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18 Choice

19 **SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**  
20 **COUNTY OF ALAMEDA**

21 **ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH**  
22 **CENTER, INC., a California non-profit**  
23 **corporation**

24 **Plaintiff,**

25 **vs.**

26 **JB7, LLC, individually and dba**  
27 **PHYSICIAN'S CHOICE; and DOES 1-100**

28 **Defendants.**

**CASE NO. RG20078500**

**STIPULATED CONSENT**  
**JUDGMENT**

Health & Safety Code § 25249.5 *et seq.*

Action Filed: October 30, 2020

Trial Date: None set

**1. INTRODUCTION**

1.1 On October 30, 2020, Plaintiff Environmental Research Center, Inc. ("ERC"), a non-profit corporation, as a private enforcer and in the public interest, initiated this action by filing a Complaint for Injunctive and Declaratory Relief and Civil Penalties (the "Complaint")

1 pursuant to the provisions of California Health and Safety Code section 25249.5 *et seq.*  
2 (“Proposition 65”), against JB7, LLC, individually and dba Physician’s Choice (“Physician’s  
3 Choice”) and Does 1-100. In this action, ERC alleges that one of the products manufactured,  
4 distributed, or sold by Physician’s Choice contains lead, a chemical listed under Proposition 65  
5 as a carcinogen and reproductive toxin, and exposes consumers to this chemical at a level  
6 requiring a Proposition 65 warning. This product (referred to hereinafter as the “Covered  
7 Product”) is: Physician’s Choice Ashwagandha Extra Strength 1950 mg.

8 **1.2** ERC and Physician’s Choice are hereinafter referred to individually as a “Party”  
9 or collectively as the “Parties.”

10 **1.3** ERC is a 501 (c)(3) California non-profit corporation dedicated to, among other  
11 causes, helping safeguard the public from health hazards by reducing the use and misuse of  
12 hazardous and toxic chemicals, facilitating a safe environment for consumers and employees,  
13 and encouraging corporate responsibility.

14 **1.4** For purposes of this Consent Judgment, the Parties agree that Physician’s Choice  
15 is a business entity that has employed ten or more persons at all times relevant to this action, and  
16 qualifies as a “person in the course of doing business” within the meaning of Proposition 65.  
17 Physician’s Choice manufactures, distributes, and/or sells the Covered Product.

18 **1.5** The Complaint is based on allegations contained in ERC’s Notice of Violation  
19 dated August 20, 2020 that was served on the California Attorney General, other public  
20 enforcers, and Physician’s Choice (“Notice”). A true and correct copy of the 60-Day Notice  
21 dated August 20, 2020 is attached hereto as **Exhibit A** and incorporated herein by reference.  
22 More than 60 days have passed since the Notice was served on the Attorney General, public  
23 enforcers, and Physician’s Choice and no designated governmental entity has filed a Complaint  
24 against Physician’s Choice with regard to the Covered Product or the alleged violations.

25 **1.6** ERC’s Notice and Complaint allege that use of the Covered Product by  
26 California consumers exposes them to lead without first receiving clear and reasonable  
27 warnings from Physician’s Choice, which is in violation of California Health and Safety Code  
28 section 25249.6. Physician’s Choice denies all material allegations contained in the Notice and

1 Complaint.

2           **1.7**     The Parties have entered into this Consent Judgment in order to settle,  
3 compromise, and resolve disputed claims and thus avoid prolonged and costly litigation.  
4 Nothing in this Consent Judgment nor compliance with this Consent Judgment shall constitute  
5 or be construed as an admission by any of the Parties or by any of their respective officers,  
6 directors, shareholders, employees, agents, parent companies, subsidiaries, divisions,  
7 franchisees, licensees, customers, suppliers, distributors, wholesalers, or retailers of any fact,  
8 issue of law, or violation of law.

9           **1.8**     Except as expressly set forth herein, nothing in this Consent Judgment shall  
10 prejudice, waive, or impair any right, remedy, argument, or defense the Parties may have in  
11 any current or future legal proceeding unrelated to these proceedings.

12           **1.9**     The Effective Date of this Consent Judgment is the date on which it is entered  
13 as a Judgment by this Court.

14    **2.    JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

15           For purposes of this Consent Judgment and any further court action that may become  
16 necessary to enforce this Consent Judgment, the Parties stipulate that this Court has subject matter  
17 jurisdiction over the allegations of violations contained in the Complaint and personal jurisdiction  
18 over Physician’s Choice as to the acts alleged in the Complaint, that venue is proper in Alameda  
19 County, and that this Court has jurisdiction to enter this Consent Judgment as a full and final  
20 resolution of all claims up through and including the Effective Date that were or could have been  
21 asserted in this action based on the facts alleged in the Notice and Complaint.

22    **3.    INJUNCTIVE RELIEF, REFORMULATION, TESTING AND WARNINGS**

23           **3.1**     Beginning on the Effective Date, Physician’s Choice shall be permanently  
24 enjoined from manufacturing for sale in the State of California, “Distributing into the State of  
25 California,” or directly selling in the State of California, any Covered Product that exposes a  
26 person to a “Daily Lead Exposure Level” of more than 0.5 micrograms of lead per day unless it  
27 meets the warning requirements under Section 3.2.

28           **3.1.1**   As used in this Consent Judgment, the term “Distributing into the State

1 of California” shall mean to directly ship a Covered Product into California for sale in  
2 California or to sell a Covered Product to a distributor that Physician’s Choice knows or has  
3 reason to know will sell the Covered Product in California.

4 **3.1.2** For purposes of this Consent Judgment, the “Daily Lead Exposure  
5 Level” shall be measured in micrograms, and shall be calculated using the following formula:  
6 micrograms of lead per gram of product, multiplied by grams of product per serving of the  
7 product (using the largest serving size appearing on the product label), multiplied by servings  
8 of the product per day (using the largest number of recommended daily servings appearing on  
9 the label), which equals micrograms of lead exposure per day. If the label contains no  
10 recommended daily servings, then the number of recommended daily servings shall be one.

