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8 Attorneys for Plaintiff
9 CALSAFE RESEARCH CENTER, INC.,

10 **SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**
11 **COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES**

12
13 CALSAFE RESEARCH CENTER, INC., a
14 California non-profit corporation

15 Plaintiff,

16 v.

17 S&E GOURMET CUTS, INC., a
18 California stock corporation; and DOES 1
19 to 10,

20 Defendants.

Case No.:

**[PROPOSED] STIPULATED CONSENT
JUDGMENT**

1 Plaintiff CalSafe Research Center, Inc. ("Plaintiff"), and Defendant S & E Gourmet Cuts, Inc.
2 ("Defendant") hereby enter into this Stipulated Consent Judgment ("Consent Judgment") as follows:

3 WHEREAS: On or about August 22, 2022, Plaintiff, through Plaintiff's counsel, served a 60 Day
4 Notice to Defendant, Sprouts Farmers Market, LLC, the California Attorney General, the District
5 Attorneys of every County in the State of California, and the City Attorneys for every City in the State of
6 California with a population greater than 750,000 (collectively, "Public Prosecutor(s)") alleging that
7 Defendant violated California's Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986, California
8 *Health and Safety Code* § 25249.6, *et seq.*, and its implementing regulations (collectively, "Proposition
9 65") alleging that and that Plaintiff intended to file an enforcement action in the public interest; and

10 WHEREAS: Plaintiff alleges that Defendant manufactured and/or distributed Country Archer
11 Provisions, Plant-Based Jerky including but not limited to Teriyaki Jerky Spiced Bacon containing Lead,
12 (collectively the "Covered Products") that were sold or distributed for sale in California and further
13 alleges that those Covered Products expose consumers in the State of California to chemicals including
14 Lead, which are listed by the State of California pursuant to California *Health and Safety Code* §
15 25249.8; and

16 WHEREAS: Plaintiff further alleges that persons in the State of California were exposed to Lead
17 in Covered Products without being provided the Proposition 65 warning set out at California *Health and*
18 *Safety Code* § 25249.6 and its implementing regulations ("Proposition 65 Warning");

19 WHEREAS: Defendant denies the allegations of the 60 Day Notice, and denies that it has
20 violated Proposition 65 and expressly denies that it has engaged in any wrongdoing whatsoever,

21 WHEREAS: Plaintiff seeks to provide the public with Proposition 65 warnings and believes that
22 this objective is achieved by the actions described in this Consent Judgment; and

23 WHEREAS: Plaintiff and Defendant wish to resolve their differences without the delay and
24 expense of litigation.

25 NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED AND AGREED UPON AS BETWEEN PLAINTIFF
26 ACTING IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST AND DEFENDANT AS FOLLOWS:

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 On August 22, 2022 Plaintiff served a 60-Day Notice upon Defendant, S & E Gourmet Cuts, Inc., and on Public Prosecutors. No Public Prosecutors commenced an enforcement action. No Public Prosecutor having commenced an enforcement action, Plaintiff proceeded to file its Complaint ("Complaint") against Defendant in the present action.

1.2 For purposes of this Consent Judgment, the Parties agree that Defendant is a business entity that has employed ten or more persons at all times relevant to this action, and qualifies as a "person in the course of doing business" within the meaning of Proposition 65.

1.3 For purposes of this Consent Judgment only, Plaintiff and Defendant (the "Parties") stipulate that: 1) this Court has jurisdiction over the allegations of violation contained in the Complaint, and personal jurisdiction over Defendant as to the acts alleged in the Complaint; 2) venue is proper in the County of Los Angeles; and 3) this Court has jurisdiction to enter this Consent Judgment as a full and final resolution of all claims which were or could have been raised in the Complaint based on the facts alleged therein with respect to the Covered Products, and of all claims which were or could have been raised by any person or entity based in whole or in part, directly or indirectly, on the facts alleged in the 60-Day Notice, in the present action, or arising therefrom or related thereto, with respect to Covered Products, including any Proposition 65 claim arising out of an exposure to Covered Products (collectively, "Proposition 65 Claims").

1.4 The Parties enter into this Consent Judgment as a full and final settlement of the Proposition 65 Claims, for the purpose of avoiding prolonged and costly litigation and of resolving the issues raised therein both as to past and future conduct. By execution of this Consent Judgment and agreeing to comply with its terms, the Parties do not admit any fact, conclusion of law, or violation of law, nor shall Defendant's compliance with the Consent Judgment constitute or be construed as an admission by Defendant of any fact, conclusion of law, or violation of law. Defendant denies the material, factual, and legal allegations in the 60-Day Notices and the Complaint and expressly denies any wrongdoing whatsoever.

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2. DEFINITIONS

2.1 "Effective Date" shall mean, with respect to this Consent Judgment, the date the Consent Judgment has been approved and entered by the Court with signature.

2.2 "Compliance Date" shall mean ninety (90) days after the Effective Date.

2.3 "Covered Products" shall mean, with respect to this Consent Judgment, Country Archer Provisions Plant-Based Jerky including but not limited to Teriyaki Jerky Spiced Bacon that are manufactured, distributed, sold and/or offered for sale by Defendant in California.

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3. INJUNCTIVE RELIEF

3.1 For each Covered Product sold to consumers in California, Defendant agrees to undertake, or cause to be undertaken on its behalf, either: (a) reformulation of the Covered Product to bring it within the Proposition exemption identified in Section 3.2 below or (b) to provide a warning as prescribed in Sections 3.3.-3.4 below. Compliance with Section 3.1 will constitute compliance by Defendant with all requirements of Proposition 65 relating to Lead exposure in the Covered Products.

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3.2 Proposition 65 Exemption for the Covered Products

Covered Products shall be deemed to comply with Proposition 65 and be exempt from any Proposition 65 warning requirements with respect to Lead, if the Covered Product contains no more than 0.5 micrograms of lead per serving, with serving size measured by the serving size specified on the label for the Covered Product.

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3.3 Warning Option

Covered Products that do not meet the warning exemption set forth in Section 3.2, shall be accompanied by a warning as described in Section 3.4 below. This warning requirement shall only be required as to Covered Products that are manufactured, distributed, marketed, sold or shipped for sale to consumers by Defendant in the State of California, after the Compliance Date. No Proposition 65 warning shall be required as to Covered Products already in distribution and the stream of commerce as of the Compliance Date. Said Covered Products are hereby deemed

1 to be exempt from a Proposition 65 warning with respect to Lead and/or expressly released under
2 this Consent Judgment.

3 3.4 Warning Language

4 Where required to meet the criteria set forth in Section 3.3, Defendant shall provide one of the
5 following warning statements ("Warning"), displayed in a reasonably conspicuous manner:

6 Option (1)

7 **WARNING:** Consuming this product can expose you to
8 chemicals including Lead, which [is] are known to the State of
9 California to cause [cancer and] birth defects or other
10 reproductive harm. For more information go to
11 www.P65Warnings.ca.gov/food

12 Option (2)

13 **WARNING:** [Cancer and] Reproductive Harm--
14 www.P65Warnings.ca.gov/food

15 The Warning shall be provided through one of the following methods: (1) a product-specific
16 warning provided on a posted sign, shelf tag, or shelf sign, for the consumer product at each
17 point of display of the product; or (2) a product-specific warning provided via any electronic
18 device or process that automatically provides the warning to the purchaser prior to or during the
19 purchase of the consumer product, without requiring the purchaser to seek out the warning; or (3)
20 a warning on the label that is securely affixed to or printed upon the label and complies with this
21 Section 3.2. In addition, for any Covered Product sold over the internet by Defendant, the
22 Warning shall appear prior to check-out on the primary product page, or as a pop-up when a
23 California address is input into the shipping instructions, or on the checkout page when a
24 California delivery address is indicated for any purchase of any Covered Product. The Warning
25 may be provided with a conspicuous hyperlink stating "**WARNING**" in all capital and bold
26 letters so long as the hyperlink goes directly to a page prominently displaying the Warning
27 without content that detracts from the Warning. Given Defendant's lack of control over third-
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1 party websites, the online warning requirements expressed in this Section apply only to Covered
2 Products sold through Defendant's website. However, Defendant will instruct any third-party
3 website sellers to which it supplies the Cover Product to provide the Warnings, if applicable, as a
4 condition of selling the Covered Product. If subsequently enacted changes to Proposition 65 or
5 its implementing regulations require the use of additional or different information on any
6 warning specifically applicable to the Covered Products (the "New Safe Harbor Warning"), the
7 Parties agree that the New Safe Harbor warning may be utilized in place of or in addition to, as
8 applicable, the warnings set forth in this Section.

