

Charles W. Poss (SBN 325366)
Environmental Research Center, Inc.
3111 Camino Del Rio North, Suite 400
San Diego, CA 92108
Ph: (619) 500-3090
Email: charles.poss@erc501c3.org
Attorney for Plaintiff Environmental Research Center, Inc.

Trenton H. Norris (SBN 164781)
Alexander Tablan (SBN 346309)
Hogan Lovells US LLP
4 Embarcadero Center, Suite 3500
San Francisco, CA 94111
Ph: (415) 374-2300
Email: trent.norris@hoganlovells.com
Attorney for Defendant Neora, LLC

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF ALAMEDA

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

Plaintiff,
vs.

NEORA, LLC and DOES 1-100
Defendants.

CASE NO. 26CV165733

**[PROPOSED] STIPULATED
CONSENT JUDGMENT**

Health & Safety Code § 25249.5 *et seq.*

Action Filed: January 20, 2026
Trial Date: None set

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 On January 20, 2026, Plaintiff Environmental Research Center, Inc. (“ERC”), a non-profit corporation, as a private enforcer and in the public interest, initiated this action by filing a Complaint for Injunctive and Declaratory Relief and Civil Penalties (the “Complaint”) pursuant to the provisions of California Health and Safety Code section 25249.5 *et seq.* (“Proposition 65”), against Neora, LLC (“Neora”) and Does 1-100 (hereinafter individually referred to as “Defendant” or collectively as “Defendants”). In this action, ERC alleges that

one of the products manufactured, distributed, or sold by Neora contains perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and lead, chemicals listed under Proposition 65 as carcinogens and/or reproductive toxins, and exposes consumers to these chemicals at a level requiring a Proposition 65 warning. This product (referred to hereinafter individually as a “Covered Product”) is: NeoraFit Plant-Based Protein Powder Natural Vanilla Flavor.

1.2 ERC and Neora may also hereinafter be 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 For purposes of this Consent Judgment, the Parties agree that Neora 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. Neora distributes and/or sells the Covered Product.

1.5 The Complaint is based on allegations contained in ERC’s Notice of Violation dated November 7, 2025, that was served on the California Attorney General, other public enforcers, and Neora (“Notice”). A true and correct copy of the 60-Day Notice dated November 7, 2025, is attached hereto as **Exhibit A** and incorporated herein by reference. More than 60 days have passed since the Notice was served on the Attorney General, public enforcers, and Neora, and no designated governmental entity has filed an action against Neora with regard to the Covered Product or the alleged violations.

1.6 ERC’s Notice and Complaint allege that use of the Covered Product by California consumers exposes them to PFOA and lead without first receiving clear and reasonable warnings from Neora, which is in violation of California Health and Safety Code section 25249.6. Neora denies all material allegations contained in the Notice 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.

1 Nothing in this Consent Judgment nor compliance with this Consent Judgment shall constitute or
2 be construed as an admission by any of the Parties or by any of their respective officers,
3 directors, shareholders, employees, agents, parent companies, subsidiaries, divisions, franchisees,
4 licensees, customers, suppliers, manufacturers, distributors, wholesalers, or retailers of any fact,
5 issue of law, or violation of law.

6 **1.8** Except as expressly set forth herein, nothing in this Consent Judgment shall
7 prejudice, waive, or impair any right, remedy, argument, or defense the Parties may have in
8 any current or future legal proceeding unrelated to these proceedings.

9 **1.9** The Effective Date of this Consent Judgment is the date on which it is entered as a
10 Judgment by this Court.

11 **1.10** The Compliance Date of this Consent Judgment is the earlier of 45-days after
12 the Effective Date or December 31, 2026.

13 **2. JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

14 For purposes of this Consent Judgment and any further court action that may become
15 necessary to enforce this Consent Judgment, the Parties stipulate that this Court has subject matter
16 jurisdiction over the allegations of violations contained in the Complaint and personal jurisdiction
17 over Neora as to the acts alleged in the Complaint, that venue is proper in Alameda County, and
18 that this Court has jurisdiction to enter this Consent Judgment as a full and final resolution of all
19 claims up through and including the Compliance Date that were or could have been asserted in
20 this action based on the facts alleged in the Notice and Complaint.

