

## NOTICE OF VIOLATION

### California Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act

#### Bisphenol A in Canned Coconut Water

May 22, 2025

This Notice of Violation is provided to you pursuant to and in compliance with California Health and Safety Code Section 25249.7(d).

- For general information regarding the California Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act, see the attached summary provided by the California EPA (copies not provided to public enforcement agencies).
- This Notice is provided by the Center for Environmental Health (“CEH”), 2201 Broadway, Suite 508, Oakland, CA 94612, (510) 655-3900. CEH is a nonprofit corporation dedicated to protecting the environment, improving human health, and supporting environmentally sound practices. Shakoora Azimi-Gaylon is the Senior Director of the Toxic Exposures and Pollution Prevention program and a responsible individual within CEH.

#### Description of Violation:

- Violators: The names and addresses of the violators are identified on the attached Exhibit 1.
- Time Period of Exposure: The violations have been occurring since at least May 22, 2022, and are continuing to this day.
- Provision of Proposition 65: This Notice covers the “warning provision” of Proposition 65, which is found at California Health and Safety Code Section 25249.6.
- Chemical(s) Involved: The name of the listed chemical involved in these violations is bisphenol A (“BPA”). The violators identified in Exhibit 1 expose individuals to BPA when individuals consume the coconut water contained in the products identified in this Notice.
- Type of Product: The specific type of product causing these violations is canned coconut water. Non-exclusive examples of these types of products are identified on the attached Exhibit 1.
- Description of Exposure: This Notice addresses consumer exposures to BPA. Consumption of the coconut water contained in the products subject to this Notice results in human exposures to BPA. BPA is found in the coconut water contained in the products. The primary route of exposure for the violations is direct ingestion when consumers drink the coconut water contained in the products. These exposures occur in homes, workplaces, and everywhere else

throughout California where the coconut water contained in the products is consumed. No clear and reasonable warning is provided with these products regarding the presence of BPA in the coconut water contained in the products.

#### **Resolution of Noticed Claims:**

Based on the allegations set forth in this Notice, CEH intends to file a citizen enforcement lawsuit against the alleged violators unless such violators agree in a binding written instrument to: (1) recall products already sold; (2) provide clear and reasonable warnings for products sold in the future or reformulate such products to eliminate the BPA exposures; and (3) pay an appropriate civil penalty based on the factors enumerated in California Health and Safety Code Section 25249.7(b). Violators interested in resolving this dispute short of litigation should contact CEH through its counsel identified below. It should be noted that CEH cannot: (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 CEH's 60-day Notice. Therefore, while reaching an agreement with CEH will resolve CEH's claims, such agreement may not satisfy the public prosecutors.

#### **Preservation of Relevant Evidence:**

This Notice also serves as a demand that the alleged violators preserve and maintain all relevant evidence, including all electronic documents and data, pending resolution of this matter. Such relevant evidence includes but is not limited to all documents relating to the presence or potential presence of BPA in canned coconut water; purchase and sales information for such products; efforts to comply with Proposition 65 with respect to such products; communications with any person relating to the presence or potential presence of BPA in such products; and representative exemplars of each lot of each variety of any such products sold by the alleged violator since May 22, 2022 through the date of any trial of the claims alleged in this Notice.

Please direct any inquiries regarding this Notice to CEH's counsel, Patrick Carey, at Lexington Law Group, LLP, 503 Divisadero Street, San Francisco, CA 94117, (415) 913-7800, [pcarey@lexlawgroup.com](mailto:pcarey@lexlawgroup.com).

**CERTIFICATE OF MERIT**  
**Health & Safety Code § 25249.7(d)**

I, Patrick Carey, hereby declare:

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

2. I am an attorney with the Lexington Law Group, LLP, and I represent the noticing party, the Center for Environmental Health.

3. Members of my firm and 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 exposures to the listed chemical that is the subject of the action.

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 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. The copy of the 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 & 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.



May 22, 2025

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Patrick Carey  
Attorney for CENTER FOR  
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

**EXHIBIT 1**  
**May 22, 2025 Notice of Violation**  
**Bisphenol A (BPA) in Canned Coconut Water**

<b>Names and Addresses of Responsible Parties</b>	<b>Non-Exclusive Examples of the Products</b>	<b>UPC or Further Description</b>
<b>Gobrandts, Inc.</b> 537 N 3rd Street Philadelphia, PA 19123	Basically Coconut Water, The Original Kind	UPC: 850053375842
<b>United Natural Foods, Inc.,</b> 313 Iron Horse Way Providence, RI 02908  <b>United Natural Foods West, Inc.</b> 313 Iron Horse Way Providence, RI 02908	Wild Harvest 100% Coconut Water	UPC: 711535505235

1 **PROOF OF SERVICE**

2 I, Sophia Filipe, declare:

3 I am a citizen of the United States and employed in the County of San Francisco, State of  
4 California. I am over the age of eighteen (18) years and not a party to this action. My business  
5 address is 503 Divisadero Street, San Francisco, CA 94117 and my email address is  
sfilipe@lexlawgroup.com.

