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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**

**[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).

19 **1.2** ERC and Ryse are hereinafter referred to individually as a “Party” or  
20 collectively as the “Parties.”

21 **1.3** ERC is a 501 (c)(3) California non-profit corporation dedicated to, among other  
22 causes, helping safeguard the public from health hazards by reducing the use and misuse of  
23 hazardous and toxic chemicals, facilitating a safe environment for consumers and employees,  
24 and encouraging corporate responsibility.

25 **1.4** For purposes of this Consent Judgment, the Parties agree that Ryse is a business  
26 entity that has employed ten or more persons at all times relevant to this action, and qualifies as a  
27 “person in the course of doing business” within the meaning of Proposition 65. Ryse  
28 manufactures, distributes, and/or sells the Covered Products.

1           **1.5**     The Complaint is based on allegations contained in ERC’s Notices of Violation  
2 dated October 4, 2023, October 27, 2023, and November 9, 2023 that were served on the  
3 California Attorney General, other public enforcers, and Ryse (“Notices”). True and correct  
4 copies of the 60-Day Notices dated October 4, 2023, October 27, 2023, and November 9, 2023  
5 are attached hereto as **Exhibits A, B, and C** and each is incorporated herein by reference. More  
6 than 60 days have passed since the Notices were served on the Attorney General, public  
7 enforcers, and Ryse and no designated governmental entity has filed a Complaint against Ryse  
8 with regard to the Covered Products or the alleged violations.

9           **1.6**     ERC’s Notices and Complaint allege that use of the Covered Products by  
10 California consumers exposes them to lead and/or mercury without first receiving clear and  
11 reasonable warnings from Ryse, which is in violation of California Health and Safety Code  
12 section 25249.6. Ryse denies all material allegations contained in the Notices and Complaint.

13           **1.7**     The Parties have entered into this Consent Judgment in order to settle,  
14 compromise, and resolve disputed claims and thus avoid prolonged and costly litigation.  
15 Nothing in this Consent Judgment nor compliance with this Consent Judgment shall constitute  
16 or be construed as an admission by any of the Parties or by any of their respective officers,  
17 directors, shareholders, employees, agents, parent companies, subsidiaries, divisions,  
18 franchisees, licensees, customers, suppliers, distributors, wholesalers, or retailers of any fact,  
19 issue of law, or violation of law.

20           **1.8**     Except as expressly set forth herein, nothing in this Consent Judgment shall  
21 prejudice, waive, or impair any right, remedy, argument, or defense the Parties may have in  
22 any current or future legal proceeding unrelated to these proceedings.

23           **1.9**     The Effective Date of this Consent Judgment is the date on which it is entered  
24 as a Judgment by this Court.

25           **2.     JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

26           For purposes of this Consent Judgment and any further court action that may become  
27 necessary to enforce this Consent Judgment, the Parties stipulate that this Court has subject matter  
28 jurisdiction over the allegations of violations contained in the Complaint and personal jurisdiction

1 over Ryse as to the acts alleged in the Complaint, that venue is proper in Alameda County, and  
2 that this Court has jurisdiction to enter this Consent Judgment as a full and final resolution of all  
3 claims up through and including the Compliance Date (as defined below) that were or could have  
4 been asserted in this action based on the facts alleged in the Notices and Complaint.

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

6 **3.1** Beginning no later than thirty (30) days after the Effective Date (the  
7 “Compliance Date”), Ryse shall be permanently enjoined from manufacturing for sale in the  
8 State of California, “Distributing into the State of California,” or directly selling in the State of  
9 California, any Covered Product that exposes a person to a “Daily Lead Exposure Level” of  
10 more than 0.5 micrograms of lead per day and/or “Daily Mercury Exposure Level” of more  
11 than 0.3 micrograms of mercury per day unless it meets the warning requirements under  
12 Section 3.2.

13 **3.1.1** As used in this Consent Judgment, the terms “Distributing into the State  
14 of California” and “Distributed into the State of California” shall mean to directly ship a  
15 Covered Product into California for sale in California or to sell a Covered Product to a  
16 distributor that Ryse knows or has reason to know will sell the Covered Product in California.

