1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	Troy C. Bailey, State Bar No. 277424 David Joshua Voorhees, State Bar No. 241436 VOORHEES & BAILEY, LLP 839 Emerson Street Palo Alto, CA 94301 Telephone: (650) 313-2154 Facsimile: (650) 618-1606 troy@voorheesbailey.com josh@voorheesbailey.com Attorneys for Plaintiff AUDREY KALLANDER		
10	SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA		
11	CITY AND COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA		
12	UNLIMITED CIVIL JURISDICTION		
13			
14	AUDREY KALLANDER,	I	
15	Plaintiff,		
16	v.	Case No. 23CV417176	
17	NINGBO VONTONE STATIONERY CO.	[PROPOSED] CONSENT JUDGMENT	
18 19	LTD. and DOES 1-150, inclusive,	(Health & Safety Code § 25249.6 <i>et seq.</i> and Code of Civil Procedure § 664.6)	
20	Defendants.		
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	[PROPOSED] CONSENT JUDGMENT AS TO DEFENDANT NINGBO VONTONE STATIONERY CO. LTD.		

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1.

INTRODUCTION

1.1 **Parties**

3 This Consent Judgment is entered into by and between plaintiff Audrey Kallander 4 ("Kallander") and defendant The Ningbo Vontone Stationery Co. Ltd. ("Ningbo Vontone"), with 5 Kallander and Ningbo Vontone each referred to individually as a "Party" and collectively as the "Parties." 6

1.2

Plaintiff

8 Kallander is a resident of the State of California who seeks to promote awareness of 9 exposures to toxic chemicals, and to improve human health by reducing or eliminating harmful substances contained in consumer and commercial products. 10

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1.3 Defendant

Ningbo Vontone employs ten or more persons and is a person in the course of doing 12 13 business for purposes of the Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986, California Health and Safety Code section 25249.6 et seq. ("Proposition 65"). 14

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1.4 **General Allegations**

16 Kallander alleges that Ningbo Vontone manufactures, sells, and distributes for sale in 17 California bike locks with PVC components containing di(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate ("DBP"). On 18 December 2, 2005, the State of California listed DBP as a chemical known to cause birth defects 19 and other reproductive harm. DBP. Kallander alleges that Ningbo Vontone failed to provide the 20health hazard warnings required by Proposition 65 for exposures to DBP.

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1.5 **Product Description**

22 The products covered by this Consent Judgment are specifically defined as, and limited to, 23 the Caliber Bike Lock, UPC: 0 50428 64609 0, manufactured, sold, or distributed for sale in 24 California by Ningbo Vontone (hereinafter "Covered Products").

25

Notices of Violation 1.6

26 On December 13, 2022, Kallander served CVS Pharmacy, Inc. ("CVS") and the requisite 27 public enforcement agencies with a 60-Day Notice of Violation of the Safe Drinking Water and 28 Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986 ("December Notice"), alleging that the notice recipient violated

Proposition 65 by failing to warn customers and consumers in California of the health hazards
associated with exposures to DBP from the Covered Products. Ningbo was subsequently identified
as the manufacturer/supplier of the Covered Products. No public enforcer has commenced or is
diligently prosecuting the allegations set forth in the December Notice.

On February 16, 2023, Kallander served Ningbo Vontone and the requisite public
enforcement agencies with a 60-Day Notice of Violation of the Safe Drinking Water and Toxic
Enforcement Act of 1986 ("February Notice"), alleging that the notice recipients violated
Proposition 65 by failing to warn customers and consumers in California of the health hazards
associated with exposures to DBP from the Covered Products. No public enforcer has commenced
or is diligently prosecuting the allegations set forth in the February Notice.

The December Notice and February Notice shall hereinafter collectively be referred to as the
"Notices."

13

1.7 Complaint

On April 27, 2023, Kallander commenced the instant action, naming Ningbo Vontone as the
defendant for the alleged violations of Proposition 65 related to the Covered Products.

