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October 17, 2017

**Via Certified Mail**

Blue Diamond Growers  
Attn: Dean Lavallee  
1802 C Street  
Sacramento, CA 95811

The Kroger Company, dba Ralph's  
Attn: CSC – Lawyers Incorporating Service  
2710 Gateway Oaks Drive, Ste 150 N  
Sacramento, CA 95833

**Re: Proposition 65 Notice of Violation**

To Whom It May Concern:

We represent Kim Embry, a citizen of the State of California acting in the interest of the general public. This letter serves as notice that the parties listed above are in violation of Proposition 65, the Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act, commencing with section 25249.5 of the Health and Safety Code ("Proposition 65"). In particular, the violations alleged by this notice consist of types of harm that may potentially result from exposures to the toxic chemical Acrylamide. This chemical was listed as known to cause cancer on January 1, 1990, and listed as known to cause developmental/reproductive toxicity in February of 2011.

The specific type of product that is causing exposures in violation of Proposition 65 is detailed below:

	<b><u>Product Name</u></b>	<b><u>Retailer</u></b>	<b><u>Manufacturer / Distributor</u></b>	<b><u>Item Number / UPC</u></b>
1.	Blue Diamond Almonds- roasted salted	Ralph's	Blue Diamond Growers	UPC 041570029701

The route of exposure to the chemical(s) in violation includes ingestion by consumers. These exposures occur through the reasonably foreseeable use of the products. The sales of this product have been occurring since at least September of 2017, is continuing to this day and will continue to occur as long as the product subject to this notice is sold to and used by consumers.

Proposition 65 requires that a clear and reasonable warning is provided with these products regarding the exposures to Acrylamide caused by ordinary use of the product. The

Parties are in violation of Proposition 65 by failing to provide such warning to consumers and as a result of the sales of these products, exposures to Acrylamide have been occurring without proper warnings.

Pursuant to Proposition 65, notice and intent to sue shall be provided to violators 60 days before filing a complaint. This letter provides notice of the alleged violation to the parties listed above and the appropriate governmental authorities. A summary of Proposition 65 is attached.

If you have any questions or wish to discuss any of the above, please contact me.

Sincerely,



Noam Glick

Enclosures

## Appendix A

### OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH HAZARD ASSESSMENT CALIFORNIA PROTECTION AGENCY THE SAFE DRINKING WATER AND TOXIC ENFORCEMENT ACTION 1986 (PROPOSITION 65): A SUMMARY

The following summary has been prepared by the office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, the lead and Toxic Enforcement Act 1986 (commonly known as "Proposition 65"). A copy of this summary must be included as an attachment to any notice of violation served upon an alleged violator of the Act. The summary provides basic information about the provisions of the law, and is intended to serve only as a convenient source of general information. It is not intended to provide law. The reader is directed to the statute and its implementing regulations (See citations below) for further information.

Proposition 65 appears in California law as Health and Safety Code Sections 25249.5 through 25249.13. Regulations that provide more specific guidance on compliance, and that specify procedures to be followed by the State in carrying out certain aspects of the law, are found in Title 27 of the California Code Regulations, Sections 250000 through 27000.

#### **WHAT DOES PROPOSITION 65 REQUIRE?**

*The "Governor's List."* Proposition 65 requires the Governor to publish a list of chemicals that are known to the State of California to cause cancer, or birth defects or other reproductive harm. This list must be updated at least once a year. Over 725 chemicals have been listed as of November 16, 2001. Only those chemicals that are on the list are regulated under this law. Businesses that produce, use, release, or otherwise engage in activities involving those chemicals must comply with the

following:

***Clear and Reasonable Warnings.*** A business is required to warn a person before "knowingly and intentionally" exposing that person to a listed chemical. The warning given must be "clear and reasonable." This means that the warning must: (1) clearly make known that the chemical involved is known to cause cancer or birth defects or other reproductive harm; and (2) be given in such a way that it will effectively reach the person before he or she is exposed. Exposures are exempt from the warning requirement if they occur less than twelve months after the date of the listing of the chemical.

***Prohibition from discharges into drinking water.*** A business must not knowingly discharge or release a listed chemical into water or onto land where it passes or probably will pass into a source of drinking water. Discharges are exempt from this requirement if they occur less than twenty months after the date of the listing of chemical.

