

## **CONSUMER ATTORNEYS**

July 20, 2021

#### NOTICE OF VIOLATION OF CALIFORNIA HEALTH & SAFETY CODE SECTION 25249.5 ET SEQ. (PROPOSITION 65)

Dear Alleged Violators and the Appropriate Public Enforcement Agencies:

I represent CalSafe Research Center, Inc. ("CRC"), 4533 MacArthur Blvd., Ste. 230, Newport Beach, CA 92660; Tel. (949) 630-0413. CRC's Executive Director is Eric Fairon. CRC is a California non-profit corporation dedicated to, among other causes, helping safeguard the public from health hazards by bringing about a reduction in the use and misuse of hazardous and toxic chemicals, facilitating a safe environment for consumers and employees, and encouraging corporate responsibility.

CRC has identified violations of California's Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986 ("Proposition 65"), which is codified at California Health & Safety Code §25249.5 et seq., with respect to the products identified below. These violations have occurred and continue to occur because the alleged Violators identified below failed to provide required clear and reasonable warnings with these products. 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(d), CRC intends to pursue a private enforcement action in the public interest 60 days after effective service of this notice 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 65, prepared by the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, is enclosed with this letter served to the alleged Violators identified below.

<u>Alleged Violators</u>. The names of the person/company covered by this notice that violated Proposition 65 (hereinafter the "Violators") are:

R.W. Garcia Co, Inc, Headquarters. 100 Enterprise Way, Scotts Valley, California 95066



20062 SW Birch St, Suite 200 Newport Beach, CA 92660 Office: 949.200.8755 Facsimile: 866.843.8308

P65@manninglawoffice.com

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Sprouts Farmers Market 3011 El Camino Road Tusin CA 92782

<u>Consumer Products and Listed Chemical</u>. The products that are the subject of this notice and the chemical in those products identified as exceeding allowable levels are:

R.W. Garcia Co, Inc., Kale Crackers 3 Seed Flaxseed Sesame Chia Gluten Free, UPC#3659311016

On February 25, 2011, the State of California officially listed acrylamide as a chemical known to cause developmental toxicity, and male and female reproductive toxicity. On January 1, 1990, the State of California officially listed acrylamide as a chemical known to cause cancer.

It should be noted that CRC may continue to investigate other products that may reveal further violations and result in subsequent notices of violations.

**Route of Exposure.** The consumer exposures that are the subject of this notice result from the recommended use of these products. Consequently, the route of exposure to this chemical has been and continues to be through ingestion.

Approximate Time Period of Violations. Ongoing violations have occurred every day since at least April 27, 2021, as well as every day since the products were introduced into the California marketplace, and will continue every day until clear and reasonable warnings are provided to product purchasers and users or until this known toxic chemical is either removed from or reduced to allowable levels in the products. Proposition 65 requires that a clear and reasonable warning be provided prior to exposure to the identified chemical. The method of warning should be a warning that appears on the product label. The Violators violated Proposition 65 because they failed to provide persons ingesting these products with appropriate warnings that they are being exposed to this chemical.

Consistent with the public interest goals of Proposition 65 and a desire to have these ongoing violations of California law quickly rectified, CRC is interested in seeking a constructive resolution of this matter that includes an enforceable written agreement by the Violators to: (1) reformulate the identified products so as to eliminate further exposures to the



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identified chemical, or provide appropriate warnings on the labels of these products; (2) pay an appropriate civil penalty; and (3) provide clear and reasonable warnings compliant with Proposition 65 to all persons located in California who purchased the above products in the last three years. Such a resolution will prevent further unwarned consumer exposures to the identified chemical, as well as an expensive and time-consuming litigation.

CRC has retained me as legal counsel in connection with this matter. 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 P65@ManningLawOffice.com.

Sincerely,

Joseph R. Manning, Jr.