16

1.8 No Admission

17 By execution of this Consent Judgment, Ningbo denies any material, factual, and legal 18 allegations contained in the Notices and Complaint and maintains that all of the products that it has 19 sold and distributed in California, including the Covered Products, have been, and are, in 20 compliance with all laws. Nothing in this Consent Judgment shall be construed as an admission by 21 Ningbo of any fact, finding, conclusion of law, issue of law, or violation of law. Nothing in this 22 Consent Judgment, nor compliance with this Consent Judgment, shall constitute or be construed, 23 considered, offered, or admitted as evidence of an admission or evidence of fault, wrongdoing, or 24 liability by Ningbo, its officers, directors, employees, or parents, subsidiaries or affiliated 25 corporations, in any administrative or judicial proceeding or litigation in any court, agency, or 26 forum. Except for the allegations settled and compromised, nothing in this Consent Judgment shall 27 prejudice, waive, or impair any right, remedy, argument, or defense that the Parties may have 28 against one another in any other pending legal proceeding as to allegations unrelated to the Notices,

Complaint or claims released herein. This Section shall not, however, diminish or otherwise affect
 Ningbo Vontone's obligations, responsibilities, and duties under this Consent Judgment.

3

1.9 Jurisdiction

For purposes of this Consent Judgment only, the Parties stipulate that this Court has
jurisdiction over Ningbo Vontone as to the allegations contained in the Notices and Complaint, that
venue is proper in the County of Santa Clara, and that the Court has jurisdiction to enter and
enforce the provisions of this Consent Judgment pursuant to Proposition 65 and Code of Civil
Procedure section 664.6.

9

1.10 Effective Date

For purposes of this Consent Judgment, the term "Effective Date" shall mean the date that
the Court grants the motion for approval of this Consent Judgment contemplated by Section 5,
including the date of any unopposed tentative ruling approving this Consent Judgment.

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2.

INJUNCTIVE RELIEF: REFORMULATION/WARNINGS

2.1 Reformulation Standards

"Reformulated Products" are defined as those Covered Products containing DBP in
concentrations less than 0.1 percent (1,000 parts per million) when analyzed pursuant to U.S.
Environmental Protection Agency testing methodologies 3580A and 8270C, or any other
methodologies utilized by federal or state agencies for the purpose of determining the DBP content
in a solid substance.

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2.2 Reformulation/Warning Commitment

Commencing by or before 30 days after the Effective Date, Ningbo Vontone shall not sell or
offer the Covered Products for sale in the State of California unless they are Reformulated Products
pursuant to Section 2.1 or contain a warning as set forth in Section 2.3 below. The Parties agree
and intend that Ningbo Vontone's compliance with the terms of this Consent Judgment shall
constitute its compliance with Proposition 65 with respect to exposures to DBP from the Covered
Products. There shall be no obligation for Ningbo Vontone to provide a warning for Covered
Products that entered the stream of commerce prior to 30 days after the Effective Date whether or

not it is a Reformulated Product, and the Section 4 release applies to all such Covered Products, as
 they have been included in the calculation of civil penalties due pursuant to Section 3.1.

2.3 3 Warnings 4 Commencing by or before 30 days after the Effective Date, all Covered Products Ningbo 5 Vontone sells and/or distributes for sale in California that do not qualify as Reformulated Products, 6 shall bear a clear and reasonable warning pursuant to this Section on such Covered Products that 7 complies with Proposition 65. Ningbo Vontone further agrees that the warning shall be 8 prominently placed with such conspicuousness when compared with other words, statements, 9 designs or devices as to render it likely to be read and understood by an ordinary individual under 10 customary conditions of purchase or use. For purposes of this Consent Judgment, a clear and 11 reasonable warning for the Covered Products shall consist of a warning affixed directly to the 12 product or product packaging, label, tag, or on a placard, shelf tag, sign or electronic device or 13 automatic process for Covered Products sold in California and containing one of the following 14 statements: **WARNING:** Reproductive Harm- www.P65Warnings.ca.gov 15 OR 16 WARNING: This product can expose you to chemicals, including Di-n-butyl Phthalate (DBP), which are known to the State of California to cause birth defects or 17 other reproductive harm. For more information go to www.P65Warnings.ca.gov 18 The above warning statements shall also include a symbol consisting of a black exclamation 19 point in a yellow equilateral triangle with a bold black outline. Where the label is not printed using 20the color yellow, the symbol may be printed in black and white. The symbol shall be placed to the 21 left of the text of the warning, in a size no smaller than the height of the word "WARNING." 22 Where a sign or label used to provide a warning includes consumer information about a 23 Covered Product in a language other than English, the warning must also be provided in that 24 language in addition to English. 25 In addition to affixing the warning on the Covered Products, if Ningbo Vontone sells 26 the Covered Products via its own proprietary internet website directly to consumers located in 27 California, it shall also provide the foregoing warning either: (a) on the same web page on which a 28

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1 Covered Product is displayed and/or described; (b) on the same page as the price for the Covered 2 Product; (c) on one or more web pages displayed to a California purchaser prior to completion of 3 the checkout process. Alternatively, a symbol consisting of a black exclamation point in a yellow 4 or white equilateral triangle may appear adjacent to or immediately following the display, 5 description, price, or checkout listing of the Covered Product, if the warning statement appears 6 elsewhere on the same web page in a manner that clearly associates it with the product(s) to which 7 the warning applies. If it has the ability to do so, Ningbo Vontone shall also provide the warning on 8 the websites of its third-party internet sellers where Ningbo Vontone controls the content of the 9 product display page. If Ningbo Vontone does not have the ability to post the warning on the 10 websites of third-party distributors or retail sellers with whom has written agreements to sell the 11 Covered Products on the internet, Ningbo Vontone shall provide such third-party distributors or 12 retail sellers with written notice in accordance with Title 27, California Code of Regulations, 13 Section 25600.2. Third-party internet sellers who receive notice pursuant to 25600.2 and fail to 14 provide a clear and reasonable Proposition 65 warning pursuant to this section shall not be deemed 15 in compliance with this Consent Judgment shall not receive any benefit or protection afforded 16 hereunder.

The parties acknowledge that the warnings required by this section are not the exclusive
methods of providing Proposition 65 warnings and agree that Ningbo Vontone may utilize "safe
harbor" warning language and methods of transmission in effect on or after the Effective Date,
applicable to DBP and the Covered Products, without being deemed in breach of this Settlement
Agreement.

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3.1 Civil Penalty Payment

MONETARY SETTLEMENT TERMS

Pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 25249.7(b)(2), and in settlement of certain
claims alleged in the Notices or referred to in this Consent Judgment, Ningbo Vontone agrees to
pay \$4,600 in civil penalties within five (5) business days of the Effective Date. The penalty
payment will be allocated in accordance with California Health and Safety Code section
25249.12(c)(1) & (d), with 75% of the penalty amount remitted to the California Office of

Environmental Health Hazard Assessment ("OEHHA") and the remaining 25% of the penalty
 amount paid to Kallander and delivered to the address in Section 3.3 herein. Ningbo Vontone will
 provide its payment in two checks as follows: (1) "OEHHA" in the amount of \$3,450; and (2)
 "Audrey Kallander" in the amount of \$1,150.

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3.2 Attorney's Fees and Costs

6 The Parties acknowledge that Kallander and her counsel offered to resolve this dispute 7 without reaching terms on the amount of fees and costs to be reimbursed to Kallander's counsel, 8 thereby leaving the issue to be resolved after the material terms of the agreement had been settled. 9 Shortly after the other settlement terms had been reached, Ningbo Vontone expressed a desire to 10 resolve the attorneys' fees and costs. The Parties reached an accord on the compensation due to 11 Kallander's counsel under general contract principles and the private attorney general doctrine 12 codified at Code of Civil Procedure section 1021.5 for all work performed in this matter. Under 13 these legal principles, within five (5) business days of the Effective Date, Ningbo Vontone agrees to pay \$25,400, in the form of a check made payable to "Voorhees & Bailey, LLP," for all fees and 14 15 costs incurred investigating, bringing this matter to the attention of Ningbo Vontone's management, and negotiating a settlement in the public interest, but exclusive of fees and costs on appeal, if any. 16

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3.3

Payment Address

All payments under this Consent Judgment shall be delivered to the following address:

Voorhees & Bailey, LLP 839 Emerson Street Palo Alto, CA 94301

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4.

CLAIMS COVERED AND RELEASED

4.1 Kallander's Release of Proposition 65 Claims

Kallander, acting on her own behalf and in the public interest, releases Ningbo Vontone and
its parents, subsidiaries, affiliated entities under common ownership, directors, officers, employees,
and attorneys ("Releasees") and each entity to whom Ningbo Vontone directly or indirectly
distributes or sells the Covered Products including, but not limited to, its downstream distributors,
wholesalers, customers, retailers including CVS, franchisers, cooperative members, licensors and
licensees, ("Downstream Releasees") for any violations arising under Proposition 65 for unwarned

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exposures to DBP in the Covered Products manufactured, imported, distributed or sold by Ningbo
 Vontone prior to 30 days after the Effective Date, as set forth in the Notices.

The Parties further understand and agree that this Section 4.1 release shall not extend
upstream to any entities that manufactured the Covered Products or any component parts thereof, or
any distributors or suppliers who sold the Covered Products or any component parts thereof to
Ningbo Vontone.

7

4.2 Kallander's Individual Release of Claims

Kallander, in her individual capacity only and not in her representative capacity, provides a 8 9 release herein which shall be effective as a full and final accord and satisfaction, as a bar to all 10 actions, causes of action, obligations, costs, expenses, attorneys' fees, damages, losses, claims, 11 liabilities, and demands of Kallander of any nature, character, or kind, whether known or unknown, 12 suspected or unsuspected, arising out of alleged or actual exposures to DBP in the Covered 13 Products manufactured, imported, distributed, or sold by Ningbo Vontone and each of its respective 14 parents, subsidiaries, affiliated entities under common ownership, directors, officers, employees, or 15 attorneys, and any of the Downstream Releases prior to 30 days after the Effective Date. The 16 Parties further understand and agree that this Section 4.2 release shall not extend upstream to any 17 entities that manufactured the Covered Products, or any component parts thereof, or any distributors 18 or suppliers who sold the Covered Products to Ningbo Vontone, or any component parts thereof to 19 Ningbo Vontone.

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4.3 Ningbo Vontone's Release of Kallander

Ningbo Vontone, on its own behalf and on behalf of its past and current agents,
representatives, attorneys, successors and/or assignees, hereby waive any and all claims against
Kallander and her attorneys and other representatives, for any and all actions taken or statements
made (or those that could have been taken or made) by Kallander and her attorneys and other
representatives, whether in the course of investigating claims, seeking to enforce Proposition 65
against it in this matter, or with respect to the Covered Products.

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4.4 California Civil Code Section 1542

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2	It is possible that other claims not known to the Parties arising out of the facts alleged in the		
3	Notice and relating to the Covered Products will develop or be discovered. Kallander on behalf of		
4	herself only, on one hand, and Ningbo on behalf of itself only, on the other hand, acknowledge that		
5	this Consent Judgment is expressly intended to cover and include all such claims prior to 30 day after the Effective Date. The Parties acknowledge that the claims released in Sections 4.2 and 4.		
6			
7 8	may include unknown claims, and nevertheless waive California Civil Code section 1542 as to an		
9			
10			
11	A GENERAL RELEASE DOES NOT EXTEND TO CLAIMS THAT THE CREDITOR OR RELEASING PARTY DOES		
12	NOT KNOW OR SUSPECT TO EXIST IN HIS OR HER FAVOR AT THE TIME OF EXECUTING THE RELEASE		
13	AND THAT, IF KNOWN BY HIM OR HER, WOULD HAVE MATERIALLY AFFECTED HIS OR HER SETTLEMENT		
14	WITH THE DEBTOR OR RELEASED PARTY.		
15	Kallander and Ningbo each acknowledge and understand the significance and consequences		
16			
17	5. <u>COURT APPROVAL</u>		
18	This Consent Judgment is not effective until it is approved and entered by the Court and		
19 shall be null and void if, for any reason, it is not approved and entered by the Court wit			
20	after it has been fully executed by all Parties. Kallander and Ningbo Vontone agree to support the		
21	entry of this agreement as a judgment, and to obtain the Court's approval of their settlement in a timely manner. The Parties acknowledge that, pursuant to California Health and Safety Code section 25249.7(f), a noticed motion is required for judicial approval of this Consent Judgment, which motion Kallander shall draft and file and Ningbo Vontone shall support, appearing at the		
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23 26	hearing if so requested. If any third-party objection to the motion is filed, Kallander and Ningbo Vontone agree to work together to file a reply and appear at any hearing. This provision is a		
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27	material component of the Consent Judgment and shall be treated as such in the event of a breach.		
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In the event that this Consent Judgment is not approved by the Court, the Parties agree to meet and confer on how to proceed and if such agreement is not reached within 30 days, the case shall proceed on its normal course. If the Court approves this Consent Judgment and is reversed or vacated by an appellate court, the Parties shall meet and confer as to whether to modify the terms of this Consent Judgment. If the Parties do not jointly agree on a course of action to take, the case shall proceed on its normal course on the trial court's calendar.

