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13
14 **SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**
15 **COUNTY OF ALAMEDA**

16 **ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH**
17 **CENTER, INC., a California non-profit**
18 **corporation**

19 **Plaintiff,**

20 **vs.**

21 **RYSE UP SPORTS NUTRITION LLC and**
22 **DOES 1-100**

23 **Defendants.**

CASE NO. 24CV065557

AMENDED [PROPOSED]
STIPULATED CONSENT
JUDGMENT

Health & Safety Code § 25249.5 *et seq.*

Action Filed: February 27, 2024

Trial Date: None set

24 **1. INTRODUCTION**

25 **1.1** On February 27, 2024, Plaintiff Environmental Research Center, Inc. (“ERC”),
26 a non-profit corporation, as a private enforcer and in the public interest, initiated this action by
27 filing a Complaint for Injunctive and Declaratory Relief and Civil Penalties (the “Complaint”)
28 pursuant to the provisions of California Health and Safety Code section 25249.5 *et seq.*

1 (“Proposition 65”), against Ryse Up Sports Nutrition LLC (“Ryse”) and Does 1-100. In this
2 action, ERC alleges that a number of products manufactured, distributed, or sold by Ryse
3 contain lead and/or mercury, chemicals listed under Proposition 65 as carcinogens and/or
4 reproductive toxins, and expose consumers to these chemicals at a level requiring a Proposition
5 65 warning. These products (referred to hereinafter individually as a “Covered Product” or
6 collectively as “Covered Products”) are: (1) Ryse BCAA/EAA Tropical Snocone (lead), (2)
7 Ryse Ready to Drink Pre-Workout Baja Burst (lead), (3) Ryse [Element Series] Pre-Workout
8 Blue Raspberry Ring Pop (lead), (4) Ryse [Element Series] Pre-Workout Orange Strawberry
9 SunnyD (lead), (5) Ryse Loaded Protein Premium Whey Protein with MCTs Chocolate Moon
10 Pie (mercury), (6) Ryse Project: Blackout Pre-Workout Mango Extreme (lead), (7) Ryse Kool-
11 Aid Loaded Pre Tropical Punch (lead), (8) Ryse Godzilla Pre-Workout Monsterberry Lime –
12 (lead), (9) Ryse Pump Stim-Free Skin Splitting Pump Formula Electric Lemonade (lead), (10)
13 Ryse BCAA/EAA Cherry Limeade (mercury), (11) Ryse Godzilla Pre-Workout Blackberry
14 Lemonade (lead, mercury), (12) Ryse Fuel Energy Drink Tiger's Blood (lead), (13) Ryse Fuel
15 Energy Drink RingPop Berry Blast Flavor (lead), (14) Ryse Fuel Energy Drink Smarties
16 Original (lead), (15) Ryse Fuel Energy Drink Kool-Aid Tropical Punch (lead), (16) Ryse Fuel
17 Energy Drink SunnyD (lead), (17) Ryse Fuel Energy Drink Baja Burst (lead), and (18) Ryse
18 Godzilla Pre-Workout Strawberry Kiwi (lead). Product numbers 1-4, 6-9, and 11-17 shall
19 collectively be referred to as “Lead Covered Products.” Product numbers 5, 10, and 11 shall
20 collectively be referred to as “Mercury Covered Products.”

21 **1.2** ERC and Ryse are hereinafter referred to individually as a “Party” or
22 collectively as the “Parties.”

23 **1.3** ERC is a 501 (c)(3) California non-profit corporation dedicated to, among other
24 causes, helping safeguard the public from health hazards by reducing the use and misuse of
25 hazardous and toxic chemicals, facilitating a safe environment for consumers and employees,
26 and encouraging corporate responsibility.

27 **1.4** For purposes of this Amended [Proposed] Stipulated Consent Judgment (“Consent
28 Judgment”), the Parties agree that Ryse is a business entity that has employed ten or more persons

1 at all times relevant to this action, and qualifies as a “person in the course of doing business”
2 within the meaning of Proposition 65. Ryse manufactures, distributes, and/or sells the Covered
3 Products.

4 **1.5** The Complaint is based on allegations contained in ERC’s Notices of Violation
5 dated October 4, 2023, October 27, 2023, and November 9, 2023 that were served on the
6 California Attorney General, other public enforcers, and Ryse (“Notices”). True and correct
7 copies of the 60-Day Notices dated October 4, 2023, October 27, 2023, and November 9, 2023
8 are attached hereto as **Exhibits A, B, and C** and each is incorporated herein by reference. More
9 than 60 days have passed since the Notices were served on the Attorney General, public
10 enforcers, and Ryse and no designated governmental entity has filed a Complaint against Ryse
11 with regard to the Covered Products or the alleged violations.

12 **1.6** ERC’s Notices and Complaint allege that use of the Covered Products by
13 California consumers exposes them to lead and/or mercury without first receiving clear and
14 reasonable warnings from Ryse, which is in violation of California Health and Safety Code
15 section 25249.6. Ryse denies all material allegations contained in the Notices and Complaint.

16 **1.7** The Parties have entered into this Consent Judgment in order to settle,
17 compromise, and resolve disputed claims and thus avoid prolonged and costly litigation.
18 Nothing in this Consent Judgment nor compliance with this Consent Judgment shall constitute
19 or be construed as an admission by any of the Parties or by any of their respective officers,
20 directors, shareholders, employees, agents, parent companies, subsidiaries, divisions,
21 franchisees, licensees, customers, suppliers, distributors, wholesalers, or retailers of any fact,
22 issue of law, or violation of law.

23 **1.8** Except as expressly set forth herein, nothing in this Consent Judgment shall
24 prejudice, waive, or impair any right, remedy, argument, or defense the Parties may have in
25 any current or future legal proceeding unrelated to these proceedings.

26 **1.9** The Effective Date of this Consent Judgment is seven (7) days after the date on
27 which it is entered as a Judgment by this Court.

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1 **2. JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

2 For purposes of this Consent Judgment and any further court action that may become
3 necessary to enforce this Consent Judgment, the Parties stipulate that this Court has subject matter
4 jurisdiction over the allegations of violations contained in the Complaint and personal jurisdiction
5 over Ryse as to the acts alleged in the Complaint, that venue is proper in Alameda County, and
6 that this Court has jurisdiction to enter this Consent Judgment as a full and final resolution of all
7 claims up through and including the Effective Date (as defined below) that were or could have
8 been asserted in this action based on the facts alleged in the Notices and Complaint.

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

10 **3.1** Beginning on the Effective Date, Ryse shall be permanently enjoined from
11 manufacturing for sale in the State of California, “Distributing into the State of California,” or
12 directly selling in the State of California, any Lead Covered Product that exposes a person to a
13 “Daily Lead Exposure Level” of more than 0.5 micrograms of lead per day and any Mercury
14 Covered Product that exposes a person to a “Daily Mercury Exposure Level” of more than 0.3
15 micrograms of mercury per day unless it meets the warning requirements under Section 3.2.

16 **3.1.1** As used in this Consent Judgment, the terms “Distributing into the State
17 of California” and “Distributed into the State of California” shall mean to directly ship a
18 Covered Product into California for sale in California or to sell a Covered Product to a
19 distributor that Ryse knows or has reason to know will sell the Covered Product in California.

20 **3.1.2** For purposes of this Consent Judgment, the “Daily Lead Exposure
21 Level” shall be measured in micrograms, and shall be calculated using the following formula:
22 micrograms of lead per gram of product, multiplied by grams of product per serving of the
23 product (using the largest serving size appearing on the product label), multiplied by servings
24 of the product per day (using the largest number of recommended daily servings appearing on
25 the label), which equals micrograms of lead exposure per day. If the label contains no
26 recommended daily servings, then the number of recommended daily servings shall be one.

27 **3.1.3** For purposes of this Consent Judgment, the “Daily Mercury Exposure
28 Level” shall be measured in micrograms, and shall be calculated using the following formula:

1 micrograms of mercury per gram of product, multiplied by grams of product per serving of the
2 product (using the largest serving size appearing on the product label), multiplied by servings
3 of the product per day (using the largest number of recommended daily servings appearing on
4 the label), which equals micrograms of mercury exposure per day. If the label contains no
5 recommended daily servings, then the number of recommended daily servings shall be one.

6 **3.2 Clear and Reasonable Warnings**

7 If Ryse is required to provide a warning pursuant to Section 3.1, it shall use one of the
8 following warning Options (“Warning”):

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

13 **2) WARNING:** [Cancer and] Reproductive Harm – www.P65Warnings.ca.gov/food.

14 Ryse shall use the phrase “cancer and” in the Warning if Ryse has reason to believe that
15 the “Daily Lead Exposure Level” is greater than 15 micrograms of lead as determined pursuant to
16 the quality control methodology set forth in Section 3.4 or if Ryse has reason to believe that
17 another Proposition 65 chemical is present which may require a cancer warning. As identified in
18 the brackets, the Warning shall appropriately identify at least one chemical present in the Covered
19 Product, but if there is a chemical present at a level that requires a cancer warning, the chemical
20 requiring use of the phrase “cancer and” in the Warning shall always be identified.

21 Beginning on the Effective Date, for any Covered Product sold over the internet, the
22 Warning shall appear on the checkout page when a California delivery address is indicated for
23 any purchase of any Covered Product, or the Warning may otherwise be provided by
24 prominently displaying the Warning to the purchaser prior to completing the purchase (the
25 “Online Warning Method”). Any Warning must be presented in a manner so as to reasonably
26 identify which products are subject to the Warning. The Warning may be provided by a
27 clearly marked hyperlink using the word “**WARNING**” in all capital and bold letters. If the
28 Warning is provided by a clearly marked hyperlink, the hyperlink must go directly to a page
prominently displaying the Warning without content that detracts from the Warning. A

1 Warning is not prominently displayed if the purchaser has to search for it in the general content
2 of the website..

3 Beginning 120 days after the Effective Date (the “Label Warning Method Compliance
4 Date”), in addition to providing the Online Warning, the Warning shall be prominently
5 displayed on the Covered Product label (the “Label Warning Method”), and it must be set off
6 from other surrounding information and enclosed in a box. If the Option 2 Warning is utilized
7 on a Covered Product’s label, it must be in a type size no smaller than the largest type size used
8 for other consumer information on the Covered Product’s label. In no case shall an Option 2
9 Warning displayed on a Covered Product’s label appear in a type size smaller than 6-point
10 type. For Covered Products sold in brick-and-mortar stores, Ryse may, in lieu of, or in
11 addition to, providing the Warning on the Covered Product’s label, prominently display either
12 the Option 1 or Option 2 Warning on a placard, shelf tag, or sign at each point of display of the
13 product, provided that the Warning is displayed with such conspicuousness, as compared with
14 other words, statements, or designs on the placard, shelf tag, or sign, as to render it likely to be
15 read and understood by an ordinary individual prior to sale (the “Brick-and-Mortar Warning
16 Method”). If the Brick-and-Mortar Warning Method is utilized in lieu of or in addition to the
17 Label Warning Method, it shall be utilized beginning on the Effective Date.

18 No statements intended to or likely to have the effect of diminishing the impact of the
19 Warning on the average lay person shall accompany the Warning. Further no statements may
20 accompany the Warning that state or imply that the source of the listed chemical has an impact
21 on or results in a less harmful effect of the listed chemical.

22 Ryse must display the Warning with such conspicuousness, as compared with other words,
23 statements or designs on the label, or on its website, if applicable, to render the Warning likely to
24 be read and understood by an ordinary individual under customary conditions of purchase or use
25 of the product. Where a sign or label used to provide the Warning for a Covered Product includes
26 consumer information about the Covered Product in a language other than English, the Warning
27 must also be provided in that language in addition to English.

28 For purposes of this Consent Judgment, the term “label” means a display of written,

1 printed or graphic material that is printed on or affixed to a Covered Product or its immediate
2 container or wrapper.

3 So long as Ryse can provide adequate documentation, if requested in writing by ERC,
4 Covered Products manufactured and not in the possession or under the control of Ryse on or prior
5 to the Effective Date as to the Online Warning Method and on or prior to the Label Warning
6 Method Compliance Date as to the Label Warning Method, or that have been shipped or
7 Distributed into the State of California by Ryse and are, therefore, not in the possession or under
8 the control of Ryse prior to the Effective Date or Label Warning Method Compliance Date as
9 applicable, are not bound by the injunctive terms set forth in this Section 3, including but not
10 limited to the Daily Lead Exposure Level, the Daily Mercury Exposure Level, and the Warning
11 and Testing Requirements, and are instead permitted to be sold as is to California consumers and
12 are expressly released by Section 8.

13 **3.3 Conforming Covered Products**

14 A Conforming Lead Covered Product is a Lead Covered Product for which the “Daily
15 Lead Exposure Level” is no greater than 0.5 micrograms of lead per day as determined by the
16 exposure methodology set forth in Section 3.1.2 and the quality control methodology described in
17 Section 3.4, and that is not known by Ryse to contain other chemicals that violate Proposition 65’s
18 safe harbor thresholds. A Conforming Mercury Covered Product is a Mercury Covered Product
19 for which the “Daily Mercury Exposure Level” is no greater than 0.3 micrograms of mercury per
20 day as determined by the exposure methodology set forth in Section 3.1.2 and the quality control
21 methodology described in Section 3.4, and that is not known by Ryse to contain other chemicals
22 that violate 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, Ryse shall arrange for
25 lead testing of the Lead Covered Products and mercury testing of the Mercury Covered
26 Products at least once a year for a minimum of four consecutive years by arranging for testing
27 of three (3) randomly selected samples of each of the applicable Covered Products, in the form
28 intended for sale to the end-user, which Ryse intends to sell or is manufacturing for sale in

1 California, directly selling to a consumer in California or “Distributing into the State of
2 California.” If tests conducted pursuant to this Section demonstrate that no Warning is required
3 for a Covered Product during each of four consecutive years, then the testing requirements of
4 this Section will no longer be required as to that Covered Product.

5 **3.4.2** For purposes of measuring the “Daily Lead Exposure Level” and/or the
6 “Daily Mercury Exposure Level,” the highest lead and/or mercury detection result of the three
7 (3) randomly selected samples of the applicable Covered Products will be controlling.

8 **3.4.3** All testing pursuant to this Consent Judgment shall be performed using a
9 laboratory method that complies with the performance and quality control factors appropriate
10 for the method used, including limit of detection and limit of quantification, sensitivity,
11 accuracy and precision that meets the following criteria: Inductively Coupled Plasma-Mass
12 Spectrometry (“ICP-MS”) achieving a limit of quantification of less than or equal to 0.005
13 mg/kg.

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

18 **3.4.5** Nothing in this Consent Judgment shall limit Ryse’s ability to conduct,
19 or require that others conduct, additional testing of the Covered Products, including the raw
20 materials used in their manufacture.

21 **3.4.6** Within forty-five (45) days of ERC’s written request, Ryse shall deliver
22 lab reports obtained pursuant to Section 3.4 to ERC. Ryse shall retain all test results and
23 documentation for a period of three years from the date of each test. ERC shall treat all
24 documents provided by Ryse pursuant to this Section as confidential.

25 **3.4.7** The testing requirements of Section 3.4 do not apply to any Covered
26 Product for which Ryse has provided the Warning specified in Section 3.2 continuously and
27 uninterrupted after the Effective Date and Label Warning Method Compliance Date, as
28 applicable; however, in the event Ryse ceases to provide the Warning specified in Section 3.2,

1 Ryse shall be required to comply with the testing requirements of this Section 3.4 beginning
2 immediately after the date the Warning ceases to be provided or one year after the Effective
3 Date, whichever date is later.

4 **3.5** Nothing in Section 3 of this Consent Judgment shall prevent or preclude ERC
5 from obtaining and relying upon its own testing for purposes of enforcement, so long as such
6 testing meets the requirements of Sections 3.4.3 and 3.4.4.

7 **4. SETTLEMENT PAYMENT**

8 **4.1** In full satisfaction of all potential civil penalties, additional settlement
9 payments, attorney’s fees, and costs, Ryse shall make a total payment of \$144,125.00 (“Total
10 Settlement Amount”) to ERC within 5 days of the Effective Date (“Due Date”). Ryse shall
11 make this payment by wire transfer to ERC’s account, for which ERC will give Ryse the
12 necessary account information. The Total Settlement Amount shall be apportioned as follows:

13 **4.2** \$36,250.00 shall be considered a civil penalty pursuant to California Health and
14 Safety Code section 25249.7(b)(1). ERC shall remit 75% (\$27,187.50) of the civil penalty to
15 the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (“OEHHA”) for deposit in the Safe
16 Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Fund in accordance with California Health and Safety
17 Code section 25249.12(c). ERC will retain the remaining 25% (\$9,062.50) of the civil penalty.

18 **4.3** \$10,421.70 shall be distributed to ERC as reimbursement to ERC for reasonable
19 costs incurred in bringing this action.

20 **4.4** \$27,176.09 shall be distributed to ERC as an Additional Settlement Payment
21 (“ASP”), pursuant to California Code of Regulations, title 11, sections 3203, subdivision (d)
22 and 3204. ERC will utilize the ASP for activities that address the same public harm as
23 allegedly caused by Defendant in this matter. These activities are detailed below and support
24 ERC’s overarching goal of reducing and/or eliminating hazardous and toxic chemicals in
25 dietary supplement products in California. ERC’s activities have had, and will continue to
26 have, a direct and primary effect within the State of California because California consumers
27 will be benefitted by the reduction and/or elimination of exposure to lead and/or mercury in
28 dietary supplements and/or by providing clear and reasonable warnings to California

1 consumers prior to ingestion of the products.

2 Based on a review of past years' actual budgets, ERC is providing the following list of
3 activities ERC engages in to protect California consumers through Proposition 65 citizen
4 enforcement, along with a breakdown of how ASP funds will be utilized to facilitate those
5 activities: (1) ENFORCEMENT (up to 65-80%): obtaining, shipping, analyzing, and testing
6 dietary supplement products that may contain lead and/or mercury and are sold to California
7 consumers. This work includes continued monitoring and enforcement of past consent
8 judgments and settlements to ensure companies are in compliance with their obligations
9 thereunder, with a specific focus on those judgments and settlements concerning lead and/or
10 mercury. This work also includes investigation of new companies that ERC does not obtain
11 any recovery through settlement or judgment; (2) VOLUNTARY COMPLIANCE PROGRAM
12 (up to 10-20%): maintaining ERC's Voluntary Compliance Program by acquiring products
13 from companies, developing and maintaining a case file, testing products from these
14 companies, providing the test results and supporting documentation to the companies, and
15 offering guidance in warning or implementing a self-testing program for lead and/or mercury
16 in dietary supplement products; and (3) "GOT LEAD" PROGRAM (up to 5%): maintaining
17 ERC's "Got Lead?" Program which reduces the numbers of contaminated products that reach
18 California consumers by providing access to free testing for lead in dietary supplement
19 products (Products submitted to the program are screened for ingredients which are suspected
20 to be contaminated, and then may be purchased by ERC, catalogued, sent to a qualified
21 laboratory for testing, and the results shared with the consumer that submitted the product).

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

27 **4.5** \$27,585.00 shall be distributed to Aqua Terra Aeris Law Group as
28 reimbursement of ERC's attorney fees, while \$42,692.21 shall be distributed to ERC for its in-

1 house legal fees. Except as explicitly provided herein, each Party shall bear its own fees and
2 costs.

3 **4.6** In the event that Ryse fails to remit the Total Settlement Amount owed under
4 Section 4 of this Consent Judgment on or before the Due Date, Ryse shall be deemed to be in
5 material breach of its obligations under this Consent Judgment. ERC shall provide written
6 notice of the delinquency to Ryse via electronic mail. If Ryse fails to deliver the Total
7 Settlement Amount within five (5) days from the written notice, the Total Settlement Amount
8 shall accrue interest at the statutory judgment interest rate provided in the California Code of
9 Civil Procedure section 685.010. Additionally, Ryse agrees to pay ERC's reasonable attorney's
10 fees and costs for any efforts to collect the payment due under this Consent Judgment.

11 **5. MODIFICATION OF CONSENT JUDGMENT**

12 **5.1** This Consent Judgment may be modified only as to injunctive terms (i) by
13 written stipulation of the Parties and upon entry by the Court of a modified consent judgment
14 or (ii) by motion of either Party pursuant to Section 5.3 and upon entry by the Court of a
15 modified consent judgment.

16 **5.2** If Ryse seeks to modify this Consent Judgment under Section 5.1, then Ryse
17 must provide written notice to ERC of its intent ("Notice of Intent"). If ERC seeks to meet and
18 confer regarding the proposed modification in the Notice of Intent, then ERC must provide
19 written notice to Ryse within thirty (30) days of receiving the Notice of Intent. If ERC notifies
20 Ryse in a timely manner of ERC's intent to meet and confer, then the Parties shall meet and
21 confer in good faith as required in this Section. The Parties shall meet in person, via remote
22 meeting, or by telephone within thirty (30) days of ERC's notification of its intent to meet and
23 confer. Within thirty (30) days of such meeting, if ERC disputes the proposed modification,
24 ERC shall provide to Ryse a written basis for its position. The Parties shall continue to meet
25 and confer for an additional thirty (30) days in an effort to resolve any remaining disputes.
26 Should it become necessary, the Parties may agree in writing to different deadlines for the
27 meet-and-confer period.

28 **5.3** In the event that Ryse initiates or otherwise requests a modification under

1 Section 5.1, and the meet and confer process leads to a joint motion or joint application for a
2 modification of the Consent Judgment, Ryse shall reimburse ERC its costs and reasonable
3 attorney's fees for the time spent in the meet-and-confer process and filing and arguing the
4 motion or application.

5 **6. RETENTION OF JURISDICTION, ENFORCEMENT OF CONSENT**
6 **JUDGMENT**

7 **6.1** This Court shall retain jurisdiction of this matter to enforce, modify, or
8 terminate this Consent Judgment.

9 **6.2** If ERC alleges that any Covered Product fails to qualify as a Conforming
10 Covered Product (for which ERC alleges that no Warning has been provided), then ERC shall
11 inform Ryse in a reasonably prompt manner of its test results, including information sufficient
12 to permit Ryse to identify the Covered Products at issue. Ryse shall, within thirty (30) days
13 following such notice, provide ERC with testing information, from an independent third-party
14 laboratory meeting the requirements of Sections 3.4.3 and 3.4.4, demonstrating Ryse's
15 compliance with the Consent Judgment. The Parties shall first attempt to resolve the matter
16 prior to ERC taking any further legal action.

17 **7. APPLICATION OF CONSENT JUDGMENT**

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

24 **8. BINDING EFFECT, CLAIMS COVERED AND RELEASED**

25 **8.1** This Consent Judgment is a full, final, and binding resolution between ERC, on
26 behalf of itself and in the public interest, and Ryse and its respective officers, directors,
27 shareholders, employees, agents, parent companies, subsidiaries, divisions, suppliers,
28 franchisees, licensees, customers (not including private label customers of Ryse), distributors,

1 wholesalers, retailers, and all other upstream and downstream entities in the distribution chain
2 of any Covered Product, and the predecessors, successors, and assigns of any of them
3 (collectively, “Released Parties”).

4 **8.2** ERC, acting in the public interest, releases the Released Parties from any and all
5 claims for violations of Proposition 65 up through the Effective Date based on exposure to lead
6 from the Lead Covered Products and/or mercury from the Mercury Covered Products as set
7 forth in the Notices of Violation. ERC, on behalf of itself only, hereby fully releases and
8 discharges the Released Parties from any and all claims, actions, causes of action, suits,
9 demands, liabilities, damages, penalties, fees, costs, and expenses asserted, or that could have
10 been asserted from the handling, use, or consumption of the Covered Products, as to any
11 alleged violation of Proposition 65 or its implementing regulations arising from the failure to
12 provide Proposition 65 warnings on the Covered Products regarding lead and/or mercury, as
13 applicable, up to and including the Effective Date.

14 **8.3** ERC on its own behalf only, and Ryse on its own behalf only, further waive and
15 release any and all claims they may have against each other for all actions or statements made
16 or undertaken in the course of seeking or opposing enforcement of Proposition 65 in
17 connection with the Notices and Complaint up through and including the Effective Date,
18 provided, however, that nothing in Section 8 shall affect or limit any Party’s right to seek to
19 enforce the terms of this Consent Judgment.

20 **8.4** It is possible that other claims not known to the Parties, arising out of the facts
21 alleged in the Notices and Complaint, and relating to the Covered Products, will develop or be
22 discovered. ERC on behalf of itself only, and Ryse on behalf of itself only, acknowledge that
23 this Consent Judgment is expressly intended to cover and include all such claims up through
24 and including the Effective Date, including all rights of action therefore. ERC and Ryse
25 acknowledge that the claims released in Sections 8.2 and 8.3 above may include unknown
26 claims, and nevertheless waive California Civil Code section 1542 as to any such unknown
27 claims. California Civil Code section 1542 reads as follows:

28 A GENERAL RELEASE DOES NOT EXTEND TO CLAIMS THAT THE
CREDITOR OR RELEASING PARTY DOES NOT KNOW OR SUSPECT TO

1 EXIST IN HIS OR HER FAVOR AT THE TIME OF EXECUTING THE RELEASE
2 AND THAT, IF KNOWN BY HIM OR HER, WOULD HAVE MATERIALLY
3 AFFECTED HIS OR HER SETTLEMENT WITH THE DEBTOR OR RELEASED
4 PARTY.

5 ERC on behalf of itself only, and Ryse on behalf of itself only, acknowledge and understand
6 the significance and consequences of this specific waiver of California Civil Code section
7 1542.

8 **8.5** Compliance with the terms of this Consent Judgment shall be deemed to
9 constitute compliance with Proposition 65 by any of the Released Parties regarding alleged
10 exposures to lead and/or mercury in the Covered Products as set forth in the Notices and
11 Complaint.

12 **8.6** Nothing in this Consent Judgment is intended to apply to any occupational or
13 environmental exposures arising under Proposition 65, nor shall it apply to any of Ryse's
14 products other than the Covered Products.

15 **9. SEVERABILITY OF UNENFORCEABLE PROVISIONS**

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

19 **10. GOVERNING LAW**

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

22 **11. PROVISION OF NOTICE**

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

26 **FOR ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH CENTER, INC.:**
27 Chris Heptinstall, Executive Director, Environmental Research Center
28 3111 Camino Del Rio North, Suite 400
 San Diego, CA 92108
 Ph: (619) 500-3090
 Email: chris.heptinstall@erc501c3.org

1 With a copy to:
2 Matthew C. Maclear
3 Anthony M. Barnes
4 Aqua Terra Aeris Law Group
5 8 Rio Vista Avenue
6 Oakland, CA 94611
7 Telephone: (415) 568-5200
8 Email: mcm@atalawgroup.com
9 amb@atalawgroup.com

7 **FOR RYSE UP SPORTS NUTRITION LLC:**

8 Nic Stella, CEO
9 Ryse Up Sports Nutrition, LLC
10 4490 Liberty Drive,
11 Prosper, TX 75078
12 Email: Nic@rysesupps.com

11 With a copy to:
12 Ray Murphy
13 Abernathy Roeder Boyd & Hullett, P.C.
14 1700 RedBud Blvd, Suite 300
15 McKinney, TX 75069
16 Telephone: (214) 544-4000
17 Email: rmurphy@abernathy-law.com

17 **12. COURT APPROVAL**

18 **12.1** Upon execution of this Consent Judgment by the Parties, ERC shall notice a
19 Motion for Court Approval. The Parties shall use their best efforts to support entry of this
20 Consent Judgment.

21 **12.2** If the California Attorney General objects to any term in this Consent Judgment,
22 the Parties shall use their best efforts to resolve the concern in a timely manner, and if possible
23 prior to the hearing on the motion.

24 **12.3** If this Stipulated Consent Judgment is not approved by the Court, it shall be
25 void and have no force or effect.

26 **13. EXECUTION AND COUNTERPARTS**

27 This Consent Judgment may be executed in counterparts, which taken together shall be
28 deemed to constitute one document. A facsimile or .pdf signature shall be construed to be as valid

1 as the original signature.

2 **14. DRAFTING**

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

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

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

17 **16. ENFORCEMENT**

18 ERC may, by motion or order to show cause before the Superior Court of Alameda
19 County, enforce the terms and conditions contained in this Consent Judgment. In any action
20 brought by ERC to enforce this Consent Judgment, ERC may seek whatever fines, costs,
21 penalties, or remedies as are provided by law for failure to comply with the Consent Judgment.
22 To the extent the failure to comply with the Consent Judgment constitutes a violation of
23 Proposition 65 or other laws, ERC shall not be limited to enforcement of this Consent
24 Judgment, but may seek in another action whatever fines, costs, penalties, or remedies as are
25 provided by law for failure to comply with Proposition 65 or other laws.

26 **17. ENTIRE AGREEMENT, AUTHORIZATION**

27 **17.1** This Consent Judgment contains the sole and entire agreement and
28 understanding of the Parties with respect to the entire subject matter herein, including any and

1 all prior discussions, negotiations, commitments, and understandings related thereto. No
2 representations, oral or otherwise, express or implied, other than those contained herein have
3 been made by any Party. No other agreements, oral or otherwise, unless specifically referred to
4 herein, shall be deemed to exist or to bind any Party.

5 17.2 Each signatory to this Consent Judgment certifies that he or she is fully
6 authorized by the Party he or she represents to stipulate to this Consent Judgment.

7 **18. REQUEST FOR FINDINGS, APPROVAL OF SETTLEMENT AND ENTRY OF**
8 **CONSENT JUDGMENT**

9 This Consent Judgment has come before the Court upon the request of the Parties. The
10 Parties request the Court to fully review this Consent Judgment and, being fully informed
11 regarding the matters which are the subject of this action, to:

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

15 (2) Make the findings pursuant to California Health and Safety Code section
16 25249.7(f)(4), approve the Settlement, and approve this Consent Judgment.

17 (3) Retain jurisdiction, pursuant to Section 664.6 of the Code of Civil Procedure, after
18 the Consent Judgment is entered in order to enforce, modify, or terminate this Consent Judgment.

19 **IT IS SO STIPULATED:**


20
21 Dated: 1/7/, 2025

ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH
CENTER, INC

22
23 By: 
Chris Heptinstall, Executive Director

24
25 Dated: Jan 6th, 2025

RYSE UP SPORTS NUTRITION LLC

26
27 By: 
Nic Stello
28 Its: CEO

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APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Dated: January 6, 2025

AQUA TERRA AERIS LAW GROUP



By: _____
Matthew C. Maclear
Anthony M. Barnes
Attorneys for Plaintiff Environmental
Research Center, Inc.

Dated: January 7, 2025

AMIN WASSERMAN GURNANI, LLP



By: _____
Matthew R. Orr
Attorney for Defendant Ryse Up Sports
Nutrition LLC

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: _____, 2025

Judge of the Superior Court

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EXHIBIT A



Matthew Maclear
mcm@atalawgroup.com
415-568-5200

Anthony Barnes
amb@atalawgroup.com
917-371-8293

October 4, 2023

**NOTICE OF VIOLATION OF
CALIFORNIA HEALTH & SAFETY CODE SECTION 25249.5 ET SEQ.
(PROPOSITION 65)**

Dear Alleged Violator and the Appropriate Public Enforcement Agencies:

I represent Environmental Research Center, Inc. ("ERC"), 3111 Camino Del Rio North, Suite 400, San Diego, CA 92108; Tel. (619) 500-3090. ERC's Executive Director is Chris Heptinstall. 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 products 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 these products. This letter serves as a notice of these violations to the alleged Violator and the appropriate public enforcement agencies. Pursuant to Health and Safety Code Section 25249.7(d), 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 enclosed with 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:

Ryse Up Sports Nutrition LLC

Consumer Products and Listed Chemicals. The products that are the subject of this notice and the chemicals in those products identified as exceeding allowable levels are:



Notice of Violation of California Health & Safety Code §25249.5 *et seq.*
October 4, 2023
Page 2

1. **Ryse BCAA/EAA Tropical Snocone - Lead**
2. **Ryse Ready to Drink Pre-Workout Baja Burst - Lead**
3. **Ryse [Element Series] Pre-Workout Blue Raspberry Ring Pop - Lead**
4. **Ryse [Element Series] Pre-Workout Orange Strawberry SunnyD - Lead**
5. **Ryse Loaded Protein Premium Whey Protein with MCTs Chocolate Moon Pie - Mercury**

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.

On July 1, 1990, the State of California officially listed mercury and mercury compounds as chemicals known to cause developmental toxicity and male and female reproductive toxicity.

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 these products. Consequently, the route of exposure to these chemicals has been and continues to be through ingestion.

Approximate Time Period of Violations. Ongoing violations have occurred every day since at least October 4, 2020, as well as every day since the products were introduced into the California marketplace, and will continue every day until clear and reasonable warnings are provided to product purchasers and users or until these known toxic chemicals are either removed from or reduced to allowable levels in the products. Proposition 65 requires that a clear and reasonable warning be provided prior to exposure to the identified chemicals. 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 these products with appropriate warnings that they are being exposed to these chemicals.

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 products so as to eliminate further exposures to the identified chemicals, or provide appropriate warnings on the labels of these products; (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 products in the last three years. Such a resolution will prevent further unwarned consumer exposures to the identified chemicals, as well as an expensive and time-consuming litigation.



Notice of Violation of California Health & Safety Code §25249.5 *et seq.*
October 4, 2023
Page 3

ERC has retained ATA Law Group as legal counsel in connection with this matter. **Please direct all communications regarding this Notice of Violation to my attention, or the attention of ATA partner Anthony Barnes, using the address or contact information indicated on the letterhead.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matthew Maclear". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "M".

Matthew Maclear
AQUA TERRA AERIS LAW GROUP

Attachments

- Certificate of Merit
- Certificate of Service
- OEHHA Summary (to Ryse Up Sports Nutrition LLC and its Registered Agent for Service of Process only)
- Additional Supporting Information for Certificate of Merit (to AG only)



Notice of Violation of California Health & Safety Code §25249.5 *et seq.*
October 4, 2023
Page 4

CERTIFICATE OF MERIT

Re: Environmental Research Center, Inc.'s Notice of Proposition 65 Violations by Ryse Up Sports Nutrition LLC

I, Matthew Maclear, declare:

1. This Certificate of Merit accompanies the attached 60-day notice in which it is alleged that 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 an attorney 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 chemicals that are 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: October 4, 2023

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matthew Maclear".

Matthew Maclear



Notice of Violation of California Health & Safety Code §25249.5 *et seq.*
October 4, 2023
Page 5

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 October 4, 2023, between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time, I served the following documents: **NOTICE OF VIOLATION 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 at a U.S. Postal Service Office with the postage fully prepaid for delivery by Certified Mail:

Current President or CEO
Ryse Up Sports Nutrition LLC
6644 All Stars Ave, Ste 140
Frisco, TX 75033

Nicholas Stella
(Registered Agent for Ryse Up Sports Nutrition LLC)
4210 Blue Sage Dr
Prosper, TX 75078

Current President or CEO
Ryse Up Sports Nutrition LLC
631 Industry Way
Prosper, TX 75078

On October 4, 2023, 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
Oakland, CA 94612-0550

On October 4, 2023, 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** 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

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



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

October 4, 2023

Page 6

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

Lisa A. Smittcamp, District Attorney
Fresno County
2100 Tulare Street
Fresno, CA 93721
consumerprotection@fresnocountyca.gov

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

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

Walter W. Wall, District Attorney
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P.O. Box 730
Mariposa, CA 95338
mcda@mariposacounty.org

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550 West Main St
Merced, CA 95340
Prop65@countyofmerced.com

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

Allison Haley, District Attorney
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Napa, CA 94559
CEPD@countyofnapa.org

Clifford H. Newell, District Attorney
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201 Commercial St
Nevada City, CA 95959
DA.Prop65@co.nevada.ca.us

Todd Spitzer, District Attorney
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300 N Flower St
Santa Ana, CA 92703
Prop65notice@da.ocgov.com

Morgan Briggs Gire, District Attorney
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Roseville, CA 95678
Prop65@placer.ca.gov

David Hollister, District Attorney
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520 Main St
Quincy, CA 95971
davidhollister@countyofplumas.com

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

Anne Marie Schubert, District Attorney
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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



Notice of Violation of California Health & Safety Code §25249.5 *et seq.*
October 4, 2023
Page 7

Alexandra Grayner, Assistant District Attorney
San Francisco District Attorney's Office
350 Rhode Island Street
San Francisco, CA 94103
Alexandra.grayner@sfgov.org

Valerie Lopez, Deputy City Attorney
San Francisco City Attorney
1390 Market Street, 7th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94102
Valerie.Lopez@sfcityatty.org
Starla.Sousa@sfcityatty.org

Tori Verber Salazar, District Attorney
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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, 4th Floor
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408
edobroth@co.slo.ca.us

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

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

Nora V. Frimann, City Attorney
San Jose City Attorney
200E. Santa Clara Street, 16th Floor
San Jose, CA 96113
Proposition65notices@sanjoseca.gov

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

Jill Ravitch, District Attorney
Sonoma County
600 Administration Dr
Sonoma, CA 95403
Jeannie.Barnes@sonoma-county.org

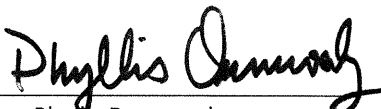
Phillip J. Cline, District Attorney
Tulare County
221 S Mooney Blvd
Visalia, CA 95370
Prop65@co.tulare.ca.us

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 October 4, 2023, between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time, I served the following documents: **NOTICE OF VIOLATION, 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 at a U.S. Postal Service Office with the postage fully prepaid for delivery by First Class Mail.

Executed on October 4, 2023, in Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia.


Phyllis Dunwoody



Notice of Violation of California Health & Safety Code §25249.5 *et seq.*
October 4, 2023
Page 8

Service List

District Attorney, Alpine County P.O. Box 248 Markleeville, CA 96120	District Attorney, Marin County 3501 Civic Center Drive, Room 130 San Rafael, CA 94903	District Attorney, Tehama County Post Office Box 519 Red Bluff, CA 96080
District Attorney, Amador County 708 Court Street, Suite 202 Jackson, CA 95642	District Attorney, Mendocino County Post Office Box 1000 Ukiah, CA 95482	District Attorney, Trinity County Post Office Box 310 Weaverville, CA 96093
District Attorney, Butte County 25 County Center Drive, Suite 245 Oroville, CA 95965	District Attorney, Modoc County 204 S Court Street, Room 202 Alturas, CA 96101-4020	District Attorney, Tuolumne County 423 N. Washington Street Sonora, CA 95370
District Attorney, Colusa County 310 6 th St Colusa, CA 95932	District Attorney, Mono County Post Office Box 617 Bridgeport, CA 93517	District Attorney, Yuba County 215 Fifth Street, Suite 152 Marysville, CA 95901
District Attorney, Del Norte County 450 H Street, Room 171 Crescent City, CA 95531	District Attorney, San Benito County 419 Fourth Street, 2nd Floor Hollister, CA 95023	Los Angeles City Attorney's Office City Hall East 200 N. Main Street, Suite 800 Los Angeles, CA 90012
District Attorney, El Dorado County 778 Pacific St Placerville, CA 95667	District Attorney, San Bernardino County 303 West Third Street San Bernardino, CA 92415	
District Attorney, Glenn County Post Office Box 430 Willows, CA 95988	District Attorney, San Mateo County 400 County Ctr., 3rd Floor Redwood City, CA 94063	
District Attorney, Humboldt County 825 5th Street 4 th Floor Eureka, CA 95501	District Attorney, Shasta County 1355 West Street Redding, CA 96001	
District Attorney, Imperial County 940 West Main Street, Ste 102 El Centro, CA 92243	District Attorney, Sierra County Post Office Box 457 100 Courthouse Square, 2 nd Floor Downieville, CA 95936	
District Attorney, Kern County 1215 Truxtun Avenue Bakersfield, CA 93301	District Attorney, Siskiyou County Post Office Box 986 Yreka, CA 96097	
District Attorney, Kings County 1400 West Lacey Boulevard Hanford, CA 93230	District Attorney, Solano County 675 Texas Street, Ste 4500 Fairfield, CA 94533	
District Attorney, Lake County 255 N. Forbes Street Lakeport, CA 95453	District Attorney, Stanislaus County 832 12th Street, Ste 300 Modesto, CA 95354	
District Attorney, Los Angeles County Hall of Justice 211 West Temple St., Ste 1200 Los Angeles, CA 90012	District Attorney, Sutter County 463 2 nd Street Yuba City, CA 95991	
District Attorney, Madera County 209 West Yosemite Avenue Madera, CA 93637		

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 27001.¹ 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

¹ 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.

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 contaminant² 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.

² 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.

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.

EXHIBIT B



Matthew Maclear
mcm@atalawgroup.com
415-568-5200

Anthony Barnes
amb@atalawgroup.com
917-371-8293

October 27, 2023

**NOTICE OF VIOLATION OF
CALIFORNIA HEALTH & SAFETY CODE SECTION 25249.5 ET SEQ.
(PROPOSITION 65)**

Dear Alleged Violator and the Appropriate Public Enforcement Agencies:

I represent Environmental Research Center, Inc. ("ERC"), 3111 Camino Del Rio North, Suite 400, San Diego, CA 92108; Tel. (619) 500-3090. ERC's Executive Director is Chris Heptinstall. 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 products 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 these products. This letter serves as a notice of these violations to the alleged Violator and the appropriate public enforcement agencies. Pursuant to Health and Safety Code Section 25249.7(d), 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 enclosed with 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:

Ryse Up Sports Nutrition LLC

Consumer Products and Listed Chemicals. The products that are the subject of this notice and the chemicals in those products identified as exceeding allowable levels are:



Notice of Violation of California Health & Safety Code §25249.5 *et seq.*
October 27, 2023
Page 2

1. **Ryse Project: Blackout Pre-Workout Mango Extreme - Lead**
2. **Ryse Kool-Aid Loaded Pre Tropical Punch- Lead**
3. **Ryse Godzilla Pre-Workout Monsterberry Lime - Lead**
4. **Ryse Pump Stim-Free Skin Splitting Pump Formula Electric Lemonade - Lead**
5. **Ryse BCAA/EAA Cherry Limeade - Mercury**

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.

On July 1, 1990, the State of California officially listed mercury and mercury compounds as chemicals known to cause developmental toxicity and male and female reproductive toxicity.

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 these products. Consequently, the route of exposure to these chemicals has been and continues to be through ingestion.

Approximate Time Period of Violations. Ongoing violations have occurred every day since at least October 27, 2020, as well as every day since the products were introduced into the California marketplace, and will continue every day until clear and reasonable warnings are provided to product purchasers and users or until these known toxic chemicals are either removed from or reduced to allowable levels in the products. Proposition 65 requires that a clear and reasonable warning be provided prior to exposure to the identified chemicals. 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 these products with appropriate warnings that they are being exposed to these chemicals.

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 products so as to eliminate further exposures to the identified chemicals, or provide appropriate warnings on the labels of these products; (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 products in the last three years. Such a resolution will prevent further unwarned consumer exposures to the identified chemicals, as well as an expensive and time-consuming litigation.



Notice of Violation of California Health & Safety Code §25249.5 *et seq.*
October 27, 2023
Page 3

ERC has retained ATA Law Group as legal counsel in connection with this matter. **Please direct all communications regarding this Notice of Violation to my attention, or the attention of ATA partner Anthony Barnes, using the address or contact information indicated on the letterhead.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matthew Maclear". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "M".

Matthew Maclear
AQUA TERRA AERIS LAW GROUP

Attachments

- Certificate of Merit
- Certificate of Service
- OEHHA Summary (to Ryse Up Sports Nutrition LLC and its Registered Agent for Service of Process only)
- Additional Supporting Information for Certificate of Merit (to AG only)



Notice of Violation of California Health & Safety Code §25249.5 *et seq.*
October 27, 2023
Page 4

CERTIFICATE OF MERIT

Re: Environmental Research Center, Inc.’s Notice of Proposition 65 Violations by Ryse Up Sports Nutrition LLC

I, Matthew Maclear, declare:

1. This Certificate of Merit accompanies the attached 60-day notice in which it is alleged that 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 an attorney 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 chemicals that are 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.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matthew Maclear". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "M".