11 **3.2 Clear and Reasonable Warnings**

12 If Physician’s Choice is required to provide a warning pursuant to Section 3.1, the  
13 following warning must be utilized (“Warning”):

14 **WARNING:** Consuming this product can expose you to chemicals including [lead] which  
15 is [are] known to the State of California to cause [cancer and] birth defects or other  
16 reproductive harm. For more information go to [www.P65Warnings.ca.gov/food](http://www.P65Warnings.ca.gov/food).

17 Physician’s Choice shall use the phrase “cancer and” in the Warning if Physician’s Choice  
18 has reason to believe that the the “Daily Lead Exposure Level” is greater than 15 micrograms of  
19 lead as determined pursuant to calculations set forth set forth in Section 3.1.2 or if Physician’s  
20 Choice has reason to believe that another Proposition 65 chemical is present which may require a  
21 cancer warning.

22 **3.2.1** For sales of the Covered Product in California retail stores, the Warning  
23 shall be securely affixed to or printed upon the label of each Covered Product and it must be  
24 set off from other surrounding information and enclosed in a box. For purposes of this  
25 Consent Judgment, the term “label” means a display of written, printed or graphic material that  
26 is printed on or affixed to a Covered Product or its immediate container or wrapper.

27 **3.2.2** For any Covered Product sold over the internet to a California delivery  
28 address, the Warning shall appear on the checkout page or otherwise be provided to the

1 purchaser prior to purchase so long as the Warning is prominently displayed. The Warning is  
2 not prominently displayed if the purchaser must search for it in the general content of the  
3 website. An asterisk or other identifying method must be utilized to identify which product is  
4 subject to the Warning.

5 **3.2.3 Other Requirements:** The Warning shall be at least the same size as the  
6 largest of any other health or safety warnings also appearing on the website or on the label and  
7 the word “**WARNING**” shall be in all capital letters and in bold print. No statements intended to  
8 or likely to have the effect of diminishing the impact of the Warning on the average lay person  
9 shall accompany the Warning. Further, no statements may accompany the Warning that state or  
10 imply that the source of the listed chemical has an impact on or results in a less harmful effect of  
11 the listed chemical.

12 Physician’s Choice must display the above Warning with such conspicuousness,  
13 as compared with other words, statements or designs on the label, or on its website, if  
14 applicable, to render the Warning likely to be read and understood by an ordinary individual  
15 under customary conditions of purchase or use of the product.

### 16 **3.3 Conforming Covered Product**

17 A Conforming Covered Product is a Covered Product for which the “Daily Lead Exposure  
18 Level” is no greater than 0.5 micrograms of lead per day as determined by the exposure  
19 methodology set forth in Section 3.1.2 and either the quality control methodology described in  
20 Section 3.4 or an FDA-sanctioned sampling/testing methodology that is agreed upon in writing by  
21 the Parties, and that is not known by Physician’s Choice to contain other chemicals that violate  
22 Proposition 65’s safe harbor thresholds.

### 23 **3.4 Testing and Quality Control Methodology**

24 **3.4.1** Beginning within one year of the Effective Date and continuing for three  
25 (3) consecutive years thereafter, Physician’s Choice shall arrange for lead testing of the  
26 Covered Product at least once a year by arranging for testing of three (3) randomly selected  
27 samples of the Covered Product, in the form intended for sale to the end-user, which  
28 Physician’s Choice intends to sell or is manufacturing for sale in California, directly selling to

1 a consumer in California or “Distributing into the State of California.”.

2 **3.4.2** For purposes of measuring the “Daily Lead Exposure Level,” the highest  
3 lead detection result of the three (3) randomly selected samples of the Covered Product will be  
4 controlling.

5 **3.4.3** All testing pursuant to this Consent Judgment shall be performed using a  
6 laboratory method that complies with the performance and quality control factors appropriate  
7 for the method used, including limit of detection and limit of quantification, sensitivity,  
8 accuracy and precision that meets the following criteria: Inductively Coupled Plasma-Mass  
9 Spectrometry (“ICP-MS”) achieving a limit of quantification of less than or equal to 0.010  
10 mg/kg.

11 **3.4.4** All testing pursuant to this Consent Judgment shall be performed by an  
12 independent third party laboratory certified by the California Environmental Laboratory  
13 Accreditation Program or an independent third-party laboratory that is registered with the  
14 United States Food & Drug Administration.

15 **3.4.5** Nothing in this Consent Judgment shall limit Physician’s Choice’s  
16 ability to conduct, or require that others conduct, additional testing of the Covered Product,  
17 including the raw materials used in their manufacture.

18 **3.4.6** Beginning within one year of the Effective Date and continuing for three  
19 (3) consecutive years thereafter, Physician’s Choice shall deliver lab reports obtained pursuant  
20 to Section 3.4 to ERC, if requested, within thirty (30) days of ERC’s written request.  
21 Physician’s Choice shall retain all test results and documentation for a period of five years  
22 from the date of each test.

23 **4. SETTLEMENT PAYMENT**

24 **4.1** In full satisfaction of all potential civil penalties, additional settlement  
25 payments, attorney’s fees, and costs, Physician’s Choice shall make a total payment of  
26 \$25,000.00 (“Total Settlement Amount”) to ERC within 5 days of the Effective Date (“Due  
27 Date”). Physician’s Choice shall make this payment by wire transfer to ERC’s account, for  
28 which ERC will give Physician’s Choice the necessary account information. The Total

1 Settlement Amount shall be apportioned as follows:

2           **4.2**     \$9,150.00 shall be considered a civil penalty pursuant to California Health and  
3 Safety Code section 25249.7(b)(1). ERC shall remit 75% (\$6,862.50 of the civil penalty to the  
4 Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (“OEHHA”) for deposit in the Safe  
5 Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Fund in accordance with California Health and Safety  
6 Code section 25249.12(c). ERC will retain the remaining 25% (\$2,287.50) of the civil penalty.