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

22 **3.1** Beginning on the Compliance Date, Neora shall be permanently enjoined from
23 manufacturing, selling or distributing for sale in the State of California, “Distributing into the
24 State of California,” or directly selling in the State of California, any product that exposes a
25 person to a “Daily Lead Exposure Level” of more than 0.5 micrograms of lead per day, and/or
26 any product that exposes a person to a quantifiable level of PFOA that can be reliably achieved
27 using industry standard methods for testing, unless the product meet the warning requirements
28 under Section 3.2.

1 **3.1.1** As used in this Consent Judgment, the term “Distributing into the State
2 of California” shall mean to directly ship a Covered Product into California for sale in
3 California or to sell a Covered Product to a distributor that Neora knows or has reason to know
4 will sell the Covered Product in California.

5 **3.1.2** For purposes of this Consent Judgment, the “Daily Lead Exposure
6 Level” shall be measured in micrograms, and shall be calculated using the following formula:
7 micrograms of lead per gram of product, multiplied by grams of product per serving of the
8 product (using the largest serving size appearing on the product label), multiplied by servings
9 of the product per day (using the largest number of recommended daily servings appearing on
10 the label), which equals micrograms of lead exposure per day. If the label contains no
11 recommended daily servings, then the number of recommended daily servings shall be one.

12 **3.2 Clear and Reasonable Warnings**

13 If Neora is required to provide a warning pursuant to Section 3.1, the following warning
14 must be utilized (“Warning”):

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

19 The Warning shall begin either with the word “**WARNING,**” as indicated above, or the
20 words “**CA WARNING**” or “**CALIFORNIA WARNING,**” in all capital letters and bold print.
21 Neora shall use the phrase “cancer and” in the Warning if Neora has reason to believe that the
22 “Daily Lead Exposure Level” is greater than 15 micrograms of lead as determined pursuant to the
23 quality control methodology set forth in Section 3.4 and/or if there is a quantifiable level of PFOA
24 that is reliably achieved using industry standard methods for testing or if Neora has reason to
25 believe that another Proposition 65 chemical is present which may require a cancer warning. As
26 identified in the brackets, the warning shall appropriately reflect whether there is lead, PFOA, or
27 multiple chemicals present in the Covered Product, but if there is a chemical present at a level that
28 requires a cancer warning, the chemical requiring use of the phrase “cancer and” in the Warning

1 shall always be identified.

2 The Warning shall be securely affixed to or printed upon the label of the Covered
3 Product, and it must be set off from other surrounding information and enclosed in a box. In
4 addition, for any Covered Product sold over the internet, the Warning shall appear on the
5 checkout page when a California delivery address is indicated for any purchase of any Covered
6 Product. An asterisk or other identifying method must be utilized to identify which product on
7 the checkout page is subject to the Warning. In no event shall any internet or website Warning
8 be contained in or made through a link.

9 The Warning shall be at least the same size as the largest of any other health or safety
10 warnings also appearing on the website or on the label, and in no event less than six (6) point type.
11 No statements intended to or likely to have the effect of diminishing the impact of the Warning on
12 the average lay person shall accompany the Warning. Further, no statements may accompany the
13 Warning that state or imply that the source of the listed chemical has an impact on or results in a
14 less harmful effect of the listed chemical.

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

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

24 **3.3 Conforming Covered Products**

25 A Covered Product shall be considered a Conforming Covered Product if (a) the “Daily
26 Lead Exposure Level” is no greater than 0.5 micrograms of lead per day as determined by the
27 exposure methodology set forth in Section 3.1.2 and the quality control methodology described in
28 Section 3.4, and (b) there is no quantifiable level of PFOA as determined by the quality control

methodology described in Section 3.4, and (c) the Covered Product is not known by Neora to contain other chemicals that violate Proposition 65's safe harbor thresholds.

3.4 Testing and Quality Control Methodology

3.4.1 Beginning within one year of the Effective Date, Neora shall arrange for lead and PFOA testing of the Covered Product at least once a year for a minimum of five consecutive years by arranging for testing of three (3) randomly selected samples of the Covered Product, in the form intended for sale to the end-user, which Neora 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 the Covered Product during each of five 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, Neora changes ingredient suppliers for the Covered Product and/or reformulates the Covered Product, Neora shall test that Covered Product annually for at least four (4) 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 Product will be controlling.

