

## NOTICE OF VIOLATION

### California Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act

Lead in Licorice

September 4, 2013

This Notice of Violation is provided to you pursuant to and in compliance with California Health and Safety Code Section 25249.7(d).

- For general information regarding the California Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act, see the attached summary provided by the California EPA (copies not provided to public enforcement agencies).
- This Notice of Violation is provided by the Center for Environmental Health ("CEH"), 2201 Broadway, Suite 302, Oakland, CA 94612, (510) 655-3900. CEH is a nonprofit corporation dedicated to protecting the environment, improving human health and supporting environmentally sound practices. Charlie Pizarro is the Associate Director of and a responsible individual within CEH.

#### **Description of Violation:**

- Violators: The names and addresses of the violators are listed on the attached Exhibit 1.
- Time Period of Exposure: The violations have been occurring since at least September 4, 2010, and are continuing to this day.
- Provision of Proposition 65: This Notice of Violation covers the "warning provision" of Proposition 65, which is found at California Health and Safety Code Section 25249.6.
- Chemical(s) Involved: The names of the listed chemicals involved in these violations are lead and lead compounds ("Lead"). Exposures to Lead occur from consumption of the products identified in this Notice.
- Type of Product: The specific type of product causing this violation is licorice flavored candy. Non-exclusive examples of this specific type of product are listed on the attached Exhibit 1.
- Description of Exposure: This Notice addresses consumer exposures to Lead. Consumption of the products identified in this Notice results in human exposures to Lead. The products contain Lead. The primary route of exposure for the violations is direct ingestion when consumers eat the licorice. These exposures occur in homes, workplaces and everywhere else throughout California where the products are consumed. No clear and reasonable warning is provided with these products regarding the carcinogenic or reproductive hazards of Lead.

## **Resolution of Noticed Claims:**

Based on the allegations set forth in this Notice, CEH intends to file a citizen enforcement lawsuit against each of the alleged violators unless such violators agree in a binding written instrument to: (1) recall products already sold; (2) provide clear and reasonable warnings for products sold in the future or reformulate such products to eliminate the Lead exposures; and (3) pay an appropriate civil penalty based on the factors enumerated in California Health and Safety Code Section 25249.7(b). If any of the alleged violators is interested in resolving this dispute without resort to expensive and time-consuming litigation, please feel free to contact CEH through its counsel identified below. It should be noted that CEH cannot: (1) finalize any settlement until after the 60-day notice period has expired; nor (2) speak for the Attorney General or any District or City Attorney who received CEH's 60-day Notice. Therefore, while reaching an agreement with CEH will resolve its claims, such agreement may not satisfy the public prosecutors.

Please direct any inquiries regarding this Notice to CEH through its counsel Eric S. Somers (esomers at lexlawgroup.com) at Lexington Law Group, 503 Divisadero Street, San Francisco, CA 94117, (415) 913-7800.

**EXHIBIT 1**  
**September 4, 2013 Notice of Violation**  
**Lead in Licorice**

<b>Responsible Parties</b>	<b>Non-Exclusive Examples of the Products</b>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>J. Sosnick &amp; Son</b> 258 Littlefield Avenue South San Francisco, CA 94080</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Sugar Shack Bulk Black Licorice</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Kookaburra Licorice Company</b> 14497 Fryelands Boulevard Monroe, WA 98272</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Kookaburra Liquorice Allsorts SKU No. 8-34304-00317-3</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Sweet Candy, LLC</b> 929 West Barkley Avenue Orange, CA 92868</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Bulk Black Licorice Laces</p>

**CERTIFICATE OF MERIT**  
**Health & Safety Code § 25249.7(d)**

I, Eric S. Somers, hereby declare:

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

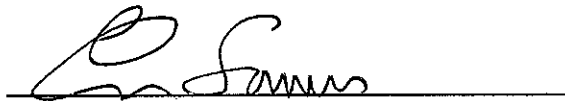
2. I am an attorney with the Lexington Law Group, and I represent the noticing party, the Center for Environmental Health.

3. Members of my firm and 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 exposures to the listed chemical that is the subject of the action.

4. Based on the information obtained through those consultations, and on 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 plaintiff's case can be established and the information did not prove that the alleged violators will be able to establish any of the affirmative defenses set forth in the statute.

5. The copy of the 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 & 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.