7           **4.3**     \$1,949.79 shall be distributed to ERC as reimbursement to ERC for reasonable  
8 costs incurred in bringing this action.

9           **4.4**     \$6,818.28 shall be distributed to ERC as an Additional Settlement Payment  
10 (“ASP”), pursuant to California Code of Regulations, title 11, sections 3203, subdivision (d) and  
11 3204. ERC will utilize the ASP for activities that address the same public harm as allegedly  
12 caused by Defendant in this matter. These activities are detailed below and support ERC’s  
13 overarching goal of reducing and/or eliminating hazardous and toxic chemicals in dietary  
14 supplement products in California. ERC’s activities have had, and will continue to have, a direct  
15 and primary effect within the State of California because California consumers will be benefitted  
16 by the reduction and/or elimination of exposure to lead in dietary supplements and/or by  
17 providing clear and reasonable warnings to California consumers prior to ingestion of the  
18 products.

19           Based on a review of past years’ actual budgets, ERC is providing the following list of  
20 activities ERC engages in to protect California consumers through Proposition 65 citizen  
21 enforcement, along with a breakdown of how ASP funds will be utilized to facilitate those  
22 activities: (1) ENFORCEMENT (65-80%): obtaining, shipping, analyzing, and testing dietary  
23 supplement products that may contain lead and are sold to California consumers. This work  
24 includes continued monitoring and enforcement of past consent judgments and settlements to  
25 ensure companies are in compliance with their obligations thereunder, with a specific focus on  
26 those judgments and settlements concerning lead. This work also includes investigation of new  
27 companies that ERC does not obtain any recovery through settlement or judgment; (2)  
28

1 VOLUNTARY COMPLIANCE PROGRAM (10-20%): maintaining ERC's Voluntary  
2 Compliance Program by acquiring products from companies, developing and maintaining a  
3 case file, testing products from these companies, providing the test results and supporting  
4 documentation to the companies, and offering guidance in warning or implementing a self-  
5 testing program for lead in dietary supplement products; and (3) "GOT LEAD" PROGRAM  
6 (up to 5%): maintaining ERC's "Got Lead?" Program which reduces the numbers of  
7 contaminated products that reach California consumers by providing access to free testing for  
8 lead in dietary supplement products (Products submitted to the program are screened for  
9 ingredients which are suspected to be contaminated, and then may be purchased by ERC,  
10 catalogued, sent to a qualified laboratory for testing, and the results shared with the consumer  
11 that submitted the product).

12  
13 ERC shall be fully accountable in that it will maintain adequate records to document  
14 and will be able to demonstrate how the ASP funds will be spent and can assure that the funds  
15 are being spent only for the proper, designated purposes described in this Consent Judgment.  
16 ERC shall provide the Attorney General, within thirty days of any request, copies of  
17 documentation demonstrating how such funds have been spent.

18 **4.5** \$7,081.93 shall be distributed to ERC for its in-house legal fees. Except as  
19 explicitly provided herein, each Party shall bear its own fees and costs.

20 **4.6** In the event that Physician's Choice fails to remit the Total Settlement Amount  
21 owed under Section 4 of this Consent Judgment on or before the Due Date, Physician's Choice  
22 shall be deemed to be in material breach of its obligations under this Consent Judgment. ERC  
23 shall provide written notice of the delinquency to Physician's Choice via electronic mail. If  
24 Physician's Choice fails to deliver the Total Settlement Amount within five (5) days from the  
25 written notice, the Total Settlement Amount shall accrue interest at the statutory judgment  
26 interest rate provided in the California Code of Civil Procedure section 685.010. Additionally,  
27 Physician's Choice agrees to pay ERC's reasonable attorney's fees and costs for any efforts to  
28 collect the payment due under this Consent Judgment.



1     **5.     MODIFICATION OF CONSENT JUDGMENT**

2             **5.1**     This Consent Judgment may be modified only as to injunctive terms (i) by  
3 written stipulation of the Parties and upon entry by the Court of a modified consent judgment  
4 or (ii) by motion of either Party pursuant to Section 5.3 and upon entry by the Court of a  
5 modified consent judgment.

6             **5.2**     If Physician’s Choice seeks to modify this Consent Judgment under Section 5.1,  
7 then Physician’s Choice must provide written notice to ERC of its intent (“Notice of Intent”).  
8 If ERC seeks to meet and confer regarding the proposed modification in the Notice of Intent,  
9 then ERC must provide written notice to Physician’s Choice within thirty (30) days of receiving  
10 the Notice of Intent. If ERC notifies Physician’s Choice in a timely manner of ERC’s intent to  
11 meet and confer, then the Parties shall meet and confer in good faith as required in this Section.  
12 The Parties shall meet in person or via telephone within thirty (30) days of ERC’s notification  
13 of its intent to meet and confer. Within thirty (30) days of such meeting, if ERC disputes the  
14 proposed modification, ERC shall provide to Physician’s Choice a written basis for its position.  
15 The Parties shall continue to meet and confer for an additional thirty (30) days in an effort to  
16 resolve any remaining disputes. Should it become necessary, the Parties may agree in writing  
17 to different deadlines for the meet-and-confer period.

18             **5.3**     In the event that Physician’s Choice initiates or otherwise requests a  
19 modification under Section 5.1, and the meet and confer process leads to a joint motion or  
20 application for a modification of the Consent Judgment, Physician’s Choice shall reimburse  
21 ERC its costs and reasonable attorney’s fees for the time spent in the meet-and-confer process  
22 and filing and arguing the motion or application.

