

SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT AND RELEASE

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Parties

This Settlement Agreement and Release (“Settlement Agreement”) is entered into by and between Environmental Health Advocates, Inc. (“EHA”), on the one hand, and Riega Foods, LLC (“Riega”), on the other hand, with EHA and Riega each individually referred to as a “Party” and collectively as the “Parties.” EHA is a corporation in the State of California serving in the interest of the general public by seeking to promote awareness of exposures to toxic chemicals and to improve human health by reducing or eliminating hazardous substances used in consumer Product. Riega employs ten or more individuals and is a person in the course of doing business for purposes of the Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986, California Health and Safety Code § 25249.6 *et seq.* (“Proposition 65”).

1.2 General Allegations

EHA alleges that Riega manufactures, sells, and distributes for sale in California, a taco seasoning product that contains lead and that it does so without first providing the health hazard warning required by Proposition 65. Lead is listed pursuant to Proposition 65 as a chemical known to cause cancer and birth defects or other reproductive harm.

1.3 Product Description

The product covered by this Settlement Agreement is defined as, and expressly limited to Riega Organic Taco Seasoning (the “Product”), that EHA alleges contains lead and that is manufactured, sold or distributed for sale in California by Riega.

1.4 Notice of Violation

On November 7, 2022, EHA served Riega Foods, LLC, Amazon.com, Inc., the California Attorney General and other requisite public enforcers with a 60-Day Notice of Violation (“Notice”), alleging that Riega and others violated Proposition 65 when they failed to warn their customers and consumers in California of the health risks associated with exposures to lead from the Product.

To the best of the Parties’ knowledge, no public enforcer has commenced and is diligently

prosecuting an action to enforce the violations alleged in the Notice.

1.5 No Admission

Riega denies the material, factual, and legal allegations in the Notice and maintains that all units of the Product it sold and/or distributed for sale in California have been, and are, in compliance with all laws. Nothing in this Settlement Agreement shall be construed as an admission by Riega of any fact, finding, conclusion, issue of law or violation of law, nor shall compliance with this Settlement Agreement constitute or be construed as an admission by Riega of any fact, finding, conclusion, issue of law or violation of law, such being specifically denied by Riega. This Section shall not, however, diminish or otherwise affect Riega’s obligations, responsibilities, and duties under this Settlement Agreement.

1.6 Effective Date

For purposes of this Settlement Agreement, the term “Effective Date” shall mean the date of execution of this Settlement Agreement by the Parties.

1.7 Compliance Date

For purposes of this Settlement Agreement, the term “Compliance Date” shall mean ninety (90) days following the execution of this Settlement Agreement by the Parties.

2. INJUNCTIVE RELIEF

2.1 Reformulation or Clear and Reasonable Warnings

Beginning on the Compliance Date, Riega shall be permanently enjoined from manufacturing, distributing, or directly selling in the State of California, any Product that exposes a person to a “Daily Lead Exposure Level” of more than 0.5 micrograms of lead per day, using tests performed by a laboratory accredited by the State of California, a federal agency, or a nationally recognized accrediting organization, using LC-MS/MS (Liquid Chromatograph-Mass Spectrometry), unless such Product complies with the warning requirements of Section 2.2. As used in this Section 2, “distributed for sale in California” means to directly ship the Product into California or to sell the Product to a distributor Riega knows will sell Product in California.

2.2 Clear and Reasonable Warnings

As of the Compliance Date, and continuing thereafter, if and only if the Daily Lead Exposure Level in the Product is more than 0.5 micrograms, a clear and reasonable Proposition 65 warning as set forth below must be provided for the Product that Riega sells in California.

If required, Riega shall provide one of the following warning statements:

- 1) **WARNING:** Consuming this product can expose you to chemicals including lead, which are known to the State of California to cause cancer and birth defects or other reproductive harm. For more information go to www.P65Warnings.ca.gov/food.
- 2) **WARNING:** Cancer and Reproductive Harm – www.P65Warnings.cs.gov/food.