9 **4. MONETARY RELIEF**

10 4.1 Within 14 business days of the Defendant receiving notice that this Consent Judgment has been
11 approved of and entered by the Court with signature, and after receiving taxpayer information
12 from Plaintiff, Defendant shall pay the total sum of \$25,000.00 which includes \$2,500.00 in civil
13 penalties and \$22,500.00 in payment of Plaintiff's costs and reasonable attorney's fees. The
14 \$2,500.00 civil penalty shall be apportioned pursuant to *Health and Safety Code* § 25249.12 (d),
15 with 75%, or \$1,875.00, paid to the State of California's Office of Environmental Health Hazard
16 Assessment and 25%, or \$625.00, payable to Plaintiff. The Plaintiff's portion of the civil penalty
17 shall be made payable to Manning Law APC, Client Trust and CalSafe Research Center, Inc. and
18 associated with taxpayer identification number 84-4419173. This payment shall be delivered to
19 **Manning Law, APC, 20062 SW Birch St. Suite 200, Newport Beach, CA 92660.**

20 4.2 The OEHHA portion of the civil penalty shall be made payable to OEHHA and associated with
21 taxpayer identification number 68-0284486. This payment shall be delivered as follows:

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23 For United States Postal Service Delivery:
24 Attn: Mike Gyurics
25 Fiscal Operations Branch Chief
26 Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment
27 P.O. Box 4010, MS #19B
28 Sacramento, CA 95812-4010

For Non-United States Postal Service Delivery:
Attn: Mike Gyurics

1 Fiscal Operations Branch Chief
2 Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment
3 1001 I Street, MS #19B
4 Sacramento, CA 95814

5 Defendant agrees to provide Plaintiff's counsel with a copy of the check payable to OEHHA,
6 simultaneous with its penalty payments to Plaintiff. Plaintiff and its counsel will provide
7 completed IRS 1099, W-9, or other tax forms as required. Relevant information is set out
8 below:

- 9 • CalSafe Research Center, Inc, associated with taxpayer identification number 84-
10 4419173, CalSafe Research Center, Inc. 4533 MacArthur Blvd. Ste. 230, Newport
11 Beach, CA 92660.
- 12 • Manning Law, APC, associated with taxpayer identification number 83-0502205,
13 Manning Law, APC, 20062 SW Birch St. Suite 200, Newport Beach, CA 92660.

14 4.3 The portion of the settlement attributable to attorney's fees and costs in the amount of \$22,500.00
15 shall be paid to Plaintiff's counsel, who are entitled to attorney's fees and costs incurred by it in
16 this action, including but not limited to investigating potential violations, bringing this matter to
17 Defendant's attention, as well as litigating and negotiating a settlement in the public interest.
18 Defendant shall provide its payment to Plaintiff's counsel in one check, payable to the Manning
19 Law, APC, and delivered to 20062 SW Birch St. Suite 200, Newport Beach, CA 92660, within
20 fourteen (14) business days of the Effective Date.

21 5. CLAIMS COVERED AND RELEASED

22 5.1 This Consent Judgment is a full, final and binding resolution between Plaintiff on behalf of itself
23 and in the public interest, and Defendant and its respective officers, directors, members,
24 shareholders, employees, attorneys, agents, parent companies, subsidiaries, divisions, affiliates,
25 suppliers, franchisees, licensees, and retailers (including Sprouts Farmers Market, LLC), their
26 parent and all subsidiaries and affiliates thereof, their respective employees, agents and assigns,
27 as well as all other upstream and downstream entities in the distribution chain for any of the
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1 Covered Products, and the predecessors, successors, and assigns of any of them (collectively, the
2 "Released Parties").

3 5.2 Plaintiff acting on its own behalf and in the public interest releases the Released Parties from all
4 claims, actions, causes of actions, suits, demand, liability, damages, penalties, fees, costs, and
5 expenses asserted or which could have been asserted from the handling or consumption of the
6 Covered Products, as to any alleged violations of Proposition 65 or its implementing regulations
7 up through the Compliance Date based on exposure to Lead from the Covered Products as set
8 forth in the Notices of Violation, the Complaint and herein. Compliance with the terms of this
9 Consent Judgment constitutes compliance with Proposition 65 with respect to exposures to Lead
10 from the Covered Products. This release does not apply to third-party websites that do not
11 provide the required Warnings.