23     **6.     RETENTION OF JURISDICTION, ENFORCEMENT OF CONSENT**  
24     **JUDGMENT**

25             **6.1**     This Court shall retain jurisdiction of this matter to enforce, modify, or  
26 terminate this Consent Judgment.

27             **6.2**     If ERC alleges that the Covered Product fails to qualify as a Conforming  
28 Covered Product (for which ERC alleges that no Warning has been provided), then ERC shall

1 inform Physician's Choice in a reasonably prompt manner of its test results, including  
2 information sufficient to permit Physician's Choice to identify the Covered Product at issue.  
3 Physician's Choice shall, within thirty (30) days following such notice, provide ERC with  
4 testing information, from an independent third-party laboratory meeting the requirements of  
5 Sections 3.4.3 and 3.4.4, demonstrating Physician's Choice's compliance with the Consent  
6 Judgment. The Parties shall first attempt to resolve the matter prior to ERC taking any further  
7 legal action.

## 8 **7. APPLICATION OF CONSENT JUDGMENT**

9 This Consent Judgment may apply to, be binding upon, and benefit the Parties and their  
10 respective officers, directors, shareholders, employees, agents, parent companies, subsidiaries,  
11 divisions, franchisees, licensees, customers (excluding private labelers), distributors, wholesalers,  
12 retailers, predecessors, successors, and assigns. This Consent Judgment shall have no  
13 application to any Covered Product that is distributed or sold exclusively outside the State of  
14 California and that is not used by California consumers.

## 15 **8. BINDING EFFECT, CLAIMS COVERED AND RELEASED**

16 **8.1** This Consent Judgment is a full, final, and binding resolution between ERC, on  
17 behalf of itself and in the public interest, and Physician's Choice and its respective officers,  
18 directors, shareholders, employees, agents, parent companies, subsidiaries, divisions, suppliers,  
19 franchisees, licensees, customers (not including private label customers of Physician's Choice),  
20 distributors, wholesalers, retailers, and all other upstream and downstream entities in the  
21 distribution chain of the Covered Product, and the predecessors, successors, and assigns of any  
22 of them (collectively, "Released Parties").

23 **8.2** ERC, acting in the public interest, releases the Released Parties from any and all  
24 claims for violations of Proposition 65 up through the Effective Date based on exposure to lead  
25 from the Covered Product as set forth in the Notice of Violation. ERC, on behalf of itself only,  
26 hereby fully releases and discharges the Released Parties from any and all claims, actions,  
27 causes of action, suits, demands, liabilities, damages, penalties, fees, costs, and expenses  
28 asserted, or that could have been asserted from the handling, use, or consumption of the

1 Covered Product, as to any alleged violation of Proposition 65 or its implementing regulations  
2 arising from the failure to provide Proposition 65 warnings on the Covered Product regarding  
3 lead up to and including the Effective Date.

4 **8.3** ERC on its own behalf only, and Physician’s Choice on its own behalf only,  
5 further waive and release any and all claims they may have against each other for all actions or  
6 statements made or undertaken in the course of seeking or opposing enforcement of Proposition  
7 65 in connection with the Notice and Complaint up through and including the Effective Date,  
8 provided, however, that nothing in Section 8 shall affect or limit any Party’s right to seek to  
9 enforce the terms of this Consent Judgment.

10 **8.4** It is possible that other claims not known to the Parties, arising out of the facts  
11 alleged in the Notice and Complaint, and relating to the Covered Product, will develop or be  
12 discovered. ERC on behalf of itself only, and Physician’s Choice on behalf of itself only,  
13 acknowledge that this Consent Judgment is expressly intended to cover and include all such  
14 claims up through and including the Effective Date, including all rights of action therefore.  
15 ERC and Physician’s Choice acknowledge that the claims released in Sections 8.2 and 8.3  
16 above may include unknown claims, and nevertheless waive California Civil Code section  
17 1542 as to any such unknown claims. California Civil Code section 1542 reads as follows:

18 A GENERAL RELEASE DOES NOT EXTEND TO CLAIMS THAT THE  
19 CREDITOR OR RELEASING PARTY DOES NOT KNOW OR SUSPECT TO  
20 EXIST IN HIS OR HER FAVOR AT THE TIME OF EXECUTING THE RELEASE  
21 AND THAT, IF KNOWN BY HIM OR HER, WOULD HAVE MATERIALLY  
AFFECTED HIS OR HER SETTLEMENT WITH THE DEBTOR OR RELEASED  
PARTY.

22 ERC on behalf of itself only, and Physician’s Choice on behalf of itself only, acknowledge and  
23 understand the significance and consequences of this specific waiver of California Civil Code  
24 section 1542.

25 **8.5** Compliance with the terms of this Consent Judgment shall be deemed to constitute  
26 compliance with Proposition 65 by any of the Released Parties regarding alleged exposures to lead  
27 in the Covered Product as set forth in the Notice and Complaint.

28 **8.6** Nothing in this Consent Judgment is intended to apply to any occupational or

1 environmental exposures arising under Proposition 65, nor shall it apply to any of Physician's  
2 Choice's products other than the Covered Product.

3 **9. SEVERABILITY OF UNENFORCEABLE PROVISIONS**

4 In the event that any of the provisions of this Consent Judgment are held by a court to be  
5 unenforceable, the validity of the remaining enforceable provisions shall not be adversely  
6 affected.

7 **10. GOVERNING LAW**

8 The terms and conditions of this Consent Judgment shall be governed by and construed in  
9 accordance with the laws of the State of California.

10 **11. PROVISION OF NOTICE**

11 All notices required to be given to either Party to this Consent Judgment by the other shall  
12 be in writing and sent to the following agents listed below via first-class mail or via electronic  
13 mail where required. Courtesy copies via email may also be sent.