7 **6.** <u>SEVERABILITY</u>

8 If, subsequent to the execution of this Consent Judgment, any provision of this Consent
9 Judgment is deemed by a court to be unenforceable, the validity of the remaining provisions shall
10 not be adversely affected.

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7.

GOVERNING LAW

The terms of this Consent Judgment shall be governed by the laws of the State of California and apply within the State of California. In the event that Proposition 65 is repealed or is otherwise rendered inapplicable by reason of law generally, or as to the Covered Products, then Ningbo Vontone may provide written notice to Kallander of any asserted change in the law and shall have no further injunctive obligations pursuant to this Consent Judgment with respect to, and to the extent that, the Covered Products are so affected.

8. <u>NOTICE</u>

Unless specified herein, all correspondence and notice required to be provided pursuant to
this Consent Judgment 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:

23	For Ningbo Vontone:	For Kallander:
24	Alecia E. Cotton	Voorhees & Bailey, LLP
25	ROGERS JOSEPH O'DONNELL 311 California Street, 10 th Floor	Proposition 65 Coordinator 839 Emerson Street
26	San Francisco, CA 94104	Palo Alto, CA 94301
27	Any Party may, from time to time, specify in writing to the other a change of address t	

28 which all notices and other communications shall be sent.

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9.

COUNTERPARTS; FACSIMILE AND PDF SIGNATURES

This Consent Judgment 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.

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10. <u>COMPLIANCE WITH HEALTH & SAFETY CODE § 25249.7(f)</u>

Kallander and her attorneys agree to comply with the reporting form requirements
referenced in California Health and Safety Code section 25249.7(f).

8 || 11. MODIFICATION

9 This Consent Judgment may be modified only by: (i) a written agreement of the Parties and
10 the entry of a modified Consent Judgment by the Court thereon; or (ii) upon a successful motion of
11 any party and the entry of a modified Consent Judgment by the Court thereon.

12

12. <u>NEUTRAL CONSTRUCTION</u>

13 Both Parties and their counsel have participated in the preparation of this Consent Judgment 14 and this Consent Judgment is the result of the joint efforts of the Parties. This Consent Judgment 15 was subject to revision and modification by the Parties and has been accepted and approved as to its 16 final form by both Parties and their counsel. Accordingly, any uncertainty or ambiguity existing in 17 this Consent Judgment shall not be interpreted against any Party by virtue of its participation in the 18 preparation of this Consent Judgment. Each Party to this Consent Judgment agrees that any statute 19 or rule of construction providing that ambiguities are to be resolved against the drafting party 20should not be employed in the interpretation of this Consent Judgment and, in this regard, the 21 Parties hereby waive California Civil Code Section 1654. 22 111

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1 13. <u>AUTHORIZATION</u>

2 The undersigned are authorized to execute this Consent Judgment on behalf of their
3 respective Parties and have read, understand, and agreed to all of the terms and conditions of this
4 Consent Judgment.

AGREED TO:

AGREED TO:

Date: Jan 30, 2024

By ALLANDER

Date: For and on behalf of VONTONE STATIONERY COMPANY LIMITED 文具有限公司 文质 By: NINGBO ONE STATIONERY

CO. LTD.

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