This warning statement shall be prominently displayed on the Product label, or on a placard, shelf tag, or sign, provided that the statement is displayed with such conspicuousness, as compared with other words, statements, or designs as to render it likely to be read and understood by an ordinary individual prior to sale. If the warning statement is displayed on the Product's packaging, it must be in a type size no smaller than the largest type size used for other consumer information on the Product. In no case shall a warning statement displayed on the Product's packaging appear in a type size smaller than 6-point type. If the Product contains more than 0.5 micrograms of lead per day, the same warning shall be posted on any websites under the exclusive control of Riega where the Product is sold into California. Riega shall instruct any third-party website to which it sells the Product to include the same warning as a condition of selling the Product, but only if the Product contains more than 0.5 micrograms of lead per day.

2.3 Grace Period for Existing Inventory of Product

The requirements of Sections 2.1 and 2.2 shall not apply to the Product that is already manufactured and labeled as of the Compliance Date, which Product is expressly subject to the releases provided in Section 4.1 and Section 4.3.

3. MONETARY SETTLEMENT TERMS

3.1 Civil Penalty Payment

Pursuant to Health and Safety Code § 25249.7(b)(2), and in settlement of all claims alleged in the Notice or referred to in this Settlement Agreement, Riega agrees to pay two thousand dollars (\$2,000.00) in civil penalties. The penalty payment will be allocated in accordance with California Health and Safety Code §§ 25249.12(c)(1) & (d), with 75% of the penalty amount paid to the California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (“OEHHA”) and the remaining 25% of the penalty amount retained by EHA. Within fourteen (14) days of the Effective Date, Riega shall issue two separate checks for the civil penalty payment to (a) “OEHHA” in the amount of one thousand five hundred dollars (\$1,500.00) and (b) Environmental Health Advocates, Inc., in the amount of five hundred dollars (\$500.00).

All payments owed to OEHHA (EIN: 68-0284486), pursuant to this Section shall be delivered directly to OEHHA (Memo Line "Prop 65 Penalties") at the following addresses:

For United States Postal Service Delivery:

Mike Gyurics
Fiscal Operations Branch Chief
Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment
P.O. Box 4010
Sacramento, CA 95812-4010

For Federal Express 2-Day Delivery:

Mike Gyurics
Fiscal Operations Branch Chief
Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

All penalty payments owed to EHA shall be sent to:

Environmental Health Advocates
225 Broadway, Suite 1900
San Diego, CA 92101

3.2 Attorney Fees and Costs

The Parties reached an accord on the compensation due to EHA and its counsel under the

private attorney general doctrine and principles of contract law. Under these legal principles, within fourteen (14) days of the Settlement Agreement is executed by the Parties, Riega agrees to pay the total of eighteen thousand dollars (\$18,000.00) to EHA and its counsel for all fees and costs incurred in investigating, bringing this matter to the attention of Riega and negotiating a settlement. Riega payment shall delivered in the form of one check for eighteen thousand dollars (\$18,000.00) payable to “Entorno Law, LLP”.

3.3 Payment Address

All payments required under this Section shall be delivered to:

Noam Glick
Entorno Law, LLP
225 Broadway, Suite 1900
San Diego, CA 92101

3.4 Tax Documentation

Riega agrees to provide a completed IRS 1099 for its payments to, and EHA agrees to provide IRS W-9 forms for, each of the payees under this Settlement Agreement. The Parties acknowledge that Riega cannot issue any settlement payments pursuant to Section 3.1 and 3.2 above until after Riega receives the requisite W-9 forms from EHA’s counsel.

4. CLAIMS COVERED AND RELEASED

4.1 EHA’s Release of Riega

This Settlement Agreement is a full, final, and binding resolution of all claims under Proposition 65 between EHA, on its own behalf and not on behalf of the public, and Riega of any violation of Proposition 65 that was or could have been asserted by EHA, on its own behalf, on behalf of its past and current agents, representatives, attorneys, successors and assignees, and on behalf of all third-party entities with whom EHA contracts to perform testing and all other work related to Proposition 65, including but not limited to VITOX LLC and Keep America Safe and Beautiful, against Riega and each of its respective parents, subsidiaries, affiliated entities under common ownership, directors, officers, members, employees, attorneys, each upstream entity from whom the Product was purchased by Riega, and each entity to whom Riega directly or indirectly distributes or sells the Product including, but not limited to, its downstream distributors, wholesalers, customers,

retailers, franchisees, cooperative members and licensees, including, but not limited to, Amazon.com, Inc. (“Releasees”), based on the alleged failure to warn about exposures to lead required under Proposition 65 in the Product manufactured, sold or distributed for sale in California by Riega before the Compliance Date, as alleged in the Notice. This release does not extend to any third-party retailers selling the Product on a website who, after receiving instruction from Riega to include a warning as set forth above in Section 2.2, if the Product contains more than 0.5 micrograms of lead per day, do not include such a warning.