P65@ManningLawOffice.com

#### Attachments

Certificate of Merit

Certificate of Service

OEHHA Summary (to Alleged Violators only)

Factual Information in Support of Certificate of Merit (to AG only)



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#### **CERTIFICATE OF MERIT**

Re: Calsafe Research Center, Inc.'s Notice of Proposition 65 Violations by R.W. Garcia Co, Inc. and Sprouts Farmers Market

#### I, Joseph R. Manning, Jr., declare:

- 1. This Certificate of Merit accompanies the attached 60-day notice in which it is alleged that 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 or expertise who have reviewed facts, studies, or other data regarding the exposure to the listed chemical that is the subject of the notice.
- 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 that 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. 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 §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: July 20, 2021

Joseph R. Manning, Jr. P65@ManningLawOffice.com



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#### CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE PURSUANT TO 27 CCR § 25903

I, the undersigned, declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the following is true and correct:

I am a citizen of the United States and over the age of 18 years of age. My business address is 20062 S.W. Birch, Newport Beach, CA 92660. I am a resident or employed in the county where the mailing occurred. The envelope or package was placed in the mail at Newport Beach, California.

On July 20, 2021 between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Pacific Standard Time, I served the following documents: NOTICE OF VIOLATION OF CALIFORNIA HEALTH & SAFETY CODE §25249.5 ET SEQ.; CERTIFICATE OF MERIT; "THE SAFE DRINKING WATER AND TOXIC ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 1986 (PROPOSITION 65): A SUMMARY" on the following parties by placing a true and correct copy thereof in a sealed envelope, addressed to each of the parties listed below and depositing it at a U.S. Postal Service Office with the postage fully prepaid for delivery by Certified Mail:

R.W. Garcia Co, Inc, Headquarters. 100 Enterprise Way, Scotts Valley, California 95066

Corporation Service Company Sprouts Farmer Markets, Inc. 251 Little Falls Drive Wilmington DE 19808-1674

On July 20, 2021 between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Pacific Standard Time, I verified the following documents NOTICE OF VIOLATIONS, CALIFORNIA HEALTH & SAFETY CODE §25249.5 ET SEQ.; CERTIFICATE OF MERIT INCLUDING A SUMMARY OF CONFIDENTIAL FACTUAL INFORMATION; ADDITIONAL SUPPORTING INFORMATION FOR CERTIFICATE OF MERIT AS REQUIRED BY CALIFORNIA HEALTH & SAFETY CODE §25249.7(d)(1) were served on the following party when a true and correct copy thereof was uploaded on the California Attorney General's website, which can be accessed at https://oag.ca.gov/prop65/add-60-day-notice:



# **CONSUMER ATTORNEYS**

Prop 65 Enforcement Reporting 1515 Clay Street, Suite 2000 Oakland, CA 94612-0550

On July 20, 2021 between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Pacific Standard Time, I verified the following documents **NOTICE OF VIOLATIONS, CALIFORNIA HEALTH & SAFETY CODE §25249.5** *ET SEQ.*; **CERTIFICATE OF MERIT** were served on the following parties when a true and correct copy thereof was sent via electronic mail to each of the parties listed below:

| Nancy O'Malley, District Attorney          | Barbara Yook, District Attorney      |  |
|--|--------------------------------------|--|
| Alameda County                             | Calaveras County                     |  |
| 7677 Oakport Street, Suite 650             | 891 Mountain Ranch Road              |  |
| Oakland, CA 94621                          | San Andreas, CA 95249                |  |
| CEPDProp65@acgov.org                       | Prop65Env@co.calaveras.ca.us         |  |
|  |                                      |  |
| Stacey Grassini, Deputy District Attorney  | Thomas L. Hardy, District Attorney   |  |
| Contra Costa County                        | Inyo County                          |  |
| 900 Ward Street                            | 168 North Edwards Street             |  |
| Martinez, CA 94553                         | Independence, CA 93526               |  |
| sgrassini@contracostada.org                | inyoda@inyocounty.us                 |  |
| Michelle Latimer, Program Coordinator      | Dije Ndreu, Deputy District Attorney |  |
| Lassen County                              | Monterey County                      |  |
| 220 S. Lassen Street                       | 1200 Aguajito Road                   |  |
| Susanville, CA 96130                       | Monterey, CA 93940                   |  |
| mlatimer@co.lassen.ca.us                   | Prop65DA@co.monterey.ca.us           |  |
| Allison Haley, District Attorney           | Michael Hestrin, District Attorney   |  |
| Napa County                                | Riverside County                     |  |
| 1127 First Street, Suite C                 | 3072 Orange Street                   |  |
| Napa, CA 94559                             | Riverside, CA 92501                  |  |
| CEPD@countyofnapa.org                      | Prop65@rivcoda.org                   |  |
| Anne Marie Schubert, District Attorney     | Mark Ankcorn, Deputy City Attorney   |  |
| Sacramento County                          | San Diego City Attorney              |  |
| 901 G Street                               | 1200 Third Avenue                    |  |
| Sacramento, CA 95814                       | San Diego, CA 92101                  |  |
| Prop65@sacda.org                           | CityAttyProp65@sandiego.gov          |  |
|  | White Book Great                     |  |
| Gregory Alker, Assistant District Attorney | Valerie Lopez, Deputy City Attorney  |  |
| San Francisco County                       | San Francisco City Attorney          |  |



