

July 2, 2018

Sears Brands Management Corporation c/o The Corporation Trust Company Corporation Trust Center 1209 Orange St. Wilmington, DE 19801

Orchard Supply Company, LLC c/o CSC-Lawyers Incorporating Service 2710 Gateway Oaks Dr., Ste 150N Sacramento, CA 95833

Re: NOTICE OF VIOLATION AGAINST SEARS BRANDS MANAGEMENT CORPORATION AND ORCHARD SUPPLY COMPANY, LLC OF CALIFORNIA HEALTH & SAFETY CODE SECTION 25249.6

To Whom It May Concern and to Public Prosecutors:

Ecological Alliance, LLC, a California limited liability company ("Alliance") is a California company acting in the interest of the general public seeking to further, among other causes, the protection of the environment, toxics reduction, the promotion and improvement of human health, the improvement of workers and consumer rights, environmental education and corporate accountability. As described below, Alliance has identified violations of California's Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986 ("Proposition 65" or "Act"), codified at Cal. Health & Safety Code §25249.5 *et seq.* by Sears Brands Management Corporation, a Delaware corporation and Orchard Supply Company, LLC, a North Carolina limited liability company (collectively the "Violators"). This letter serves to provide Alliance's notification of these violations to the Violators and elected prosecutors. Pursuant to §25249.7(d) of the statute, Alliance intends to bring an enforcement action sixty (60) days or more after effective service of this notice unless the appropriate public enforcement agencies have commenced and are diligently prosecuting an action to rectify these violations.

The products which are causing an exposure without a warning in violation of Proposition 65, are pliers, including but not limited to UPC #648738453851 ("Products") manufactured/distributed by Sears Brands Management Corporation and offered for sale by retailers, including Orchard Supply

Company, LLC, to California consumers.

A copy of the Proposition 65 summary prepared by the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment is attached, to the copy of this letter served to the Violators.

Because of this lack of a warning, consumers were exposed to the following chemicals without the proper required Proposition 65 warnings: 1) Di(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate [DEHP]. The routes of exposure for this chemical are ingestion and dermal. Such exposure can cause cancer, birth defects and other reproductive harm. Exposures to the listed chemical from the use of the Products have been occurring without the clear and reasonable warnings required by Proposition 65, dating as far back as July 2, 2017, and will continue every day until clear and reasonable warnings are provided to product purchasers and users or until this known toxic chemical is removed from the Products. Without proper warnings regarding the toxic effects of exposures to the listed chemical resulting from contact with the Products, California citizens lack the information necessary to make informed decisions on whether and how to eliminate (or reduce) the risk of exposure to the listed chemical from reasonable foreseeable use of the Products.

Alliance intends to file a private enforcement action as provided for in the Act for the alleged violations by the Violators, unless Violaters agree in an enforceable written instrument to: (1) recall the listed products so as to eliminate further exposures to the identified chemicals; or (2) affix clear and reasonable Proposition 65 warning labels for products sold in the future or reformulate such products to eliminate the exposures; and (3) pay an appropriate civil penalty.

Consistent with the public interest goals of Proposition 65, Alliance is interested in seeking a constructive resolution to this matter, and invites Violators, should they seek early resolution of this matter, to communicate directly with Alliance's attorneys. Such resolution will avoid further unwarned consumer exposures, as well as resource intensive litigation.

Please direct all questions concerning this notice to Alliance's attorney, Vineet Dubey (dubey@cd-lawyers.com), Custodio & Dubey LLP, 448 S. Hill St., Suite 615, Los Angeles, CA 90013, 213-785-2909.

Sincerely.

**Vineet Dubey** 

Custodio & Dubey LLP

cc: see attached distribution list

Attachments:

Proposition 65 summary Certificate of Merit Certificate of Service

## CERTIFICATE OF MERIT

Health and Safety Code Section 25249.7(d)

Re: Ecological Alliance, LLC's Notice of Proposition 65 Violations by Sears Brands
Management Corporation and Orchard Supply Company, LLC

- I, Vineet Dubey, hereby declare:
- 1. This Certificate of Merit accompanies the attached sixty-day notice in which it is alleged the parties identified in the notice violated California Health & 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 and have assembled evidence attached to the copy for the California Attorney General as Exhibit 1 to this Certificate of Merit regarding the lack of warnings for the listed chemical that is the subject of the notice.
- 4. Based on the information obtained 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 that 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 California Health & Safety Code §25249.7(h)(2).

Dated: July 2, 2018

Vineet Dubey, Attorney at Law

## **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 448 S. Hill St., Ste 615, Los Angeles, CA 90013.

On the date shown below, I served the following:

- 1) 60-Day Notice of Intent to Sue Under Health and Safety Code section 25249.6
- 2) Certificate of Merit; Health and Safety Code Section 25249.7(d)
- 3) Certificate of Merit (Attorney General Copy); Factual information sufficient to establish the basis of the certificate of merit (only sent to Attorney General)
- 4) The Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986 (Proposition 65); A Summary

on the alleged violator listed below via First Class Certified Mail through the United States Postal Service by placing a true and correct copy in a sealed envelope, addressed to the entity listed below and providing such envelope to a United States Postal Service Representative:

Sears Brands Management Corporation c/o The Corporation Trust Company Corporation Trust Center 1209 Orange St. Wilmington, DE 19801

Orchard Supply Company, LLC c/o CSC-Lawyers Incorporating Service 2710 Gateway Oaks Dr., Ste 150N Sacramento, CA 95833

as well as providing copies of the notice to the public enforcers by placing a true and correct copy in a sealed envelope, addressed to the parties listed on the attached Distribution List.

