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12	SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA		
13	COUNTY OF ALAMEDA		
14	ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH	CASE NO. 24CV074537	
15	CENTER, INC., a California non-profit corporation	[PROPOSED] STIPULATED	
16		CONSENT JUDGMENT	
17	Plaintiff, vs.	Health & Safety Code § 25249.5 et seq.	
18	FAMOUSFOODS.COM, INC.; FUEL FOR	Action Filed: May 7, 2024	
19	FIRE, INC.; and DOES 1-100	Trial Date: March 9, 2026	
20	Defendants.		
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23	1. INTRODUCTION		
24	1.1 On May 7, 2024, Plaintiff Environmental Research Center, Inc. ("ERC"), a non-		
25	profit corporation, as a private enforcer and in the public interest, initiated this action by filing		
26	a Complaint for Injunctive and Declaratory Relief and Civil Penalties pursuant to the		
27	provisions of California Health and Safety Code section 25249.5 et seq.		
28	("Proposition 65"), against FamousFoods.com, Inc. ("FamousFoods") and Does 1-100. On		

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27 28 November 27, 2024, ERC filed a First Amended Complaint (the operative Complaint, hereinafter referred to as "Complaint") adding Fuel For Fire, Inc. ("Fuel for Fire" and, together with FamousFoods, the "Defendants") as a party to the action. In this action, ERC alleges that a number of products manufactured, distributed, or sold by Defendants contain lead, perfluorononanoic acid (PFNA), and/or perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), chemicals listed under Proposition 65 as carcinogens and/or reproductive toxins, and expose consumers to these chemicals at a level requiring a Proposition 65 warning. These products (referred to hereinafter individually as a "Covered Product" or collectively as "Covered Products") are: (1) Fuel For Fire 10g Plant Protein Fruit Smoothie Chocolate Strawberry (lead, PFOA, PFNA), (2) Fuel For Fire 10g Protein Fruit Smoothie Banana Cocoa (lead, PFOA, PFNA), and (3) Fuel For Fire 10g Protein Fruit Smoothie Mixed Berry (PFOA).

The products "Fuel For Fire 10g Plant Protein Fruit Smoothie Chocolate Strawberry" and "Fuel For Fire 10g Protein Fruit Smoothie Banana Cocoa" are collectively referred to as either the "Lead Covered Products" or the "PFNA Covered Products."

- 1.2 ERC and Fuel for Fire are hereinafter referred to individually as a "Party" or collectively as the "Parties."
- 1.3 ERC is a 501 (c)(3) California non-profit corporation dedicated to, among other causes, helping safeguard the public from health hazards by reducing the use and misuse of hazardous and toxic chemicals, facilitating a safe environment for consumers and employees, and encouraging corporate responsibility.
- 1.4 Solely for purposes of this Stipulated Consent Judgment ("Consent Judgment"), Fuel for Fire does not contest ERC's allegation that Fuel for Fire is a business entity that has employed ten or more persons at all times relevant to this action and qualifies as a "person in the course of doing business" within the meaning of Proposition 65. Fuel for Fire manufactures, distributes, and/or sells the Covered Products.
- 1.5 The Complaint is based on allegations contained in ERC's Notices of Violation dated January 19, 2024, and January 26, 2024, that were served on the California Attorney General, other public enforcers, and the Defendants ("Notices"). True and correct copies of the

60-Day Notices dated January 19, 2024, and January 26, 2024, are attached hereto as **Exhibits A** and **B** and each is incorporated herein by reference. More than 60 days have passed since the Notices were served on the Attorney General, public enforcers, and the Defendants and no designated governmental entity has filed a Complaint against the Defendants with regard to the Covered Products or the alleged violations.

- 1.6 ERC's Notices and Complaint allege that use of the Covered Products by California consumers exposes them to lead and/or PFNA and/or PFOA without first receiving clear and reasonable warnings from Defendants, which is in violation of California Health and Safety Code section 25249.6. Defendants denied and continue to deny all material allegations contained in the Notices and Complaint.
- 1.7 The Parties have entered into this Consent Judgment in order to settle, compromise, and resolve disputed claims and thus avoid prolonged and costly litigation.

  Nothing in this Consent Judgment nor compliance with this Consent Judgment shall constitute or be construed as an admission by any of the Parties or by any of their respective officers, directors, shareholders, employees, agents, parent companies, subsidiaries, divisions, franchisees, licensees, customers, suppliers, distributors, wholesalers, or retailers of any fact, issue of law, or violation of law.
- 1.8 Except as expressly set forth herein, nothing in this Consent Judgment shall prejudice, waive, or impair any right, remedy, argument, or defense the Parties may have in any current or future legal proceeding unrelated to these proceedings.
- 1.9 The Effective Date of this Consent Judgment is ten (10) calendar days after the date on which it is entered as a Judgment by this Court.

### 2. JURISDICTION AND VENUE

For purposes of this Consent Judgment and any further court action that may become necessary to enforce this Consent Judgment, the Parties stipulate that this Court has subject matter jurisdiction over the allegations of violations contained in the Complaint and personal jurisdiction over the Defendants as to the acts alleged in the Complaint, that venue is proper in Alameda County, and that this Court has jurisdiction to enter this Consent Judgment as a full and final

resolution of all claims up through and including the Effective Date that were or could have been asserted in this action based on the facts alleged in the Notices and Complaint.