17 **3.1.2** For purposes of this Consent Judgment, the “Daily Lead Exposure  
18 Level” shall be measured in micrograms, and shall be calculated using the following formula:  
19 micrograms of lead per gram of product, multiplied by grams of product per serving of the  
20 product (using the largest serving size appearing on the product label), multiplied by servings  
21 of the product per day (using the largest number of recommended daily servings appearing on  
22 the label), which equals micrograms of lead exposure per day. If the label contains no  
23 recommended daily servings, then the number of recommended daily servings shall be one.

24 **3.1.3** For purposes of this Consent Judgment, the “Daily Mercury Exposure  
25 Level” shall be measured in micrograms, and shall be calculated using the following formula:  
26 micrograms of mercury per gram of product, multiplied by grams of product per serving of the  
27 product (using the largest serving size appearing on the product label), multiplied by servings  
28 of the product per day (using the largest number of recommended daily servings appearing on

1 the label), which equals micrograms of mercury exposure per day. If the label contains no  
2 recommended daily servings, then the number of recommended daily servings shall be one.

### 3 **3.2 Clear and Reasonable Warnings**

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

- 6 **1) WARNING:** Consuming this product can expose you to chemicals including  
7 [lead][mercury], which is [are] known to the State of California to cause  
8 [cancer and] birth defects or other reproductive harm. For more information go  
9 to [www.P65Warnings.ca.gov/food](http://www.P65Warnings.ca.gov/food).
- 10 **2) WARNING:** [Cancer and] Reproductive Harm – [www.P65Warnings.ca.gov/food](http://www.P65Warnings.ca.gov/food).
- 11 **3) California Prop 65 Warning:** This product may expose you to chemicals known to the  
12 State of California to cause cancer, birth defects or other reproductive harm. For more  
information go to [www.P65Warnings.ca.gov](http://www.P65Warnings.ca.gov).

13 The Option 3 Warning may only be utilized by Ryse for 120 days following the  
14 Compliance Date and, during this time period, may only be utilized on the label of a Covered  
15 Product. Ryse shall not utilize the Option 3 Warning for any online warning and shall not utilize  
16 the Option 3 Warning on any placard, shelf tag, or sign in brick-and-mortar locations.

17 For Options 1 and 2, Ryse shall use the phrase “cancer and” in the Warning if Ryse has  
18 reason to believe that the “Daily Lead Exposure Level” is greater than 15 micrograms of lead as  
19 determined pursuant to the quality control methodology set forth in Section 3.4 or if Ryse has  
20 reason to believe that another Proposition 65 chemical is present which may require a cancer  
21 warning. As identified in the brackets, the Warning shall appropriately identify at least one  
22 chemical present in the Covered Product, but if there is a chemical present at a level that requires  
23 a cancer warning, the chemical requiring use of the phrase “cancer and” in the Warning shall  
24 always be identified.

25 For all Options, the Warning shall be prominently displayed on the Covered Product  
26 label. For Covered Products sold in brick-and-mortar stores, Ryse may prominently display  
27 the either the Option 1 or Option 2 Warning on a placard, shelf tag, or sign, provided that the  
28 Warning is displayed with such conspicuousness, as compared with other words, statements, or

1 designs on the placard, shelf tag, or sign, as to render it likely to be read and understood by an  
2 ordinary individual prior to sale, in lieu of providing the Warning on the Covered Product's  
3 label. If the Option 2 Warning is utilized, it must be in a type size no smaller than the largest  
4 type size used for other consumer information on the Covered Product. In no case shall an  
5 Option 2 Warning displayed on a Covered Product's label appear in a type size smaller than 6-  
6 point type. In addition, for any Covered Product sold over the internet, the Warning shall  
7 appear on the checkout page when a California delivery address is indicated for any purchase  
8 of any Covered Product. An asterisk or other identifying method must be utilized to identify  
9 which products on the checkout page are subject to the Warning. In no event shall any internet  
10 or website Warning be contained in or made through a link. Only the Option 1 or Option 2  
11 Warnings may be utilized for online warning.

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

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

22 For purposes of this Consent Judgment, the term "label" means a display of written,  
23 printed or graphic material that is printed on or affixed to a Covered Product or its immediate  
24 container or wrapper.

