

State of California - Department of Justice - Attorney General's Office - Proposition 65 Enforcement Reporting

Attention: Prop 65 Coordinator, 1515 Clay Street, Suite 2000, Oakland, CA 94612

FORM JUS 1501
(03-01)

PRIVATE ENFORCEMENT FILING - Health and Safety Code section 25249.7(e) and (f)

REPORT OF SETTLEMENT

Please print or type required information

Original Filing Supplemental Filing Corrected Filing

PARTIES TO THE ACTION	PLAINTIFF(S)			
	DEFENDANT(S) INVOLVED IN SETTLEMENT			
CASE INFO	COURT DOCKET NUMBER		COURT NAME	
	SHORT CASE NAME			
REPORT INFO	INJUNCTIVE RELIEF			
	PAYMENT: CIVIL PENALTY		PAYMENT: ATTORNEYS FEES	PAYMENT: OTHER
	WILL SETTLEMENT BE SUBMITTED TO COURT? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	IF YES, AFTER ENTRY OF JUDGMENT BY COURT, REPORT OF ENTRY OF JUDGMENT MUST BE SUBMITTED TO ATTORNEY GENERAL		DATE SETTLEMENT SIGNED / /
	COPY OF SETTLEMENT MUST BE ATTACHED			
FILER INFO	NAME OF CONTACT			
	ORGANIZATION			TELEPHONE NUMBER ()
	ADDRESS			FAX NUMBER ()
	CITY	STATE	ZIP	E-MAIL ADDRESS

FILING INSTRUCTIONS: This form can be completed online and printed. If electronic filing is not available, mail the completed form with a copy of the settlement to the attention of the Prop 65 Coordinator at the address shown above. If you need additional space to complete this form please use an attachment.

SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN
MONARCH ACTION LLC AND TEAM BEANS LLC

Mothers Oversight Network for Actionable Response to Contaminant Harm, LLC (FKA MONARCH ACTION, LLC) (“MONARCH”) and Team Beans LLC (“Defendant”), (MONARCH and Defendant collectively are referred to as the “Parties”) enter into this agreement (“Settlement Agreement”) for the purpose of avoiding prolonged and costly litigation to settle MONARCH’s allegations that Defendant violated the California Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986, California Health and Safety Code §25249.6 *et seq.* (“Proposition 65”). The effective date of this Settlement Agreement shall be the date upon which it is fully executed by all Parties hereto (the “Effective Date”).

I. Introduction

A. MONARCH is a California-based entity that seeks to promote awareness of exposures to toxic chemicals and improve human health by reducing or eliminating hazardous substances contained in consumer and industrial products.

B. MONARCH alleges that Defendant manufactures, imports, sells, or distributes for sale in the State of California clear tote bag product(s) that may cause exposure to Di [2-Ethylhexyl] Phthalate (“DEHP”) without first providing a clear and reasonable warning as required by Proposition 65.

C. DEHP is listed pursuant to Proposition 65 as a chemical known to cause cancer and birth defects or other reproductive harm.

D. The product(s) covered by this Settlement Agreement are clear bag products manufactured by or for Defendant, imported by or for Defendant, or distributed or sold by or for Defendant to others, including, but not limited to NFL Clear Tote Bag Minnesota Vikings (the “Covered Product(s)”).

E. On January 1, 1988, the Governor of California added DEHP to the list of chemicals known to the State to cause reproductive cancer.

F. On October 24, 2003, the Governor of California added DEHP to the list of chemicals known to the State to cause reproductive toxicity.

G. These additions took place more than twelve (12) months before MONARCH served its “60-Day Notice of Violation” which is further described below.

H. DEHP is referred to hereinafter as the “Listed Chemical.”

I. On or about February 28, 2023, MONARCH served Defendant, as well as certain relevant public enforcement agencies, with a document entitled “60-Day Notice of Violation” (“Notice”) advising of its intent to sue for violations of Proposition 65 arising from or related to Covered Product containing the Listed Chemical.

J. The Notice alleged Defendant violated Proposition 65 by failing to warn consumers in California that use of Covered Product exposed users to the Listed Chemical.

K. To the best of the Parties’ knowledge, no public enforcer has commenced and is diligently prosecuting the same allegations against Defendant.

L. Defendant denies the material, factual, and legal allegations contained in the Notice and maintains that all of the products that it has sold and distributed in California, including the Covered Product, are and have been in compliance with all laws.

M. The Parties enter into this Settlement Agreement to settle disputed claims between the Parties as alleged in the Notice and as set forth below concerning the Parties’ and the Covered Product’ compliance with Proposition 65 (the “Dispute”).

N. By execution of this Settlement Agreement, the Parties do not admit any facts or conclusions of law, including, but not limited to, any facts or conclusions of law regarding any violation of Proposition 65, or any other statutory, regulatory, common law, or equitable doctrine.

O. Nothing in this Settlement Agreement shall be construed as an admission against interest by any Party of any fact, conclusion of law, issue of law, or violation of law.

P. Nothing in this Settlement Agreement, nor compliance with its terms, shall constitute or be construed, considered, offered, or admitted as evidence of an admission against interest or evidence of fault, wrongdoing, or liability by Defendant, its officers, directors, employees, or parents, subsidiaries, or affiliated corporations, or any person acting for Defendant, or any direct or indirect customer of Defendant who sold or sells the Covered Product, in any administrative or judicial proceeding or litigation in any court, agency, or forum.

Q. Except for the allegations settled and compromised, nothing in this Settlement Agreement shall prejudice, waive, or impair any right, remedy, argument, or defense that MONARCH or Defendant may have against one another in any other legal proceeding as to allegations unrelated to the Dispute or claims released herein.

II. Release

A. This Settlement Agreement is a full, final, and binding resolution between MONARCH, individually and *not* in its representative capacity, and:

1. Defendant, and its owners, parents, subsidiaries, affiliates, sister and related companies, employees, shareholders, members, officers, directors, insurers, agents, attorneys, predecessors, successors, and assigns (collectively the "Releasees"), and

2. All entities to whom Releasees directly or indirectly provide, distribute, or sell the Covered Product, including but not limited to distributors, wholesalers, customers, retailers, franchisees, cooperative members, and licensees, including Bed Bath and Beyond ("Downstream Releasees"), on the other hand, of any violation(s) or claimed violation(s) of Proposition 65 or any statutory or common law claim that has been, could have been, or may in the future be asserted against the Releasees and/or Downstream Releasees regarding exposing persons to the Listed Chemical and the failure to warn about exposure to the Listed Chemical arising in connection with the Covered Product manufactured, shipped, and/or otherwise distributed prior to the Effective Date.

3. This release applies to all Downstream Releasees up through the Effective Date and continues after the Effective Date as to liability for Downstream Releasees for any Covered Products manufactured, imported, distributed, or sold after the Effective Date if and only if Defendant provides notice of this Settlement and Release, or has provided or thereafter provides notification of the responsibility of the Downstream Releasee to provide the warning as required pursuant to section III (Duties) of this Agreement.

B. The Parties agree that compliance with the terms of this Settlement Agreement by Defendant shall be deemed to be compliance with Proposition 65 by Releasees and Downstream Releasees with respect to any exposures to the Listed Chemical in the Covered Product manufactured, distributed, or sold by Defendant after the Effective Date.

C. The Covered Product(s) subject to this Settlement Agreement are limited to those manufactured by or for Defendant, or imported by or for Defendant, or distributed by or for Defendant, or sold by or for Defendant.

D. MONARCH, on behalf of itself, its past and current agents, representatives, attorneys, successors, and/or assignees, but not in its capacity as representative of the public, hereby waives and releases with respect to the Covered Product all rights to institute or participate

in, directly or indirectly, any form of legal action, including, without limitation, all actions, and causes of action, in law or in equity, suits, liabilities, demands, obligations, damages, costs, fines, penalties, losses, or expenses (including, but not limited to, investigation fees, expert fees, and attorneys' fees) (collectively the "Claims"), against Releasees and/or Downstream Releasees that arise under Proposition 65 or any other statutory or common law claims that were or could have been asserted in respect of any Covered Product manufactured, imported, distributed, or sold up to the Effective Date, including without limitation to the extent that such claims relate to Releasees' and/or Downstream Releasees' alleged exposure of persons to the Listed Chemical contained in the Covered Product or any failure by Releasees and Downstream Releasees to warn about exposures to the Listed Chemical contained in the Covered Product.

E. MONARCH acknowledges that it is familiar with Section 1542 of the Civil Code, which provides 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.

MONARCH, its past and current agents, representatives, attorneys, successors, and/or assignees, in its individual and *not* representative capacity, expressly waives and relinquishes any and all rights and benefits which it may have under, or which may be conferred on it by the provisions of Civil Code § 1542, *only as it pertains to the Listed Chemical and the Covered Products*, as well as under any other state or federal statute or common law principle of similar effect, to the fullest extent that it may lawfully waive such rights or benefits pertaining to the released matters.

III. Defendant's Duties

A. Commencing on the Effective Date, Defendant shall not manufacture, import, sell, or distribute for sale in the State of California any Covered Product unless it either:

1. contains the Listed Chemical in a concentration less than or equal to 1,000 parts per million ("ppm") (0.1%) when analyzed pursuant to a scientifically reliable application of U.S. Environmental Protection Agency testing methodologies 3580A and

8270C, or any other scientifically reliable methodology for determining the Listed Chemical content in a substance of the form of the Covered Products herein; **or**

2. exhibits a warning in compliance with this Settlement Agreement.

B. Whenever a clear and reasonable warning is required under Subsection (A)(2) for Covered Product offered for sale in the State of California, it shall conform to and be provided consistent with the clear and reasonable warning requirements set forth in 27 CCR § 25600 et seq.

IV. Payments

A. **Payment from Defendant.** Within ten (10) business days of the Effective Date, Defendant shall make the Total Settlement Payment of \$19,500.00

B. **Allocation of Payments.** The Total Settlement Payment shall be paid in three (3) separate checks made payable and allocated as follows:

1. **Civil Penalty.** Defendant shall pay \$4,000.00 as a civil penalty pursuant to Health & Safety Code § 25249.7(b). The civil penalty shall be apportioned in accordance with Health & Safety Code § 25249.12 (25% to MONARCH and 75% to the State of California's Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment ("OEHHHA")).

a. Accordingly, the OEHHHA portion of the civil penalty payment in the amount of \$3,000.00 shall be made payable to OEHHHA and associated with taxpayer identification number 68-0284486. This payment shall be delivered along with a 1099 as follows: Attn: Fiscal Operations Branch Chief, Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, P.O. Box 4010, MS #19B, Sacramento, CA 95812-4010.

b. The MONARCH portion of the civil penalty payment in the amount of \$1,000.00 shall be made payable to MONARCH and associated with taxpayer identification number 88-0835494. This payment shall be delivered along with a 1099 to MONARCH, 573 N Olive Street, Ventura, CA 93001.

2. **Attorney's Fees and Costs.** A reimbursement of MONARCH's attorney's fees and costs in the amount of \$15,500.00 payable to the "Greenbaum Law Firm," and associated with taxpayer identification number 46-4580172. This payment shall be delivered to the Greenbaum Law Firm, 7120 Hayvenhurst Ave, Suite 320, Van Nuys, CA 91406 ("GLF") along with a 1099 for the same amount.

V. Reporting the Settlement Agreement. MONARCH shall report this Settlement Agreement to the Attorney General's Office within five (5) days of the Parties' execution of this Settlement Agreement.

VI. Public Benefit. It is Defendant's understanding that the commitments it has agreed to herein, and actions to be taken by Defendant under this Settlement Agreement, would confer a significant benefit to the general public, as set forth in Code of Civil Procedure § 1021.5 and Cal. Admin. Code tit. 11, § 3201. As such, it is the intent of Defendant that to the extent any other private party initiates an action alleging a violation of Proposition 65 with respect to Defendant's failure or alleged failure to provide a warning concerning exposure to the Listed Chemical prior to use of the Covered Products it has manufactured, distributed, sold, or offered for sale in California, or will manufacture, distribute, sell, or offer for sale in California, such private party action would not confer a significant benefit on the general public as to those Covered Products addressed in this Settlement Agreement, provided that Defendant is in material compliance with this Settlement Agreement.

VII. Execution in Counterparts and Facsimile. This Settlement Agreement may be executed in counterparts, which taken together shall be deemed to constitute the same document. A facsimile or portable document format (PDF) signature shall be as valid as the original.

VIII. Entire Agreement. This Settlement Agreement contains the sole and entire agreement and understanding of the Parties with respect to the entire subject matter hereof, and all related prior discussions, negotiations, commitments, and understandings. No other agreements, oral or otherwise, exist to bind any of the Parties.

IX. Modification of Settlement Agreement. Any modification to this Settlement Agreement shall be in writing and signed by the Parties.

X. Application of Settlement Agreement

A. This Settlement Agreement shall apply to, be binding upon, and inure to the benefit of, MONARCH and the Releasees and Downstream Releasees identified in Section 2, Subsection (2)(A) above.

B. Defendant's compliance with this Settlement Agreement shall constitute compliance with Proposition 65 by the Releasees and Downstream Releasees regarding the Listed Chemical in the Covered Product.

XI. Enforcement of Settlement Agreement

A. Violation of the warning requirements in this Agreement by Defendant or Downstream Releasees, may be enforced, at MONARCH’s sole discretion by way of enforcing this Agreement or through a new notice of violation and the procedures of Health and Safety Code §§25249.6 *et seq.*

B. Any Party may file suit before the Superior Court of the County of Los Angeles, consistent with the terms and conditions set forth in Subsections (C) and (D) of this section X of this Settlement Agreement, to enforce the terms and conditions contained in this Settlement Agreement.

C. No action to enforce this Settlement Agreement may be commenced or maintained unless the Party seeking enforcement or alleging violation notifies the other Party of the specific acts alleged to breach this Settlement Agreement at least 60 days before serving or filing any action and the entity receiving the notice fails to comply with the requirements set forth in Subsection (D) below.

D. Within those 60 days (or such additional time as the Parties may mutually agree upon) of receiving the notice described in Subsection (C) supra, Defendant and MONARCH shall meet and confer on the alleged violation of this Agreement. Should the Parties be unable to resolve the dispute, any Party may seek relief under Subsection (B) above.

E. Enforcement of the other responsibilities under this Agreement may be enforced through an action for specific performance or breach of contract in the Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles. The prevailing party is entitled to prejudgment interest if applicable, costs, and reasonable attorney’s fees, subject to subparagraphs B-D, above.

XII. Notification Requirements

A. Any notice required or permitted hereunder shall be effective if sent via email, unless one of the Parties requests notice in another method, to the following designees:

<u>For MONARCH:</u> Daniel N. Greenbaum, Esq. Email: dgreenbaum@greenbaumlawfirm.com	<u>For DEFENDANT:</u> Sarah Slack, Esq. Email: SSlack@foley.com
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B. Any Party may change its designee(s) for purposes of notification by providing written notice of such change pursuant to this section.

XIII. Severability. If after the execution of this Settlement Agreement, any of the provisions of this Settlement Agreement are held by a court to be unenforceable, the validity of the enforceable provisions remaining shall not be adversely affected.

XIV. Governing Law.

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

B. This Settlement Agreement shall have no application to Covered Products which are not sold to California consumers.

C. If Proposition 65 is repealed, preempted, or otherwise rendered inapplicable by reason of law generally, or as to the Covered Product, then Defendant shall have no further obligations pursuant to this Settlement Agreement with respect to, and to the extent that, any Covered Product that are so affected.

D. The Parties, including their counsel, have participated in the preparation of this Settlement Agreement and this Settlement Agreement is the result of the joint efforts of the Parties.

E. This Settlement Agreement was subject to revision and modification by the Parties and has been accepted and approved as to its final form by all Parties and their counsel.

XV. Authorization

A. Each signatory to this Settlement Agreement certifies they are fully authorized by the Party they represent to stipulate to this Settlement Agreement and to enter into and execute the Settlement Agreement on behalf of the Party represented and legally bind that Party.

B. The undersigned have read, understand, and agree to all the terms and conditions of this Settlement Agreement.

C. Except as explicitly provided herein, each Party is to bear its own fees and costs.

AGREED TO:

Dated:

26 November, 2023

MONARCH

By:



Sayward Halling, authorized
representative of MONARCH

Dated:

11/28/23

TEAM BEANS LLC

By:

