

**Michael Freund & Associates**

1919 Addison Street, Suite 105  
Berkeley, CA 94704  
Voice (510) 540-1992 Fax (510) 371-0885  
Email: freund1@aol.com

September 1, 2020

Xavier Becerra  
California Attorney General  
1515 Clay Street, Suite 2000  
Oakland, CA 94612-1413

Jackie Lacey, District Attorney  
Los Angeles county District Attorney Office  
Hall of Justice  
211 W. Temple Street, Suite 1200  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Mike Feuer, Los Angeles City Attorney  
200 N. Main Street  
James K. Hahn City Hall East, Suite 800  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Plant Manager  
Metal Improvement Company, LLC  
dba EM Coating Services  
6940 Farmdale Ave.  
North Hollywood, CA 91605

**Re: Corrected Notice of Violation of the Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986, California Health & Safety Code Sections 25249.5 et seq. ("Proposition 65")**

Dear Alleged Violators and the Appropriate Proposition 65 Public Enforcement Agencies:

I represent California Toxins Project LLC ("CTP"), 7993 Rock Springs Road, Penryn, California 95663; Tel. (916) 223-4033. CTP's Executive Director is Lorell Long. CTP is a California non-profit corporation whose primary mission is to prevent chemical toxins from adversely impacting the environment and human health in California communities. This letter constitutes notification that Metal Improvement Company, LLC, dba EM Coating Services, located at 6940 Farmdale Ave., North Hollywood, CA 91605, has violated the warning requirement of Proposition 65, the Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act which is codified at Health & Safety Code § 25249.5 *et seq.*

CTP has identified violations of Proposition 65 from the alleged Violators identified below. The alleged Violators emit chromium (hexavalent compounds) into the atmosphere from its North Hollywood facility and have exposed and continue to expose individuals in and around the facility to this chemical without providing a clear and reasonable warning to these individuals. This letter serves as a notice of these violations to the alleged Violators and the appropriate public enforcement agencies. Pursuant to Health and Safety Code Section 25249.7, subdivision (d), CTP intends to file a private enforcement action in the public interest 60 days after effective service of this Notice of Violation unless the public enforcement agencies have commenced and are diligently prosecuting an action to rectify these violations.

**General Information About Proposition 65:** A copy of a summary of Proposition, prepared by the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, is enclosed with this letter served to the alleged Violators.

**Alleged Violators:** The names of the companies covered by this Notice of Violation that violated Proposition 65 are:

**Metal Improvement Company, LLC dba EM Coating Services**

**Information Pertaining to Hexavalent chromium and Proposition 65:** On February 27, 1987, the State of California officially listed chromium (hexavalent compounds) as a chemical known to cause cancer. On December 19, 2008, the State of California officially listed chromium (hexavalent compounds) as a chemical known to cause developmental toxicity, and male and female reproductive toxicity.

**General Geographic Location of the Unlawful Exposure and Route of Exposure:** The general geographic location of the unlawful exposure to the occupational community includes the noticed facility and other commercial and industrial businesses situated within a radius of approximately .1-.2 miles from the facility.

The exposures that are the subject of this Notice of Violation occur through inhalation.

**Approximate Time Periods of Violations:** Ongoing violations have occurred each day during the ordinary course of business operations since at least September 1, 2019 and will continue every day until clear and reasonable warnings are provided to those persons exposed to chromium (hexavalent compounds) or until the level of emission from the facility is reduced to allowable levels.

Proposition 65 requires that a clear and reasonable warning be provided prior to exposure to the identified chemical. Based on the environmental exposure at issue, the method of warning should be one or more of the methods required in the California Code of Regulations ("CCR"), title 27, Section 25604. CTP believes that the method of warning most likely to be seen, read, and understood by an ordinary individual in the course of normal daily activity would be "a warning provided in a notice mailed, sent electronically, or otherwise delivered to each occupant in the affected area." 27 CCR Section 25604, subdivision (a) (2). As required by Section 25604, subdivision (a) (2) (A-D) the warning must clearly identify the source of the exposure, include a

map that clearly identifies the affected area, be provided at least every three months, and be provided in English and in any other language ordinarily used by the person to communicate with the public.

Consistent with the public interest goals of Proposition 65 and a desire to have these ongoing violations of California law quickly rectified, CTP is interested in seeking a constructive resolution of this matter that includes an enforceable written agreement by the alleged Violators to (1) take immediate measures to reduce the amount of chromium (hexavalent compounds) emitted from its North Hollywood facility so as to reduce or eliminate further exposures to this dangerous chemical; 2) provide clear and reasonable warnings compliant with Proposition 65 to those persons exposed to a significant risk of cancer from the emissions; and 3) pay an appropriate civil penalty. Such a resolution will prevent further unwarranted exposures to the identified chemical, as well as expensive and time-consuming litigation.

Please direct all communications regarding this Notice of Violation to my attention at the law office address and telephone number indicated on the letterhead or at [freund1@aol.com](mailto:freund1@aol.com).

Sincerely,



Michael Freund

Attorney for California Toxins Project, LLC

Attachments: Certificate of Merit, Certificate of Service, OEHHA Summary (to Violators only), and Additional Supporting Information for Certificate of Merit (to Attorney General only)

## CERTIFICATE OF MERIT

### **Re: California Toxins Project LLC Notice of Proposition 65 Violation**

I, Michael Freund, declare:

1. This Certificate of Merit accompanies the attached 60-day notice in which it is alleged that the parties identified in the Notice of Violation violated California Health & Safety Code Section 25249.6 by failing to provide clear and reasonable warnings.

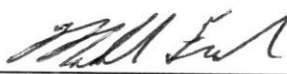
2. I am the attorney for the noticing party.

3. I have consulted with one or more persons with relevant and appropriate experience or expertise who have reviewed facts, studies, or other data regarding the exposure to the listed chemical that is the subject of the Notice of Violation.

4. Based on the information obtained through this consultation, 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 provide that the alleged Violators will be able to establish any of the affirmative defenses set forth in the statute.

5. Along with the copy of this Certificate of Merit served on the Attorney General is attached additional factual information sufficient to establish the basis for this certificate, including the information identified in California Health & 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 the individual.

Dated: September 1, 2020

  
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Michael Freund

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I am a citizen of the United States and a resident of the County of Alameda. I am over the age of eighteen years and not a party to the within entitled action. My business address is 1919 Addison Street, Suite 105, Berkeley, CA 94704.

On September 1, 2020, I served the following documents: Notice of Violation of California Health & Safety Code § 25249.5 et seq; Certificate of Merit; and Appendix A, Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, California Environmental Protection Agency, "The Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986 (Proposition 65): A Summary" on the following parties by placing a true copy thereof enclosed in a sealed envelope with postage thereon fully prepaid, at a United States Postal Service Office in Berkeley, California for delivery by Certified Mail and via electronic mail addressed as follows:

Willis Wagner ([wagnerw@gtlaw.com](mailto:wagnerw@gtlaw.com)) (Counsel for Noticed Parties)  
Greenberg Traurig  
1201 K Street, Suite 1100  
Sacramento, CA 95814

On September 1, 2020, I served the following documents: Notice of Violation of California Health & Safety Code § 25249.5 et seq; Certificate of Merit; and Additional Supporting Information for Certificate of Merit by uploading to the California Attorney General's website, which can be accessed at <https://oag.ca.gov/prop65/add-60-day-notice>:

California Attorney General/Proposition 65 Coordinator  
1515 Clay Street, Suite 2000  
P.O. Box 70550  
Oakland, CA 94612-0550

On September 1, 2020, I served the following documents: Notice of Violation of California Health & Safety Code § 25249.5 et seq; and Certificate of Merit by placing a true copy thereof enclosed in a sealed envelope with postage thereon fully prepaid, at a United States Postal Service Office in Berkeley, California for delivery by Certified Mail addressed as follows:

Jackie Lacey, District Attorney  
Los Angeles County District Attorney Office  
Hall of Justice  
211 W. Temple Street, Suite 1200  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Mike Feuer, Los Angeles City Attorney  
200 N. Main Street  
James K. Hahn City Hall East, Suite 800  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

I, Michael Freund declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed on  
September 1, 2020 at Berkeley, California.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Michael Freund