Dated: October 27, 2023

Matthew Maclear



Notice of Violation of California Health & Safety Code §25249.5 *et seq.*
October 27, 2023
Page 5

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 October 27, 2023, between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time, I served the following documents: **NOTICE OF VIOLATION 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 at a U.S. Postal Service Office with the postage fully prepaid for delivery by Certified Mail:

Current President or CEO
Ryse Up Sports Nutrition LLC
6644 All Stars Ave, Ste 140
Frisco, TX 75033

Nicholas Stella
(Registered Agent for Ryse Up Sports Nutrition LLC)
4210 Blue Sage Dr
Prosper, TX 75078

Current President or CEO
Ryse Up Sports Nutrition LLC
631 Industry Way
Prosper, TX 75078

Current President or CEO
Ryse Up Sports Nutrition LLC
916 S Locust St
Denton, TX 76201

On October 27, 2023, 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
Oakland, CA 94612-0550

On October 27, 2023, 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** 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:

Pamela Y. Price, District Attorney
Alameda County
7677 Oakport Street, Suite 650
Oakland, CA 94621
CEPDProp65@acgov.org

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



Notice of Violation of California Health & Safety Code §25249.5 *et seq.*
October 27, 2023
Page 6

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

James Clinchard, Assistant District Attorney
El Dorado County
778 Pacific Street
Placerville, CA 95667
EDCDAPROP65@edcda.us

Lisa A. Smittcamp, District Attorney
Fresno County
2100 Tulare Street
Fresno, CA 93721
consumerprotection@fresnocountyca.gov

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

Devin Chandler, Program Coordinator
Lassen County
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Susanville, CA 96130
dchandler@co.lassen.ca.us

Lori E. Frugoli, District Attorney
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San Rafael, CA 94903
consumer@marincounty.org

Walter W. Wall, District Attorney
Mariposa County
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Mariposa, CA 95338
mcda@mariposacounty.org

Kimberly Lewis, District Attorney
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550 West Main St
Merced, CA 95340
Prop65@countyofmerced.com

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

Allison Haley, District Attorney
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Napa, CA 94559
CEPD@countyofnapa.org

Clifford H. Newell, District Attorney
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Nevada City, CA 95959
DA.Prop65@co.nevada.ca.us

Todd Spitzer, District Attorney
Orange County
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Prop65notice@da.ocgov.com

Morgan Briggs Gire, District Attorney
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10810 Justice Center Drive
Roseville, CA 95678
Prop65@placer.ca.gov

David Hollister, District Attorney
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Quincy, CA 95971
davidhollister@countyofplumas.com

Paul E. Zellerbach, District Attorney
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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



Notice of Violation of California Health & Safety Code §25249.5 *et seq.*
October 27, 2023
Page 7

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

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

Alexandra Grayner, Assistant District Attorney
San Francisco District Attorney's Office
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San Francisco, CA 94103
Alexandra.grayner@sfgov.org

Henry Lifton, Deputy City Attorney
San Francisco City Attorney
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San Francisco, CA 94102
Prop65@sfcityatty.org

Tori Verber Salazar, District Attorney
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DAConsumer.Environmental@sjcda.org

Eric J. Dobroth, Deputy District Attorney
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edobroth@co.slo.ca.us

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Santa Barbara, CA 93101
DAProp65@co.santa-barbara.ca.us

Bud Porter, Supervising Deputy District Attorney
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San Jose, CA 95110
EPU@da.sccgov.org

Nora V. Frimann, City Attorney
Santa Clara City Attorney
200E. Santa Clara Street, 16th Floor
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Proposition65notices@sanjoseca.gov

Jeffrey S. Rosell, District Attorney
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Prop65DA@santacruzcounty.us

Jill Ravitch, District Attorney
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Jeannie.Barnes@sonoma-county.org

Phillip J. Cline, District Attorney
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Prop65@co.tulare.ca.us

Gregory D. Totten, District Attorney
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Ventura, CA 93009
daspecialops@ventura.org

Jeff W. Reisig, District Attorney
Yolo County
301 Second Street
Woodland, CA 95695
cfepd@yolocounty.org



Notice of Violation of California Health & Safety Code §25249.5 et seq.
October 27, 2023
Page 8

On October 27, 2023, between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time, I served the following documents: **NOTICE OF VIOLATION, 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 at a U.S. Postal Service Office with the postage fully prepaid for delivery by First Class Mail.

Executed on October 27, 2023, in Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Phyllis Dunwoody". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Phyllis Dunwoody



Service List

District Attorney, Alpine County P.O. Box 248 Markleeville, CA 96120	District Attorney, Madera County 209 West Yosemite Avenue Madera, CA 93637	District Attorney, Tehama County Post Office Box 519 Red Bluff, CA 96080
District Attorney, Amador County 708 Court Street, Suite 202 Jackson, CA 95642	District Attorney, Mendocino County Post Office Box 1000 Ukiah, CA 95482	District Attorney, Trinity County Post Office Box 310 Weaverville, CA 96093
District Attorney, Butte County 25 County Center Drive, Suite 245 Oroville, CA 95965	District Attorney, Modoc County 204 S Court Street, Room 202 Alturas, CA 96101-4020	District Attorney, Tuolumne County 423 N. Washington Street Sonora, CA 95370
District Attorney, Colusa County 310 6 th St Colusa, CA 95932	District Attorney, Mono County Post Office Box 617 Bridgeport, CA 93517	District Attorney, Yuba County 215 Fifth Street, Suite 152 Marysville, CA 95901
District Attorney, Del Norte County 450 H Street, Room 171 Crescent City, CA 95531	District Attorney, San Benito County 419 Fourth Street, 2nd Floor Hollister, CA 95023	Los Angeles City Attorney's Office City Hall East 200 N. Main Street, Suite 800 Los Angeles, CA 90012
District Attorney, Glenn County Post Office Box 430 Willows, CA 95988	District Attorney, San Bernardino County 303 West Third Street San Bernardino, CA 92415	
District Attorney, Humboldt County 825 5th Street 4 th Floor Eureka, CA 95501	District Attorney, San Mateo County 400 County Ctr., 3rd Floor Redwood City, CA 94063	
District Attorney, Imperial County 940 West Main Street, Ste 102 El Centro, CA 92243	District Attorney, Shasta County 1355 West Street Redding, CA 96001	
District Attorney, Kern County 1215 Truxtun Avenue Bakersfield, CA 93301	District Attorney, Sierra County Post Office Box 457 100 Courthouse Square, 2 nd Floor Downieville, CA 95936	
District Attorney, Kings County 1400 West Lacey Boulevard Hanford, CA 93230	District Attorney, Siskiyou County Post Office Box 986 Yreka, CA 96097	
District Attorney, Lake County 255 N. Forbes Street Lakeport, CA 95453	District Attorney, Solano County 675 Texas Street, Ste 4500 Fairfield, CA 94533	
District Attorney, Los Angeles County Hall of Justice 211 West Temple St., Ste 1200 Los Angeles, CA 90012	District Attorney, Stanislaus County 832 12th Street, Ste 300 Modesto, CA 95354	
	District Attorney, Sutter County 463 2 nd Street Yuba City, CA 95991	

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 27001.¹ 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

¹ 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.

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 contaminant² 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.

² 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.

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.