#### **DOES PROPOSITION 65 PROVIDE ANY EXEMPTIONS?**

Yes. The law exempts:

***Governmental agencies and public water utilities.*** All agencies of the federal, State or local government, as well as entities operating public water systems, are exempt.

***Exposures that pose no significant risk of cancer.*** For chemicals that are listed as known to the State to cause cancer (“carcinogens”), a warning is not required if the business can demonstrate that the exposure occurs at a level that poses “no significant risk.” This means that the exposure is calculated to result in not more than one excess case of cancer in 100,000 individuals exposed over a 70- year lifetime. The Proposition 65 regulations identify specific “ no significant risk” levels for more than 250 listed carcinogens.

***Exposures that will produce no observable reproductive effect at 1,000 times the level in question.*** For chemicals known to the State to cause birth defects or other reproductive harm (“reproductive toxicants”), a warning is not required if the business can demonstrate that the exposure will produce no observable effect, even at 1,000 times the level in question. In other words, the level of exposure must be below the “no observable effect level (NOEL), “ divided by a 1,000- fold safety or uncertainty factor. The “no observable effect level” is the highest dose level which has not been associated with an observable adverse reproductive or developmental effect.

***Discharge that do not result in a “significant amount” of the listed chemical entering into any source of drinking water.*** The prohibition from discharges into drinking water does not apply if the discharger is able to demonstrate that a “significant amount” of the list chemical has not, does not, or will not enter any drinking water source, and that the discharge complies with all other applicable laws, regulations, permits, requirements, or orders. A “significant amount” means any detectable amount; expect an amount that would meet the “ no significant risk” or “no observable effect” test if an individual were exposed to

such an amount in drinking water.

### **HOW IS PROPOSITION 65 ENFORCED?**

Enforcement is carried out through civil lawsuits. These lawsuits may be brought by the Attorney General, any district attorney, or certain city attorneys (those in cities with a population exceeding 750,000). Lawsuit may also be brought by private parties acting in the public interest, but only after providing notice of the alleged violation to the Attorney General, the appropriate district attorney and city attorney, and the business accused of the violation. The notice must provide adequate information to allow the recipient to assess the nature of the alleged violation. A notice must comply with the information and procedural requirements specified in regulations (Title 27. California Code of Regulations, Section 25903). A private party may not pursue an enforcement action directly under Proposition 65 if one of the governmental officials noted above initiates an action within sixty days of notice.

A business found to be in violation of Proposition 65 is subject to civil penalties of up to \$2,500 per day for each violation. In addition, the business may be ordered by a court of law to stop committing the violation.

### **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION....**

Contact the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment’s Proposition 65 Implementation Office at (916)445-6900

## **CERTIFICATE OF MERIT**

I, Noam Glick, hereby declare:

1. This Certificate of Merit accompanies the attached sixty-day notice in which it is alleged the parties identified in the notice have violated Health and Safety Code section 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 alleged exposure to the listed chemical that is 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 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 section 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: October 18, 2017



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Noam Glick, Attorney at Law

## **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I, Audra Paik, declare that I am over the age of 18 years, and am not a party to the within action. I am employed in the County of San Diego, California, where the mailing occurs; and my business address is 225 Broadway, 19<sup>th</sup> Floor, San Diego, California 92101.

On October 18, 2017, I served the following documents: **(1) 60-DAY NOTICE OF VIOLATION SENT IN COMPLIANCE WITH HEALTH & SAFETY CODE SECTION 25249.7(d); (2) CERTIFICATE OF MERIT; (3) PROPOSITION 65: A SUMMARY; and (4) CERTIFICATE OF MERIT ATTACHMENT (served only on the Attorney General)**

on the parties listed below by placing a true and correct copy thereof in a sealed envelope, addressed to each party and depositing it at my business address with the U.S. Postal Service for delivery by Certified Mail with the postage thereon fully prepaid:

### **Via Certified Mail**

Blue Diamond Growers  
Attn: Dean Lavallee  
1802 C Street  
Sacramento, CA 95811

The Kroger Company, dba Ralph's  
Attn: CSC – Lawyers Incorporating Service  
2710 Gateway Oaks Drive, Ste 150 N  
Sacramento, CA 95833

On October 18, 2017, I served the California Attorney General (via website Portal) by uploading a true and correct copy thereof as a PDF file via the California Attorney General's website.