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

July 2, 2018

Vineet Dubey

Alameda County District Attorney	Los Angeles County District Attorney	Mono County District Attorney P0 Box 617
1225 Fallon St, Room 900 Oakland, CA 94612	210 W Temple St, 18th Floor Los Angeles, CA 90012	Bridgeport, CA 93517
Alpine County District Attorney PO Box 248	Madera County District Attorney 209 W Yosemite Ave	San Joaquin County District Attorney PO Box 990
Markleeville, CA 96120	Madera, CA 93637	Stockton, CA 95201 -0990
Amador County District Attorney	Mariposa County District Attorney	San Francisco County District Attorney
708 Court, Suite 202	P.O. Box 730	850 Bryant St, Rm 322 San Francisco, CA 94103
Jackson, CA 95642  Butte County District Attorney	Mariposa, CA 95338  Marin County District Attorney	San Diego County District Attorney
25 County Center Dr.	3501 Civic Center Drive, #130	220 W Decaduary etc 1200
Oroville, CA 95965-3385	San Rafael, CA 94903	San Diego, CA 92101-3803
Calaveras County District Attorney	Mendocino County District Attorney	San Bernardino County District Attorney 316 N Mountain View Ave
891 Mountain Ranch Road San Andreas, CA 95249	P.O. Box 1000 Ukiah, CA 95482	San Bernardino, CA 92415-0004
Office of the Attorney General	Los Angeles City Attorney	San Francisco City Attorney
P.O. Box 70550	200 N Main St Ste 1800	# 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Suite 234
Oakland, CA 94612-0550	Los Angeles CA 90012	San Francisco, CA 94102
Colusa County District Attorney	Inyo County District Attorney P.O. Drawer D	Placer County District Attorney 10810 Justice Center Drive
Courthouse, 547 Market St Colusa, CA 95932	Independence, CA 93526	Suite 240
Colusa, Orl 73732	Independence, or 3555	Roseville, CA 95678-6231
Contra Costa County District Attorney	Orange County District Attorney	Merced County District Attorney
725 Court St., Room 402	P0 Box 808 Santa Ana, CA 92702	550 W. Main St. Merced, CA 95340
Martinez, CA 94553  Del Norte County District Attorney	Nevada County District Attorney	Napa County District Attorney
450 "H" St.	10075 Levon Ave.	P0 Box 720
Crescent City, CA 95531	Truckee, CA 96161	Nana, CA 94559-0720
El Dorado County District Attorney	Plumas County District Attorney	Riverside County District Attorney 3960 Orange Street, Suite 6
515 Main St. Placerville, CA 95667-5697	520 Main Street, Rm 404 Ouincy, CA 95971	Riverside, CA 92501
Fresno County District Attorney	Sacramento County District Attorney	San Benito County District Attorney
2220 Tulare St, Ste. 1000	901 G Street	419 4th St Hollister, CA 95023
Fresno, CA 93721 Glenn County District Attorney	Sacramento, CA 95814 San Luis Obispo County District Attorney	Siskiyou County District Attorney
PO Box 430	County Government Center, Rm 450	PO Box 986
Willows, CA 95988	San Luis Obispo, CA 93408	Yreka, CA 96097
Humboldt County District Attorney	San Mateo County District Attorney 400 County Center	Solano County District Attorney 600 Union Ave
825 5th St., 4th Floor Eureka, CA 95501	Redwood City, CA 94063	Fairfield, CA 94533
Imperial County District Attorney	Santa Barbara County District Attorney	Sonoma County District Attorney
939 W. Main St., 2nd Floor	1112 Santa Barbara St.	600 Administration Dr. Rm 212-J
El Centro, CA 92243-2860	Santa Barbara, CA 93101	Santa Rosa, CA 95403
Kern County District Attorney	Santa Clara County District Attorney	Shasta County District Attorney
1215 Truxtun Ave.	70W Hedding St. San Jose, CA 95110	1355 West St.
Bakersfield, CA 93301	Santa Cruz County District Attorney	Redding, CA 96001-1632 Sierra County District Attorney
Kings County District Attorney Gov't Ctr, 1400 W Lacey Blvd	701 Ocean St., Room 200	P0 Box 457
Hanford, CA 93230	Santa Cruz, CA 95060	Downieville, CA 95936-0457
Lake County District Attorney	Stanislaus County District Attorney	Trinity County District Attorney PO Box 310
255 N Forbes St Lakeport, CA 95453-4790	P0 Box 442 Modesto, CA 95353	Weaverville, CA 96093
Modoc County District Attorney	Sutter County District Attorney	Yuba County District Attorney
204 S. Court Street	446 Second Street	215 5th St
Alturas, CA 96101-4020	Yuba City, CA 95991	Marysville, CA 95901
San Diego City Attorney	Lassen County District Attorney 200 S Lassen St, Suite 8	Monterey County District Attorney PO Box 1131
City Center Plaza 1200 3rd Ave # 1100	Susanville, CA 96130	Salinas, CA 93902
San Diego, CA 92101	<u>                                     </u>	
Tuolumne County District Attorney	Tulare County District Attorney	Yolo County District Attorney 310 Second St
2 \$ Green St Sonora, CA 95370	County Civic Center, Rm 224 Visalia, CA 93291	Woodland, CA 95695
DULUIG VII /DUIV	Tahama Canata District Attorney	San Jose City Attorney
Ventura County District Attorney	Tehama County District Attorney	
Ventura County District Attorney 800 S Victoria Ave Ventura, CA 93009	P.O. Box 519 Red Bluff, CA 96080	200 E. Santa Clara St 16th Floor