14 **FOR ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH CENTER, INC.:**

15 Chris Heptinstall, Executive Director, Environmental Research Center  
16 3111 Camino Del Rio North, Suite 400  
17 San Diego, CA 92108  
18 Ph: (619) 500-3090  
19 Email: chris.heptinstall@erc501c3.org

19 With a copy to:  
20 Charles W. Poss  
21 Environmental Research Center, Inc.  
22 3111 Camino Del Rio North, Suite 400  
23 San Diego, CA 92108  
24 Ph: (619) 500-3090  
25 Email: charles.poss@erc501c3.org

24 **FOR JB7, LLC, individually and dba PHYSICIAN'S CHOICE:**

25 Robert B. Bliss  
26 1099 18<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 2600  
27 Denver, CO 80202

27 ///  
28 ///

1 With a copy to:  
2 Carol Brophy  
3 Jennifer K. Singh  
4 Steptoe & Johnson LLP  
5 One Market Plaza  
6 Spear Tower 39<sup>th</sup> Fl  
7 San Francisco, CA 94105  
8 Ph: (415) 365-6700  
9 Email: cbrophy@steptoe.com  
10 jsingh@steptoe.com  
11

## 12 **12. COURT APPROVAL**

13 **12.1** Upon execution of this Consent Judgment by the Parties, ERC shall notice a  
14 Motion for Court Approval. The Parties shall use their best efforts to support entry of this  
15 Consent Judgment.

16 **12.2** If the California Attorney General objects to any term in this Consent Judgment,  
17 the Parties shall use their best efforts to resolve the concern in a timely manner, and if possible  
18 prior to the hearing on the motion.

19 **12.3** If this Stipulated Consent Judgment is not approved by the Court, it shall be  
20 void and have no force or effect.

## 21 **13. EXECUTION AND COUNTERPARTS**

22 This Consent Judgment may be executed in counterparts, which taken together shall be  
23 deemed to constitute one document. A facsimile or .pdf signature shall be construed to be as valid  
24 as the original signature.

## 25 **14. DRAFTING**

26 The terms of this Consent Judgment have been reviewed by the respective counsel for  
27 each Party prior to its signing, and each Party has had an opportunity to fully discuss the terms  
28 and conditions with legal counsel. The Parties agree that, in any subsequent interpretation and  
construction of this Consent Judgment, no inference, assumption, or presumption shall be drawn,  
and no provision of this Consent Judgment shall be construed against any Party, based on the fact  
that one of the Parties and/or one of the Parties' legal counsel prepared and/or drafted all or any  
portion of the Consent Judgment. It is conclusively presumed that all of the Parties participated

1 equally in the preparation and drafting of this Consent Judgment.

2 **15. GOOD FAITH ATTEMPT TO RESOLVE DISPUTES**

3 If a dispute arises with respect to either Party's compliance with the terms of this Consent  
4 Judgment entered by the Court, the Parties shall meet and confer in person, by telephone, and/or  
5 in writing and endeavor to resolve the dispute in an amicable manner. No action or motion may  
6 be filed in the absence of such a good faith attempt to resolve the dispute beforehand.

7 **16. ENFORCEMENT**

8 ERC may, by motion or order to show cause before the Superior Court of Alameda  
9 County, enforce the terms and conditions contained in this Consent Judgment. In any action  
10 brought by ERC to enforce this Consent Judgment, ERC may seek whatever fines, costs,  
11 penalties, or remedies as are provided by law for failure to comply with the Consent Judgment.  
12 To the extent the failure to comply with the Consent Judgment constitutes a violation of  
13 Proposition 65 or other laws, ERC shall not be limited to enforcement of this Consent  
14 Judgment, but may seek in another action whatever fines, costs, penalties, or remedies as are  
15 provided by law for failure to comply with Proposition 65 or other laws.

16 **17. ENTIRE AGREEMENT, AUTHORIZATION**

17 **17.1** This Consent Judgment contains the sole and entire agreement and  
18 understanding of the Parties with respect to the entire subject matter herein, including any and  
19 all prior discussions, negotiations, commitments, and understandings related thereto. No  
20 representations, oral or otherwise, express or implied, other than those contained herein have  
21 been made by any Party. No other agreements, oral or otherwise, unless specifically referred to  
22 herein, shall be deemed to exist or to bind any Party.

23 **17.2** Each signatory to this Consent Judgment certifies that he or she is fully  
24 authorized by the Party he or she represents to stipulate to this Consent Judgment.

25 **18. REQUEST FOR FINDINGS, APPROVAL OF SETTLEMENT AND ENTRY OF**  
26 **CONSENT JUDGMENT**

27 This Consent Judgment has come before the Court upon the request of the Parties. The  
28 Parties request the Court to fully review this Consent Judgment and, being fully informed

1 regarding the matters which are the subject of this action, to:

2 (1) Find that the terms and provisions of this Consent Judgment represent a fair and  
3 equitable settlement of all matters raised by the allegations of the Complaint that the matter has  
4 been diligently prosecuted, and that the public interest is served by such settlement; and

5 (2) Make the findings pursuant to California Health and Safety Code section  
6 25249.7(f)(4), approve the Settlement, and approve this Consent Judgment.

7 **IT IS SO STIPULATED:**

8 Dated: \_\_\_\_\_, 2021

ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH  
CENTER, INC.

9  
10 By: \_\_\_\_\_  
11 Chris Heptinstall, Executive Director

12 Dated: JAN 16TH, 2021 2022

13 JB7, LLC, individually and dba  
14 PHYSICIAN'S CHOICE

15 By: \_\_\_\_\_  
16 Its: PAUL HANBERSTEK  
COO JB7, LLC DBA  
PHYSICIAN'S CHOICE

17 **APPROVED AS TO FORM:**

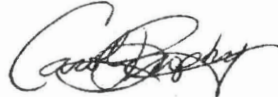
18  
19 Dated: \_\_\_\_\_, 2021

ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH  
CENTER, INC.