## **CONSUMER ATTORNEYS**

| 732 Brannan Street                           | 1390 Market Street, 7th Floor                    |  |
|--|--|--|
| San Francisco, CA 94103                      | San Francisco, CA 94102                          |  |
| gregory.alker@sfgov.org                      | Valerie.Lopez@sfcityatty.org                     |  |
| Tori Verber Salazar, District Attorney       | Eric J. Dobroth, Deputy District Attorney        |  |
| San Joaquin County                           | San Luis Obispo County                           |  |
| 222 E. Weber Avenue, Room 202                | County Government Center Annex, 4th Floor        |  |
| Stockton, CA 95202                           | San Luis Obispo, CA 93408                        |  |
| DAConsumer.Environmental@sjcda.org           | edobroth@co.slo.ca.us                            |  |
| Christopher Dalbey, Deputy District Attorney | Bud Porter, Supervising Deputy District Attorney |  |
| Santa Barbara County                         | Santa Clara County                               |  |
| 1112 Santa Barbara Street                    | 70 W Hedding St                                  |  |
| Santa Barbara, CA 93101                      | San Jose, CA 95110                               |  |
| DAProp65@co.santa-barbara.ca.us              | EPU@da.sccgov.org                                |  |
| Stephan R. Passalacqua, District Attorney    | Phillip J. Cline, District Attorney              |  |
| Sonoma County                                | Tulare County                                    |  |
| 600 Administration Dr                        | 221 S Mooney Blvd                                |  |
| Sonoma, CA 95403                             | Visalia, CA 95370                                |  |
| jbarnes@sonoma-county.org                    | Prop65@co.tulare.ca.us                           |  |
| Gregory D. Totten, District Attorney         | Jeff W. Reisig, District Attorney                |  |
| Ventura County                               | Yolo County                                      |  |
| 800 S Victoria Ave                           | 301 Second Street                                |  |
| Ventura, CA 93009                            | Woodland, CA 95695                               |  |
| daspecialops@ventura.org                     | cfepd@yolocounty.org                             |  |

On July 20, 2021 between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Pacific Standard Time, I served the following documents: **NOTICE OF VIOLATION, CALIFORNIA HEALTH & SAFETY CODE §25249.5** *ET SEQ.*; **CERTIFICATE OF MERIT** on each parties on the Service List attached hereto by placing a true and correct copy thereof in a sealed envelope, addressed to each of the parties on the Service List attached hereto, and depositing it at a U.S. Postal Service Office with the postage fully prepaid for delivery by First Class Mail.



20062 SW Birch St, Suite 200 Newport Beach, CA 92660 Office: 949.200.8755 Facsimile: 866.843.8308

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# **CONSUMER ATTORNEYS**

Executed on July 20, 2021, in Newport Beach, California.