September 4, 2013



Eric S. Somers  
Attorney for CENTER FOR  
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

## PROOF OF SERVICE BY MAIL AND ELECTRONIC MAIL

I declare that:

I am employed in San Francisco County, California; my business address is 503 Divisadero Street, San Francisco, California 94117. I am over the age of 18 years and not a party to the within cause and my electronic notification address is [cfisher@lexlawgroup.com](mailto:cfisher@lexlawgroup.com).

On September 4, 2013, I served true copies of the following documents:

**NOTICE OF VIOLATION OF CALIFORNIA SAFE DRINKING WATER AND TOXIC ENFORCEMENT ACT;**

**CERTIFICATE OF MERIT; and**

**THE SAFE DRINKING WATER AND TOXIC ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 1986 (PROPOSITION 65): A SUMMARY** (only sent to those on service list marked with an asterisk).

On this date, I deposited fully prepaid and sealed envelopes containing the above-mentioned documents with the United States Postal Service, addressed to the following individuals:

***Please see attached service list.***

Also on this date, I transmitted via electronic mail the documents listed above to the electronic mail addresses set forth below at 11:42 A.m. on September 4, 2013:

Lon Wixson, Deputy District Attorney  
Contra Costa County  
900 Ward Street  
Martinez, CA 94553  
[lwixson@contracostada.org](mailto:lwixson@contracostada.org)

Dije Ndreu, Deputy District Attorney  
Monterey County  
230 Church Street, Bldg. 2  
Salinas, CA 93901  
[Prop65DA@co.monterey.ca.us](mailto:Prop65DA@co.monterey.ca.us)

Karyn Sinunu-Towery,  
Assistant District Attorney  
Santa Clara County  
70 West Hedding Street, West Wing  
San Jose, CA 95110  
[epu@da.sccgov.org](mailto:epu@da.sccgov.org)

Gary Lieberstein, District Attorney  
Napa County  
931 Parkway Mall  
Napa, CA 94559  
[CEPD@countyofnapa.org](mailto:CEPD@countyofnapa.org)

Stephan R. Passalacqua, District Attorney  
Sonoma County  
600 Administration Drive, Rm. 212J  
Santa Rosa, CA 95403  
[jbarnes@sonoma-county.org](mailto:jbarnes@sonoma-county.org)

Phillip J. Cline, District Attorney  
Tulare County  
221 S. Mooney Avenue, Rm. 224  
Visalia, CA 93291  
[Prop65@co.tulare.ca.us](mailto:Prop65@co.tulare.ca.us)

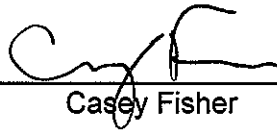
Paul E. Zellerbach, District Attorney  
Riverside County  
4075 Main Street  
Riverside, CA 92501  
[Prop65@rivcoda.org](mailto:Prop65@rivcoda.org)

Gregory D. Totten, District Attorney Ventura  
County  
800 South Victoria Avenue  
Ventura, CA 93009  
[daspecialops@ventura.org](mailto:daspecialops@ventura.org)

The transmission was reported as complete and without error.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct, and that this declaration was executed on September 4, 2013, at San Francisco, California.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Casey Fisher', written over a horizontal line.

Casey Fisher

## SERVICE LIST

District Attorney of Alameda County 1225 Fallon Street, Rm. 900 Oakland, CA 94612	1215 Truxtun Avenue Bakersfield, CA 93301	Santa Ana, CA 92701
District Attorney of Alpine County P.O. Box 248 Markleeville, CA 96120	District Attorney of Kings County 1400 West Lacey Blvd. Hanford, CA 93230	District Attorney of Placer County 10810 Justice Center Drive, Ste. 240 Roseville, CA 95678
District Attorney of Amador County 708 Court Street, Ste. 202 Jackson, CA 95642	District Attorney of Lake County 255 N. Forbes Street Lakeport, CA 95453	District Attorney of Plumas County 520 Main Street, Rm. 404 Quincy, CA 95971
District Attorney of Butte County Administration Building 25 County Center Drive Oroville, CA 95965	District Attorney of Lassen County 220 S. Lassen Street, Ste. 8 Susanville, CA 96130	District Attorney of Sacramento County 901 "G" Street Sacramento, CA 95814
District Attorney of Calaveras County 891 Mountain Ranch Road San Andreas, CA 95249	District Attorney of Los Angeles County 210 W. Temple Street, Ste. 1800 Los Angeles, CA 90012-3210	District Attorney of San Benito County 419 Fourth Street, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Fl. Hollister, CA 95023
District Attorney of Colusa County 547 Market Street, Ste. 102 Colusa, CA 95932	District Attorney of Madera County 209 West Yosemite Avenue Madera, CA 93637	District Attorney of San Bernardino County 316 N. Mountain View Avenue San Bernardino, CA 92415
District Attorney of Del Norte County 450 H Street, Ste. 171 Crescent City, CA 95531	District Attorney of Marin County 3501 Civic Center Drive, Rm. 130 San Rafael, CA 94903	District Attorney of San Diego County 330 West Broadway, Ste. 1300 San Diego, CA 92101
District Attorney of El Dorado County 515 Main Street Placerville, CA 95667	District Attorney of Mariposa County P.O. Box 730 Mariposa, CA 95338	District Attorney of San Francisco County 850 Bryant Street, Rm. 325 San Francisco, CA 94103
District Attorney of Fresno County 2220 Tulare Street, Ste. 1000 Fresno, CA 93721	District Attorney of Mendocino County P.O. Box 1000 Ukiah, CA 95482	District Attorney of San Joaquin County P.O. Box 990 Stockton, CA 95202
District Attorney of Glenn County P.O. Box 430 Willows, CA 95988	District Attorney of Merced County 2222 "M" Street Merced, CA 95340	District Attorney of San Luis Obispo County 1050 Monterey Street, Rm. 450 San Luis Obispo, CA 93408
District Attorney of Humboldt County 825 5th Street Eureka, CA 95501	District Attorney of Modoc County 204 S. Court Street, Rm. 202 Alturas, CA 96101-4020	District Attorney of San Mateo County 400 County Center, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Fl. Redwood City, CA 94063
District Attorney of Imperial County 939 Main Street, Ste. 102 El Centro, CA 92243	District Attorney of Mono County P.O. Box 617 Bridgeport, CA 93546	
District Attorney of Inyo County P.O. Drawer D Independence, CA 93526	District Attorney of Nevada County 110 Union Street Nevada City, CA 95959	
District Attorney of Kern County	District Attorney of Orange County 401 Civic Center Drive West	

District Attorney of Santa Cruz  
County  
701 Ocean Street, Rm. 200  
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Los Angeles City Attorney's Office  
City Hall East  
200 N. Main Street, Rm. 800  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

District Attorney of Santa Barbara  
County  
Attn: Jerry Lule-Jian  
312-D E. Cook Street  
Santa Maria, CA 93454

San Diego City Attorney's Office  
1200 Third Avenue, Ste. 1620  
San Diego, CA 92101

District Attorney of Shasta County  
1355 West Street  
Redding, CA 96001

San Francisco City Attorney's  
Office  
City Hall, Room 234  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place  
San Francisco, CA 94102

District Attorney of Sierra County  
Courthouse  
100 Courthouse Sq., 2<sup>nd</sup> Fl.  
Downieville, CA 95936

San Jose City Attorney's Office  
200 East Santa Clara Street  
San Jose, CA 95113

District Attorney of Siskiyou County  
P.O. Box 986  
Yreka, CA 96097

California Attorney General's Office  
Attention: Proposition 65  
Coordinator and Robert Thomas  
1515 Clay Street, Ste. 2000  
P.O. Box 70550  
Oakland, CA 94612-0550

District Attorney of Solano County  
675 Texas Street, Ste. 4500  
Fairfield, CA 94533

Jeffery Sosnick, President\*  
J. Sosnick & Son  
258 Littlefield Avenue  
South San Francisco, CA 94080

District Attorney of Stanislaus County  
832 12th Street, Ste. 300  
Modesto, CA 95354

Bradley Cook, President\*  
Kookaburra Licorice Company  
14497 Fryelands Boulevard  
Monroe, WA 98272

District Attorney of Tehama County  
P.O. Box 519  
Red Bluff, CA 96080

Bradley Cook, President\*  
Kookaburra Licorice Company  
220 Little Forest Road  
Milton 2538  
Australia, FO 00001

District Attorney of Trinity County  
P.O. Box 310  
11 Court Street  
Weaverville, CA 96093

David Kim, CEO\*  
Sweet Candy, LLC  
929 West Barkley Avenue  
Orange, CA 92868

District Attorney of Tuolumne County  
423 N. Washington Street  
Sonora, CA 95370

District Attorney of Yolo County  
301 Second Street  
Woodland, CA 95695

District Attorney of Yuba County  
215 Fifth Street  
Marysville, CA 95901