



## Environmental Research Center

3111 Camino Del Rio North, Suite 400  
San Diego, CA 92108  
619-500-3090

September 7, 2023

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

Dear Alleged Violator and the Appropriate Public Enforcement Agencies:

I am the Executive Director of Environmental Research Center, Inc. (“ERC”). ERC 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.

ERC 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 Violator 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 Violator and the appropriate public enforcement agencies. Pursuant to Section 25249.7(d) of the statute, ERC intends to file 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 attached with the copy of this letter served to the alleged Violator identified below.

**Alleged Violator.** The name of the company covered by this notice that violated Proposition 65 (hereinafter the “Violator”) is:

**Pique, Inc.**

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

1. Pique Ginger Fasting Green Digestion Metabolism (0.6g) - Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA)

2. Pique Sacred Lily Oolong Digestion Metabolism (0.6g) - Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA)
3. Pique White Peony Radiant Skin Immunity (0.6g) - Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA)
4. Pique Tea Crystals Mint Herbal (0.6g) - Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA)
5. Pique Passion Fruit Green Radiant Skin Immunity (0.6g) - Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA)
6. Pique Fermented Pu'er Black Digestion Metabolism (0.6g) - Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA)
7. Pique Matcha Fasting Green Metabolism Energy (1.1g) - Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA)
8. Pique Tea Crystals Bergamot Fasting Black (1g) - Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA)
9. Pique Breakfast Black Energy Digestion (0.6g) - Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA)
10. Pique Tea Crystals Jasmine Green (0.6g) - Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA)
11. Pique Tea Crystals Sencha Green (0.6g) - Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA)
12. Pique Tea Crystals Mint Green (0.6g) - Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA)

On November 10, 2017, the State of California officially listed Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA) as a chemical known to cause developmental toxicity. On February 25, 2022, the State of California officially listed Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA) as a chemical known to cause cancer.

It should be noted that ERC 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 September 7, 2020, 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 Violator violated Proposition 65 because it 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, ERC is interested in seeking a constructive resolution of this matter that includes an enforceable written agreement by the Violator to: (1) recall the identified products so as to eliminate further exposures to the identified chemical, and/or (2) affix clear and reasonable Prop 65 warning labels for products sold in the future while reformulating such products to eliminate the exposures, and (3) conduct bio-monitoring of all California consumers that have ingested the identified chemical in the listed products, and (4) pay an appropriate civil penalty. Such a resolution will prevent further

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unwarned consumer exposures to the identified chemical, as well as an expensive and time-consuming litigation.

Please direct all questions concerning this notice to ERC at the above listed address and telephone number.

Sincerely,



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Chris Heptinstall  
Executive Director  
Environmental Research Center

Attachments

Certificate of Merit

Certificate of Service

OEHHA Summary (to Pique, Inc. and its Registered Agents for Service of Process only)

Additional Supporting Information for Certificate of Merit (to AG only)

**CERTIFICATE OF MERIT**

**Re: Environmental Research Center, Inc.'s Notice of Proposition 65 Violations by Pique, Inc.**

I, Chris Heptinstall, declare:

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

2. I am the Executive Director 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 are the subject of the notice.

4. Based on the information obtained through those consultants, 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. 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: September 7, 2023

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Chris Heptinstall

**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 306 Joy Street, Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia 30742. I am a resident or employed in the county where the mailing occurred. The envelope or package was placed in the mail at Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia.

On September 7, 2023, between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time, I served the following documents: **NOTICE OF VIOLATIONS 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 in a U.S. Postal Service Office with the postage fully prepaid for delivery by Certified Mail:

Current President or CEO  
Pique, Inc.  
11693 San Vicente Blvd, #900  
Los Angeles, CA 90049

Simon Cheng  
(Registered Agent for Pique, Inc.)  
11693 San Vicente Blvd, #900  
Los Angeles, CA 90049

Current President or CEO  
Pique, Inc.  
880 Wigwam Pkwy, Ste 120  
Henderson, NV 89014

United Corporate Services, Inc.  
(Registered Agent for Pique, Inc.)  
800 North State Street, Suite 304  
Dover, DE 19901

Current President or CEO  
Pique, Inc.  
8549 Wilshire Blvd, Ste 2372  
Beverly Hills, CA 90211

On September 7, 2023, between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time, I verified the following documents **NOTICE OF VIOLATIONS, CALIFORNIA HEALTH & SAFETY CODE §25249.5 ET SEQ.; CERTIFICATE OF MERIT; 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> :

Office of the California Attorney General  
Prop 65 Enforcement Reporting  
1515 Clay Street, Suite 2000  
Post Office Box 70550  
Oakland, CA 94612-0550

On September 7, 2023, between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time, 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  
Alameda County  
7677 Oakport Street, Suite 650  
Oakland, CA 94621  
CEPDProp65@acgov.org

Barbara Yook, District Attorney  
Calaveras County  
891 Mountain Ranch Road  
San Andreas, CA 95249  
Prop65Env@co.calaveras.ca.us

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

Lisa A. Smittcamp, District Attorney  
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2100 Tulare Street  
Fresno, CA 93721  
consumerprotection@fresnocountyca.gov

Thomas L. Hardy, District Attorney  
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168 North Edwards Street  
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inyoda@inyocounty.us

Michelle Latimer, Program Coordinator  
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Susanville, CA 96130  
mlatimer@co.lassen.ca.us

Walter W. Wall, District Attorney  
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P.O. Box 730  
Mariposa, CA 95338  
mcda@mariposacounty.org

Kimberly Lewis, District Attorney  
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550 West Main St  
Merced, CA 95340  
Prop65@countyofmerced.com

Jeannine M. Pacioni, District Attorney  
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Monterey, CA 93940  
Prop65DA@co.monterey.ca.us

Allison Haley, District Attorney  
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1127 First Street, Ste C  
Napa, CA 94559  
CEPD@countyofnapa.org

Clifford H. Newell, District Attorney  
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201 Commercial St  
Nevada City, CA 95959  
DA.Prop65@co.nevada.ca.us

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300 N Flower St  
Santa Ana, CA 92703  
Prop65notice@da.ocgov.com

Morgan Briggs Gire, District Attorney  
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10810 Justice Center Drive  
Roseville, CA 95678  
Prop65@placer.ca.gov

David Hollister, District Attorney  
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520 Main St  
Quincy, CA 95971  
davidhollister@countyofplumas.com

Paul E. Zellerbach, District Attorney  
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Riverside, CA 92501  
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SanDiegoDAProp65@sdca.org

Mark Ankcorn, Deputy City Attorney  
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1200 Third Avenue  
San Diego, CA 92101  
CityAttyProp65@sandiego.gov

Alexandra Grayner, Assistant District Attorney  
San Francisco District Attorney's Office  
350 Rhode Island Street  
San Francisco, CA 94103  
Alexandra.grayner@sfgov.org

Valerie Lopez, Deputy City Attorney  
San Francisco City Attorney  
1390 Market Street, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor  
San Francisco, CA 94102  
Valerie.Lopez@sfcityatty.org  
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Tori Verber Salazar, District Attorney  
San Joaquin County  
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701 Ocean Street  
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Prop65DA@santacruzcounty.us

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County Government Center Annex, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
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Jill Ravitch, District Attorney  
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600 Administration Dr  
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Jeannie.Barnes@sonoma-county.org

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Bud Porter, Supervising Deputy District Attorney  
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EPU@da.sccgov.org

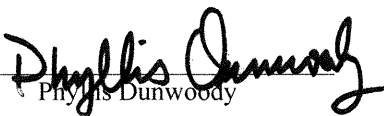
Gregory D. Totten, District Attorney  
Ventura County  
800 S Victoria Ave  
Ventura, CA 93009  
daspecialops@ventura.org

Nora V. Frimann, City Attorney  
San Jose City Attorney  
200 E. Santa Clara Street, 16<sup>th</sup> Floor  
San Jose, CA 96113  
Proposition65notices@sanjoseca.gov

Jeff W. Reisig, District Attorney  
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301 Second Street  
Woodland, CA 95695  
cfepd@yolocounty.org

On September 7, 2023, between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time, I served the following documents: **NOTICE OF VIOLATIONS, CALIFORNIA HEALTH & SAFETY CODE §25249.5 ET SEQ.; CERTIFICATE OF MERIT** on each of the 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 with the U.S. Postal Service with the postage fully prepaid for delivery by First Class Mail.

Executed on September 7, 2023, in Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia.

  
Phyllis Dunwoody

**Service List**

District Attorney, Alpine  
County  
P.O. Box 248  
Markleeville, CA 96120

District Attorney, Amador  
County  
708 Court Street, Suite 202  
Jackson, CA 95642

District Attorney, Butte  
County  
25 County Center Drive, Suite  
245  
Oroville, CA 95965

District Attorney, Colusa  
County  
310 6<sup>th</sup> St  
Colusa, CA 95932

District Attorney, Del Norte  
County  
450 H Street, Room 171  
Crescent City, CA 95531

District Attorney, El Dorado  
County  
778 Pacific St.  
Placerville, CA 95667

District Attorney, Glenn  
County  
Post Office Box 430  
Willows, CA 95988

District Attorney, Humboldt  
County  
825 5th Street 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Eureka, CA 95501

District Attorney, Imperial  
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El Centro, CA 92243

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1215 Truxtun Avenue  
Bakersfield, CA 93301

District Attorney, Kings  
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1400 West Lacey Boulevard  
Hanford, CA 93230

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

District Attorney, Los Angeles  
County  
Hall of Justice  
211 West Temple St., Ste 1200  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

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

District Attorney, Marin  
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3501 Civic Center Drive,  
Room 130  
San Rafael, CA 94903

District Attorney, Mendocino  
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Ukiah, CA 95482

District Attorney, Modoc  
County  
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Alturas, CA 96101-4020

District Attorney, Mono  
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Fairfield, CA 94533

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Sonora, CA 95370

District Attorney, Yuba  
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Marysville, CA 95901

Los Angeles City Attorney's  
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City Hall East  
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