12 5.3 It is possible that other claims not known to the Parties arising out of the facts contained in the
13 60-Day Notice, or alleged in the Complaint, relating to the Covered Products, will hereafter be
14 discovered or developed. Plaintiff, on behalf of itself only, on the one hand, and Defendant, on
15 the other hand, acknowledge that this Consent Judgment is expressly intended to cover and
16 include all such claims through and including the Compliance Date, including all rights of action
17 thereon. Plaintiff and Defendant acknowledge that the claims released in Sections 5.1 and 5.2
18 may include unknown claims, and nevertheless intend to release such claims, and in doing so
19 waive California *Civil Code* § 1542 which reads as follows:

20 A GENERAL RELEASE DOES NOT EXTEND TO CLAIMS WHICH THE
21 CREDITOR DOES NOT KNOW OR SUSPECT TO EXIST IN HIS OR HER
22 FAVOR AT THE TIME OF EXECUTING THE RELEASE, WHICH IF
23 KNOWN BY HIM OR HER MUST HAVE MATERIALLY AFFECTED HIS
24 OR HER SETTLEMENT WITH THE DEBTOR.

25 5.4 Plaintiff understands and acknowledges that the significance and consequence of this waiver of
26 California *Civil Code* § 1542 is that even if Plaintiff suffers future damages arising out of or
27 resulting from, or related directly or indirectly to, in whole or in part, the Covered Products,
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1 including but not limited to any exposure to, or failure to warn with respect to exposure to, the
2 Covered Products, Plaintiff will not be able to make any claim for those damages against any of
3 the Released Parties.

4 5.5 Compliance by Defendant with the terms of this Consent Judgment shall constitute compliance
5 with Proposition 65 with respect to exposure to Lead in the Covered Products as set forth in the
6 60-Day Notices and/or the Complaint.

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9 **6. COMPLIANCE WITH HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE SECTION 252249.7(f)**

10 6.1 Plaintiff and its attorneys agree to comply with the reporting form requirements referenced in
11 California *Health and Safety Code* § 25249.7(f)

12 **7. PROVISION NOTICE**

13 7.1 When any Party is entitled to receive any notice or writing under this Consent Judgment, the
14 notice or writing shall be sent by first class certified mail with return receipt requested, or by
15 electronic mail, as follows:

16 To Defendant:

17 Abhishek K. Gurnani
18 549 W. Randolph Street
19 Suite 400
Chicago, IL 60661
abhishek@amintalati.com

20 To Plaintiff:

21 Joseph R. Manning, Jr.
22 Manning Law, APC
20062 SW Birch St. Suite 200
23 Newport Beach, CA 92660
P65@manninglawoffice.com

24 Any party may modify the person and address to whom the notice is to be sent by sending the
25 other Party notice that is transmitted in the manner set forth in section 7.1.

26 **8. COURT APPROVAL**

27 8.1 Upon execution of this Consent Judgment by all Parties, Plaintiff shall prepare and file, at its sole
28 cost and expense, a Motion for Approval of this Consent Judgment that Defendant shall support.

1 This Consent Judgment shall not become effective until approved and entered by the Court with
2 signature. If this Consent Judgment is not entered by the Court, it shall be of no force or effect,
3 and shall not be introduced into evidence or otherwise used in any proceeding for any purpose.

4 8.2 This Consent Judgment may apply to and benefit the Parties and their respective officers,
5 directors, shareholders, employees, agents, parent companies, subsidiaries, divisions, franchisees,
6 licensees, customers, distributors, wholesalers, retailers, predecessors, successors, and assigns.
7 This Consent Judgment shall have no application to any Covered Products that are distributed or
8 sold exclusively outside the State of California and that is not intended for use by California
9 consumers.

10 **9. GOVERNING LAW AND CONSTRUCTION**

11 9.1 The terms of this Consent Judgment shall be governed by the laws of the State of California.