3.4.3 All testing pursuant to this Consent Judgment 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 testing shall be conducted by Symbio Laboratories, or another lab that can achieve at least as sensitive of testing as Symbio Laboratories, using Liquid Chromatography-Tandem Mass Spectrometry (LC-MS/MS) and using the lowest reporting level that can be reliably quantified using available technologies for PFOA, as applicable.

3.4.4 All testing pursuant to this Consent Judgment shall be performed by an

1 independent third-party laboratory certified by the State of California or accredited by the State
2 of California, a federal agency, the National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program,
3 or similar nationally recognized accrediting organization to perform the particular method of
4 detection and analysis in question.

5 **3.4.5** Nothing in this Consent Judgment shall limit Neora's ability to conduct,
6 or require that others conduct, additional testing of the Covered Product, including the raw
7 materials used in their manufacture.

8 **3.4.6** Within thirty (30) days of ERC's written request, Neora shall deliver lab
9 reports obtained pursuant to Section 3.4 to ERC. Neora shall retain all test results and
10 documentation for a period of five years from the date of each test.

11 **3.4.7** The testing and reporting requirements of Section 3.4 do not apply and
12 are not required with respect to a Covered Product during any period in which Neora has
13 ceased production of such Covered Product and is not manufacturing the Covered Product for
14 sale in the State of California, Distributing the Covered Product into the State of California, or
15 directly selling the Covered Product in the State of California. However, in the event Neora
16 resumes California sales of such Covered Product or begins manufacturing or distributing such
17 Covered Product for sale in California, Neora shall first test the Covered Product in
18 compliance with Section 3.4 to determine whether a Warning is required and immediately
19 thereafter (or as soon as practicable) begin complying with the testing requirements of this
20 Section 3.4 with respect to the Covered Product.

21 **3.5** Nothing in Section 3 of this Consent Judgment shall prevent or preclude ERC
22 from obtaining and relying upon its own testing for purposes of enforcement, so long as such
23 testing meets the requirements of Sections 3.4.3 and 3.4.4. Nothing in Section 3.4 of this Consent
24 Judgment is intended by either party to set a precedent for the level of lead, PFOA, or other
25 chemicals that are permissible in consumer products under Proposition 65.

26 **3.6 Grace Period for Certain Covered Products Manufactured Prior to**
27 **Compliance Date**

28 The injunctive requirements of Section 3 of this Consent Judgment shall not apply to

1 Covered Products that are “already in the stream of commerce” as of the Compliance Date,
2 which Covered Products are expressly subject to the releases provided in Section 8 of this
3 Consent Judgment. For purposes of this Consent Judgment, the term “already in the stream of
4 commerce” means that Covered Products have been put into final packaging for consumer sale
5 and are no longer in the possession of or under the control of Neora.

6 **4. SETTLEMENT PAYMENT**

7 **4.1** In full satisfaction of all potential civil penalties, additional settlement
8 payments, attorney’s fees, and costs, Neora shall make a total payment of \$45,000.00 (“Total
9 Settlement Amount”) to ERC within ten (10) days of the Effective Date (“Due Date”). Neora
10 shall make this payment by wire transfer to ERC’s account, for which ERC will give Neora the
11 necessary account information. The Total Settlement Amount shall be apportioned as follows:

12 **4.2** \$8,500.00 shall be considered a civil penalty pursuant to California Health and
13 Safety Code section 25249.7(b)(1). ERC shall remit 75% (\$6,375.00) of the civil penalty to the
14 Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (“OEHHA”) for deposit in the Safe
15 Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Fund in accordance with California Health and Safety
16 Code section 25249.12(c). ERC will retain the remaining 25% (\$2,125.00) of the civil penalty.

17 **4.3** \$2,837.96 shall be distributed to ERC as reimbursement to ERC for reasonable
18 costs incurred in bringing this action.

19 **4.4** \$6,304.69 shall be distributed to ERC as an Additional Settlement Payment
20 (“ASP”), which shall be subject to the Court’s ongoing judicial oversight pursuant to
21 California Code of Regulations, title 11, section 3204. ERC will utilize the ASP for activities
22 that address the same public harm as allegedly caused by Defendant in this matter. These
23 activities are detailed below and support ERC’s overarching goal of reducing and/or
24 eliminating hazardous and toxic chemicals in dietary supplement products in California. ERC’s
25 activities have had, and will continue to have, a direct and primary effect within the State of
26 California because California consumers will be benefitted by the reduction and/or elimination
27 of exposure to lead in dietary supplements and/or by providing clear and reasonable warnings
28 to California consumers prior to ingestion of the products.