# 3. INJUNCTIVE RELIEF, REFORMULATION, TESTING AND WARNINGS

- 3.1 Beginning thirty (30) days after the Effective Date (the "Compliance Date"), Fuel for Fire shall be permanently enjoined from manufacturing for sale in the State of California, "Distributing into the State of California," or directly selling in the State of California, any Lead Covered Product that exposes a person to a "Daily Lead Exposure Level" of more than 0.5 micrograms of lead per day unless it meets the warning requirements under Section 3.2. Also, beginning on the Compliance Date, Fuel for Fire shall be permanently enjoined from manufacturing for sale in the State of California, "Distributing into the State of California," or directly selling in the State of California, any Covered Products that expose a person to PFOA or PFNA that can be reliably detected pursuant to the testing methodologies and level of quantification set forth in Section 3 unless they meet the warning requirements under Section 3.2.
- 3.1.1 As used in this Consent Judgment, the term "Distributing into the State of California" shall mean to directly ship a Covered Product into California for sale in California or to sell, send, or distribute a Covered Product to a distributor that Fuel for Fire knows or has reason to know will ship the Covered Products to California and/or sell the Covered Products in California.
- 3.1.2 For purposes of this Consent Judgment, the "Daily Lead Exposure Level" shall be measured in micrograms, and shall be calculated using the following formula: micrograms of lead per gram of product, multiplied by grams of product per serving of the product (using the largest serving size appearing on the product label), multiplied by servings of the product per day (using the largest number of recommended daily servings appearing on the label), which equals micrograms of lead exposure per day. If the label contains no recommended daily servings, then the number of recommended daily servings shall be one.

# 3.2 Clear and Reasonable Warnings

If Fuel for Fire is required to provide a warning pursuant to Section 3.1, Fuel for Fire shall

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provide one of the following warning statements ("Warning"):

# **OPTION 1:**

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

OR

# **OPTION 2:**



▲ WARNING: [Cancer and ]Reproductive Harm - www.P65Warnings.ca.gov/food.

Fuel for Fire shall use the phrase "cancer and" in the Warning if Fuel for Fire has reason to believe that the "Daily Lead Exposure Level" is greater than 15 micrograms of lead and/or if PFOA or PFNA are present as determined pursuant to the quality control methodology set forth in Section 3.4 or if Fuel for Fire has reason to believe that another Proposition 65 chemical is present which may require a cancer warning. As identified in the brackets, for the Option 1 Warning, the warning shall identify at least one chemical responsible for a cancer and/or reproductive warning; however if a single chemical supports a warning for cancer and reproductive warning, only that single chemical need be listed. In any event, if there is a chemical present at a level that requires a cancer warning, the chemical requiring use of the phrase "cancer and" in the Warning shall always be identified.

The Warning shall be securely affixed to or printed upon the label of each Covered Product, and it must be set off from other surrounding information and enclosed in a box. In addition, for any Covered Product sold over the internet, the Warning shall appear on the Covered Product's primary display page or on the checkout page when a California delivery address is indicated for any purchase of any Covered Product, or the Warning may otherwise be provided by prominently displaying the Warning to the purchaser prior to completing the purchase. Any Warning must be presented in a manner so as to reasonably identify which products are subject to the Warning. The Warning may be provided by a clearly marked hyperlink using the word "WARNING" in all capital and bold letters. If the Warning is provided by a clearly marked hyperlink, the hyperlink must go directly to a page prominently

displaying the Warning without content that detracts from the Warning. A Warning is not prominently displayed if the purchaser has to search for it in the general content of the website.

For the Option 2 Warning, a symbol consisting of a black exclamation point in a yellow equilateral triangle with a bold black outline shall be placed to the left of the text of the Warning, in a size no smaller than the height of the word "WARNING." Where the label for the product is not printed using the color yellow, the symbol may be printed in black and white. If the Option 2 Warning is displayed on the label of a Covered Product, it must be in a type size no smaller than the largest type size used for other consumer information on the product, and in no event in a type size smaller than 6-point type. No statements intended to or likely to have the effect of diminishing the impact of the Warning on the average lay person shall accompany the Warning. Further no statements may accompany the Warning that state or imply that the source of the listed chemical has an impact on or results in a less harmful effect of the listed chemical.

Fuel for Fire must display the above Warning with such conspicuousness, as compared with other words, statements or designs on the label, or on its website, if applicable, to render the Warning likely to be read and understood by an ordinary individual under customary conditions of purchase or use of the product. For both the Option 1 and Option 2 Warnings, the word "WARNING" shall be in all capital letters and in bold print. Where a sign or label used to provide the Warning for a Covered Product includes consumer information about the Covered Product in a language other than English, the Warning must also be provided in that language in addition to English.

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

### 3.3 Conforming Covered Products

A Conforming Covered Product is a Covered Product that does not contain any level of PFOA that can be reliably detected using available technologies as determined by the exposure methodology set forth in Section 3.1.2 and the quality control methodology described in Section 3.4, and that is not known by Fuel for Fire to contain other chemicals that violate Proposition 65's

safe harbor thresholds. A Conforming Lead Covered Product is a Covered Product for which the "Daily Lead Exposure Level" is no greater than 0.5 micrograms of lead per day as determined by the exposure methodology set forth in Section 3.1.2 and the quality control methodology described in Section 3.4, and that is not known by Fuel for Fire to contain other chemicals that violate Proposition 65's safe harbor thresholds. A Conforming PFNA Covered Product is a PFNA Covered Product that does not contain any level of PFNA that can be reliably detected using available technologies as determined by the exposure methodology set forth in Section 3.1.2 and the quality control methodology described in Section 3.4, and that is not known by Fuel for Fire to contain other chemicals that violate Proposition 65's safe harbor thresholds.

# 3.4 Testing and Quality Control Methodology

3.4.1 Subject to Section 3.4.7, beginning within one year of the Effective Date, for Covered Products that are manufactured for sale in the State of California, Distributed into the State of California, or are directly sold in the State of California, Fuel for Fire shall arrange for lead and PFNA and PFOA testing of such Covered Products at least once a year for a minimum of three consecutive years by arranging for testing of three (3) randomly selected samples of each of the Covered Products, in the form intended for sale to the California end-user, which Fuel for Fire intends to sell or is manufacturing for sale in California, directly selling to a consumer in California or "Distributing into the State of California." If tests conducted pursuant to this Section demonstrate that no Warning is required for a Covered Product during each of three consecutive years, then the testing requirements of this Section will no longer be required as to that Covered Product. However, if during or after the five-year testing period, Fuel for Fire reformulates any of the Covered Products, Fuel for Fire shall test that Covered Product annually for at least two (2) consecutive years after such change is made.

