

## NOTICE OF VIOLATION

### California Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act

#### Lead in Crystallized Ginger Snack Food

February 3, 2014

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 identified on the attached Exhibit 1.
- Time Period of Exposure: The violations have been occurring since at least February 3, 2011, 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 crystallized ginger snack food. Non-exclusive examples of this specific type of product are listed on the attached Exhibit 1. CEH has previously issued Notices of Violation that identify additional non-exclusive examples of ginger snack foods that contain lead. These Notices may be found on the California Attorney General's website at <http://proposition65.doj.ca.gov/default.asp>.
- 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 ginger snack food. 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 alleged violator unless such violator agrees 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 alleged violator 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's counsel Eric S. Somers at Lexington Law Group, 503 Divisadero Street, San Francisco, CA 94117, (415) 913-7800, esomers at [lexlawgroup.com](http://lexlawgroup.com).

**EXHIBIT 1**  
**February 3, 2014 Notice of Violation**  
**Lead in Crystallized Ginger Snack Food**

<b>Responsible Parties</b>	<b>Non-Exclusive Examples of the Products</b>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Bristol Farms</b> 915 E. 230<sup>th</sup> Street Carson, CA 90745</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Melissa's Crystallized Ginger SKU No. 0-45255-11227-6</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Fresh &amp; Easy Neighborhood Market Inc.</b> 2120 Park Place El Segundo, CA 90245</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>The Yucaipa Companies, LLC</b> 9130 W. Sunset Blvd. Los Angeles, CA 90069</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Fresh &amp; Easy Dried Spicy &amp; Sweetened Ginger SKU No. 5-051379-055721</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>World Variety Produce, Inc.</b> 5325 S. Soto Street Vernon, CA 90058</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Melissa's Crystallized Ginger SKU No. 0-45255-11227-6</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.

February 3, 2014

  
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 [jbanister@lexlawgroup.com](mailto:jbanister@lexlawgroup.com).

On February 3, 2014, 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 4:05 p.m. on February 3, 2014:

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 February 3, 2014, at San Francisco, California.

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

  
John Banister

## SERVICE LIST

District Attorney of Alameda County  
1225 Fallon Street, Rm. 900  
Oakland, CA 94612

District Attorney of Alpine County  
P.O. Box 248  
Markleeville, CA 96120

District Attorney of Amador County  
708 Court Street, Ste. 202  
Jackson, CA 95642

District Attorney of Butte County  
Administration Building  
25 County Center Drive  
Oroville, CA 95965

District Attorney of Calaveras  
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891 Mountain Ranch Road  
San Andreas, CA 95249

District Attorney of Colusa County  
547 Market Street, Ste. 102  
Colusa, CA 95932

District Attorney of Del Norte County  
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Crescent City, CA 95531

District Attorney of El Dorado  
County  
515 Main Street  
Placerville, CA 95667

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2220 Tulare Street, Ste. 1000  
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Willows, CA 95988

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825 5th Street  
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District Attorney of Imperial County  
939 Main Street, Ste. 102  
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255 N. Forbes Street  
Lakeport, CA 95453

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220 S. Lassen Street, Ste. 8  
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2222 "M" Street  
Merced, CA 95340

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204 S. Court Street, Rm. 202  
Alturas, CA 96101-4020

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P.O. Box 617  
Bridgeport, CA 93546

District Attorney of Nevada County  
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Nevada City, CA 95959

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10810 Justice Center Drive, Ste.  
240  
Roseville, CA 95678

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County  
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Quincy, CA 95971

District Attorney of Sacramento  
County  
901 "G" Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

District Attorney of San Benito  
County  
419 Fourth Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Fl.  
Hollister, CA 95023

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San Bernardino, CA 92415

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Los Angeles, CA 90012

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Attn: Jerry Lule-Jian  
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District Attorney of Shasta County  
1355 West Street  
Redding, CA 96001

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

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

San Jose City Attorney's Office  
200 East Santa Clara Street  
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Contra Costa County  
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District Attorney of Solano County  
675 Texas Street, Ste. 4500  
Fairfield, CA 94533

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 Stanislaus County  
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