In further consideration of the promises and agreements herein contained, EHA on its own behalf and not on behalf of the public, on behalf of its past and current agents, representatives, attorneys, successors and assignees, and on behalf of all third-party entities with whom EHA contracts to perform testing and all other work related to Proposition 65, including but not limited to VITOX LLC and Keep America Safe and Beautiful, hereby waives any and all rights it may have to institute or participate in, directly or indirectly, any form of legal action and releases all claims against Riega and Releasees including, without limitation, all actions and causes of action, suits, liabilities, demands, obligations, damages, costs, fines, penalties, losses or expenses including, but not exclusively, investigation fees, expert fees and attorney fees arising under Proposition 65 with respect to the alleged or actual failure to warn about exposures to lead required under Proposition 65 in the Product manufactured, distributed, sold or offered for sale by Riega, before the Compliance Date.

4.2 Riega’s Release of EHA

Riega, on its own behalf and on behalf of its past and current agents, representatives, attorneys, successors, and assignees, hereby waives any and all claims against EHA and its attorneys and other representatives, for any and all actions taken or statements made by EHA and its attorneys and other representatives, whether in the course of investigating claims, or otherwise seeking to enforce Proposition 65 against it as alleged in the Notice.

4.3 California Civil Code Section 1542

It is possible that other claims not known to the Parties arising out of the facts alleged in the Notice and relating to the Product will develop or be discovered. EHA on behalf of itself only, on

one hand, and Riega on behalf of itself only, on the other hand, acknowledge that this Settlement Agreement is expressly intended to cover and include all such claims up through the Compliance Date. The Parties acknowledge that the claims released in Sections 4.1 and 4.2 may include unknown claims, and nevertheless waive California Civil Code section 1542 as to any such unknown claims. California Civil Code section 1542 reads as follows:

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

5. SEVERABILITY

If, subsequent to the execution of this Settlement Agreement, any provision of this Settlement Agreement is held by a court to be unenforceable, the validity of the remaining provisions shall not be adversely affected.

6. GOVERNING LAW

The terms of this Settlement Agreement shall be governed by the laws of the State of California and apply within the State of California.

7. ENFORCEMENT

In any action to enforce the terms of this Settlement Agreement, the prevailing party shall be entitled to its reasonable attorneys' fees and costs.

8. NOTICE

Unless specified herein, all correspondence and notice required to be provided pursuant to this Settlement Agreement shall be in writing and sent by: (a) personal delivery; (b) first-class, registered or certified mail, return receipt requested; or (c) a recognized overnight courier on any Party by the other at the following addresses:

For Riega:

David Barnes
Arnold & Porter
Three Embarcadero Center 10th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94111-4024

For EHA:

Noam Glick
Entorno Law, LLP
225 Broadway, Suite 1900
San Diego, CA 92101

Any Party may, from time to time, specify in writing to the other a change of address to which all notices and other communications shall be sent.

9. COUNTERPARTS; FACSIMILE SIGNATURES

This Settlement Agreement may be executed in counterparts and by facsimile or portable document format (PDF) signature, each of which shall be deemed an original, and all of which, when taken together, shall constitute one and the same document.

10. COMPLIANCE WITH HEALTH & SAFETY CODE § 25249.7(f)

EHA and its attorneys agree to comply with the reporting form requirements referenced in California Health and Safety Code § 25249.7(f).

11. MODIFICATION

This Settlement Agreement may be modified only by written agreement of the Parties.

12. AUTHORIZATION

The undersigned are authorized to execute this Settlement Agreement on behalf of their respective Parties and have read, understood, and agree to all of the terms and conditions of this Settlement Agreement.

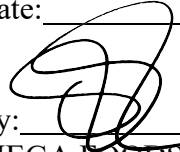
AGREED TO:

AGREED TO:

Date: 01/31/2023

Date: 02/09/2023

By: 
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH
ADVOCATES, INC.

By: 
RIEGA FOODS, LLC