

Fair Oaks Law Building – 490 S. Fair Oaks Avenue • Pasadena, California 91105 • 866-203-2911 <a href="https://www.salpetergitkin.com">www.salpetergitkin.com</a>

January 31, 2019

### VIA U.S. MAIL

Xavier Becerra, Attorney General
Office of the Attorney General
Attn: Health & Safety Code § 25249.7(d)(1) (Proposition 65) Notice
1300 "I" Street
Sacramento, California 95814-2919

Plonk Wine Merchants, LLC 9507 Olympic Blvd.
Beverly Hills , CA 90212

[District & City Attorneys Copied]

Re: Notice Pursuant to Cal. Health & Safety Code §§ 25249.7(a) & (d)(1)

Violation or Threatened Violation of Proposition 65 Warning by Plonk Wine Merchants, LLC

Dear Mr. Becerra & to whomever else it may concern:

I represent California consumer John Devlin and write on his behalf, pursuant to California Health & Safety Code §§ 25249.7(a) & (d)(1), to notify you as to Plonk Wine Merchants' violation, or threatened violation, of § 25249.6, *i.e.*, Proposition 65. The violations alleged by this Notice consist of types of harm that may potentially result from exposures to the toxic chemicals: ethyl alcohol in alcoholic beverages; alcoholic beverages, when associated with alcohol abuse; and alcoholic beverages, which were listed as a known hazardous substances in 1987, 1988 and 2011, respectively.

## **NATURE OF ALLEGED VIOLATION**

# <u>Duration of the Violations</u>

The violations have been occurring since at least December 12, 2018, and are ongoing.

## 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.

## Listed Chemical(s)



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The listed chemicals involved in these violations are: ethyl alcohol in alcoholic beverages; alcoholic beverages, when associated with alcohol abuse; and alcoholic beverages, known to the State of California to cause cancer, birth defects and other reproductive harm.

## Type of Product and Route of Exposure

The types of product causing these violations is alcoholic beverages. Examples of alcoholic beverages may include beer, wine or liquor. The consumer is exposed to the Listed Chemicals through ingestion as a result of drinking the product.

## **Description of Violation**

Plonk Wine Merchants is an online retailer selling alcoholic beverages to residents of California through its website (www.plonkwineclub.com). No clear and reasonable Proposition 65 warning is provided with these products, neither on the product pages nor at the point of sale, regarding the presence of the Listed Chemicals in the products.

#### RESOLUTION OF NOTICED CLAIMS

Based on the allegations set forth in this Notice, John Devlin intends to file a citizen enforcement lawsuit against Plonk Wine Merchants unless it agrees in a binding written agreement to: (1) recall products already sold or otherwise provided to consumers; (2) provide clear and reasonable warnings for products sold or otherwise provided to consumers in the future to eliminate unknowing exposures or reformulate such products to eliminate Listed Chemicals exposures; and (3) pay an appropriate civil penalty based on the factors enumerated in California Health and Safety Code Section 25249.7(b). If Plonk Wine Merchants is interested in resolving this dispute without resort to expensive and time-consuming litigation, please feel free to contact me directly on behalf of John Devlin. It should be noted that neither John Devlin nor I can: (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 this Notice. Therefore, while reaching an agreement with John Devlin will resolve its claims, such agreement may not satisfy the public prosecutors.

Sincerely,

Jane Braugh



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Attachment: Certificate of Merit (Cal. Health & Safety Code § 25249.7(d)(1))

cc: City and District Attorneys, as follows:

|  | -  | •  |
|--|--|--|
| Stacey Grassini,                       | Yen Dang,                                      | Nancy O'Malley,  |
| Deputy District Attorney               | Deputy Assistant District Attorney             |  |
| Contra Costa County                    | Santa Clara County                             | District Attorney, Alameda County 7776 Oakport Street, Suite 650 |
| 900 Ward Street                        | 70 West Hedding Street, West Wing              | I  |
| Martinez, CA 94553                     | San Jose, CA 95110                             | Oakland, CA 94621  |
| sgrassini@contracostada.org            | epu@da.sccgov.org                              | CEPDProp65@acgov.org   |
| Gary Lieberstein                       | Dije Ndreu, Deputy District Attorney, Monterey | Stephan R. Passalacqua   |
| District Attorney Napa County          | County   | District Attorney, Sonoma County                                 |
| 931 Parkway Mall                       | 1200 Aguajito Road                             | 600 Administration Drive, Rm. 212J                               |
| Napa, CA 94559                         | Monterey, CA 93901                             | Sonoma, CA 95403   |
| CEPD@countyofnapa.org                  | Prop65DA@co.monterey.ca.us                     | jbarnes@sonoma-county.org  |
| Phillip J. Cline                       | Gregory D. Totten                              | Paul E. Zellerbach   |
| District Attorney, Tulare County       | District Attorney, Ventura County              | District Attorney, Riverside County                              |
| 221 S. Mooney Avenue, Rm. 224          | 800 South Victoria Avenue                      | 3072 Orange Street   |
| Visalia, CA 93291                      | Ventura, CA 93009                              | Riverside, CA 92501  |
| Prop65@co.tulare.ca.us                 | daspecialops@ventura.org                       | Prop65@rivcoda.org   |
| Barbara Yook                           | Thomas L. Hardy                                | Michelle Latimer   |
| District Attorney, Calaveras County    | District Attorney, Inyo County                 | Program Coordinator, Lassen County                               |
| 891 Mountain Ranch Road                | 168 North Edwards Street                       | 220 S. Lassen Street, Ste. 8                                     |
| San Andreas, CA 95249                  | Independence, CA 93526                         | Susanville, CA 96130   |
| ·                                      |  |  |
| Prop65Env@co.calaveras.ca.us           | inyoda@inyocounty.us                           | mlatimer@co.lassen.ca.us   |
| Anne Marie Schubert                    | Mark Ankcorn                                   | Valerie Lopez  |
| District Attorney, Sacramento County   | Deputy City Attorney                           | Deputy City Attorney   |
| 901 "G" Street                         | 1200 Third Avenue                              | 1390 Market Street, 7th Floor                                    |
| Sacramento, CA 95814                   | San Diego, CA 92101                            | San Francisco, CA 94102  |
| Prop65@sacda.org                       | CityAttyProp65@sandiego.gov                    | Valerie.Lopez@sfcityatty.org                                     |
| Gregory Alker                          | Tori Verber Salazar, District Attorney         | Eric J. Dobroth  |
| Assistant District Attorney            | 222 E. Weber Avenue, Room 202                  | Deputy District Attorney   |
| 732 Brannan Street                     | Stockton, CA 95202                             | County Government Center Annex, 4th Floor                        |
| San Francisco, CA 94103                | DAConsumer.Environmental@sjcda.org             | San Luis Obispo, CA 93408  |
| gregory.alker@sfgov.org                | DACONSUMET.Environmental@sjeda.org             | edobroth@co.slo.ca.us  |
| Christopher Dalbey                     | Jeffrey S. Rosell                              | Jeff W. Reisig   |
| Deputy District Attorney               | District Attorney                              | District Attorney  |
| 1112 Santa Barbara St.                 | 701 Ocean Street                               | 301 Second Street  |
| Santa Barbara, CA 93101                | Santa Cruz , CA 95060                          | Woodland, CA 95695   |
| DAProp65@co.santa-barbara.ca.us        | Prop65DA@santacruzcounty.us                    | cfepd@yolocounty.org   |
| District Attorney of Stanislaus County | District Attorney of Kern County               | District Attorney of Kings County                                |
| 832 12th Street, Ste. 300              | 1215 Truxtun Avenue                            | 1400 West Lacey Blvd.  |
| Modesto, CA 95354                      | Bakersfield, CA 93301                          | Hanford, CA 93230  |
| ·                                      | District Attorney of Butte County              |  |
| District Attorney of Lake County       | Administration Building                        | District Attorney of Los Angeles County                          |
| 255 N. Forbes Street                   | 25 County Center Drive                         | 210 W. Temple Street, Ste. 1800                                  |
| Lakeport, CA 95453                     | Oroville, CA 95965                             | Los Angeles, CA 90012  |
| District Attorney of Madera County     | District Attorney of Marin County              | District Attorney of Mariposa County                             |
| 209 West Yosemite Avenue               | 3501 Civic Center Drive, Rm. 130               | P.O. Box 730   |
| Madera, CA 93637                       | San Rafael, CA 94903                           | Mariposa, CA 95338   |
| District Attorney of Mendocino County  | District Attorney of Merced County             | District Attorney of Modoc County                                |
|  |  |  |
| P.O. Box 1000                          | 2222 "M" Street                                | 204 S. Court Street, Rm. 202                                     |



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| Ukiah, CA 95482                        | Merced, CA 95340                                  | Alturas, CA 96101-4020                    |
|--|---|---|
| District Attorney of Mono County       | District Attorney of Nevada County                | District Attorney of Orange County        |
| P.O. Box 617                           | 110 Union Street                                  | 401 Civic Center Drive West               |
| Bridgeport, CA 93546                   | Nevada City, CA 95959                             | Santa Ana, CA 92701                       |
| District Attorney of Placer County     | District Attorney of Plumas County                | District Attorney of Amador County        |
| 10810 Justice Center Drive, Ste. 240.  | 520 Main Street, Rm. 404                          | 708 Court Street, Ste. 202                |
| Roseville, CA 95678                    | Quincy, CA 95971                                  | Jackson, CA 95642                         |
| District Attorney of San Benito County | District Attorney of San Bernardino County        | District Attorney of San Diego County     |
| 419 Fourth Street, 2nd Fl.             | 316 N. Mountain View Avenue                       | 330 West Broadway, Ste. 1300              |
| Hollister, CA 95023                    | San Bernardino, CA 92415                          | San Diego, CA 92101                       |
| District Attorney of El Dorado County  | District Attorney of Fresno County                | District Attorney of Glenn County         |
| 515 Main Street                        | 2220 Tulare Street, Ste. 1000                     | P.O. Box 430                              |
| Placerville, CA 95667                  | Fresno, CA 93721                                  | Willows, CA 95988                         |
| District Attorney of San Mateo County  | District Attorney of Humboldt County              | District Attorney of Imperial County      |
| 400 County Center, 3rd Fl.             | 825 5th Street                                    | 939 Main Street, Ste. 102                 |
| Redwood City, CA 94063                 | Eureka, CA 95501                                  | El Centro, CA 92243                       |
| District Attorney of Shasta County     | District Attorney of Sierra County Courthouse     | District Attorney of Siskiyou County      |
| 1525 Court Street, 3rd Fl.             | 100 Courthouse Sq., 2nd Fl.                       | P.O. Box 986                              |
| Redding, CA 96001-1632                 | Downieville, CA 95936                             | Yreka, CA 96097                           |
| District Attorney of Solano County     | District Attorney of Sutter County                | District Attorney of Tehama County        |
| 675 Texas Street, Ste. 4500            | 446 Second Street                                 | P.O. Box 519                              |
| Fairfield, CA 94533                    | Yuba City, CA 95991                               | Red Bluff, CA 96080                       |
| District Attorney of Trinity County    | District Attornoon of Tradrama County             | Can Jaco City Attampada                   |
| P.O. Box 310                           | District Attorney of Tuolumne County              | San Jose City Attorney's                  |
| 11 Court Street                        | 423 N. Washington Street                          | Office 200 East Santa Clara Street        |
| Weaverville, CA 96093                  | Sonora, CA 95370                                  | San Jose, CA 95113                        |
| District Attorney of Yuba County       | Los Angeles City Attorney's Office City Hall East | District Attorney of Colusa County        |
| 215 Fifth Street                       | 200 N. Main Street, Rm. 800                       | 547 Market Street, Ste. 102               |
| Marysville, CA 95901                   | Los Angeles, CA 90012                             | Colusa, CA 95932                          |
|  | ·   |   |
|  |   | California Attorney General's Office      |
| District Attorney of Del Norte Courts  |   | Attention: Proposition 65 Coordinator and |
| District Attorney of Del Norte County  |   | Robert Thomas                             |
| 450 H Street, Ste. 171                 |   | 1515 Clay Street, Ste. 2000               |
| Crescent City, CA 95531                |   | P.O. Box 70550                            |
|  |   | Oakland, CA 94612-0550                    |



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### January 31, 2019

## CERTIFICATE OF MERIT PURSUANT TO CAL. HEALTH & SAFETY CODE § 25249.7(d)(1)

I, Jane Braugh, 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: January 31, 2019

Jane Braugh

Attorney for John Devlin

[Attachments for Attorney General Only]

#### PROOF OF SERVICE

I, Christina Tanner, 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 Broward, State of Florida, however, the law firm that employs me maintains an office in Pasadena, California and is licensed to do business in California. My California business address is Fair Oaks Law Building, 490 S. Fair Oaks Avenue, Pasadena, California 91105.

On January 31, 2019, I served the following documents:

- (1) 60 DAY NOTICE OF VIOLATION SENT IN COMPLIANCE WITH HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE SECTION 25249.7(d);
- (2) CERTIFICATE OF MERIT;
- (3) PROPOSITION 65: A SUMMARY (sent only to those on service list marked with an asterisk); and
- (4) CERTIFICATE OF MERIT ATTACHMENTS (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 with the U.S. Postal Service for delivery by Certified Mail with the postage thereon fully prepaid:

## Via U.S. Mail

Plonk Wine Merchants, LLC 9507 Olympic Blvd. Beverly Hills, CA 90212

On January 31, 2019, 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 January 31, 2019, 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.

On January 31, 2019, 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 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 January 31, 2019, at Broward County, Florida.

Christina Tanner

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