25 So long as Ryse can provide adequate documentation, if requested in writing by ERC,  
26 Covered Products manufactured and not in the possession or under the control of Ryse on or prior  
27 to the Compliance Date, or that have been shipped or Distributed into the State of California by  
28 Ryse and are, therefore, not in the possession or under the control of Ryse prior to the Compliance

1 Date, are not bound by the injunctive terms set forth in this Section 3, including but not limited to  
2 the Daily Lead Exposure Level, the Daily Mercury Exposure Level, and the Warning and Testing  
3 Requirements, and are instead permitted to be sold as is to California consumers and are expressly  
4 released by Section 8.

### 5 **3.3 Conforming Covered Products**

6 A Conforming Covered Product is a Covered Product for which the “Daily Lead Exposure  
7 Level” is no greater than 0.5 micrograms of lead per day and/or the “Daily Mercury Exposure  
8 Level” is no greater than 0.3 micrograms of mercury per day as determined by the exposure  
9 methodology set forth in Section 3.1.2 and the quality control methodology described in Section  
10 3.4, and that is not known by Ryse to contain other chemicals that violate Proposition 65’s safe  
11 harbor thresholds.

### 12 **3.4 Testing and Quality Control Methodology**

13 **3.4.1** Beginning within one year of the Effective Date, Ryse shall arrange for  
14 lead and mercury testing of the Covered Products at least once a year for a minimum of four  
15 consecutive years by arranging for testing of three (3) randomly selected samples of each of  
16 the Covered Products, in the form intended for sale to the end-user, which Ryse intends to sell  
17 or is manufacturing for sale in California, directly selling to a consumer in California or  
18 “Distributing into the State of California.” If tests conducted pursuant to this Section  
19 demonstrate that no Warning is required for a Covered Product during each of four consecutive  
20 years, then the testing requirements of this Section will no longer be required as to that  
21 Covered Product.

22 **3.4.2** For purposes of measuring the “Daily Lead Exposure Level” and/or the  
23 “Daily Mercury Exposure Level,” the highest lead and/or mercury detection result of the three  
24 (3) randomly selected samples of the Covered Products will be controlling.

25 **3.4.3** All testing pursuant to this Consent Judgment shall be performed using a  
26 laboratory method that complies with the performance and quality control factors appropriate  
27 for the method used, including limit of detection and limit of quantification, sensitivity,  
28 accuracy and precision that meets the following criteria: Inductively Coupled Plasma-Mass

1 Spectrometry (“ICP-MS”) achieving a limit of quantification of less than or equal to 0.005  
2 mg/kg.

3 **3.4.4** All testing pursuant to this Consent Judgment shall be performed by an  
4 independent third party laboratory certified by the California Environmental Laboratory  
5 Accreditation Program or an independent third-party laboratory that is registered with the  
6 United States Food & Drug Administration.

7 **3.4.5** Nothing in this Consent Judgment shall limit Ryse’s ability to conduct,  
8 or require that others conduct, additional testing of the Covered Products, including the raw  
9 materials used in their manufacture.

10 **3.4.6** Within forty-five (45) days of ERC’s written request, Ryse shall deliver  
11 lab reports obtained pursuant to Section 3.4 to ERC. Ryse shall retain all test results and  
12 documentation for a period of three years from the date of each test. ERC shall treat all  
13 documents provided by Ryse pursuant to this Section as confidential.

14 **3.4.7** The testing requirements of Section 3.4 do not apply to any Covered  
15 Product for which Ryse has provided the Warning specified in Section 3.2 continuously and  
16 uninterrupted after the Compliance Date; however, in the event Ryse ceases to provide the  
17 Warning specified in Section 3.2, Ryse shall be required to comply with the testing  
18 requirements of this Section 3.4 beginning immediately after the date the Warning ceases to be  
19 provided or one year after the Compliance Date, whichever date is later.

20 **3.5** Nothing in Section 3 of this Consent Judgment shall prevent or preclude ERC  
21 from obtaining and relying upon its own testing for purposes of enforcement, so long as such  
22 testing meets the requirements of Sections 3.4.3 and 3.4.4.

23 **4. SETTLEMENT PAYMENT**

24 **4.1** In full satisfaction of all potential civil penalties, additional settlement  
25 payments, attorney’s fees, and costs, Ryse shall make a total payment of \$150,000.00 (“Total  
26 Settlement Amount”) to ERC within 5 days of the Effective Date (“Due Date”). Ryse shall  
27 make this payment by wire transfer to ERC’s account, for which ERC will give Ryse the  
28 necessary account information. The Total Settlement Amount shall be apportioned as follows:



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

6           **4.3**     \$16,296.70 shall be distributed to ERC as reimbursement to ERC for reasonable  
7 costs incurred in bringing this action.