On October 18, 2017 I transmitted via electronic mail the above-listed documents to the electronic mail addresses of the City and/or District Attorneys who have specifically authorized e-mail service and the authorization appears on the Attorney General's web site.


### **See Attached Service List**

On October 18, 2017, I served the following persons and/or entities at the last known address by placing a true and correct copy thereof in a sealed envelope and depositing it at my business address with the U.S. Postal Service for delivery with the postage thereon fully prepaid, and addressed as follows:

### **See Attached Service List**

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

Executed on October 18, 2017, at San Diego, California.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Audra Paik

District Attorney  
ALAMEDA COUNTY  
1225 Fallon Street, Room 900  
Oakland, CA 94612

District Attorney  
ALPINE COUNTY  
PO Box 248  
Markleeville, CA 96120

District Attorney  
AMADOR COUNTY  
708 Court Street, #202  
Jackson, CA 95642

District Attorney  
BUTTE COUNTY  
25 County Center Drive —  
Administration Building  
Oroville, CA 95965

District Attorney  
CALAVERAS COUNTY  
891 Mountain Ranch Road  
San Andreas, CA 95249

District Attorney  
COLUSA COUNTY  
346 5th Street, Suite. 101  
Colusa, CA 95932

District Attorney  
CONTRA COSTA COUNTY  
900 Ward Street  
Martinez, CA 94553

District Attorney  
DEL NORTE COUNTY  
450 H Street, Room 171  
Crescent City, CA 95531

District Attorney  
EL DORADO COUNTY  
515 Main Street  
Placerville, CA 95667

District Attorney  
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2220 Tulare Street, Suite. 1000  
Fresno, CA 93721

District Attorney  
GLENN COUNTY  
PO Box 430  
Willows, CA 95988

District Attorney  
HUMBOLDT COUNTY  
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Eureka, CA 95501

District Attorney  
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El Centro, CA 92243

District Attorney  
INYO COUNTY  
168 North Edwards  
Independence, CA 93526

District Attorney  
KERN COUNTY  
1215 Truxtun Avenue  
Bakersfield, CA 93301

District Attorney  
KINGS COUNTY  
1400 West Lacey Blvd.  
Hanford, CA 93230

District Attorney  
LAKE COUNTY  
255 N. Forbes Street  
Lakeport, CA 95453

District Attorney  
LASSEN COUNTY  
220 S. Lassen Street, Suite. 8  
Susanville, CA 96130

District Attorney  
LOS ANGELES COUNTY  
210 W. Temple Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

District Attorney  
MADERA COUNTY  
209 West Yosemite Avenue  
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MARIN COUNTY  
3501 Civic Center Drive, Room 130  
San Rafael, CA 94903

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PO BOX 730  
Mariposa, CA 95338

District Attorney  
MENDOCINO COUNTY  
PO BOX 1000  
Ukiah, CA 95482

District Attorney  
MERCED COUNTY  
550 West Main Street  
Merced, CA 95340

District Attorney  
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204 S. Court Street, Room 202  
Alturas, CA 96101

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MONO COUNTY  
PO BOX 2053  
Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546

District Attorney  
MONTEREY COUNTY  
PO BOX 1131  
Salinas, CA 93902

District Attorney  
NAPA COUNTY  
PO BOX 720  
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District Attorney  
NEVADA COUNTY  
201 Commercial Street  
Nevada City, CA 95959

District Attorney  
ORANGE COUNTY  
401 Civic Center Drive West  
Santa Ana, CA 92701

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PLACER COUNTY  
10810 Justice Center Drive  
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PLUMAS COUNTY  
520 Main Street, Room 404  
Quincy, CA 95971

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SAN BENITO COUNTY  
419 4th Street  
Hollister, CA 95023

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San Diego, CA 92101

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District Attorney  
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PO BOX 519  
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District Attorney  
TRINITY COUNTY  
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Weaverville, CA 96093

District Attorney  
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Visalia, CA 93291

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District Attorney  
VENTURA COUNTY  
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## E-Mail Service List

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