EXHIBIT C



Matthew Maclear
mcm@atalawgroup.com
415-568-5200

Anthony Barnes
amb@atalawgroup.com
917-371-8293

November 9, 2023

**NOTICE OF VIOLATION OF
CALIFORNIA HEALTH & SAFETY CODE SECTION 25249.5 ET SEQ.
(PROPOSITION 65)**

Dear Alleged Violator and the Appropriate Public Enforcement Agencies:

I represent Environmental Research Center, Inc. ("ERC"), 3111 Camino Del Rio North, Suite 400, San Diego, CA 92108; Tel. (619) 500-3090. ERC's Executive Director is Chris Heptinstall. 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 products 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 these products. This letter serves as a notice of these violations to the alleged Violator and the appropriate public enforcement agencies. Pursuant to Health and Safety Code Section 25249.7(d), 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 enclosed with 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:

Ryse Up Sports Nutrition LLC

Consumer Products and Listed Chemicals. The products that are the subject of this notice and the chemicals in those products identified as exceeding allowable levels are:



Notice of Violation of California Health & Safety Code §25249.5 *et seq.*
November 9, 2023
Page 2

1. **Ryse Godzilla Pre-Workout Blackberry Lemonade – Lead, Mercury**
2. **Ryse Fuel Energy Drink Tiger's Blood - Lead**
3. **Ryse Fuel Energy Drink RingPop Berry Blast Flavor - Lead**
4. **Ryse Fuel Energy Drink Smarties Original - Lead**
5. **Ryse Fuel Energy Drink Kool-Aid Tropical Punch - Lead**
6. **Ryse Fuel Energy Drink SunnyD - Lead**
7. **Ryse Fuel Energy Drink Baja Burst - Lead**
8. **Ryse Godzilla Pre-Workout Strawberry Kiwi - 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.

On July 1, 1990, the State of California officially listed mercury and mercury compounds as chemicals known to cause developmental toxicity and male and female reproductive toxicity.

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 these products. Consequently, the route of exposure to these chemicals has been and continues to be through ingestion.

Approximate Time Period of Violations. Ongoing violations have occurred every day since at least November 9, 2020, as well as every day since the products were introduced into the California marketplace, and will continue every day until clear and reasonable warnings are provided to product purchasers and users or until these known toxic chemicals are either removed from or reduced to allowable levels in the products. Proposition 65 requires that a clear and reasonable warning be provided prior to exposure to the identified chemicals. 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 these products with appropriate warnings that they are being exposed to these chemicals.

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 products so as to eliminate further exposures to the identified chemicals, or provide appropriate warnings on the labels of these products; (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 products



Notice of Violation of California Health & Safety Code §25249.5 *et seq.*
November 9, 2023
Page 3

in the last three years. Such a resolution will prevent further unwarned consumer exposures to the identified chemicals, as well as an expensive and time-consuming litigation.

ERC has retained ATA Law Group as legal counsel in connection with this matter. **Please direct all communications regarding this Notice of Violation to my attention, or the attention of ATA partner Anthony Barnes, using the address or contact information indicated on the letterhead.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matthew Maclear". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Matthew Maclear
AQUA TERRA AERIS LAW GROUP

Attachments

- Certificate of Merit
- Certificate of Service
- OEHHA Summary (to Ryse Up Sports Nutrition LLC and its Registered Agent for Service of Process only)
- Additional Supporting Information for Certificate of Merit (to AG only)



Notice of Violation of California Health & Safety Code §25249.5 *et seq.*
November 9, 2023
Page 4

CERTIFICATE OF MERIT

Re: Environmental Research Center, Inc.'s Notice of Proposition 65 Violations by Ryse Up Sports Nutrition LLC

I, Matthew Maclear, declare:

1. This Certificate of Merit accompanies the attached 60-day notice in which it is alleged that 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 an attorney 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 chemicals that are 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: November 9, 2023

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Matthew Maclear".

Matthew Maclear



Notice of Violation of California Health & Safety Code §25249.5 *et seq.*
November 9, 2023
Page 5

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 November 9, 2023, between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time, I served the following documents: **NOTICE OF VIOLATION 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 at a U.S. Postal Service Office with the postage fully prepaid for delivery by Certified Mail:

Current President or CEO
Ryse Up Sports Nutrition LLC
6644 All Stars Ave, Ste 140
Frisco, TX 75033

Nicholas Stella
(Registered Agent for Ryse Up Sports Nutrition LLC)
4210 Blue Sage Dr
Prosper, TX 75078

Current President or CEO
Ryse Up Sports Nutrition LLC
631 Industry Way
Prosper, TX 75078

Current President or CEO
Ryse Up Sports Nutrition LLC
916 S Locust St
Denton, TX 76201

On November 9, 2023, 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
Oakland, CA 94612-0550

On November 9, 2023, 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** 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:

Pamela Y. Price, District Attorney
Alameda County
7677 Oakport Street, Suite 650
Oakland, CA 94621
CEPDProp65@acgov.org

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



Notice of Violation of California Health & Safety Code §25249.5 *et seq.*
November 9, 2023
Page 6

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Notice of Violation of California Health & Safety Code §25249.5 *et seq.*
November 9, 2023
Page 7

Summer Stephan, District Attorney
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Bud Porter, Supervising Deputy District Attorney
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Gregory D. Totten, District Attorney
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Jeff W. Reisig, District Attorney
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cfepd@yolocounty.org



Notice of Violation of California Health & Safety Code §25249.5 *et seq.*
November 9, 2023
Page 8

On November 9, 2023, between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time, I served the following documents: **NOTICE OF VIOLATION, 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 at a U.S. Postal Service Office with the postage fully prepaid for delivery by First Class Mail.

Executed on November 9, 2023, in Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Phyllis Dunwoody", written in a cursive style.

Phyllis Dunwoody



Notice of Violation of California Health & Safety Code §25249.5 *et seq.*
 November 9, 2023
 Page 9

Service List

District Attorney, Alpine County P.O. Box 248 Markleeville, CA 96120	District Attorney, Modoc County 204 S Court Street, Room 202 Alturas, CA 96101-4020	District Attorney, Yuba County 215 Fifth Street, Suite 152 Marysville, CA 95901
District Attorney, Amador County 708 Court Street, Suite 202 Jackson, CA 95642	District Attorney, Mono County Post Office Box 617 Bridgeport, CA 93517	Los Angeles City Attorney's Office City Hall East 200 N. Main Street, Suite 800 Los Angeles, CA 90012
District Attorney, Butte County 25 County Center Drive, Suite 245 Oroville, CA 95965	District Attorney, San Benito County 419 Fourth Street, 2nd Floor Hollister, CA 95023	
District Attorney, Colusa County 310 6 th St Colusa, CA 95932	District Attorney, San Bernardino County 303 West Third Street San Bernardino, CA 92415	
District Attorney, Del Norte County 450 H Street, Room 171 Crescent City, CA 95531	District Attorney, San Mateo County 400 County Ctr., 3rd Floor Redwood City, CA 94063	
District Attorney, Glenn County Post Office Box 430 Willows, CA 95988	District Attorney, Shasta County 1355 West Street Redding, CA 96001	
District Attorney, Humboldt County 825 5th Street 4 th Floor Eureka, CA 95501	District Attorney, Sierra County Post Office Box 457 100 Courthouse Square, 2 nd Floor Downieville, CA 95936	
District Attorney, Imperial County 940 West Main Street, Ste 102 El Centro, CA 92243	District Attorney, Siskiyou County Post Office Box 986 Yreka, CA 96097	
District Attorney, Kern County 1215 Truxtun Avenue Bakersfield, CA 93301	District Attorney, Solano County 675 Texas Street, Ste 4500 Fairfield, CA 94533	
District Attorney, Kings County 1400 West Lacey Boulevard Hanford, CA 93230	District Attorney, Stanislaus County 832 12th Street, Ste 300 Modesto, CA 95354	
District Attorney, Lake County 255 N. Forbes Street Lakeport, CA 95453	District Attorney, Sutter County 463 2 nd Street Yuba City, CA 95991	
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, Tehama County Post Office Box 519 Red Bluff, CA 96080	
District Attorney, Mendocino County Post Office Box 1000 Ukiah, CA 95482	District Attorney, Trinity County Post Office Box 310 Weaverville, CA 96093	
	District Attorney, Tuolumne County 423 N. Washington Street Sonora, CA 95370	

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 27001.¹ 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

¹ 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.

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 contaminant² 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.

² 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.

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.