8           **4.4**     \$27,176.09 shall be distributed to ERC as an Additional Settlement Payment  
9 (“ASP”), pursuant to California Code of Regulations, title 11, sections 3203, subdivision (d)  
10 and 3204. ERC will utilize the ASP for activities that address the same public harm as  
11 allegedly caused by Defendant in this matter. These activities are detailed below and support  
12 ERC’s overarching goal of reducing and/or eliminating hazardous and toxic chemicals in  
13 dietary supplement products in California. ERC’s activities have had, and will continue to  
14 have, a direct and primary effect within the State of California because California consumers  
15 will be benefitted by the reduction and/or elimination of exposure to lead and/or mercury in  
16 dietary supplements and/or by providing clear and reasonable warnings to California  
17 consumers prior to ingestion of the products.

18           Based on a review of past years’ actual budgets, ERC is providing the following list of  
19 activities ERC engages in to protect California consumers through Proposition 65 citizen  
20 enforcement, along with a breakdown of how ASP funds will be utilized to facilitate those  
21 activities: (1) ENFORCEMENT (up to 65-80%): obtaining, shipping, analyzing, and testing  
22 dietary supplement products that may contain lead and/or mercury and are sold to California  
23 consumers. This work includes continued monitoring and enforcement of past consent  
24 judgments and settlements to ensure companies are in compliance with their obligations  
25 thereunder, with a specific focus on those judgments and settlements concerning lead and/or  
26 mercury. This work also includes investigation of new companies that ERC does not obtain  
27 any recovery through settlement or judgment; (2) VOLUNTARY COMPLIANCE PROGRAM  
28 (up to 10-20%): maintaining ERC’s Voluntary Compliance Program by acquiring products

1 from companies, developing and maintaining a case file, testing products from these  
2 companies, providing the test results and supporting documentation to the companies, and  
3 offering guidance in warning or implementing a self-testing program for lead and/or mercury  
4 in dietary supplement products; and (3) “GOT LEAD” PROGRAM (up to 5%): maintaining  
5 ERC’s “Got Lead?” Program which reduces the numbers of contaminated products that reach  
6 California consumers by providing access to free testing for lead in dietary supplement  
7 products (Products submitted to the program are screened for ingredients which are suspected  
8 to be contaminated, and then may be purchased by ERC, catalogued, sent to a qualified  
9 laboratory for testing, and the results shared with the consumer that submitted the product).

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

15 **4.5** \$27,585.00 shall be distributed to Aqua Terra Aeris Law Group as  
16 reimbursement of ERC’s attorney fees, while \$42,692.21 shall be distributed to ERC for its in-  
17 house legal fees. Except as explicitly provided herein, each Party shall bear its own fees and  
18 costs.

19 **4.6** In the event that Ryse fails to remit the Total Settlement Amount owed under  
20 Section 4 of this Consent Judgment on or before the Due Date, Ryse shall be deemed to be in  
21 material breach of its obligations under this Consent Judgment. ERC shall provide written  
22 notice of the delinquency to Ryse via electronic mail. If Ryse fails to deliver the Total  
23 Settlement Amount within five (5) days from the written notice, the Total Settlement Amount  
24 shall accrue interest at the statutory judgment interest rate provided in the California Code of  
25 Civil Procedure section 685.010. Additionally, Ryse agrees to pay ERC’s reasonable attorney’s  
26 fees and costs for any efforts to collect the payment due under this Consent Judgment.

27 **5. MODIFICATION OF CONSENT JUDGMENT**

28 **5.1** This Consent Judgment may be modified only as to injunctive terms (i) by

1 written stipulation of the Parties and upon entry by the Court of a modified consent judgment  
2 or (ii) by motion of either Party pursuant to Section 5.3 and upon entry by the Court of a  
3 modified consent judgment.

