## NOTICE OF VIOLATION

California Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act

Cadmium in Jewelry

November 8, 2017

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:**

• <u>Violator</u>: The name and address of the violator is:

## Bo B.K. Designs Corp.

22 West 32<sup>nd</sup> Street, 12<sup>th</sup> Floor New York, NY 10001

- <u>Time Period of Exposure</u>: The violations have been occurring since at least November 8, 2014, and are continuing to this day.
- <u>Provision of Proposition 65</u>: This Notice of Violation covers the "warning provision" of Proposition 65, which is found at California Health and Safety Code Section 25249.6.
- <u>Chemical(s) Involved</u>: The name of the listed chemical involved in these violations is cadmium. Exposures to cadmium occur from handling of the products identified in this Notice.
- <u>Type of Product</u>: The specific type of product causing these violations is jewelry. A non-exclusive example of this specific type of product is the Pomina Tortoiseshell & Gold Drop Earrings, UPC No. 7-36211-84144-5, Style No. TE608. Not only does the non-exclusive exemplar contain cadmium, but the product's price tag falsely states that the non-exclusive exemplar is "Proposition 65 Compliant."

Description of Exposure: Use of the products identified in this Notice results in human exposures to cadmium. The jewelry products are made of materials and components that contain cadmium. For example, the metallic components such as pendants attached to necklaces contain cadmium. The routes of exposure for the violations are ingestion via hand-to-mouth contact after consumers touch or handle the products; direct ingestion when consumers place the products in their mouths; and dermal absorption directly through the skin when consumers touch, handle, or wear the products. These exposures occur in homes, workplaces and everywhere else throughout California where these products are worn, handled or used. No clear and reasonable Proposition 65 warning is provided with these products regarding the presence of cadmium in the products. CEH has issued over twenty previous Notices of Violation regarding cadmium in jewelry and those notices, which may be found on the California Attorney General's web site at <a href="http://proposition65.doj.ca.gov/default.asp">http://proposition65.doj.ca.gov/default.asp</a>, are incorporated herein by reference

### **Resolution of Noticed Claims:**

Based on the allegations set forth in this Notice, CEH intends to file a citizen enforcement lawsuit against the 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 cadmium exposures; and (3) pay an appropriate civil penalty based on the factors enumerated in California Health and Safety Code Section 25249.7(b). If the 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.

## Preservation of Relevant Evidence:

This Notice also serves as a demand that the alleged violator preserve and maintain all relevant evidence, including all electronic documents and data, pending resolution of this matter. Such relevant evidence includes but is not limited to all documents relating to the presence or potential presence of cadmium in jewelry; purchase and sales information for such products; efforts to comply with Proposition 65 with respect to such products; communications with any person relating to the presence or potential presence of cadmium in such products; and representative exemplars of each unit of any such products sold by the alleged violator in the year preceding this Notice through the date of any trial of the claims alleged in this Notice.

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@lexlawgroup.com.

#### 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.

November 8, 2017

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 medgar@lexlawgroup.com.

On November 8, 2017, 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 abovementioned 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 3:37 P.m. on November 8, 2017:

Stacey Grassini, Deputy District Attorney Contra Costa County 900 Ward Street Martinez, CA 94553 sgrassini@contracostada.org

Michelle Latimer, Program Coordinator Lassen County 220 S. Lassen Street Susanville, CA 96130 mlatimer@co.lassen.ca.us

Yen Dang Supervising Deputy District Attorney Santa Clara County 70 West Hedding Street, West Wing San Jose, CA 95110 epu@da.sccgov.org Allison Haley, District Attorney Napa County 931 Parkway Mall Napa, CA 94559 <u>CEPD@countyofnapa.org</u>

Stephan R. Passalacqua, District Attorney Sonoma County 600 Administration Drive, Rm. 212J Santa Rosa, CA 95403 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 Paul E. Zellerbach, District Attorney Riverside County 4075 Main Street Riverside, CA 92501 <u>Prop65@rivcoda.org</u>

Jeff W. Reisig, District Attorney Yolo County 301 Second Street Woodland, CA 95695 <u>cfepd@yolocounty.org</u>