Marilyn Sanchez

### **Service List**

| District Attorney, Alpine County    | District Attorney, Madera County    | District Attorney, San Diego County          |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| P.O. Box 248                        | 209 West Yosemite Avenue            | 330 West Broadway, Suite 1300                |
| Markleeville, CA 96120              | Madera, CA 93637                    | San Diego, CA 92101                          |
| District Attorney, Amador County    | District Attorney, Marin County     | District Attorney, San Mateo County          |
| 708 Court Street, Suite 202         | 3501 Civic Center Drive, Room 130   | 400 County Ctr., 3rd Floor                   |
| Jackson, CA 95642                   | San Rafael, CA 94903                | Redwood City, CA 94063                       |
| District Attorney, Butte County     | District Attorney, Mariposa County  | District Attorney, Shasta County             |
| 25 County Center Drive, Suite 245   | Post Office Box 730                 | 1355 West Street                             |
| Oroville, CA 95965                  | Mariposa, CA 95338                  | Redding, CA 96001                            |
| District Attorney, Colusa County    | District Attorney, Mendocino County | District Attorney, Sierra County             |
| 346 Fifth Street Suite 101          | Post Office Box 1000                | 100 Courthouse Square, 2 <sup>st</sup> Floor |
| Colusa, CA 95932                    | Ukiah, CA 95482                     | Downieville, CA 95936                        |
| District Attorney, Del Norte County | District Attorney, Merced County    | District Attorney, Siskiyou County           |
| 450 H Street, Room 171              | 550 W. Main Street                  | Post Office Box 986                          |
| Crescent City, CA 95531             | Merced, CA 95340                    | Yreka, CA 96097                              |
| District Attorney, El Dorado County | District Attorney, Modoc County     | District Attorney, Solano County             |
| 778 Pacific St                      | 204 S Court Street, Room 202        | 675 Texas Street, Ste 4500                   |
| Placerville, CA 95667               | Alturas, CA 96101-4020              | Fairfield, CA 94533                          |
| District Attorney, Fresno County    | District Attorney, Mono County      | District Attorney, Stanislaus County         |
| 2220 Tulare Street, Suite 1000      | Post Office Box 617                 | 832 12th Street, Ste 300                     |
| Fresno, CA 93721                    | Bridgeport, CA 93517                | Modesto, CA 95354                            |
| District Attorney, Glenn County     | District Attorney, Nevada County    | District Attorney, Sutter County             |
| Post Office Box 430                 | 201 Commercial Street               | 463 2nd Street                               |
| Willows, CA 95988                   | Nevada City, CA 95959               | Yuba City, CA 95991                          |
| District Attorney, Humboldt County  | District Attorney, Orange County    | District Attorney, Tehama County             |
| 825 5th Street 4տ Floor             | 300 N. Flower Street                | Post Office Box 519                          |
| Eureka, CA 95501                    | Santa Ana, CA 92703                 | Red Bluff, CA 96080                          |
| District Attorney, Imperial County  | District Attorney, Placer County    | District Attorney, Trinity County            |
| 940 West Main Street, Ste 102       | 10810 Justice Center Drive, Ste 240 | Post Office Box 310                          |
| El Centro, CA 92243                 | Roseville, CA 95678                 | Weaverville, CA 96093                        |



# **CONSUMER ATTORNEYS**

| District Attorney, Kern County   | District Attorney, Plumas County   | District Attorney, Tuolumne County   |
|--|--|--|
| 1215 Truxtun Avenue  | 520 Main Street, Room 404  | 423 N. Washington Street   |
| Bakersfield, CA 93301  | Quincy, CA 95971   | Sonora, CA 95370   |
| District Attorney, Kings County  | District Attorney, San Benito County   | District Attorney, Yuba County   |
| 1400 West Lacey Boulevard  | 419 Fourth Street, 2nd Floor   | 215 Fifth Street, Suite 152  |
| Hanford, CA 93230  | Hollister, CA 95023  | Marysville, CA 95901   |
| District Attorney, Lake County<br>255 N. Forbes Street<br>Lakeport, CA 95453                                       | Los Angeles City Attorney's Office<br>City Hall East<br>200 N. Main Street, Suite 800<br>Los Angeles, CA 90012 | San Jose City Attorney's Office<br>200 East Santa Clara Street, 16th Floor<br>San Jose, CA 95113 |
| District Attorney, Los Angeles County<br>Hall of Justice<br>211 West Temple St., Ste 1200<br>Los Angeles, CA 90012 |  |  |