12 **10. ENTIRE AGREEMENT**

13 10.1 This Consent Judgment contains the sole and entire agreement and understanding of the Parties
14 with respect to the entire subject matter hereof, and any and all prior discussions, negotiations,
15 commitments, or understandings related thereto, if any, are hereby merged herein and therein.

16 10.2 There are no warranties, representations, or other agreements between the Parties except as
17 expressly set forth herein. No representations, oral or otherwise, express or implied, other than
18 those specifically referred to in this Consent Judgment have been made by any Party hereto.

19 10.3 No other agreements not specifically contained or referenced herein, oral or otherwise, shall be
20 deemed to exist or to bind any of the Parties hereto. Any agreements specifically contained or
21 referenced herein, oral or otherwise, shall be deemed to exist or to bind any of the Parties hereto
22 only to the extent that they are expressly incorporated herein.

23 10.4 No supplementation, modification, waiver, or termination of this Consent Judgment shall be
24 binding unless executed in writing by the Party to be bound thereby, and approved and ordered
25 by the Court.
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1 10.5 No waiver of any of the provisions of this Consent Judgment shall be deemed or shall constitute a
2 waiver of any of the other provisions hereof whether or not similar, nor shall such waiver
3 constitute a continuing waiver.

4 **11. RETENTION OF JURISDICTION & ENFORCEMENT**

5 11.1 This Court shall retain jurisdiction of this matter to implement, enforcer or modify the Consent
6 Judgment. Any alleged breach of the terms of this Consent Judgment must be brought in this
7 Court.

8 11.2 If Plaintiff alleges that any Covered Products fail to comply with this Consent Judgment, then
9 Plaintiff shall inform Defendant in a reasonably prompt manner of its test results and related
10 packaging information, including information sufficient to permit Defendant to identify the
11 Covered Products at issue. The Parties shall first attempt to resolve the matter prior to Plaintiff
12 taking any further legal action. No action or motion may be filed in the absence of such a good
13 faith attempt to resolve the dispute beforehand.

14 11.3 In the event that Proposition 65 is repealed or preempted as to food products, or if lead is deemed
15 to be naturally occurring in the Covered Products and not requiring a warning through a law or
16 regulation, then Plaintiff shall have no further obligation pursuant to this Consent Judgment with
17 respect to, and to the extent that the Covered Products are so affected.

18 **12. NO EFFECT ON OTHER SETTLEMENTS**

19 12.1 Nothing in this Consent Judgment shall preclude Plaintiff from resolving any claim against
20 another entity on terms that are different from those contained in this Consent Judgment.

21 **13. EXECUTION IN COUNTERPARTS**

22 13.1 This Consent Judgment may be executed in counterparts, each of which shall be deemed to be an
23 original, and all of which, taken together, shall constitute the same document. Execution of the
24 Consent Judgment by e-mail, facsimile, or other electronic means, shall constitute legal and
25 binding execution and delivery. Any photocopy of the executed Consent Judgment shall have the
26 same force and effect as the original.

27 **14. AUTHORIZATION**

1 14.1 The undersigned are authorized to stipulate to, enter into, and execute this Consent Judgment on
2 behalf of their respective parties, and have read, understood, and agree to all of the terms and
3 conditions of this Consent Judgment.

4 **15. SEVERABILITY**

5 15.1 If subsequent to Court approval of this Consent Judgment, any part or provision is declared by a
6 Court to be invalid, void, or unenforceable, the remaining portions of provisions shall continue in
7 full force and effect.

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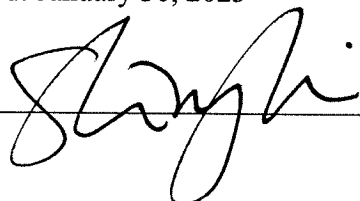
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11 **AGREED TO:**

12 **CalSafe Research Center, Inc.**

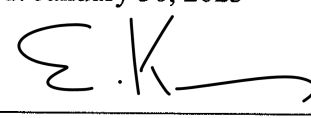
13 Dated: January 30, 2023

14
15 By:  _____

17 **AGREED TO:**

18 **S & E Gourmet Cuts, Inc.**

19 Dated: January 30, 2023

20
21 By:  _____

22
23 IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED that, pursuant to *Health & Safety*
24 *Code* § 25249.7(f)(4) and *Code of Civil Procedure* § 664.6, judgment is hereby entered.

25 Dated: _____

26 _____
JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT