



Matthew Maclear
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November 28, 2023

**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 Environmental Research Center, Inc. ("ERC"), 3111 Camino Del Rio North, Suite 400, San Diego, CA 92108; Tel. (619) 500-3090. ERC's Executive Director is Chris Heptinstall. 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 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), 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 enclosed with this letter served to the alleged Violators identified below.

Alleged Violators. The names of the companies covered by this notice that violated Proposition 65 (hereinafter the "Violators") are:

**Pure Steeps Beverage, LLC, individually and dba Wonder Drink Kombucha
Harris Freeman & Co., Inc., individually and dba Pure Steeps Beverage and Wonder Drink Kombucha**



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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. **Wonder Drink Prebiotic Kombucha Sparkling Fermented Tea Ginger Peach - Lead**
2. **Wonder Drink Prebiotic Kombucha Sparkling Fermented Tea Green Tea & Lemon - Lead**
3. **Wonder Drink Prebiotic Kombucha Sparkling Fermented Tea Asian Pear & Ginger - Lead**

On February 27, 1987, the State of California officially listed lead as a chemical known to cause developmental toxicity, and male and female reproductive toxicity. On October 1, 1992, the State of California officially listed lead and lead compounds as chemicals 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 November 28, 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 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, ERC 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 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.



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ERC has retained ATA Law Group as legal counsel in connection with this matter. **Please direct all communications regarding this Notice of Violation to my attention, or the attention of ATA partner Anthony Barnes, using the address or contact information indicated on the letterhead.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matthew Maclear". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Matthew Maclear
AQUA TERRA AERIS LAW GROUP

Attachments

- Certificate of Merit
- Certificate of Service
- OEHHA Summary (to Pure Steeps Beverage, LLC, individually and dba Wonder Drink Kombucha and Harris Freeman & Co., Inc., individually and dba Pure Steeps Beverage and Wonder Drink Kombucha and their Registered Agents for Service of Process only)
- Additional Supporting Information for Certificate of Merit (to AG only)



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CERTIFICATE OF MERIT

Re: Environmental Research Center, Inc.’s Notice of Proposition 65 Violations by Pure Steeps Beverage, LLC, individually and dba Wonder Drink Kombucha and Harris Freeman & Co., Inc., individually and dba Pure Steeps Beverage and Wonder Drink Kombucha

I, Matthew Maclear, 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 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 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.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matthew Maclear". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "M".

Dated: November 28, 2023

Matthew Maclear



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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 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 November 28, 2023, between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Eastern 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:

Current President or CEO
Pure Steeps Beverage, LLC, individually and
dba Wonder Drink Kombucha and
Harris Freeman & Co., Inc., individually and
dba Pure Steeps Beverage and Wonder Drink Kombucha
3110 E Miraloma Avenue
Anaheim, CA 92806

Paracorp Incorporated
(Registered Agent for Pure Steeps Beverage, LLC,
individually and dba Wonder Drink Kombucha)
2140 S Dupont Hwy
Camden, DE 19934

Current President or CEO
Pure Steeps Beverage, LLC, individually and
dba Wonder Drink Kombucha and
Harris Freeman & Co., Inc., individually and
dba Pure Steeps Beverage and Wonder Drink Kombucha
344 New Albany Rd
Moorestown, NJ 08057

Erin Synder
(Registered Agent for Pure Steeps Beverage, LLC, individually
and dba Wonder Drink Kombucha)
PO Box 4244
Portland, OR 97208

Current President or CEO
Pure Steeps Beverage, LLC, individually and
dba Wonder Drink Kombucha
231 SE Alder St
Portland, OR 97214

Paracorp Incorporated
(Registered Agent for Harris Freeman & Co., Inc.,
individually and dba Pure Steeps Beverage and
Wonder Drink Kombucha)
2804 Gateway Oaks Drive, Suite 100
Sacramento, CA 95833



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On November 28, 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
Oakland, CA 94612-0550

On November 28, 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** 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:

Pamela Y. Price, District Attorney
Alameda County
7677 Oakport Street, Suite 650
Oakland, CA 94621
CEPDProp65@acgov.org

Thomas L. Hardy, District Attorney
Inyo County
168 North Edwards Street
Independence, CA 93526
inyoda@inyocounty.us

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

Devin Chandler, Program Coordinator
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Susanville, CA 96130
dchandler@co.lassen.ca.us

Stacey Grassini, Deputy District Attorney
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Placerville, CA 95667
EDCDAPROP65@edcda.us