20  
21 By: \_\_\_\_\_  
22 Charles W. Poss  
23 In-House Counsel

24 Dated: December 22, 2021

STEPTOE & JOHNSON LLP

25   
26 By: \_\_\_\_\_  
27 Carol Brophy  
28 Jennifer K. Singh  
Attorneys for JB7, LLC, individually and  
dba Physician's Choice

1 regarding the matters which are the subject of this action, to:

2 (1) Find that the terms and provisions of this Consent Judgment represent a fair and  
3 equitable settlement of all matters raised by the allegations of the Complaint that the matter has  
4 been diligently prosecuted, and that the public interest is served by such settlement; and

5 (2) Make the findings pursuant to California Health and Safety Code section  
6 25249.7(f)(4), approve the Settlement, and approve this Consent Judgment.

7 **IT IS SO STIPULATED:**

8 Dated: 1/12/22, ~~2021~~

ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH  
CENTER, INC.

9  
10 By:   
11 Chris Heptinstall, Executive Director

12 Dated: \_\_\_\_\_, 2021


JB7, LLC, individually and dba  
PHYSICIAN'S CHOICE

13  
14 \_\_\_\_\_  
15 By:  
16 Its:

17 **APPROVED AS TO FORM:**

18  
19 Dated: January 12, ~~2021~~ 2022

ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH  
CENTER, INC.

20  
21 By:   
22 Charles W. Poss  
23 In-House Counsel

24 Dated: \_\_\_\_\_, 2021

STEPTOE & JOHNSON LLP

25  
26 By: \_\_\_\_\_  
27 Carol Brophy  
28 Jennifer K. Singh  
Attorneys for JB7, LLC, individually and  
dba Physician's Choice



**ORDER AND JUDGMENT**

Based upon the Parties’ Stipulation, and good cause appearing, this Consent Judgment is approved and Judgment is hereby entered according to its terms.

IT IS SO ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED.

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_, 2022 \_\_\_\_\_  
Judge of the Superior Court

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# **EXHIBIT A**



## Environmental Research Center

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

August 20, 2020

### 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 product 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 this product. 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:

**JB7, LLC, individually and dba Physician’s Choice**

**Consumer Product and Listed Chemical.** The product that is the subject of this notice and the chemical in that product identified as exceeding allowable levels is:

**Physician's Choice Ashwagandha Extra Strength 1950 mg - 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 this product. 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 August 20, 2017, as well as every day since the product was 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 product. 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 this product 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) reformulate the identified product so as to eliminate further exposures to the identified chemical, or provide appropriate warnings on the labels of this product; (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 product 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.

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

Sincerely,



---

Chris Heptinstall  
Executive Director  
Environmental Research Center

Attachments

Certificate of Merit

Certificate of Service

OEHHA Summary (to JB7, LLC, individually and dba Physician's Choice and its Registered Agent 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 JB7, LLC, individually and dba Physician’s Choice**

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 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 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: August 20, 2020

---

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 August 20, 2020, 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  
JB7, LLC, individually and dba Physician’s Choice  
6990 W 38<sup>th</sup> Ave, Ste 304  
Wheat Ridge, CO 80033

Robert B. Bliss  
(Registered Agent for JB7, LLC, individually and  
dba Physician’s Choice)  
1099 18<sup>th</sup> St, Ste 2600  
Denver, CO 80202

Current President or CEO  
JB7, LLC, individually and dba Physician’s Choice  
12365 Huron St #1800  
Westminster, CO 80234

On August 20, 2020, 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 August 20, 2020, 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

Stacey Grassini, Deputy District Attorney  
Contra Costa County  
900 Ward Street  
Martinez, CA 94553  
sgrassini@contracostada.org

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

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

Notice of Violations of California Health & Safety Code §25249.5 *et seq.*

August 20, 2020

Page 5

Michelle Latimer, Program Coordinator  
Lassen County  
220 S. Lassen Street  
Susanville, CA 96130  
mlatimer@co.lassen.ca.us

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

Gary Lieberstein, District Attorney  
Napa County  
931 Parkway Mall  
Napa, CA 94559  
CEPD@countyofnapa.org

Paul E. Zellerbach, District Attorney  
Riverside County  
3072 Orange Street  
Riverside, CA 92501  
Prop65@rivcoda.org

Anne Marie Schubert, District Attorney  
Sacramento County  
901 G Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
Prop65@sacda.org

Summer Stephan, District Attorney  
San Diego County  
330 West Broadway  
San Diego, CA 92101  
SanDiegoDAProp65@sdca.org

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

Alethea Sargent, Assistant District Attorney  
White Collar Division  
San Francisco District Attorney's Office  
350 Rhode Island Street  
North Building, Suite 400N  
San Francisco, CA 94103  
alethea.sargent@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

Tori Verber Salazar, District Attorney  
San Joaquin County  
222 E. Weber Avenue, Room 202  
Stockton, CA 95202  
DAConsumer.Environmental@sjcda.org

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

Christopher Dalbey, Deputy District Attorney  
Santa Barbara County  
1112 Santa Barbara Street  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101  
DAProp65@co.santa-barbara.ca.us

Bud Porter, Supervising Deputy District Attorney  
Santa Clara County  
70 W Hedding St  
San Jose, CA 95110  
EPU@da.sccgov.org

Jeffrey S. Rosell, District Attorney  
Santa Cruz County  
701 Ocean Street  
Santa Cruz, CA 95060  
Prop65DA@santacruzcounty.us

Stephan R. Passalacqua, District Attorney  
Sonoma County  
600 Administration Dr  
Sonoma, CA 95403  
jbarnes@sonoma-county.org

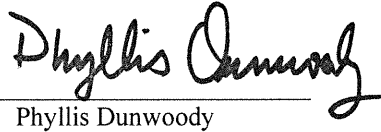
Phillip J. Cline, District Attorney  
Tulare County  
221 S Mooney Blvd  
Visalia, CA 95370  
Prop65@co.tulare.ca.us