Dije Ndreu, Deputy District Attorney Monterey County 1200 Aguajito Road Montere, CA 93940 Prop65DA@co.monterey.ca.us

Tori Verber Salazar, District Attorney San Joaquin County 222 E. Weber Avenue, Room 202 Stockton, CA 95202 DAConsumer.Environmental@sjcda.org Gregory D. Totten, District Attorney Ventura County 800 South Victoria Avenue Ventura, CA 93009 daspecialops@ventura.org

Gregory Alker, Assistant District Attorney San Francisco County 732 Brannan Street San Francisco, CA 94103 gregory.alker@sfgov.org

Anne Marie Schubert, District Attorney Sacramento Country 901 G Street Sacramento, CA 95814 Prop65@sacda.org

Eric J. Dobroth, Deputy District Attorney San Luis Obispo County County Government Center Annex, 4th Floor San Luis Obispo, CA 93408 edobroth@co.slo.ca.us

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 November 8, 2017, at San Francisco, California

Signed Edgar

#### 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 County 891 Mountain Ranch Road San Andreas, CA 95249

District Attorney of Colusa County 346 Fifth Street, Suite 101 Colusa, CA 95932

District Attorney of Del Norte County 450 H Street, Ste. 171 Crescent City, CA 95531

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

District Attorney of Fresno County 2220 Tulare Street, Ste. 1000 Fresno, CA 93721

District Attorney of Glenn County P.O. Box 430 Willows, CA 95988

District Attorney of Humboldt County 825 5th Street Eureka, CA 95501

District Attorney of Imperial County 939 Main Street, Ste. 102 El Centro, CA 92243

District Attorney of Inyo County P.O. Drawer D Independence, CA 93526 District Attorney of Kern County 1215 Truxtun Avenue Bakersfield, CA 93301

District Attorney of Kings County 1400 West Lacey Blvd. Hanford, CA 93230

District Attorney of Lake County 255 N. Forbes Street Lakeport, CA 95453

District Attorney of Los Angeles County Hall of Justice 211 W. Temple Street, Ste. 1200 Los Angeles, CA 90012-3210

District Attorney of Madera County 209 West Yosemite Avenue Madera, CA 93637

District Attorney of Marin County 3501 Civic Center Drive, Rm. 130 San Rafael, CA 94903

District Attorney of Mariposa CountyCountyP.O. Box 730400 CorMariposa, CA 95338Redwood

District Attorney of Mendocino County P.O. Box 1000 Ukiah, CA 95482

District Attorney of Merced County 2222 "M" Street Merced, CA 95340

District Attorney of Modoc County 204 S. Court Street, Rm. 202 Alturas, CA 96101-4020

District Attorney of Mono County P.O. Box 617 Bridgeport, CA 93546

District Attorney of Nevada County 201 Commercial Street Nevada City, CA 95959

District Attorney of Orange County 401 Civic Center Drive West Santa Ana, CA 92701 District Attorney of Placer County 10810 Justice Center Drive, Ste. 240 Roseville, CA 95678

District Attorney of Plumas County 520 Main Street, Rm. 404 Quincy, CA 95971

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

District Attorney of San Bernardino County 316 N. Mountain View Avenue San Bernardino, CA 92415

District Attorney of San Diego County 330 West Broadway, Ste. 1300 San Diego, CA 92101

District Attorney of San Mateo County 400 County Center, 3<sup>rd</sup> FI. Redwood City, CA 94063

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

District Attorney of Santa Barbara County 1112 Santa Barbara Street Santa Barbara, CA 93101

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

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

District Attorney of Siskiyou County P.O. Box 986 Yreka, CA 96097 District Attorney of Solano County 675 Texas Street, Ste. 4500 Fairfield, CA 94533 Ju Hun Kim, CEO\* Bo B.K. Designs Corp. 22 West 32<sup>nd</sup> Street, 12<sup>th</sup> Floor New York, NY 10001

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

District Attorney of Sutter County 446 Second Street Yuba City, CA 95991

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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