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

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

26 **4.5** \$27,357.35 shall be distributed to ERC for its in-house legal fees. Except as
27 explicitly provided herein, each Party shall bear its own fees and costs.

28 **4.6** In the event Neora fails to remit the Total Settlement Amount owed under

1 Section 4 of this Consent Judgment on or before the Due Date, Neora shall be deemed to be in
2 material breach of their obligations under this Consent Judgment. ERC shall provide written
3 notice of the delinquency to Neora via electronic mail. If Neora fails to deliver the Total
4 Settlement Amount within five (5) days from the written notice, the Total Settlement Amount
5 shall accrue interest at the statutory judgment interest rate provided in the California Code of
6 Civil Procedure section 685.010, and any release provisions in Section 8 that are for the benefit
7 of Neora and/or the Released Parties (as defined in Section 8.1) shall be suspended and waived
8 during the period of time that transpires until the Total Settlement Amount is paid in full..
9 Additionally, Neora agrees to pay ERC's reasonable attorneys' fees and costs incurred for any
10 efforts to collect the payment due from Neora under this Consent Judgment.

11 **5. MODIFICATION OF CONSENT JUDGMENT**

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

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

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

1 Section 5.1, and the meet and confer process leads to an agreed upon motion or stipulation for
2 a modification of the Consent Judgment, Neora shall reimburse ERC its costs and reasonable
3 attorneys' fees for the time spent in the meet-and-confer process and filing and arguing the
4 motion or application.

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

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

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

17 **7. APPLICATION OF CONSENT JUDGMENT**

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

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

25 **8.1** This Consent Judgment is a full, final, and binding resolution between ERC, on
26 behalf of itself and in the public interest, and Neora, and its respective past, current, and future
27 officers, directors, shareholders, members, representatives, employees, agents, parent
28 companies, subsidiaries, affiliates, affiliated entities under common ownership, divisions,

1 suppliers, franchisees, licensees, customers (not including private label customers of Neora),
2 manufacturers, distributors, wholesalers, retailers, Online Marketplace Hosts (an entity that
3 hosts an online marketplace but that never has physical possession of the products sold through
4 its online marketplace), and all other upstream and downstream entities in the distribution
5 chain of any Covered Product, and the predecessors, successors, and assigns of any of them
6 (collectively, “Released Parties”), of all claims for violations of Proposition 65 up to the
7 Compliance Date relating to alleged exposure to lead and PFOA from the Covered Product.

8 **8.2** ERC, acting in the public interest and on behalf of its past and current agents,
9 representatives, attorneys, successors, and assigns, hereby releases the Released Parties from
10 any and all claims for violations of Proposition 65 up to and including the Compliance Date
11 based on exposure to lead and PFOA as set forth in the Notice of Violation. ERC, on behalf of
12 itself only, and on behalf of its past and current agents, representatives, attorneys, successors,
13 and assigns, hereby fully releases and discharges the Released Parties from any and all claims,
14 actions, causes of action, suits, demands, liabilities, obligations, damages, penalties, attorneys’
15 fees and costs, and expenses of every kind or nature whatsoever, whether known or unknown,
16 asserted, or that could have been asserted from the handling, use, or consumption of the
17 Covered Product, as to any alleged violation of Proposition 65 or its implementing regulations
18 arising from the failure to provide Proposition 65 warnings on the Covered Product regarding
19 lead and PFOA up to and including the Compliance Date.

20 **8.3** ERC on its own behalf only, and Neora on its own behalf only, further waive
21 and release any and all claims they may have against each other for all actions or statements
22 made or undertaken in the course of seeking or opposing enforcement of Proposition 65 in
23 connection with the Notice and Complaint up to and including the Compliance Date, provided,
24 however, that nothing in Section 8 shall affect or limit any Party’s right to seek to enforce the
25 terms of this Consent Judgment.

26 **8.4** It is possible that other claims not known to the Parties, arising out of the facts
27 alleged in the Notice and Complaint, and relating to the Covered Product, will develop or be
28 discovered. ERC on behalf of itself only, and Neora on behalf of itself only, acknowledge that

1 this Consent Judgment is expressly intended to cover and include all such claims up to and
2 including the Compliance Date, including all rights of action therefor. ERC and Neora
3 acknowledge that the claims released in Sections 8.2 and 8.3 above may include unknown
4 claims and nevertheless waive California Civil Code section 1542 as to any such unknown
5 claims. California Civil Code section 1542 reads as follows:

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

10 ERC, on behalf of itself only, and Neora, on behalf of itself only, acknowledge and understand
11 the significance and consequences of this specific waiver of California Civil Code section
12 1542.

13 **8.5** Compliance with the terms of this Consent Judgment shall be deemed to
14 constitute compliance with Proposition 65 by any of the Released Parties regarding alleged
15 exposures to lead and PFOA, as set forth in the Notice and Complaint.

16 **8.6** Nothing in this Consent Judgment is intended to apply to any occupational or
17 environmental exposures arising under Proposition 65, nor shall it apply to any of Neora's
18 products other than the Covered Product.

19 **9. SEVERABILITY OF UNENFORCEABLE PROVISIONS**

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

23 **10. GOVERNING LAW**

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

26 **11. PROVISION OF NOTICE**

27 All notices required to be given to either Party to this Consent Judgment by the other shall
28 be in writing and sent to the following agents listed below via first-class mail or via electronic

mail where required. Courtesy copies via email may also be sent.

FOR ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH CENTER, INC.:

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

With a copy to:

Charles W. Poss
Environmental Research Center, Inc.
3111 Camino Del Rio North, Suite 400
San Diego, CA 92108
Ph: (619) 500-3090
Email: charles.poss@erc501c3.org

FOR NEORA, LLC:

Stacey Slaughter
Neora, Associate Director, Regulatory & Legal
4201 Spring Valley Rd., Suite 900
Farmers Branch, Texas 75244
Ph: (972) 371-0494
Email: sslaughter@neora.com

With a copy to:

Alexander Tablan
Hogan Lovells US LLP
4 Embarcadero Center, Suite 3500
San Francisco, CA 94111
Ph: (415) 374-2300
Email: alexander.tablan@hoganlovells.com

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 Consent Judgment is not approved by the Court, it shall be void and have

1 no force or effect.

2 **13. EXECUTION AND COUNTERPARTS**

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

6 **14. DRAFTING**

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

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

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

21 **16. ENFORCEMENT**

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

provided by law for failure to comply with Proposition 65 or other laws.

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.

///

///

///

///

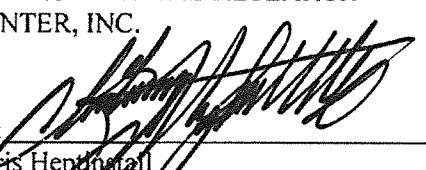
///

///

1 IT IS SO STIPULATED:

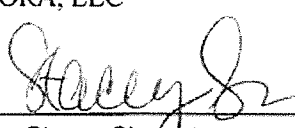
2
3 Dated: 7/8/, 2026

ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH
CENTER, INC.

4
5 By: 
6 Chris Heptinstall
7 Executive Director

8 Dated: July 7, 2026

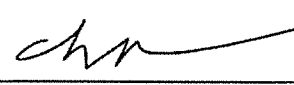
NEORA, LLC

9
10 By: 
11 Its: Stacey Slaughter
12 Associate Director, Legal & Regulatory

13 APPROVED AS TO FORM:

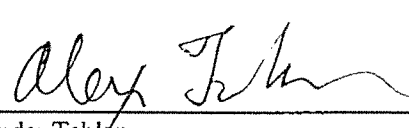
14
15 Dated: July 8, 2026

ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH CENTER,
INC.

16
17 By: 
18 Charles W. Poss
19 In-House Counsel

20 Dated: July 7, 2026

HOGAN LOVELLS US LLP

21
22 By: 
23 Alexander Tablan
24 Attorney for Defendant Neora, LLC
25
26
27
28

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9
- 10
- 11
- 12
- 13
- 14
- 15
- 16
- 17
- 18
- 19
- 20
- 21
- 22
- 23
- 24
- 25
- 26
- 27
- 28

IT IS SO ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED.