Gregory D. Totten, District Attorney  
Ventura County  
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 August 20, 2020, 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 August 20, 2020, 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  
346 Fifth Street Suite 101  
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, Fresno  
County  
2220 Tulare Street, Suite 1000  
Fresno, CA 93721

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  
County  
940 West Main Street, Ste 102  
El Centro, CA 92243

District Attorney, Kern County  
1215 Truxtun Avenue  
Bakersfield, CA 93301

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

District Attorney, Mariposa  
County  
Post Office Box 730  
Mariposa, CA 95338

District Attorney, Mendocino  
County  
Post Office Box 1000  
Ukiah, CA 95482

District Attorney, Merced  
County  
550 W. Main Street  
Merced, CA 95340

District Attorney, Modoc  
County  
204 S Court Street, Room 202  
Alturas, CA 96101-4020

District Attorney, Mono  
County  
Post Office Box 617  
Bridgeport, CA 93517

District Attorney, Nevada  
County  
201 Commercial Street  
Nevada City, CA 95959

District Attorney, Orange  
County  
401 West Civic Center Drive  
Santa Ana, CA 92701

District Attorney, Placer  
County  
10810 Justice Center Drive,  
Ste 240  
Roseville, CA 95678

District Attorney, Plumas  
County  
520 Main Street, Room 404  
Quincy, CA 95971

District Attorney, San Benito  
County  
419 Fourth Street, 2nd Floor  
Hollister, CA 95023

District Attorney, San  
Bernardino County  
303 West Third Street  
San Bernadino, CA 92415

District Attorney, San Mateo  
County  
400 County Ctr., 3rd Floor  
Redwood City, CA 94063

District Attorney, Shasta  
County  
1355 West Street  
Redding, CA 96001

District Attorney, Sierra  
County  
100 Courthouse Square, 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Floor  
Downieville, CA 95936

District Attorney, Siskiyou  
County  
Post Office Box 986  
Yreka, CA 96097

District Attorney, Solano  
County  
675 Texas Street, Ste 4500  
Fairfield, CA 94533

District Attorney, Stanislaus  
County  
832 12th Street, Ste 300  
Modesto, CA 95354

District Attorney, Sutter  
County  
463 2<sup>nd</sup> Street  
Yuba City, CA 95991

District Attorney, Tehama  
County  
Post Office Box 519  
Red Bluff, CA 96080

District Attorney, Trinity  
County  
Post Office Box 310  
Weaverville, CA 96093

District Attorney, Tuolumne  
County  
423 N. Washington Street  
Sonora, CA 95370

District Attorney, Yuba  
County  
215 Fifth Street, Suite 152  
Marysville, CA 95901

Los Angeles City Attorney's  
Office  
City Hall East  
200 N. Main Street, Suite 800  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

San Jose City Attorney's  
Office  
200 East Santa Clara Street,  
16th Floor  
San Jose, CA 95113

## 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

The following summary has been prepared by the California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA), the lead agency for the implementation of the Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986 (commonly known as "Proposition 65"). A copy of this summary must be included as an attachment to any notice of violation served upon an alleged violator of the Act. The summary provides basic information about the provisions of the law, and is intended to serve only as a convenient source of general information. It is not intended to provide authoritative guidance on the meaning or application of the law. The reader is directed to the statute and OEHHA implementing regulations (see citations below) for further information.

FOR INFORMATION CONCERNING THE BASIS FOR THE ALLEGATIONS IN THE NOTICE RELATED TO YOUR BUSINESS, CONTACT THE PERSON IDENTIFIED ON THE NOTICE.

The text of Proposition 65 (Health and Safety Code Sections 25249.5 through 25249.13) is available online at: <http://oehha.ca.gov/prop65/law/P65law72003.html>. Regulations that provide more specific guidance on compliance, and that specify procedures to be followed by the State in carrying out certain aspects of the law, are found in Title 27 of the California Code of Regulations, sections 25102 through 27001.<sup>1</sup> These implementing regulations are available online at: <http://oehha.ca.gov/prop65/law/P65Regs.html>.

#### *WHAT DOES PROPOSITION 65 REQUIRE?*

***The "Proposition 65 List."*** Under Proposition 65, the lead agency (OEHHA) publishes a list of chemicals that are known to the State of California to cause cancer and/or reproductive toxicity. Chemicals are placed on the Proposition 65 list if they are known to cause cancer and/or birth defects or other reproductive harm, such as damage to

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<sup>1</sup> All further regulatory references are to sections of Title 27 of the California Code of Regulations unless otherwise indicated. The statute, regulations and relevant case law are available on the OEHHA website at: <http://www.oehha.ca.gov/prop65/law/index.html>.

female or male reproductive systems or to the developing fetus. This list must be updated at least once a year. The current Proposition 65 list of chemicals is available on the OEHHA website at: [http://www.oehha.ca.gov/prop65/prop65\\_list/Newlist.html](http://www.oehha.ca.gov/prop65/prop65_list/Newlist.html).

Only those chemicals that are on the list are regulated under Proposition 65. Businesses that produce, use, release or otherwise engage in activities involving listed chemicals must comply with the following:

***Clear and reasonable warnings.*** A business is required to warn a person before “knowingly and intentionally” exposing that person to a listed chemical unless an exemption applies. The warning given must be “clear and reasonable.” This means that the warning must: (1) clearly make known that the chemical involved is known to cause cancer, or birth defects or other reproductive harm; and (2) be given in such a way that it will effectively reach the person before he or she is exposed to that chemical. Some exposures are exempt from the warning requirement under certain circumstances discussed below.

***Prohibition from discharges into drinking water.*** A business must not knowingly discharge or release a listed chemical into water or onto land where it passes or probably will pass into a source of drinking water. Some discharges are exempt from this requirement under certain circumstances discussed below.