4       **5.2** If Ryse seeks to modify this Consent Judgment under Section 5.1, then Ryse  
5 must provide written notice to ERC of its intent (“Notice of Intent”). If ERC seeks to meet and  
6 confer regarding the proposed modification in the Notice of Intent, then ERC must provide  
7 written notice to Ryse within thirty (30) days of receiving the Notice of Intent. If ERC notifies  
8 Ryse in a timely manner of ERC’s intent to meet and confer, then the Parties shall meet and  
9 confer in good faith as required in this Section. The Parties shall meet in person, via remote  
10 meeting, or by telephone within thirty (30) days of ERC’s notification of its intent to meet and  
11 confer. Within thirty (30) days of such meeting, if ERC disputes the proposed modification,  
12 ERC shall provide to Ryse a written basis for its position. The Parties shall continue to meet  
13 and confer for an additional thirty (30) days in an effort to resolve any remaining disputes.  
14 Should it become necessary, the Parties may agree in writing to different deadlines for the  
15 meet-and-confer period.

16       **5.3** In the event that Ryse initiates or otherwise requests a modification under  
17 Section 5.1, and the meet and confer process leads to a joint motion or joint application for a  
18 modification of the Consent Judgment, Ryse shall reimburse ERC its costs and reasonable  
19 attorney’s fees for the time spent in the meet-and-confer process and filing and arguing the  
20 motion or application.

21       **6. RETENTION OF JURISDICTION, ENFORCEMENT OF CONSENT**  
22       **JUDGMENT**

23       **6.1** This Court shall retain jurisdiction of this matter to enforce, modify, or  
24 terminate this Consent Judgment.

25       **6.2** If ERC alleges that any Covered Product fails to qualify as a Conforming  
26 Covered Product (for which ERC alleges that no Warning has been provided), then ERC shall  
27 inform Ryse in a reasonably prompt manner of its test results, including information sufficient  
28 to permit Ryse to identify the Covered Products at issue. Ryse shall, within thirty (30) days

1 following such notice, provide ERC with testing information, from an independent third-party  
2 laboratory meeting the requirements of Sections 3.4.3 and 3.4.4, demonstrating Ryse's  
3 compliance with the Consent Judgment. The Parties shall first attempt to resolve the matter  
4 prior to ERC taking any further legal action.

5 **7. APPLICATION OF CONSENT JUDGMENT**

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

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

13 **8.1** This Consent Judgment is a full, final, and binding resolution between ERC,  
14 on behalf of itself and in the public interest, and Ryse and its respective officers, directors,  
15 shareholders, employees, agents, parent companies, subsidiaries, divisions, suppliers,  
16 franchisees, licensees, customers (not including private label customers of Ryse), distributors,  
17 wholesalers, retailers, and all other upstream and downstream entities in the distribution chain  
18 of any Covered Product, and the predecessors, successors, and assigns of any of them  
19 (collectively, "Released Parties").

20 **8.2** ERC, acting in the public interest, releases the Released Parties from any  
21 and all claims for violations of Proposition 65 up through the Compliance Date based on  
22 exposure to lead and/or mercury from the Covered Products as set forth in the Notices of  
23 Violation. ERC, on behalf of itself only, hereby fully releases and discharges the Released  
24 Parties from any and all claims, actions, causes of action, suits, demands, liabilities, damages,  
25 penalties, fees, costs, and expenses asserted, or that could have been asserted from the  
26 handling, use, or consumption of the Covered Products, as to any alleged violation of  
27 Proposition 65 or its implementing regulations arising from the failure to provide Proposition  
28 65 warnings on the Covered Products regarding lead and/or mercury up to and including the

1 Compliance Date.

2           **8.3**           ERC on its own behalf only, and Ryse on its own behalf only, further waive  
3 and release any and all claims they may have against each other for all actions or statements  
4 made or undertaken in the course of seeking or opposing enforcement of Proposition 65 in  
5 connection with the Notices and Complaint up through and including the Compliance Date,  
6 provided, however, that nothing in Section 8 shall affect or limit any Party's right to seek to  
7 enforce the terms of this Consent Judgment.

8           **8.4**           It is possible that other claims not known to the Parties, arising out of the facts  
9 alleged in the Notices and Complaint, and relating to the Covered Products, will develop or be  
10 discovered. ERC on behalf of itself only, and Ryse on behalf of itself only, acknowledge that  
11 this Consent Judgment is expressly intended to cover and include all such claims up through  
12 and including the Compliance Date, including all rights of action therefore. ERC and Ryse  
13 acknowledge that the claims released in Sections 8.2 and 8.3 above may include unknown  
14 claims, and nevertheless waive California Civil Code section 1542 as to any such unknown  
15 claims. California Civil Code section 1542 reads as follows:

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

20 ERC on behalf of itself only, and Ryse on behalf of itself only, acknowledge and understand  
21 the significance and consequences of this specific waiver of California Civil Code section  
22 1542.

23           **8.5**           Compliance with the terms of this Consent Judgment shall be deemed to  
24 constitute compliance with Proposition 65 by any of the Released Parties regarding alleged  
25 exposures to lead and/or mercury in the Covered Products as set forth in the Notices and  
26 Complaint.

27           **8.6**           Nothing in this Consent Judgment is intended to apply to any occupational or  
28 environmental exposures arising under Proposition 65, nor shall it apply to any of Ryse's

1 products other than the Covered Products.

2 **9. SEVERABILITY OF UNENFORCEABLE PROVISIONS**

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

6 **10. GOVERNING LAW**

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

9 **11. PROVISION OF NOTICE**

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

13 **FOR ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH CENTER, INC.:**

14 Chris Heptinstall, Executive Director, Environmental Research Center  
15 3111 Camino Del Rio North, Suite 400  
16 San Diego, CA 92108  
17 Ph: (619) 500-3090  
18 Email: [chris.heptinstall@erc501c3.org](mailto:chris.heptinstall@erc501c3.org)

19 With a copy to:

20 Matthew C. Maclear  
21 Anthony M. Barnes  
22 Aqua Terra Aeris Law Group  
23 4030 Martin Luther King Jr. Way  
24 Oakland, CA 94609  
25 Telephone: (415) 568-5200  
26 Email: [mcm@atalawgroup.com](mailto:mcm@atalawgroup.com)  
27 [amb@atalawgroup.com](mailto:amb@atalawgroup.com)

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

Nic Stella, CEO  
Ryse Up Sports Nutrition, LLC  
4490 Liberty Drive,  
Prosper, TX 75078  
Email: [Nic@rysesupps.com](mailto:Nic@rysesupps.com)

///

1 With a copy to:  
2 Ray Murphy  
3 Abernathy Roeder Boyd & Hullett, P.C.  
4 1700 RedBud Blvd, Suite 300  
5 McKinney, TX 75069  
6 Telephone: (214) 544-4000  
7 Email: rmurphy@abernathy-law.com

8 **12. COURT APPROVAL**

9 **12.1** Upon execution of this Consent Judgment by the Parties, ERC shall notice a  
10 Motion for Court Approval. The Parties shall use their best efforts to support entry of this  
11 Consent Judgment.

12 **12.2** If the California Attorney General objects to any term in this Consent Judgment,  
13 the Parties shall use their best efforts to resolve the concern in a timely manner, and if possible  
14 prior to the hearing on the motion.

15 **12.3** If this Stipulated Consent Judgment is not approved by the Court, it shall be  
16 void and have no force or effect.

17 **13. EXECUTION AND COUNTERPARTS**

18 This Consent Judgment may be executed in counterparts, which taken together shall be  
19 deemed to constitute one document. A facsimile or .pdf signature shall be construed to be as valid  
20 as the original signature.

21 **14. DRAFTING**

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

///

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

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

7     **16. ENFORCEMENT**

8             ERC may, by motion or order to show cause before the Superior Court of Alameda  
9 County, enforce the terms and conditions contained in this Consent Judgment. In any action  
10 brought by ERC to enforce this Consent Judgment, ERC may seek whatever fines, costs,  
11 penalties, or remedies as are provided by law for failure to comply with the Consent Judgment.  
12 To the extent the failure to comply with the Consent Judgment constitutes a violation of  
13 Proposition 65 or other laws, ERC shall not be limited to enforcement of this Consent  
14 Judgment, but may seek in another action whatever fines, costs, penalties, or remedies as are  
15 provided by law for failure to comply with Proposition 65 or other laws.

16     **17. ENTIRE AGREEMENT, AUTHORIZATION**

17             **17.1** This Consent Judgment contains the sole and entire agreement and  
18 understanding of the Parties with respect to the entire subject matter herein, including any and  
19 all prior discussions, negotiations, commitments, and understandings related thereto. No  
20 representations, oral or otherwise, express or implied, other than those contained herein have  
21 been made by any Party. No other agreements, oral or otherwise, unless specifically referred to  
22 herein, shall be deemed to exist or to bind any Party.

23             **17.2** Each signatory to this Consent Judgment certifies that he or she is fully  
24 authorized by the Party he or she represents to stipulate to this Consent Judgment.

25     **18. REQUEST FOR FINDINGS, APPROVAL OF SETTLEMENT AND ENTRY OF**  
26     **CONSENT JUDGMENT**

27             This Consent Judgment has come before the Court upon the request of the Parties. The  
28 Parties request the Court to fully review this Consent Judgment and, being fully informed



1 regarding the matters which are the subject of this action, to:

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

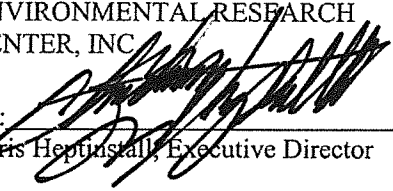
5 (2) Make the findings pursuant to California Health and Safety Code section  
6 25249.7(f)(4), approve the Settlement, and approve this Consent Judgment.

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

9 **IT IS SO STIPULATED:**

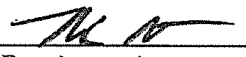
10  
11 Dated: 10/20/, 2024

ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH  
CENTER, INC

12  
13 By:   
14 Chris Heptinstall, Executive Director

15  
16 Dated: \_\_\_\_\_, 2024

RYSE UP SPORTS NUTRITION LLC


17  
18   
19 By: Ann Stella CEO  
20 Its: 10/21/24

21 ///  
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1 **APPROVED AS TO FORM:**


2  
3 Dated: October 14, 2024

AQUA TERRA AERIS LAW GROUP

4  
5  
6 By:   
7 Matthew C. Maclear  
8 Anthony M. Barnes  
9 Attorneys for Plaintiff Environmental  
10 Research Center, Inc.

11  
12 Dated: October 24, 2024

AMIN WASSERMAN GURNANI, LLP

13  
14 By:   
15 Matthew R. Orr  
16 Attorney for Defendant Ryse Up Sports  
17 Nutrition LLC  
18  
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**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: \_\_\_\_\_, 2024

\_\_\_\_\_  
Judge of the Superior Court

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# **EXHIBIT A**



Matthew Maclear  
[mcm@atalawgroup.com](mailto:mcm@atalawgroup.com)  
415-568-5200

Anthony Barnes  
[amb@atalawgroup.com](mailto: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  
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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.*  
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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". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "M".

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  
Susanville, CA 96130  
mlatimer@co.lassen.ca.us

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

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

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

Allison Haley, District Attorney  
Napa County  
1127 First Street, Ste C  
Napa, CA 94559  
CEPD@countyofnapa.org

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

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

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

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

Paul E. Zellerbach, District Attorney  
Riverside County  
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

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.*  
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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, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor  
San Francisco, CA 94102  
Valerie.Lopez@sfcityatty.org  
Starla.Sousa@sfcityatty.org

Tori Verber Salazar, District Attorney  
San Joaquin County  
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, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408  
edobroth@co.slo.ca.us

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

Bud Porter, Supervising Deputy District Attorney  
Santa Clara County  
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, 16<sup>th</sup> 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

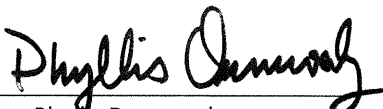
Phillip J. Cline, District Attorney  
Tulare County  
221 S Mooney Blvd  
Visalia, CA 95370  
Prop65@co.tulare.ca.us

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 <sup>th</sup> 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 <sup>th</sup> 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 <sup>nd</sup> 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 <sup>nd</sup> 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.<sup>1</sup> 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

---

<sup>1</sup> 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](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 contaminant<sup>2</sup> 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.

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<sup>2</sup> 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](mailto: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](mailto:mcm@atalawgroup.com)  
415-568-5200

Anthony Barnes  
[amb@atalawgroup.com](mailto: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:



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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.



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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)



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**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 27, 2023

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

Matthew Maclear



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**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



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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  
2950 Riverside Dr  
Susanville, CA 96130  
dchandler@co.lassen.ca.us

Lori E. Frugoli, District Attorney  
Marin County  
3501 Civic Center Drive, Suite 145  
San Rafael, CA 94903  
consumer@marincounty.org

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

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

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

Allison Haley, District Attorney  
Napa County  
1127 First Street, Ste C  
Napa, CA 94559  
CEPD@countyofnapa.org

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

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

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

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

Paul E. Zellerbach, District Attorney  
Riverside County  
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





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

Mark Ankorn, Deputy City Attorney  
San Diego City Attorney  
1200 Third Avenue  
San Diego, CA 92101  
CityAttyProp65@sandiego.gov

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

Henry Lifton, Deputy City Attorney  
San Francisco City Attorney  
1390 Market Street, 7th Floor  
San Francisco, CA 94102  
Prop65@sfcityatty.org

Tori Verber Salazar, District Attorney  
San Joaquin County  
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, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408  
edobroth@co.slo.ca.us

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

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

Nora V. Frimann, City Attorney  
Santa Clara City Attorney  
200E. Santa Clara Street, 16<sup>th</sup> 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



Notice of Violation of California Health & Safety Code §25249.5 et seq.  
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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 <sup>th</sup> 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 <sup>th</sup> 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 <sup>nd</sup> 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 <sup>nd</sup> 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.<sup>1</sup> 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

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<sup>1</sup> 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](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 contaminant<sup>2</sup> 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.

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<sup>2</sup> 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](mailto: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](mailto:mcm@atalawgroup.com)  
415-568-5200

Anthony Barnes  
[amb@atalawgroup.com](mailto: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:



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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



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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)



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

Matthew Maclear



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**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.*  
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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  
2950 Riverside Dr  
Susanville, CA 96130  
dchandler@co.lassen.ca.us

Lori E. Frugoli, District Attorney  
Marin County  
3501 Civic Center Drive, Suite 145  
SanRafael, CA 94903  
consumer@marincounty.org

Walter W. Wall, District Attorney  
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P.O. Box 730  
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  
Monterey County  
1200 Aguajito Road  
Monterey, CA 93940  
Prop65DA@co.monterey.ca.us

Allison Haley, District Attorney  
Napa County  
1127 First Street, Ste C  
Napa, CA 94559  
CEPD@countyofnapa.org

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

Todd Spitzer, District Attorney  
Orange County  
300 N Flower St  
Santa Ana, CA 92703  
Prop65notice@ocdapa.org

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

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

Paul E. Zellerbach, District Attorney  
Riverside County  
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.*  
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Summer Stephan, District Attorney  
San Diego County  
330 West Broadway  
San Diego, CA 92101  
SanDiegoDAProp65@sdca.org

Mark Ankorn, Deputy City Attorney  
San Diego City Attorney  
1200 Third Avenue  
San Diego, CA 92101  
CityAttyProp65@sandiego.gov

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

Henry Lifton, Deputy City Attorney  
San Francisco City Attorney  
1390 Market Street, 7th Floor  
San Francisco, CA 94102  
Prop65@sfcityatty.org

Tori Verber Salazar, District Attorney  
San Joaquin County  
222 E. Weber Avenue, Room 202  
Stockton, CA 95202  
DAConsumer.Environmental@sjcda.org

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County Government Center Annex, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408  
edobroth@co.slo.ca.us

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

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

Nora V. Frimann, City Attorney  
Santa Clara City Attorney  
200 E. Santa Clara Street, 16<sup>th</sup> 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  
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600 Administration Dr  
Sonoma, CA 95403  
Jeannie.Barnes@sonoma-county.org

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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





Notice of Violation of California Health & Safety Code §25249.5 *et seq.*  
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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", is written over a horizontal line.

Phyllis Dunwoody



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**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 <sup>th</sup> 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 <sup>th</sup> Floor Eureka, CA 95501	District Attorney, Sierra County Post Office Box 457 100 Courthouse Square, 2 <sup>nd</sup> 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 <sup>nd</sup> 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.<sup>1</sup> 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

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<sup>1</sup> 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](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 contaminant<sup>2</sup> 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.

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<sup>2</sup> 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](mailto:P65Public.Comments@oehha.ca.gov).

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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.