Judge of the Superior Court

EXHIBIT A



Environmental Research Center

3111 Camino Del Rio North, Suite 400

San Diego, CA 92108

619-500-3090

November 7, 2025

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

Dear Alleged Violator 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 product identified below. These violations have occurred and continue to occur because the alleged Violator identified below failed to provide required clear and reasonable warnings with this product. This letter serves as a notice of these violations to the alleged Violator 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 Violator identified below.

Alleged Violator. The name of the company covered by this notice that violated Proposition 65 (hereinafter the “Violator”) is:

Neora, LLC

Consumer Product and Listed Chemicals. The product that is the subject of this notice and the chemicals in that product identified as exceeding allowable levels are:

**NeoraFit Plant-Based Protein Powder Natural Vanilla Flavor- Lead,
Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA)**

On February 27, 1987, the State of California officially listed lead as a chemical known to cause developmental toxicity, and male and female reproductive toxicity. On October 1, 1992, the State of California officially listed lead and lead compounds as chemicals known to cause cancer.

On 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.

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

Approximate Time Period of Violations. Ongoing violations have occurred every day since at least November 7, 2022, as well as every day since the product was 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 product. Proposition 65 requires that a clear and reasonable warning be provided prior to exposure to the identified chemicals. The method of warning should be a warning that appears on the product label. The Violator violated Proposition 65 because it failed to provide persons ingesting this product with appropriate warnings that they are being exposed to these chemicals.

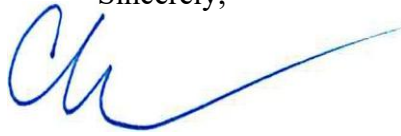
Consistent with the public interest goals of Proposition 65 and a desire to have these ongoing violations of California law quickly rectified, ERC is interested in seeking a constructive resolution of this matter that includes an enforceable written agreement by the Violator to: (1) reformulate the identified product so as to eliminate further exposures to the identified chemicals, or provide appropriate warnings on the labels of this product; (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 product in the last three years. Such a resolution will prevent further unwarned consumer exposures to the identified chemicals, as well as expensive and time-consuming litigation.

November 7, 2025

Page 3

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 Neora, LLC and its Registered Agent for Service of Process only)

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

CERTIFICATE OF MERIT

Health and Safety Code Section 25249.7 (d)

Re: Environmental Research Center, Inc.'s Notice of Proposition 65 Violations by Neora, LLC

I, Charles Poss, hereby declare:

1. This Certificate of Merit accompanies the attached sixty-day notice(s) in which it is alleged the parties identified in the notices have violated Health and Safety Code section 25249.6 by failing to provide clear and reasonable warnings.

2. I am the attorney for the noticing party, Environmental Research Center.

3. I have consulted with one or more persons with relevant and appropriate experience or expertise who has reviewed facts, studies, or other data regarding the alleged exposure to the listed chemicals that are the subject of the action.

4. Based on the information obtained through those consultations, and on all 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 plaintiffs' case can be established and 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. The copy of this Certificate of Merit served on the Attorney General attaches to it factual information sufficient to establish the basis for this certificate, including the information identified in Health and Safety Code section 25249.7(h)(2), i.e., (1) the identity of the persons consulted with and relied on by the certifier, and (2) the facts, studies, or other data reviewed by those persons.

Dated: November 7, 2025



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 November 7, 2025, 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:

Amber Olson Rourke, President
or Current President or CEO
Neora, LLC
4201 Spring Valley Rd, Ste 900
Farmers Branch, TX 75244

Stacey Slaughter
(Registered Agent for Neora, LLC)
4201 Spring Valley Rd, Ste 900
Farmers Branch, TX 75244

Amber Olson Rourke, President
or Current President or CEO
Neora, LLC
14401 Sovereign Rd, Ste 101
Fort Worth, TX 76155

On November 7, 2025, 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 November 7, 2025, 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:

Royl Roberts, Interim District Attorney
Alameda County
7677 Oakport Street, Suite 650
Oakland, CA 94621
CEPDProp65@acgov.org

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

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

November 7, 2025

Page 6

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

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

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

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

Devin Chandler, Program Coordinator
Lassen County
2950 Riverside Dr
Susanville, CA 96130
dchandler@co.lassen.ca.us