- **3.4.2** For purposes of measuring the "Daily Lead Exposure Level," the highest lead detection result of the three (3) randomly selected samples of the Covered Products will be controlling.
  - **3.4.3** All testing pursuant to this Agreement shall be performed using a

laboratory method that complies with the performance and quality control factors appropriate for the method used, including limit of detection and limit of quantification, sensitivity, accuracy, and precision that meets the following criteria: Inductively Coupled Plasma-Mass Spectrometry ("ICP-MS") achieving a limit of quantification of less than or equal to 0.005 mg/kg for lead, and less than or equal to 0.980 ng/L of PFNA and/or PFOA.

- 3.4.4 All testing pursuant to this Consent Judgment shall be performed by an independent third party laboratory certified by the California Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program or an independent third-party laboratory that is registered with the United States Food & Drug Administration.
- **3.4.5** Nothing in this Consent Judgment shall limit Fuel for Fire's ability to conduct, or require that others conduct, additional testing of the Covered Products, including the raw materials used in their manufacture.
- **3.4.6** Within thirty (30) days of ERC's written request, Fuel for Fire shall deliver lab reports obtained pursuant to Section 3.4 to ERC. Fuel for Fire shall retain all test results and documentation for a period of five years from the date of each test.
- 3.4.7 The testing and reporting requirements of Section 3.4 do not apply to any Covered Product for which Fuel for Fire is providing a Warning, continuously and without interruption from the Compliance Date, pursuant to Section 3.2 of this Agreement. In the event a Warning is provided after the Compliance Date but Fuel for Fire thereafter ceases to provide the Warning, the testing and reporting requirements of Section 3.4 of this Agreement shall apply beginning within one year after the date the Warning ceases to be provided, unless Fuel for Fire can show to the satisfaction of ERC that the cessation in providing the Warning was a temporary error that was resolved when discovered.
- 3.5 Nothing in Section 3 of this Consent Judgment shall prevent or preclude ERC from obtaining and relying upon its own testing for purposes of enforcement, so long as such testing meets the requirements of Sections 3.4.3 and 3.4.4. Nothing in Section 3.4 of this Consent Judgment is intended by either Party to set a precedent for the level of lead, PFOA, PFNA, or other chemicals that is permissible in consumer products under Proposition 65.

#### 4. SETTLEMENT PAYMENT

- **4.1** In full satisfaction of all potential civil penalties, additional settlement payments, attorney's fees, and costs, Fuel for Fire shall make a total payment of \$60,000.00 ("Total Settlement Amount") to ERC in three periodic payments (the "Periodic Payments") according to the following payment schedule ("Due Dates"):
  - Payment 1 -- \$20,000.00 within 5 days of the Effective Date (the first Due Date)
  - Payment 2 -- \$20,000.00 within 35 days of the Effective Date (the second Due Date)
  - Payment 3 -- \$20,000.00 within 65 days of the Effective Date (the third Due Date)

Fuel for Fire shall make these payments by wire transfer to ERC's account, for which ERC will give Fuel for Fire the necessary account information. The Total Settlement Amount shall be apportioned as follows:

- **4.2** \$9,000.00 shall be considered a civil penalty pursuant to California Health and Safety Code section 25249.7(b)(1). ERC shall remit 75% (\$6,750.00) of the civil penalty to the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment ("OEHHA") for deposit in the Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Fund in accordance with California Health and Safety Code section 25249.12(c). ERC will retain the remaining 25% (\$2,250.00) of the civil penalty.
- **4.3** \$5,956.19 shall be distributed to ERC as reimbursement to ERC for reasonable costs incurred in bringing this action.
- 4.4 \$6,574.03 shall be distributed to ERC as an Additional Settlement Payment ("ASP"), which shall be subject to the Court's ongoing judicial oversight pursuant to California Code of Regulations, title 11, section 3204. ERC will utilize the ASP for activities that address the same public harm as allegedly caused by Fuel for Fire in this matter. These activities are detailed below and support ERC's overarching goal of reducing and/or eliminating hazardous and toxic chemicals in dietary supplement products in California. ERC's activities have had, and will continue to have, a direct and primary effect within the State of California because California consumers will be benefitted by the reduction and/or elimination of exposure to lead and/or PFNA and/or PFOA in dietary supplements and/or by providing clear and reasonable warnings to California consumers prior to ingestion of the products.

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activities ERC engages in to protect California consumers through Proposition 65 citizen enforcement, along with a breakdown of how ASP funds will be utilized to facilitate those activities: (1) ENFORCEMENT (up to 65-80%): obtaining, shipping, analyzing, and testing dietary supplement products that may contain lead and/or PFNA and/or PFOA and are sold to California consumers. This work includes continued monitoring and enforcement of past consent judgments and settlements to ensure companies are in compliance with their obligations thereunder, with a specific focus on those judgments and settlements concerning lead and/or PFNA and/or PFOA. This work also includes investigation of new companies that ERC does not obtain any recovery through settlement or judgment; (2) VOLUNTARY COMPLIANCE PROGRAM (up to 10-20%): maintaining ERC's Voluntary Compliance Program by acquiring products from companies, developing and maintaining a case file, testing products from these companies, providing the test results and supporting documentation to the companies, and offering guidance in warning or implementing a self-testing program for lead and/or PFNA and/or PFOA in dietary supplement products; and (3) "GOT LEAD" PROGRAM (up to 5%): maintaining ERC's "Got Lead?" Program which reduces the numbers of contaminated products that reach California consumers by providing access to free testing for lead in dietary supplement products (Products submitted to the program are screened for 19 ingredients which are suspected to be contaminated, and then may be purchased by ERC, 20 catalogued, sent to a qualified laboratory for testing, and the results shared with the consumer 21 that submitted the product). 22

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

Based on a review of past years' actual budgets, ERC is providing the following list of

4.5 \$38,469.78 shall be distributed to ERC for its in-house legal fees. Except as explicitly provided herein, each Party shall bear its own fees and costs.