#### *DOES PROPOSITION 65 PROVIDE ANY EXEMPTIONS?*

Yes. You should consult the current version of the statute and regulations (<http://www.oehha.ca.gov/prop65/law/index.html>) to determine all applicable exemptions, the most common of which are the following:

***Grace Period.*** Proposition 65 warning requirements do not apply until 12 months after the chemical has been listed. The Proposition 65 discharge prohibition does not apply to a discharge or release of a chemical that takes place less than 20 months after the listing of the chemical.

***Governmental agencies and public water utilities.*** All agencies of the federal, state or local government, as well as entities operating public water systems, are exempt.

***Businesses with nine or fewer employees.*** Neither the warning requirement nor the discharge prohibition applies to a business that employs a total of nine or fewer employees. This includes all employees, not just those present in California.

**Exposures that pose no significant risk of cancer.** For chemicals that are listed under Proposition 65 as known to the State to cause cancer, a warning is not required if the business causing the exposure can demonstrate that the exposure occurs at a level that poses “no significant risk.” This means that the exposure is calculated to result in not more than one excess case of cancer in 100,000 individuals exposed over a 70-year lifetime. The Proposition 65 regulations identify specific “No Significant Risk Levels” (NSRLs) for many listed carcinogens. Exposures below these levels are exempt from the warning requirement. See OEHHA's website at: <http://www.oehha.ca.gov/prop65/getNSRLs.html> for a list of NSRLs, and Section 25701 *et seq.* of the regulations for information concerning how these levels are calculated.

**Exposures that will produce no observable reproductive effect at 1,000 times the level in question.** For chemicals known to the State to cause reproductive toxicity, a warning is not required if the business causing the exposure can demonstrate that the exposure will produce no observable effect, even at 1,000 times the level in question. In other words, the level of exposure must be below the “no observable effect level” divided by 1,000. This number is known as the Maximum Allowable Dose Level (MADL). See OEHHA's website at: <http://www.oehha.ca.gov/prop65/getNSRLs.html> for a list of MADLs, and Section 25801 *et seq.* of the regulations for information concerning how these levels are calculated.

**Exposures to Naturally Occurring Chemicals in Food.** Certain exposures to chemicals that naturally occur in foods (i.e., that do not result from any known human activity, including activity by someone other than the person causing the exposure) are exempt from the warning requirements of the law. If the chemical is a contaminant<sup>2</sup> it must be reduced to the lowest level feasible. Regulations explaining this exemption can be found in Section 25501.

**Discharges that do not result in a “significant amount” of the listed chemical entering any source of drinking water.** The prohibition from discharges into drinking water does not apply if the discharger is able to demonstrate that a “significant amount” of the listed chemical has not, does not, or will not pass into or probably pass into a source of drinking water, and that the discharge complies with all other applicable laws, regulations, permits, requirements, or orders. A “significant amount” means any detectable amount, except an amount that would meet the “no significant risk” level for chemicals that cause cancer or that is 1,000 times below the “no observable effect” level for chemicals that cause reproductive toxicity, if an individual were exposed to that amount in drinking water.

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<sup>2</sup> See Section 25501(a)(4).

## *HOW IS PROPOSITION 65 ENFORCED?*

Enforcement is carried out through civil lawsuits. These lawsuits may be brought by the Attorney General, any district attorney, or certain city attorneys. Lawsuits may also be brought by private parties acting in the public interest, but only after providing notice of the alleged violation to the Attorney General, the appropriate district attorney and city attorney, and the business accused of the violation. The notice must provide adequate information to allow the recipient to assess the nature of the alleged violation. The notice must comply with the information and procedural requirements specified in Section 25903 of Title 27 and sections 3100-3103 of Title 11. A private party may not pursue an independent enforcement action under Proposition 65 if one of the governmental officials noted above initiates an enforcement action within sixty days of the notice.

A business found to be in violation of Proposition 65 is subject to civil penalties of up to \$2,500 per day for each violation. In addition, the business may be ordered by a court to stop committing the violation.

A private party may not file an enforcement action based on certain exposures if the alleged violator meets specific conditions. For the following types of exposures, the Act provides an opportunity for the business to correct the alleged violation:

- An exposure to alcoholic beverages that are consumed on the alleged violator's premises to the extent onsite consumption is permitted by law;
- An exposure to a Proposition 65 listed chemical in a food or beverage prepared and sold on the alleged violator's premises that is primarily intended for immediate consumption on- or off-premises. This only applies if the chemical was not intentionally added to the food, and was formed by cooking or similar preparation of food or beverage components necessary to render the food or beverage palatable or to avoid microbiological contamination;
- An exposure to environmental tobacco smoke caused by entry of persons (other than employees) on premises owned or operated by the alleged violator where smoking is permitted at any location on the premises;
- An exposure to listed chemicals in engine exhaust, to the extent the exposure occurs inside a facility owned or operated by the alleged violator and primarily intended for parking non-commercial vehicles.

If a private party alleges that a violation occurred based on one of the exposures described above, the private party must first provide the alleged violator a notice of special compliance procedure and proof of compliance form.

A copy of the notice of special compliance procedure and proof of compliance form is included in Appendix B and can be downloaded from OEHHA's website at:  
<http://oehha.ca.gov/prop65/law/p65law72003.html>.

*FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THE LAW OR REGULATIONS...*

Contact the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment's Proposition 65 Implementation Office at (916) 445-6900 or via e-mail at [P65Public.Comments@oehha.ca.gov](mailto:P65Public.Comments@oehha.ca.gov).

Revised: May 2017

NOTE: Authority cited: Section 25249.12, Health and Safety Code. Reference: Sections 25249.5, 25249.6, 25249.7, 25249.9, 25249.10 and 25249.11, Health and Safety Code.