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

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

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

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

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

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

Todd Spitzer, District Attorney
Orange County
300 N Flower St
Santa Ana, CA 92703
Prop65notice@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 Ankorn, Deputy City Attorney
San Diego City Attorney
1200 Third Avenue
San Diego, CA 92101
CityAttyProp65@sandiego.gov

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

November 7, 2025

Page 7

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

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

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

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

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

Carla Rodriguez, District Attorney
Sonoma County
600 Administration Dr, Rm 212
Santa Rosa CA 95403
ECLD@sonoma-county.org

Eric J. Dobroth, Deputy District Attorney
San Luis Obispo County
County Government Center Annex, 4th Floor
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408
edobroth@co.slo.ca.us

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

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

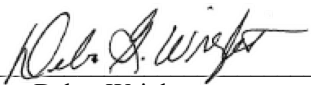
Gregory D. Totten, District Attorney
Ventura County
800 S Victoria Ave
Ventura, CA 93009
daspecialops@ventura.org

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

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

On November 7, 2025, 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 November 7, 2025, in Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia.


Debra Wright

Service List

District Attorney, Alpine
County
P.O. Box 248
17300 Hwy 89
Markleeville, CA 96120

District Attorney, Amador
County
708 Court Street, Suite 202
Jackson, CA 95642

District Attorney, Butte
County
25 County Center Drive, Suite
245
Oroville, CA 95965

District Attorney, Colusa
County
310 6th St
Colusa, CA 95932

District Attorney, Del Norte
County
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
County
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
County
300 South G Street, Ste 300
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, 2nd
Floor
Downieville, CA 95936

District Attorney, Siskiyou
County
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 2nd 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

¹ All further regulatory references are to sections of Title 27 of the California Code of Regulations unless otherwise indicated. The statute, regulations and relevant case law are available on the OEHHA website at: <http://www.oehha.ca.gov/prop65/law/index.html>.

female or male reproductive systems or to the developing fetus. This list must be updated at least once a year. The current Proposition 65 list of chemicals is available on the OEHHA website at: http://www.oehha.ca.gov/prop65/prop65_list/Newlist.html.

Only those chemicals that are on the list are regulated under Proposition 65. Businesses that produce, use, release or otherwise engage in activities involving listed chemicals must comply with the following:

Clear and reasonable warnings. A business is required to warn a person before “knowingly and intentionally” exposing that person to a listed chemical unless an exemption applies. The warning given must be “clear and reasonable.” This means that the warning must: (1) clearly make known that the chemical involved is known to cause cancer, or birth defects or other reproductive harm; and (2) be given in such a way that it will effectively reach the person before he or she is exposed to that chemical. Some exposures are exempt from the warning requirement under certain circumstances discussed below.

Prohibition from discharges into drinking water. A business must not knowingly discharge or release a listed chemical into water or onto land where it passes or probably will pass into a source of drinking water. Some discharges are exempt from this requirement under certain circumstances discussed below.

DOES PROPOSITION 65 PROVIDE ANY EXEMPTIONS?

Yes. You should consult the current version of the statute and regulations (<http://www.oehha.ca.gov/prop65/law/index.html>) to determine all applicable exemptions, the most common of which are the following:

Grace Period. Proposition 65 warning requirements do not apply until 12 months after the chemical has been listed. The Proposition 65 discharge prohibition does not apply to a discharge or release of a chemical that takes place less than 20 months after the listing of the chemical.

Governmental agencies and public water utilities. All agencies of the federal, state or local government, as well as entities operating public water systems, are exempt.

Businesses with nine or fewer employees. Neither the warning requirement nor the discharge prohibition applies to a business that employs a total of nine or fewer employees. This includes all employees, not just those present in California.

Exposures that pose no significant risk of cancer. For chemicals that are listed under Proposition 65 as known to the State to cause cancer, a warning is not required if the business causing the exposure can demonstrate that the exposure occurs at a level that poses “no significant risk.” This means that the exposure is calculated to result in not more than one excess case of cancer in 100,000 individuals exposed over a 70-year lifetime. The Proposition 65 regulations identify specific “No Significant Risk Levels” (NSRLs) for many listed carcinogens. Exposures below these levels are exempt from the warning requirement. See OEHHA's website at: <http://www.oehha.ca.gov/prop65/getNSRLs.html> for a list of NSRLs, and Section 25701 *et seq.* of the regulations for information concerning how these levels are calculated.