Walter W. Wall, District Attorney
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P.O. Box 730
Mariposa, CA 95338
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Lisa A. Smittcamp, District Attorney
Fresno County
2100 Tulare Street
Fresno, CA 93721
consumerprotection@fresnocountyca.gov

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



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Jeannine M. Pacioni, District Attorney
Monterey County
1200 Aguajito Road
Monterey, CA 93940
Prop65DA@co.monterey.ca.us

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

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

Todd Spitzer, District Attorney
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Santa Ana, CA 92703
Prop65notice@ocdapa.org

Morgan Briggs Gire, District Attorney
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Roseville, CA 95678
Prop65@placer.ca.gov

David Hollister, District Attorney
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davidhollister@countyofplumas.com

Paul E. Zellerbach, District Attorney
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Summer Stephan, District Attorney
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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

Henry Lifton, Deputy City Attorney
San Francisco City Attorney
1390 Market Street, 7th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94102
Prop65@sfcityatty.org

Tori Verber Salazar, District Attorney
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DAConsumer.Environmental@sjcda.org

Eric J. Dobroth, Deputy District Attorney
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County Government Center Annex, 4th Floor
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408
edobroth@co.slo.ca.us

Christopher Dalbey, Deputy District Attorney
Santa Barbara County
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Santa Barbara, CA 93101
DAProp65@co.santa-barbara.ca.us

Bud Porter, Supervising Deputy District Attorney
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70 W Hedding St
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Nora V. Frimann, City Attorney
Santa Clara City Attorney
200 E. Santa Clara Street, 16th Floor
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Proposition65notices@sanjoseca.gov

Jeffrey S. Rosell, District Attorney
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Phillip J. Cline, District Attorney
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Gregory D. Totten, District Attorney
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800 S Victoria Ave
Ventura, CA 93009
daspecialops@ventura.org

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

On November 28, 2023, between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time, I served the following documents: **NOTICE OF VIOLATION, 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 at a U.S. Postal Service Office with the postage fully prepaid for delivery by First Class Mail.

Executed on November 28, 2023, in Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia.

Phyllis Dunwoody



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Service List

District Attorney, Alpine County P.O. Box 248 Markleeville, CA 96120	District Attorney, Modoc County 204 S Court Street, Room 202 Alturas, CA 96101-4020	District Attorney, Yuba County 215 Fifth Street, Suite 152 Marysville, CA 95901
District Attorney, Amador County 708 Court Street, Suite 202 Jackson, CA 95642	District Attorney, Mono County Post Office Box 617 Bridgeport, CA 93517	Los Angeles City Attorney's Office City Hall East 200 N. Main Street, Suite 800 Los Angeles, CA 90012
District Attorney, Butte County 25 County Center Drive, Suite 245 Oroville, CA 95965	District Attorney, San Benito County 419 Fourth Street, 2nd Floor Hollister, CA 95023	
District Attorney, Colusa County 310 6 th St Colusa, CA 95932	District Attorney, San Bernardino County 303 West Third Street San Bernardino, CA 92415	
District Attorney, Del Norte County 450 H Street, Room 171 Crescent City, CA 95531	District Attorney, San Mateo County 400 County Ctr., 3rd Floor Redwood City, CA 94063	
District Attorney, Glenn County Post Office Box 430 Willows, CA 95988	District Attorney, Shasta County 1355 West Street Redding, CA 96001	
District Attorney, Humboldt County 825 5th Street 4 th Floor Eureka, CA 95501	District Attorney, Sierra County Post Office Box 457 100 Courthouse Square, 2 nd Floor Downieville, CA 95936	
District Attorney, Imperial County 940 West Main Street, Ste 102 El Centro, CA 92243	District Attorney, Siskiyou County Post Office Box 986 Yreka, CA 96097	
District Attorney, Kern County 1215 Truxtun Avenue Bakersfield, CA 93301	District Attorney, Solano County 675 Texas Street, Ste 4500 Fairfield, CA 94533	
District Attorney, Kings County 1400 West Lacey Boulevard Hanford, CA 93230	District Attorney, Stanislaus County 832 12th Street, Ste 300 Modesto, CA 95354	
District Attorney, Lake County 255 N. Forbes Street Lakeport, CA 95453	District Attorney, Sutter County 463 2 nd Street Yuba City, CA 95991	
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, Tehama County Post Office Box 519 Red Bluff, CA 96080	
District Attorney, Mendocino County Post Office Box 1000 Ukiah, CA 95482	District Attorney, Trinity County Post Office Box 310 Weaverville, CA 96093	
	District Attorney, Tuolumne County 423 N. Washington Street Sonora, CA 95370	