avenue</p> <p>Clovis, CA 93612</p> <p>59 Apartments</p>
<p><b>Westside Manor</b></p> <p>4753 Marsha</p> <p>Bakersfield, CA 93309</p> <p>28 Apartments</p>	<p><b>Alamos Garden Apartments</b></p> <p>2205 Peach Avenue</p> <p>Clovis, CA 93612</p> <p>59 Apartments</p>
<p><b>Park Creek Apartments</b></p> <p>1108 Villa Avenue</p> <p>Clovis, CA 93612</p> <p>240 Apartments</p>	<p><b>Villa Apartments</b></p> <p>505 Villa Avenue</p> <p>Clovis, CA 93612</p> <p>148 Apartments</p>
<p><b>Villa Sierra Apartments</b></p> <p>139 Santa Ana Avenue</p> <p>Clovis, CA 93612</p> <p>94 Apartments</p>	<p><b>Woodside Village Apartments</b></p> <p>1050 Minnewawa Avenue</p> <p>Clovis, CA 93612</p> <p>92 Apartments</p>
<p><b>Villa Sierra Apartments</b></p> <p>139 Santa Ana Avenue</p> <p>Clovis, CA 93612</p> <p>94 Apartments</p>	<p><b>Woodside Village Apartments</b></p> <p>1050 Minnewawa Avenue</p> <p>Clovis, CA 93612</p> <p>92 Apartments</p>

## GSF PROPERTIES, INC.

<p><b>Apple Tree</b></p> <p>455 East Cal</p> <p>Fresno, CA 93710</p> <p>7 Apartments</p>	<p><b>Aspen Meadows</b></p> <p>4654 North Chestnut</p> <p>Fresno, CA 93726</p> <p>26 Apartments</p>
<p><b>Blackstone Acres</b></p> <p>1950 East Sussex Way</p> <p>Fresno, CA 93726</p> <p>232 Apartments</p>	<p><b>Canberra Court</b></p> <p>485 East Bullard Avenue</p> <p>Fresno, CA 93710</p> <p>60 Apartments</p>
<p><b>Blackstone Acres</b></p> <p>1950 East Sussex Way</p> <p>Fresno, CA 93726</p> <p>232 Apartments</p>	<p><b>Canberra Court</b></p> <p>485 East Bullard Avenue</p> <p>Fresno, CA 93710</p> <p>60 Apartments</p>
<p><b>Casa Leon</b></p> <p>7178 North Jackson</p> <p>Fresno, CA 93720</p> <p>24 Apartments</p>	<p><b>Cedar Springs Apartments</b></p> <p>4835 North Cedar</p> <p>Fresno, CA 93726</p> <p>93 Apartments</p>
<p><b>Chapparal Apartments</b></p> <p>4282 East Dayton Avenue</p> <p>Fresno, CA 93726</p> <p>26 Apartments</p>	<p><b>Country Club Estates</b></p> <p>3152 West Fir Avenue</p> <p>Fresno, CA 93711</p> <p>68 Apartments</p>
<p>4282 East Dayton Avenue</p>	

Fresno, CA 93726

26 Apartments

## GSF PROPERTIES, INC.

<p>Fresno, CA 93726</p> <p>26 Apartments</p>	<p>3152 West Fir Avenue</p> <p>Fresno, CA 93711</p> <p>68 Apartments</p>
<p><b>Dakota Garden Apartments</b></p> <p>3330 East Dakota Avenue</p> <p>Fresno, CA 93726</p> <p>43 Apartments</p>	<p><b>Dayton Square Apartments</b></p> <p>3042 East Dayton Avenue Apartment # D</p> <p>Fresno, CA 93726</p> <p>66 Apartments</p>
<p><b>Fashion Square Apartments</b></p> <p>4650 North 1st Street</p> <p>Fresno, CA 93726</p> <p>90 Apartments</p>	<p><b>Fig Garden Terrace</b></p> <p>7166 North Fruit Avenue</p> <p>Fresno, CA 93711</p> <p>120 Apartments</p>
<p><b>Fashion Square Apartments</b></p> <p>4650 North 1st Street</p> <p>Fresno, CA 93726</p> <p>90 Apartments</p>	<p><b>Fig Garden Terrace</b></p> <p>7166 North Fruit Avenue</p> <p>Fresno, CA 93711</p> <p>120 Apartments</p>
<p><b>Greenery Apartments</b></p> <p>5770 East Kings Canyon Road</p> <p>Fresno, CA 93727</p> <p>112 Apartments</p>	<p><b>Kings Court Apartments</b></p> <p>5387 East Kings Canyon Road #101</p> <p>Fresno, CA 93727</p> <p>33 Apartments</p>
<p><b>La Casa Feliz</b></p>	<p><b>Las Villas</b></p>

## GSF PROPERTIES, INC.

5360 North 1st Street Fresno, CA 93710 48 Apartments	4545 East Shields Fresno, CA 93726 57 Apartments
<b>Monterey Pines Apartments</b> 445 West Bullard Avenue Fresno, CA 93704 103 Apartments	<b>Palm Mission Village And Estates</b> 6549 North Palm Avenue Fresno, CA 93704 116 Apartments
<b>Parkwood Apartments</b> 4918 North 9th Street Fresno, CA 93726 303 Apartments	<b>Riverside Garden Apartments</b> 482 South Clovis Avenue Fresno, CA 93727 73 Apartments
<b>Parkwood Apartments</b> 4918 North 9th Street Fresno, CA 93726 303 Apartments	<b>Riverside Garden Apartments</b> 482 South Clovis Avenue Fresno, CA 93727 73 Apartments
<b>Summer Place Apartments</b> 445 West Nees Avenue Fresno, CA 93711 240 Apartments	<b>Summit</b> 6088 North Fresno Street Fresno, CA 93710 12 Apartments
<b>Ten Eleven Apartments</b> 1011 East Ashlan	<b>Vintage Court Apartments</b> 3051 North Sierra Vista Avenue

## GSF PROPERTIES, INC.

<p>Fresno, CA 93704</p> <p>18 Apartments</p>	<p>Fresno, CA 93703</p> <p>55 Apartments</p>
<p><b>Westwood Apartments</b></p> <p>4834 East Gettysburg Avenue</p> <p>Fresno, CA 93726</p> <p>90 Apartments</p>	<p><b>Willow Park Apartments</b></p> <p>190 North Willow Avenue</p> <p>Fresno, CA 93727</p> <p>110 Apartments</p>
<p><b>Regency Court</b></p> <p>472 Regency Circle</p> <p>Salinas, CA 93906</p> <p>120 Apartments</p>	<p><b>Sunrise Meadows</b></p> <p>888 Bethel Avenue #101</p> <p>Sanger, CA 93657</p> <p>83 Apartments</p>
<p><b>Regency Court</b></p> <p>472 Regency Circle</p> <p>Salinas, CA 93906</p> <p>120 Apartments</p>	<p><b>Sunrise Meadows</b></p> <p>888 Bethel Avenue #101</p> <p>Sanger, CA 93657</p> <p>83 Apartments</p>
<p><b>Chesapeake Bay Apartments</b></p> <p>2941 West Lowell Avenue</p> <p>Tracy, CA 95376</p> <p>216 Apartments</p>	

## LIST OF CARCINOGENS AND REPRODUCTIVE TOXINS

<b>CARCINOGENS IN TOBACCO SMOKE:</b>	
Acetaldehyde	Acetamide
Acrylonitrile	4-Aminobiphenyl
(4-Aminodiphenyl)	Aniline
Ortho-Anisidine	Arsenic (inorganic arsenic compounds)
Benz[a]anthracene	Benzene
Benzo[b]fluoranthene	Benzo[j]fluoranthene
Benzo[k]fluoranthene	Cadmium
Captan	Chromium (hexavalent compounds)
Chrysene	Dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane (DDT)
Bibenz[a,h]anthracene	7H-Dibenzo[c,g]carbazole
Dibenzo[a,e]pyrene	Dibenzo[a,h]pyrene
Dibenzo[a,i]pyrene	Dibenzo[a,l]pyrene
1,1-Dimethylhydrazine (UDMH)	Formaldehyde (gas)
Hydrazine	Lead and lead compounds
1-Naphthylamine	2-Naphthylamine
Nickel and certain nickel compounds	2-Nitropropane
N-Nitrosodi-n-butylamine	N-Nitrosodiethanolamine
N-Nitrosodiethylamine	N-Nitrosomethylethylamine
N-Nitrosomorpholine	N-Nitrosornicotine
N-Nitrosopiperidine	N-Nitrosopyrrolidine
Ortho-Toluidine	Tobacco Smoke
Urethane (Ethyl carbamate)	
<b>CARCINOGENS IN DIESEL AND GASOLINE EXHAUST FUMES:</b>	
Benzene	Unleaded Gasoline (wholly vaporized)
<b>REPRODUCTIVE TOXINS IN TOBACCO SMOKE:</b>	
Arsenic (inorganic Oxides)	Cadmium
Carbon disulfide	Carbon monoxide
Lead	Nicotine
Toluene	Tobacco Smoke
Urethane	
<b>REPRODUCTIVE TOXINS IN DIESEL AND GASOLINE FUMES:</b>	
Benzene	Unleaded Gasoline (wholly vaporized)

## **CERTIFICATE OF MERIT**

I, Anthony G. Graham, declare as follows:

1. I am a member of the State Bar of California, a partner of the law firm of Graham & Martin LLP, and one of the attorneys principally responsible for representing The Consumer Defense Group Action, the “Noticing Party” as to the “60 Day Notice of Intent to Sue” (hereinafter, “the Notice”) served concurrently herewith. I have personal knowledge of the facts set forth herein and, if called upon, could and would testify competently thereto.

2. I have consulted with appropriate and qualified scientific experts and, having reviewed relevant scientific data and results of relevant test reports, as well as having reviewed the facts as set forth below and the documentary evidence of those facts regarding the exposures to the chemicals as set forth in the Notice, I have a good faith basis for believing that the exposures set forth in the Notice are likely to be above the minimum significant risk level for the chemicals at issue. I have provided the information, documents, data, reports and/or opinions I have relied upon to the Attorney General’s office as required by the regulations promulgated under Proposition 65.

3. 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 the information did not prove that the alleged violator will be able to establish any of the affirmative defenses set forth in the statute.

4. The information referred to in paragraph 3 is as follows; by physical investigation

of the location referenced in the Notice and by investigation of relevant information, documents, data, and reports Consumer Defense Group Action discovered that:

- (1) the Violator is responsible for, and thus “operates”, the specific subject property or properties for purposes of Health and Safety Code section 25249.5 and 25249.6;
- (2) the Violator has more than nine employees;
- (3) the Violator permits and has permitted the “release” of the chemicals set forth in the Notice and such “releases” threaten to pass in sources of drinking water;
- (4) exposures to the chemicals set forth in the Notice have occurred and continue to occur both to offsite and onsite persons;
- (5) the Violator has not put in place a clear and reasonable warning as required under Health & Safety Code section 25249.6, or any other sign purporting to comply with the requirements of that section.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed at Irvine, California on February 11, 2004.

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I am over the age of 18 and not a party to this case. I am a resident of or employed in the county where the mailing occurred. My business address is 3 Park Plaza, Suite 2030, Irvine, California 92614.

I SERVED THE FOLLOWING:

- 1.) 60-Day Notice of Intent to Sue under Health & Safety Code Section 24249.6;
- 2.) The Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986 (Proposition 65): A Summary (*only sent to violators*); and
- 3.) Certificate of Merit and supporting documents (*only sent to Office of Attorney General*)

by enclosing a true copy of the same in a sealed envelope addressed to each person whose name and address is shown below and depositing the envelope in the United States mail with the postage fully prepaid:

Date of Mailing: February 11, 2003  
Place of Mailing: Irvine, California

NAME AND ADDRESS OF EACH PERSON TO WHOM DOCUMENTS WERE MAILED:

GSF Properties Inc. Golden State Financial Corporation c/o GSF Properties Inc. 1314 E. Shaw Ave. Fresno, CA 93710 Attention: Levon Baladjanian	California Attorney General (Proposition 65 Enforcement Division) P.O. Box 944255 Sacramento, CA 94244-2550
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Kern County DA  
2100 College Avenue  
Bakersfield, CA 93305

Fresno County DA  
2220 Tulare Street, #1000  
Fresno, CA 93721

MONTEREY COUNTY  
240 Church Street, #101  
Salinas, CA 93901

San Joaquin DA  
225 W. Elm Street #C  
Lodi, CA 95240

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct.

Dated: February 11, 2003

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