Exposures that will produce no observable reproductive effect at 1,000 times the level in question. For chemicals known to the State to cause reproductive toxicity, a warning is not required if the business causing the exposure can demonstrate that the exposure will produce no observable effect, even at 1,000 times the level in question. In other words, the level of exposure must be below the “no observable effect level” divided by 1,000. This number is known as the Maximum Allowable Dose Level (MADL). See OEHHA's website at: <http://www.oehha.ca.gov/prop65/getNSRLs.html> for a list of MADLs, and Section 25801 *et seq.* of the regulations for information concerning how these levels are calculated.

Exposures to Naturally Occurring Chemicals in Food. Certain exposures to chemicals that naturally occur in foods (i.e., that do not result from any known human activity, including activity by someone other than the person causing the exposure) are exempt from the warning requirements of the law. If the chemical is a contaminant² it must be reduced to the lowest level feasible. Regulations explaining this exemption can be found in Section 25501.

Discharges that do not result in a “significant amount” of the listed chemical entering any source of drinking water. The prohibition from discharges into drinking water does not apply if the discharger is able to demonstrate that a “significant amount” of the listed chemical has not, does not, or will not pass into or probably pass into a source of drinking water, and that the discharge complies with all other applicable laws, regulations, permits, requirements, or orders. A “significant amount” means any detectable amount, except an amount that would meet the “no significant risk” level for chemicals that cause cancer or that is 1,000 times below the “no observable effect” level for chemicals that cause reproductive toxicity, if an individual were exposed to that amount in drinking water.

² See Section 25501(a)(4).

HOW IS PROPOSITION 65 ENFORCED?

Enforcement is carried out through civil lawsuits. These lawsuits may be brought by the Attorney General, any district attorney, or certain city attorneys. Lawsuits may also be brought by private parties acting in the public interest, but only after providing notice of the alleged violation to the Attorney General, the appropriate district attorney and city attorney, and the business accused of the violation. The notice must provide adequate information to allow the recipient to assess the nature of the alleged violation. The notice must comply with the information and procedural requirements specified in Section 25903 of Title 27 and sections 3100-3103 of Title 11. A private party may not pursue an independent enforcement action under Proposition 65 if one of the governmental officials noted above initiates an enforcement action within sixty days of the notice.

A business found to be in violation of Proposition 65 is subject to civil penalties of up to \$2,500 per day for each violation. In addition, the business may be ordered by a court to stop committing the violation.

A private party may not file an enforcement action based on certain exposures if the alleged violator meets specific conditions. For the following types of exposures, the Act provides an opportunity for the business to correct the alleged violation:

- An exposure to alcoholic beverages that are consumed on the alleged violator's premises to the extent onsite consumption is permitted by law;
- An exposure to a Proposition 65 listed chemical in a food or beverage prepared and sold on the alleged violator's premises that is primarily intended for immediate consumption on- or off-premises. This only applies if the chemical was not intentionally added to the food, and was formed by cooking or similar preparation of food or beverage components necessary to render the food or beverage palatable or to avoid microbiological contamination;
- An exposure to environmental tobacco smoke caused by entry of persons (other than employees) on premises owned or operated by the alleged violator where smoking is permitted at any location on the premises;
- An exposure to listed chemicals in engine exhaust, to the extent the exposure occurs inside a facility owned or operated by the alleged violator and primarily intended for parking non-commercial vehicles.

If a private party alleges that a violation occurred based on one of the exposures described above, the private party must first provide the alleged violator a notice of special compliance procedure and proof of compliance form.

A copy of the notice of special compliance procedure and proof of compliance form is included in Appendix B and can be downloaded from OEHHA's website at:
<http://oehha.ca.gov/prop65/law/p65law72003.html>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THE LAW OR REGULATIONS...

Contact the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment's Proposition 65 Implementation Office at (916) 445-6900 or via e-mail at
P65Public.Comments@oehha.ca.gov.

Revised: May 2017

NOTE: Authority cited: Section 25249.12, Health and Safety Code. Reference: Sections 25249.5, 25249.6, 25249.7, 25249.9, 25249.10 and 25249.11, Health and Safety Code.