6 On May 22, 2025, I served the following document(s) on all interested parties in this  
7 action by placing a true copy thereof in the manner and at the addresses indicated below:

8 **NOTICE OF VIOLATION OF CALIFORNIA SAFE DRINKING WATER AND  
TOXIC ENFORCEMENT ACT;**

9 **CERTIFICATE OF MERIT;** and

10 **THE SAFE DRINKING AND TOXIC ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 1986**  
11 **(PROPOSITION 65): A SUMMARY** (only sent to those on service list marked with an  
asterisk).

12 ☒ **BY MAIL:** I am readily familiar with the firm's practice for collecting and processing mail  
13 with the United States Postal Service ("USPS"). Under that practice, mail would be deposited  
14 with USPS that same day with postage thereon fully prepaid at San Francisco, California in the  
ordinary course of business. On this date, I placed sealed envelopes containing the above  
mentioned documents for collection and mailing following my firm's ordinary business practices.

15 *Please see attached service list.*

16 ☒ **BY ELECTRONIC UPLOAD:** I transmitted a PDF version of the document(s) listed above,  
17 as well as a Confidential Supporting Certificate of Merit, to the Office of the Attorney General of  
California via the Proposition 65 60-Day Notice Search website at [https://oag.ca.gov/prop65/60-](https://oag.ca.gov/prop65/60-day-notice-search)  
18 [day-notice-search](https://oag.ca.gov/prop65/60-day-notice-search).

19 ☒ **BY ELECTRONIC MAIL:** I transmitted a PDF version of the document(s) listed above via  
20 email to the email address(es) indicated on the attached service list [or noted above] before 5 p.m.  
on the date executed.

21 Pamela Y. Price, Alameda District Attorney  
22 7677 Oakport Street, Suite 650  
Oakland, CA 94621  
CEPDProp65@acgov.org

James Clinchard, El Dorado Assistant  
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25 Stacey Grassini, Contra Costa Deputy  
26 District Attorney  
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27 sgrassini@contracostada.org  
28

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inyoda@inyocounty.us

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2	2950 Riverside Dr	901 G Street
3	Susanville, CA 96130	Sacramento, CA 95814
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5	3501 Civic Center Drive, Room 145	330 West Broadway
6	San Rafael, CA 94903	San Diego, CA 92101
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7	Walter W. Wall, Mariposa District Attorney	Mark Ankorn, San Diego Deputy City Attorney
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9	Kimberly Lewis, Merced District Attorney	Henry Lifton, San Francisco Deputy City Attorney
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12	Jeannine M. Pacioni, Monterey District Attorney	Alexandra Grayner, San Francisco Assistant District Attorney
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15	Allison Haley, Napa District Attorney	Tori Verber Salazar, San Joaquin District Attorney
16	1127 First Street, Suite C	222 E. Weber Avenue, Room 202
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	CEPD@countyofnapa.org	DAConsumer.Environmental@sjcda.org
17	Clifford H. Newell, Nevada District Attorney	Eric J. Dobroth, San Luis Obispo Deputy District Attorney
18	201 Commercial Street	County Government Center Annex, 4th Floor
19	Nevada City, CA 95959	San Luis Obispo, CA 93408
	DA.Prop65@co.nevada.ca.us	edobroth@co.slo.ca.us
20	Morgan Briggs Gire, Placer District Attorney	Christopher Dalbey, Santa Barbara Deputy District Attorney
21	10810 Justice Center Drive	1112 Santa Barbara St.
22	Roseville, CA 95678	Santa Barbara, CA 93101
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23	David Hollister, Plumas District Attorney	Nora V. Frimann, Santa Clara City Attorney
24	520 Main St.	200 E. Santa Clara Street, 16th Floor
25	Quincy, CA 95971	San Jose, CA 96113
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26	Paul E. Zellerbach, Riverside District Attorney	
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28	Riverside, CA 92501	
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1 Bud Porter, Supervising Santa Clara, Deputy  
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10 Todd Spitzer, District Attorney of Orange County  
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12 Santa Ana, CA 92703  
13 Prop65Notice@ocdapa.org

13 I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the  
14 foregoing is true and correct.

14 Executed on May 22, 2025 at San Francisco, California.



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Sophia Filipe

## **SERVICE LIST**

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