4.6 In the event that Fuel for Fire fails to remit, in full, any of the Periodic Payments owed under Section 4.1 of this Consent Judgment on or before the applicable Due Date, Fuel for Fire shall be deemed to be in material breach of its obligations under this Consent Judgment. ERC shall provide written notice of the delinquency to Fuel for Fire via electronic mail. If Fuel for Fire fails to deliver the delinquent payment within five (5) days from the written notice, the Total Settlement Amount, less any amounts previously paid pursuant to Section 4.1, shall be immediately due and owing and shall accrue interest at the statutory judgment interest rate provided in the California Code of Civil Procedure section 685.010. Additionally, Fuel for Fire agrees to pay ERC's reasonable attorneys' fees and costs for any efforts to collect the payment(s) due under this Consent Judgment. Fuel for Fire agrees that any release, under Section 8 if this Consent Judgment, in favor of Fuel for Fire or the Released Parties shall not be applicable during any period of time that Fuel for Fire is in material breach of its obligations under Section 4 of the Consent Judgment.

#### 5. MODIFICATION OF CONSENT JUDGMENT

- **5.1** This Consent Judgment may be modified only as to injunctive terms (i) by written stipulation of the Parties and upon entry by the Court of a modified consent judgment or (ii) by motion of either Party pursuant to Section 5.3 and upon entry by the Court of a modified consent judgment.
- 5.2 If either Party seeks to modify this Consent Judgment under Section 5.1, then the requesting party must provide written notice to ERC of its intent ("Notice of Intent"). If the non-requesting party seeks to meet and confer regarding the proposed modification in the Notice of Intent, then it must provide written notice to the requesting party within thirty (30) days of receiving the Notice of Intent. If the non-requesting party notifies the requesting party in a timely manner of its intent to meet and confer, then the Parties shall meet and confer in good faith as required in this Section. The Parties shall meet in person, via remote meeting, or by telephone within thirty (30) days of such notification of intent to meet and confer. Within thirty (30) days of such meeting, if the non-requesting party disputes the proposed modification, it shall provide to the requesting party a written basis for its position. The Parties

shall continue to meet and confer for an additional thirty (30) days in an effort to resolve any remaining disputes. Should it become necessary, the Parties may agree in writing to different deadlines for the meet-and-confer period.

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

# 6. RETENTION OF JURISDICTION, ENFORCEMENT OF CONSENT JUDGMENT

- **6.1** This Court shall retain jurisdiction of this matter to enforce, modify, or terminate this Consent Judgment.
- 6.2 If ERC alleges that any Covered Product that was manufactured after the Compliance Date, or that has been sold or distributed into California after the Compliance Date, fails to qualify as a Conforming Covered Product (for which ERC alleges that no Warning has been provided), then ERC shall inform Fuel for Fire in a reasonably prompt manner of its test results, including information sufficient to permit Fuel for Fire to identify the Covered Products at issue. Fuel for Fire shall, within a reasonably prompt time, not to exceed forty-five (45) days, following such notice, provide ERC with testing information, from an independent third-party laboratory meeting the requirements of Sections 3.4.3 and 3.4.4 and/or otherwise demonstrating Fuel for Fire's compliance with the Consent Judgment. The Parties shall first attempt to resolve the matter prior to ERC taking any further legal action.

# 7. APPLICATION OF CONSENT JUDGMENT

This Consent Judgment may apply to, be binding upon, and benefit the Parties and their respective officers, directors, shareholders, employees, agents, parent companies, subsidiaries, divisions, franchisees, licensees, customers (excluding private labelers), distributors, wholesalers, retailers, predecessors, successors, and assigns. Notwithstanding any other clause or language in this Consent Judgment, this Consent Judgment shall have no application to any Covered Product

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that is distributed or sold exclusively outside the State of California and that is not used by California consumers.

#### 8. BINDING EFFECT, CLAIMS COVERED AND RELEASED

- 8.1 This Consent Judgment is a full, final, and binding resolution between ERC, on behalf of itself and in the public interest, and Fuel for Fire and its respective officers, directors, shareholders, employees, agents, parent companies, subsidiaries, divisions, suppliers, franchisees, licensees, customers (not including private label customers of Fuel for Fire), distributors (including but not limited to, FamousFoods), wholesalers, retailers (including but not limited to, Sprouts Farmers Market, Inc., Sprouts Farmers Markets Holdings, LLC, and SF Markets, LLC), and all other upstream and downstream entities in the distribution chain of any Covered Product, and the predecessors, successors, and assigns of any of them (collectively, "Released Parties").
- 8.2 ERC, acting in the public interest, releases the Released Parties from any and all claims for violations of Proposition 65 up through the Effective Date based on exposure to PFOA from the Covered Products, as well as lead from the Lead Covered Products and/or PFNA from the PFNA Covered Products as set forth in the Notices of Violation. ERC, on behalf of itself only, hereby fully releases and discharges the Released Parties from any and all claims, actions, causes of action, suits, demands, liabilities, damages, penalties, fees, costs, and expenses asserted, or that could have been asserted from the handling, use, or consumption of the Covered Products, as to any alleged violation of Proposition 65 or its implementing regulations arising from the failure to provide Proposition 65 warnings on the Covered Products regarding PFOA and/or lead from the Lead Covered Products and/or PFNA from the PFNA Covered Products up to and including the Effective Date.
- 8.3 ERC on its own behalf only, and Fuel for Fire on its own behalf only, further waive and release any and all claims they may have against each other for all actions or statements made or undertaken in the course of seeking or opposing enforcement of Proposition 65 in connection with the Notices and Complaint up through and including the Effective Date, provided, however, that nothing in Section 8 shall affect or limit any Party's

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27 28 right to seek to enforce the terms of this Consent Judgment.

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

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

ERC on behalf of itself only, and Fuel for Fire on behalf of itself only, acknowledge and understand the significance and consequences of this specific waiver of California Civil Code Section 1542.

- 8.5 Compliance with the terms of this Consent Judgment shall be deemed to constitute compliance with Proposition 65 by any of the Released Parties regarding alleged exposures to lead in the Lead Covered Products and/or PFNA in the PFNA Covered Products and/or PFOA in the Covered Products as set forth in the Notices and Complaint.
- 8.6 Nothing in this Consent Judgment is intended to apply to any occupational or environmental exposures arising under Proposition 65, nor shall it apply to any of Fuel for Fire's products other than Covered Products that are manufactured for sale in California, sold to consumers in California, or "Distributed into the State of California."

#### 9. SEVERABILITY OF UNENFORCEABLE PROVISIONS

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

#### 1 10. **GOVERNING LAW** 2 The terms and conditions of this Consent Judgment shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of California. 3 PROVISION OF NOTICE 4 5 All notices required to be given to either Party to this Consent Judgment by the other shall be in writing and sent to the following agents listed below via first-class mail or via electronic 6 7 mail where required. Courtesy copies via email may also be sent. 8 FOR ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH CENTER, INC.: Chris Heptinstall, Executive Director, Environmental Research Center 9 3111 Camino Del Rio North, Suite 400 San Diego, CA 92108 10 Ph: (619) 500-3090 11 Email: chris.heptinstall@erc501c3.org 12 With a copy to: Charles W. Poss 13 Environmental Research Center, Inc. 14 3111 Camino Del Rio North, Suite 400 San Diego, CA 92108 15 Ph: (619) 500-3090 Email: charles.poss@erc501c3.org 16 17 FOR FUEL FOR FIRE, INC.: C. Scott Webster 18 Chief Financial Officer 60 Kendrick Street, Suite 207 19 Needham, MA 02494 20 Email: Scott@centermancapital.com 21 With a copy to: Matthew R. Orr 22 Amin Wasserman Gurnani, LLP 23 515 South Flower Street, 18<sup>th</sup> Floor Los Angeles, CA 90071 24 Telephone: (213) 933-2330 Email: matt@awglaw.com 25 26 /// 27 /// 28 ///

#### 12. COURT APPROVAL

- 12.1 Upon execution of this Consent Judgment by the Parties, ERC shall notice a Motion for Court Approval. The Parties shall use their best efforts to support entry of this Consent Judgment.
- 12.2 If the California Attorney General objects to any term in this Consent Judgment, the Parties shall use their best efforts to resolve the concern in a timely manner, and if possible prior to the hearing on the motion.
- 12.3 If this Stipulated Consent Judgment is not approved by the Court, it shall be void and have no force or effect.

#### 13. EXECUTION AND COUNTERPARTS

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

#### 14. DRAFTING

The terms of this Consent Judgment have been reviewed by the respective counsel for each Party prior to its signing, and each Party has had an opportunity to fully discuss the terms and conditions with legal counsel. The Parties agree that, in any subsequent interpretation and construction of this Consent Judgment, no inference, assumption, or presumption shall be drawn, and no provision of this Consent Judgment shall be construed against any Party, based on the fact that one of the Parties and/or one of the Parties' legal counsel prepared and/or drafted all or any 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.

### 15. GOOD FAITH ATTEMPT TO RESOLVE DISPUTES

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

#### 16. ENFORCEMENT

The Parties may, by motion or order to show cause before the Superior Court of Alameda County, enforce the terms and conditions contained in this Consent Judgment. In any action brought by a Party to enforce the Consent Judgment, such Party may seek whatever fines, costs, penalties, or remedies as are provided by law for the other Party's failure to comply with the Consent Judgment.

#### 17. ENTIRE AGREEMENT, AUTHORIZATION

- 17.1 This Consent Judgment contains the sole and entire agreement and understanding of the Parties with respect to the entire subject matter herein, including any and all prior discussions, negotiations, commitments, and understandings related thereto. No representations, oral or otherwise, express or implied, other than those contained herein have been made by any Party. No other agreements, oral or otherwise, unless specifically referred to herein, shall be deemed to exist or to bind any Party.
- 17.2 Each signatory to this Consent Judgment certifies that he or she is fully authorized by the Party he or she represents to stipulate to this Consent Judgment.

# 18. REQUEST FOR FINDINGS, APPROVAL OF SETTLEMENT AND ENTRY OF CONSENT JUDGMENT

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

- (1) Find that the terms and provisions of this Consent Judgment represent a fair and equitable settlement of all matters raised by the allegations of the Complaint that the matter has been diligently prosecuted, and that the public interest is served by such settlement; and
- (2) Make the findings pursuant to California Health and Safety Code section 25249.7(f)(4), approve the Settlement, and approve this Consent Judgment.
- (3) Retain jurisdiction, pursuant to Section 664.6 of the Code of Civil Procedure, after the Consent Judgment is entered in order to enforce, modify, or terminate this Consent Judgment.

***************************************		·	
high abilities of	IT IS SO STIPULATED:		
2	Dated: 1/3/ . 2024.25	ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH	
3		CENTER, INC.	
4		By State of the st	
5		Chris Hepitpstall  Executive Disector	
6	Dated: 12/30 .2024	FUEL FOR FIRE, INC.	
7	David.	Q Q	
8			
9		By: C. 5 cost webstel	
10   11		Its: CFa	
12	APPROVED AS TO FORM:		
13			
14	Dated: January 3_, 2025	ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH	
15		CENTER, INC.	
16		M	
17		Charles W. Poss	
18		In-House Counsel	
19	Dated: December 31, 2024	AMIN WASSERMAN GURNANI, LLP	
20	Describer of , 2024	AWIN WASSERWAN GORNANG LEI	
21		By: Watt Orr	
22		Matthew R. Orr Attorney for Defendants	
23			
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		Page 18 of 19	
	Page 18 01 19   PROPOSED  STIPULATED CONSENT JUDGMENT   Case No. 24CV07453		

# [PROPOSED] ORDER AND JUDGMENT

1	PROPOSEDI ORDER AND JUDGMENT		
2	Based upon the Parties' Stipulation, and good cause appearing, this Consent Judgment is		
3	approved and Judgment is hereby entered according to its terms.		
4	IT IS SO ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED.		
5			
6	Dated:, 2025		
7		Judge of the Superior Court	
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	[PROPOSED] STIPULA	rge 19 of 19 TED CONSENT JUDGMENT Case No. 24CV074537	

# **EXHIBIT A**



# **Environmental Research Center**

3111 Camino Del Rio North, Suite 400 San Diego, CA 92108 619-500-3090

January 19, 2024

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

Dear Alleged Violators and the Appropriate Public Enforcement Agencies:

I am the In-House Counsel for Environmental Research Center, Inc. ("ERC"). 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 Violators 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 Violators and the appropriate public enforcement agencies. Pursuant to Section 25249.7(d) of the statute, 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.

<u>General Information about Proposition 65</u>. A copy of a summary of Proposition 65, prepared by the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, is attached with the copy of this letter served to the alleged Violators identified below.

<u>Alleged Violators</u>. The names of the companies covered by this notice that violated Proposition 65 (hereinafter the "Violators") are:

Fuel For Fire, Inc. FamousFoods.com, Inc.

<u>Consumer Products and Listed Chemical</u>. The products that are the subject of this notice and the chemical in those products identified as exceeding allowable levels are:

- 1. Fuel For Fire 10g Plant Protein Fruit Smoothie Chocolate Strawberry Lead
- 2. Fuel For Fire 10g Protein Fruit Smoothie Banana Cocoa 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.

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 this chemical has been and continues to be through ingestion.

Approximate Time Period of Violations. Ongoing violations have occurred every day since at least January 19, 2021, 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 this known toxic chemical is 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 chemical. The method of warning should be a warning that appears on the product label. The Violators violated Proposition 65 because they failed to provide persons ingesting these products with appropriate warnings that they are being exposed to this chemical.

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 Violators to: (1) reformulate the identified products so as to eliminate further exposures to the identified chemical, 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 chemical, as well as expensive and time-consuming litigation.

Please direct all questions concerning this notice to my attention, or Chris Heptinstall, Executive Director of ERC, at the above listed address and telephone number.

Sincerely,

Charles Poss In-House Counsel Environmental Research Center

#### Attachments

Certificate of Merit Certificate of Service

OEHHA Summary (to Fuel For Fire, Inc., FamousFoods.com, Inc., and their Registered Agents for Service of Process only)

Additional Supporting Information for Certificate of Merit (to AG only)

### **CERTIFICATE OF MERIT**

Re: Environmental Research Center, Inc.'s Notice of Proposition 65 Violations by Fuel For Fire, Inc. and FamousFoods.com, Inc.

# I, Charles Poss, declare:

- 1. This Certificate of Merit accompanies the attached 60-day notice in which it is alleged the parties 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 chemical that is 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 Violators 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: January 19, 2024

Charles Poss

### 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 January 19, 2024, between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time, I served the following documents: NOTICE OF VIOLATIONS 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 in a U.S. Postal Service Office with the postage fully prepaid for delivery by Certified Mail:

Current President or CEO Fuel For Fire, Inc. 13 Tech Circle Natick, MA 01760

Current President or CEO Fuel For Fire, Inc. 60 Kendrick St, Ste 207 Needham Heights, MA 02494

The Corporation Trust Company (Registered Agent for Fuel For Fire, Inc.) 1209 N. Orange St. Wilmington, DE 19801 Robert Gilfeather (Registered Agent for Fuel For Fire, Inc.) 13 Tech Circle Natick, MA 01760

Current President or CEO FamousFoods.com, Inc. 376 Nash Rd New Bedford, MA 02746

Current President or CEO FamousFoods.com, Inc. and Fuel for Fire Inc. PO Box 50370 New Bedford, MA 02746

Thomas J. Moylan, Esq. (Registered Agent for FamousFoods.com, Inc.) c/o Gordon & Rees, LLP 21 Custom House St, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor Boston, MA 02110

On January 19, 2024, 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 Post Office Box 70550 Oakland, CA 94612-0550

On January 19, 2024, between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time, 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

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@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

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

Mark Ankcorn, 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 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 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 January 19, 2024, between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time, I served the following documents: NOTICE OF VIOLATIONS, 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 with the U.S. Postal Service with the postage fully prepaid for delivery by First Class Mail.

Executed on January 19, 2024, in Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia.

Phyllis Ounumy
Phyllis Dunwoody

### **Service List**

District Attorney, Alpine County P.O. Box 248

Markleeville, CA 96120

District Attorney, Amador County

708 Court Street, Suite 202 Jackson, CA 95642

District Attorney, Butte County 25 County Center Drive, Suite

Oroville, CA 95965

District Attorney, Colusa County 310 6<sup>th</sup> St

Colusa, CA 95932

District Attorney, Del Norte County 450 H Street, Room 171

450 H Street, Room 171 Crescent City, CA 95531

District Attorney, Glenn County Post Office Box 430 Willows, CA 95988

District Attorney, Humboldt County 825 5th Street 4<sup>th</sup> Floor

825 5th Street 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Eureka, CA 95501

District Attorney, Imperial County

940 West Main Street, Ste 102 El Centro, CA 92243

District Attorney, Kern County 1215 Truxtun Avenue Bakersfield, CA 93301

District Attorney, Kings

1400 West Lacey Boulevard Hanford, CA 93230

District Attorney, Lake County 255 N. Forbes Street Lakeport, CA 95453

District Attorney, Los Angeles County Hall of Justice

211 West Temple St., Ste 1200 Los Angeles, CA 90012

District Attorney, Madera

209 West Yosemite Avenue Madera, CA 93637 District Attorney, Mendocino County Post Office Box 1000 Ukiah, CA 95482

District Attorney, Modoc

County

204 S Court Street, Room 202 Alturas, CA 96101-4020

District Attorney, Mono County Post Office Box 617 Bridgeport, CA 93517

District Attorney, San Benito County

419 Fourth Street, 2nd Floor Hollister, CA 95023

District Attorney,San Bernardino County 303 West Third Street San Bernadino, CA 92415

District Attorney, San Mateo County 400 County Ctr., 3rd Floor Redwood City, CA 94063

District Attorney, Shasta County

1355 West Street Redding, CA 96001

District Attorney, Sierra County Post Office Box 457 100 Courthouse Square, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

District Attorney, Siskiyou County Post Office Box 986 Yreka, CA 96097

Downieville, CA 95936

District Attorney, Solano

675 Texas Street, Ste 4500 Fairfield, CA 94533

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

District Attorney, Tehama County Post Office Box 519 Red Bluff, CA 96080 District Attorney, Trinity County Post Office Box 310 Weaverville, CA 96093

District Attorney, Tuolumne County 423 N. Washington Street Sonora, CA 95370

District Attorney, Yuba County 215 Fifth Street, Suite 152 Marysville, CA 95901

Los Angeles City Attorney's Office City Hall East 200 N. Main Street, Suite 800 Los Angeles, CA 90012

#### APPENDIX A

# OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH HAZARD ASSESSMENT CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

# THE SAFE DRINKING WATER AND TOXIC ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 1986 (PROPOSITION 65): A SUMMARY

The following summary has been prepared by the California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA), the lead agency for the implementation of the Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986 (commonly known as "Proposition 65"). A copy of this summary must be included as an attachment to any notice of violation served upon an alleged violator of the Act. The summary provides basic information about the provisions of the law, and is intended to serve only as a convenient source of general information. It is not intended to provide authoritative guidance on the meaning or application of the law. The reader is directed to the statute and OEHHA implementing regulations (see citations below) for further information.

FOR INFORMATION CONCERNING THE BASIS FOR THE ALLEGATIONS IN THE NOTICE RELATED TO YOUR BUSINESS, CONTACT THE PERSON IDENTIFIED ON THE NOTICE.

The text of Proposition 65 (Health and Safety Code Sections 25249.5 through 25249.13) is available online at: http://oehha.ca.gov/prop65/law/P65law72003.html. Regulations that provide more specific guidance on compliance, and that specify procedures to be followed by the State in carrying out certain aspects of the law, are found in Title 27 of the California Code of Regulations, sections 25102 through 27001.¹ These implementing regulations are available online at: http://oehha.ca.gov/prop65/law/P65Regs.html.

#### WHAT DOES PROPOSITION 65 REQUIRE?

The "Proposition 65 List." Under Proposition 65, the lead agency (OEHHA) publishes a list of chemicals that are known to the State of California to cause cancer and/or reproductive toxicity. Chemicals are placed on the Proposition 65 list if they are known to cause cancer and/or birth defects or other reproductive harm, such as damage to

<sup>&</sup>lt;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: <a href="http://www.oehha.ca.gov/prop65/prop65\_list/Newlist.html">http://www.oehha.ca.gov/prop65/prop65\_list/Newlist.html</a>.

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>&</sup>lt;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.

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.





# **Environmental Research Center**

3111 Camino Del Rio North, Suite 400 San Diego, CA 92108 619-500-3090

January 26, 2024

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

Dear Alleged Violators and the Appropriate Public Enforcement Agencies:

I am the In-House Counsel for Environmental Research Center, Inc. ("ERC"). 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 Violators 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 Violators and the appropriate public enforcement agencies. Pursuant to Section 25249.7(d) of the statute, 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 attached with the copy of this letter served to the alleged Violators identified below.

<u>Alleged Violators</u>. The names of the companies covered by this notice that violated Proposition 65 (hereinafter the "Violators") are:

Fuel For Fire, Inc. FamousFoods.com, Inc.

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

- 1. Fuel For Fire 10g Plant Protein Fruit Smoothie Chocolate Strawberry Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA), Perfluorononanoic acid (PFNA)
- 2. Fuel For Fire 10g Protein Fruit Smoothie Banana Cocoa Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA), Perfluorononanoic acid (PFNA)

# 3. Fuel For Fire 10g Protein Fruit Smoothie Mixed Berry - Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA)

On November 10, 2017, the State of California officially listed Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA) as a chemical known to cause developmental toxicity. On February 25, 2022, the State of California officially listed Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA) as a chemical known to cause cancer.

On December 31, 2021, the State of California officially listed Perfluorononanoic acid (PFNA) and its salts as a chemical known to cause 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 January 26, 2021, 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 Violators violated Proposition 65 because they 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 Violators to: (1) recall the identified products so as to eliminate further exposures to the identified chemicals, and/or (2) affix clear and reasonable Prop 65 warning labels for products sold in the future while reformulating such products to eliminate the exposures, and (3) conduct bio-monitoring of all California consumers that have ingested the identified chemicals in the listed products, and (4) pay an appropriate civil penalty. Such a resolution will prevent further unwarned consumer exposures to the identified chemicals, as well as an expensive and time-consuming litigation.

Please direct all questions concerning this notice to my attention, or Chris Heptinstall, Executive Director of ERC, at the above listed address and telephone number.

Sincerely,

Charles Poss In-House Counsel Environmental Research Center

#### Attachments

Certificate of Merit Certificate of Service

OEHHA Summary (to Fuel For Fire, Inc., FamousFoods.com, Inc., and their Registered Agents for Service of Process only)

Additional Supporting Information for Certificate of Merit (to AG only)

# **CERTIFICATE OF MERIT**

Re: Environmental Research Center, Inc.'s Notice of Proposition 65 Violations by Fuel For Fire, Inc. and FamousFoods.com, Inc.

#### I, Charles Poss, declare:

- 1. This Certificate of Merit accompanies the attached 60-day notice in which it is alleged the parties 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 Violators 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: January 26, 2024

Charles Poss

# 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 January 26, 2024, between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time, I served the following documents: NOTICE OF VIOLATIONS 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 in a U.S. Postal Service Office with the postage fully prepaid for delivery by Certified Mail:

Current President or CEO Fuel For Fire, Inc. 13 Tech Circle Natick, MA 01760

Current President or CEO Fuel For Fire, Inc. 60 Kendrick St, Ste 207 Needham Heights, MA 02494

The Corporation Trust Company (Registered Agent for Fuel For Fire, Inc.) 1209 N. Orange St. Wilmington, DE 19801 Robert Gilfeather (Registered Agent for Fuel For Fire, Inc.) 13 Tech Circle Natick, MA 01760

Current President or CEO FamousFoods.com, Inc. 376 Nash Rd New Bedford, MA 02746

Current President or CEO FamousFoods.com, Inc. and Fuel for Fire Inc. PO Box 50370 New Bedford, MA 02746

Thomas J. Moylan, Esq. (Registered Agent for FamousFoods.com, Inc.) c/o Gordon & Rees, LLP 21 Custom House St, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor Boston, MA 02110

On January 26, 2024, 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 Post Office Box 70550 Oakland, CA 94612-0550

On January 26, 2024, between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time, 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:

Page 6

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

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 invoda@invocountv.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@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

Summer Stephan, District Attorney

San Diego County 330 West Broadway San Diego, CA 92101 SanDiegoDAProp65@sdcda.org

Mark Ankcorn, 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 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 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 January 26, 2024, between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time, I served the following documents: NOTICE OF VIOLATIONS, 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 with the U.S. Postal Service with the postage fully prepaid for delivery by First Class Mail.

Executed on January 26, 2024, in Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia.

Phyllis Dunwoody

Phyllis Dunwoody

Page 8

#### **Service List**

District Attorney, Alpine

County P.O. Box 248

Markleeville, CA 96120

District Attorney, Amador

708 Court Street, Suite 202

Jackson, CA 95642

District Attorney, Butte

County

25 County Center Drive, Suite

245

Oroville, CA 95965

District Attorney, Colusa

310 6th St

Colusa, CA 95932

District Attorney, Del Norte

450 H Street, Room 171 Crescent City, CA 95531

District Attorney, Glenn

County

Post Office Box 430 Willows, CA 95988

District Attorney, Humboldt

County

825 5th Street 4th Floor Eureka, CA 95501

District Attorney, Imperial

County

940 West Main Street, Ste 102

El Centro, CA 92243

District Attorney, Kern County 1215 Truxtun Avenue

Bakersfield, CA 93301

District Attorney, Kings

1400 West Lacey Boulevard

Hanford, CA 93230

District Attorney, Lake County 255 N. Forbes Street

Lakeport, CA 95453

District Attorney, Los Angeles

County

Hall of Justice

211 West Temple St., Ste 1200 Los Angeles, CA 90012

District Attorney, Madera

209 West Yosemite Avenue

Madera, CA 93637

District Attorney, Mendocino

County

Post Office Box 1000 Ukiah, CA 95482

District Attorney, Modoc

204 S Court Street, Room 202 Alturas, CA 96101-4020

District Attorney, Mono

County

Post Office Box 617 Bridgeport, CA 93517

District Attorney, San Benito

County

419 Fourth Street, 2nd Floor

Hollister, CA 95023

District Attorney,San

Bernardino County

303 West Third Street San Bernadino, CA 92415

District Attorney, San Mateo County

400 County Ctr., 3rd Floor

Redwood City, CA 94063

District Attorney, Shasta

County

1355 West Street Redding, CA 96001

District Attorney, Sierra

Post Office Box 457 100 Courthouse Square,  $2^{nd}$ 

Downieville, CA 95936

District Attorney, Siskiyou

Post Office Box 986 Yreka, CA 96097

District Attorney, Solano

County

675 Texas Street, Ste 4500 Fairfield, CA 94533

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

District Attorney, Tehama

County

Post Office Box 519 Red Bluff, CA 96080 District Attorney, Trinity

County

Post Office Box 310 Weaverville, CA 96093

District Attorney, Tuolumne

423 N. Washington Street

Sonora, CA 95370

District Attorney, Yuba

215 Fifth Street, Suite 152 Marysville, CA 95901

Los Angeles City Attorney's

Office

City Hall East

200 N. Main Street, Suite 800 Los Angeles, CA 90012

#### APPENDIX A

# OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH HAZARD ASSESSMENT CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

# THE SAFE DRINKING WATER AND TOXIC ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 1986 (PROPOSITION 65): A SUMMARY

The following summary has been prepared by the California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA), the lead agency for the implementation of the Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986 (commonly known as "Proposition 65"). A copy of this summary must be included as an attachment to any notice of violation served upon an alleged violator of the Act. The summary provides basic information about the provisions of the law, and is intended to serve only as a convenient source of general information. It is not intended to provide authoritative guidance on the meaning or application of the law. The reader is directed to the statute and OEHHA implementing regulations (see citations below) for further information.

FOR INFORMATION CONCERNING THE BASIS FOR THE ALLEGATIONS IN THE NOTICE RELATED TO YOUR BUSINESS, CONTACT THE PERSON IDENTIFIED ON THE NOTICE.

The text of Proposition 65 (Health and Safety Code Sections 25249.5 through 25249.13) is available online at: http://oehha.ca.gov/prop65/law/P65law72003.html. Regulations that provide more specific guidance on compliance, and that specify procedures to be followed by the State in carrying out certain aspects of the law, are found in Title 27 of the California Code of Regulations, sections 25102 through 27001.¹ These implementing regulations are available online at: http://oehha.ca.gov/prop65/law/P65Regs.html.

#### WHAT DOES PROPOSITION 65 REQUIRE?

The "Proposition 65 List." Under Proposition 65, the lead agency (OEHHA) publishes a list of chemicals that are known to the State of California to cause cancer and/or reproductive toxicity. Chemicals are placed on the Proposition 65 list if they are known to cause cancer and/or birth defects or other reproductive harm, such as damage to

<sup>&</sup>lt;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: <a href="http://www.oehha.ca.gov/prop65/prop65\_list/Newlist.html">http://www.oehha.ca.gov/prop65/prop65\_list/Newlist.html</a>.

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>&</sup>lt;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.

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.