

SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Parties

This Settlement Agreement is entered into by and between Environmental Health Advocates, Inc. (“EHA”), on the one hand, and Woodland Foods, LLC (“Woodland Foods”), on the other hand, with EHA and Woodland Foods each individually referred to as a “Party” and collectively as the “Parties.” EHA is a corporation in the State of California serving in the interest of the general public by seeking to promote awareness of exposures to toxic chemicals and to improve human health by reducing or eliminating hazardous substances used in consumer products. EHA alleges that Woodland Foods is a person in the course of doing business for purposes of the Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986, California Health and Safety Code § 25249.6 *et seq.* (“Proposition 65”).

1.2 General Allegations

EHA alleges that Woodland Foods either manufactures, packages, directly or indirectly sells, and/or distributes for sale in California, rice products that contains lead and that it does so without first providing the health hazard warning required by Proposition 65. Lead is listed pursuant to Proposition 65 as a chemical known to cause reproductive toxicity and cancer.

1.3 Product Description

The products covered by this Settlement Agreement are defined as, and expressly limited to Cajun Dirty Rice (“Covered Products”), that are either manufactured, packaged, directly or indirectly sold, offered for sale and/or distributed for sale in California by Woodland Foods.

1.4 Notice of Violation

On or around August 1, 2025, August 29, 2025, October 24, 2025, and January 30, 2026 EHA served either or both of Woodland Foods and The Spice & Tea Exchange Holdings, LLC, the California Attorney General, and certain other public enforcement agencies with the foregoing 60-Day Notice of Violation of Proposition 65 letters (collectively, the “Notice”). The Notice alleged that these entities had violated Proposition 65 by failing to sufficiently warn consumers in

California of the health hazards associated with exposures to lead contained in Covered Products.

To the best of the parties' knowledge, no public enforcer has commenced or is otherwise prosecuting an action to enforce the violations alleged in the Notice.

1.5 No Admission

Woodland Foods denies the material, factual, and legal allegations in the Notice and maintains that all of the products it sold and/or distributed for sale in California, including Covered Products, have been, and are, in compliance with all laws. Nothing in this Settlement Agreement shall be construed as an admission against interest by Woodland Foods of any fact, finding, conclusion, issue of law or violation of law, nor shall compliance with this Settlement Agreement constitute or be construed as an admission against interest by Woodland Foods of any fact, finding, conclusion, issue of law or violation of law, such being specifically denied by Woodland Foods. This Section shall not, however, diminish or otherwise affect Woodland Foods' obligations, responsibilities, and duties under this Settlement Agreement.

1.6 Effective Date

For purposes of this Settlement Agreement, the term "Effective Date" shall mean the date this Settlement Agreement is executed by the Parties and both Parties have notice of such execution.

1.7 Compliance Date

For purposes of this Settlement, the term "Compliance Date" means seventy (70) days from the Effective Date.

2. INJUNCTIVE RELIEF

2.1 Reformulation Standard

Beginning on or before the Compliance Date, Woodland Foods shall be permanently enjoined from manufacturing or packaging for sale in the State of California, any Covered Product that exposes a person to a "Daily Lead Exposure Level" of more than 0.5 micrograms of Lead based on a single serving per day unless such Covered Products comply with the warning requirements of Section 2.2. The "Daily Lead Exposure Level" shall be calculated by multiplying

the serving size on the label of the Covered Product by the concentration of lead in Covered Products. All Covered Products Woodland Foods has manufactured or packaged prior to the Compliance Date may be sold by any person at any time without warnings and all such Covered Products are subject to the releases of claims set forth below.

2.2 General Warning Requirements

Commencing on the Compliance Date, Woodland Foods agrees any Covered Product subject to this Settlement Agreement it sells or distributes that was not reformulated pursuant to Section 2.1 shall contain a Proposition 65 warning. Woodland Foods agrees that each warning shall be prominently placed with such conspicuousness, as compared with other words, statements, designs, or devices as to render it likely to be read and understood by an ordinary individual under customary conditions before purchase or use. Each warning shall be provided in a manner such that the consumer or user understands to which *specific* Covered Products the warning applies, so as to minimize the risk of consumer confusion.

For purposes of this Settlement Agreement, a clear and reasonable warning for the Covered Products shall consist of a warning affixed to the packaging, label, tag, directly to each Covered Products subject to this Settlement Agreement, or on a placard, shelf tag, sign or electronic device or automatic process that contains one of the following statements:

1) **“WARNING:” [or] “CA WARNING:” [or] “CALIFORNIA WARNING:”**: Consuming this product can expose you to lead, which is known to the State of California to cause birth defects or other reproductive harm. For more information go to www.P65Warnings.ca.gov/food.

OR

2) **“WARNING:” [or] “CA WARNING:” [or] “CALIFORNIA WARNING:”** Risk of reproductive harm from exposure to lead. See www.P65Warnings.ca.gov/food.

SHORT FORM

OR

SHORT FORM

3) “WARNING:” [or] “CA WARNING:” [or] “CALIFORNIA WARNING:” Can expose you to lead, a reproductive toxicant. See www.P65Warnings.ca.gov/food.

OR

SHORT FORM ON A PRODUCT MANUFACTURED/ LABELED PRIOR TO 1/1/28, REGARDLESS OF DATE OF SALE

4) WARNING: Reproductive Harm – www.P65Warnings.ca.gov/food.

Pursuant to Section 25607.1, where the warning is provided on the food product label, it must be set off from other surrounding information and enclosed in a box. Where a specific food product sign, label, placard, or shelf tag is used to provide a warning, it must be displayed with such conspicuousness, as compared with other words, statements, or designs as to render it likely to be read and understood by an ordinary individual prior to sale. In no case shall a warning statement appear in a type size smaller than 6-point type. Where a sign, labeling, or label as defined in Section 25600.1 is used to provide a warning that includes consumer information about a product in a language other than English, the warning must also be provided in that language in addition to English.

As set forth in Cal. Code Regs. Tit. 27, § 25602(b), to the extent Woodland Foods itself sells Covered Products online on its own proprietary website, a warning that complies with the content requirements of Cal. Code Regs Tit. 27, § 25603 must be provided via of the following methods: (1) A warning on the product display page; (2) A clearly marked hyperlink using the word “WARNING” or the words “CA WARNING” or “CALIFORNIA WARNING” on the product display page that links to the warning; or (3) An otherwise prominently displayed warning provided to the purchaser prior to completing the purchase. If a warning is provided using the short-form label content pursuant to Section 25602(a)(4), the warning provided on the website may use the same content. For purposes of this section, a warning is not prominently displayed if

the purchaser must search for it in the general content of the website. For internet purchases made prior to 1/1/28, a retail seller is not responsible under Section 25600.2(e)(4) for conspicuously posting or displaying the new warning online until 60 calendar days after the retailer receives a warning or a written notice under Section 25600.2(b) and (c) which updates a short-form warning compliant with Section 25603(c) with content compliant with Section 25603(b). These requirements extend to any websites under the exclusive control of Woodland Foods where Covered Products are directly sold into California. In addition, Woodland Foods shall instruct any third-party website to which it directly sells its Covered Products to include the same online warning, as set forth above, as a condition of selling the Covered Products in California.

There shall be no obligation for Woodland Foods to provide a warning for Covered Products that entered the stream of commerce prior to the Compliance Date, and the Section 4 releases apply to all such Covered Products.

(i) Changes in Warning Regulations or Statutes

In the event that the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment promulgates one or more regulations requiring or permitting Proposition 65 warning text and/or methods of transmission applicable to the Covered Products and the chemical at issue, which are different than those set forth above, Woodland Foods shall be entitled to use, at its discretion, such other warning text and/or method of transmission without being deemed in breach of this Agreement. If regulations or legislation are enacted providing that Proposition 65 warnings as to lead in this product are no longer required, a lack of warning by Woodland Foods will not thereafter be a breach of this Agreement. Woodland Foods at all times shall be entitled to use the safe harbor warning methods and content applicable to the Covered Products at the time Woodland Foods manufactures or packages the Covered Products.

2.3 Grace Period for Existing Inventory of Covered Products

The injunctive requirements of Section 2 shall not apply to Covered Products that are already in the stream of commerce prior to the Compliance Date, which Covered Products are expressly subject to the releases provided in Section 4.1. For the avoidance of doubt, Covered

Products in the stream of commerce specifically include, but are not limited to, Covered Products in the process of manufacture.

3. MONETARY SETTLEMENT TERMS

3.1 Civil Penalty Payment

Pursuant to Health and Safety Code § 25249.7(b)(2), and in settlement of all claims alleged in the Notice or referred to in this Settlement Agreement, Woodland Foods agrees to pay two thousand (\$2,000.00) in civil penalties. The penalty payment will be allocated in accordance with California Health and Safety Code §§ 25249.12(c)(1) & (d), with 75% of the penalty amount paid to the California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (“OEHHA”) and the remaining 25% of the penalty amount retained by EHA. Woodland Foods shall issue two separate checks for the initial civil penalty payment to (a) “OEHHA” and (b) Environmental Health Advocates, Inc. as follows:

- One payment of \$1,500.00 to OEHHA, due fourteen (14) days after the Effective Date.
- One payment of \$500.00 to EHA, due fourteen (14) days after the Effective Date.

All payments owed to OEHHA (EIN: 68-0284486), pursuant to this Section shall be delivered directly to OEHHA (Memo Line "Prop 65 Penalties") at the following addresses:

For United States Postal Service Delivery:

Mike Gyurics
Fiscal Operations Branch Chief
Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment
P.O. Box 4010
Sacramento, CA 95812-4010

For Non-United States Postal Service Delivery:

Mike Gyurics
Fiscal Operations Branch Chief
Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814.

All penalty payments owed to EHA shall be sent to:

Environmental Health Advocates
225 Broadway, Suite 1900
San Diego, CA 92101.

3.2 Attorney Fees and Costs

The Parties reached an accord on the compensation due to EHA and its counsel under the private attorney general doctrine and principles of contract law. Under these legal principles, Woodland Foods agrees to pay nineteen thousand dollars (\$19,000.00) to EHA and its counsel for all fees and costs incurred in investigating, bringing this matter to the attention of Woodland Foods, and negotiating a settlement. The nineteen thousand (\$19,000.00) is due fourteen (14) days after the Effective Date.

All payments required under this Section shall be made payable to Entorno Law, LLP and delivered to:

Isaac Fayman
Entorno Law, LLP
225 Broadway, Suite 1900
San Diego, CA 92101.

3.3 Tax Documentation

Woodland Foods agrees to provide a completed IRS 1099 for its payments to, and EHA agrees to provide IRS W-9 forms for, each of the payees under this Settlement Agreement. The Parties acknowledge that Woodland Foods cannot issue any settlement payments pursuant to Sections 3.1 and 3.2 above until after Woodland Foods receives the requisite W-9 forms from EHA's counsel.

4. CLAIMS COVERED AND RELEASED

4.1 EHA's Release of Woodland Foods

This Settlement Agreement is a full, final, and binding resolution of all claims between EHA, on its own behalf, and Woodland Foods for all claims that can or could have been asserted by EHA, on its own behalf, on behalf of its past and current agents, representatives, attorneys,

successors and assignees, against Woodland Foods and each of its respective parents, subsidiaries, affiliated entities under common ownership, directors, officers, members, employees, attorneys, and any entity, including, but not limited to each entity from whom Woodland Foods sources the Covered Products or ingredients therein, and to whom Woodland Foods directly or indirectly distributes or sells the Covered Products, including, but not limited to, its downstream distributors, wholesalers, customers, retailers (including but not limited to The Spice & Tea Exchange Holdings, LLC), franchisees, cooperative members and licensees (“Releasees”), based on the failure to warn about exposures to lead required under Proposition 65 in the Covered Products either manufactured, packaged, directly or indirectly sold or distributed for sale in California by Woodland Foods before the Compliance Date, as alleged in the Notice, or for any other reason.

In further consideration of the promises and agreements herein contained, EHA on its own behalf, on behalf of its past and current agents, representatives, attorneys, successors and assignees hereby waives any and all rights it may have to institute or participate in, directly or indirectly, any form of legal action and releases all claims against Woodland Foods and Releasees including, without limitation, all actions and causes of action, suits, liabilities, demands, obligations, damages, costs, fines, penalties, losses or expenses including, but not exclusively, investigation fees, expert fees and attorney fees arising under Proposition 65 with respect to the alleged or actual failure to warn about exposures to lead required under Proposition 65 in the Covered Products either manufactured, packaged, distributed, directly or indirectly sold or offered for sale by Woodland Foods, before the Compliance Date.

4.2 Woodland Foods's Release of EHA

Woodland Foods, on its own behalf and on behalf of its past and current agents, representatives, attorneys, successors, and assignees, hereby waives any and all claims against EHA and its attorneys and other representatives, for any and all actions taken or statements made by EHA and its attorneys and other representatives, whether in the course of investigating claims, otherwise seeking to enforce Proposition 65 against it in this matter, or with respect to the Covered Products up through the Effective Date.

4.3 California Civil Code Section 1542

It is possible that other claims not known to the Parties arising out of the facts alleged in the Notice and relating to the Covered Products will develop or be discovered. EHA on behalf of itself only, on one hand, and Woodland Foods on behalf of itself only, on the other hand, acknowledge that this Settlement Agreement is expressly intended to cover and include all such claims up through the Effective Date. The Parties acknowledge that the claims released in Sections 4.1 and 4.2 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.

EHA and Woodland Foods each acknowledge and understand the significance and consequences of this specific waiver of California Civil Code § 1542.

5. PUBLIC BENEFIT

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

Agreement, provided that Woodland Foods is in material compliance with this Settlement Agreement.

6. SEVERABILITY

If, subsequent to the execution of this Settlement Agreement, any provision of this Settlement Agreement is held by a court to be unenforceable, the validity of the remaining provisions shall not be adversely affected.

7. GOVERNING LAW

The terms of this Settlement Agreement shall be governed by the laws of the State of California and apply within the State of California. This Settlement Agreement is binding upon the predecessors, successors and assigns of the Parties.

8. ENFORCEMENT

In any action to enforce the terms of this Settlement Agreement, the prevailing party shall be entitled to its reasonable attorneys' fees and costs. This Settlement Agreement is enforceable solely by the Parties hereto. Compliance by Woodland Foods with this Settlement Agreement constitutes compliance under Proposition 65 for the Covered Products on and after the Effective Date, including compliance by Releasees, as applicable. This Settlement Agreement does not govern Covered Products that are not sold in California, and such Covered Products are not subject to the injunctive terms of Section 2.

9. NOTICE

Unless specified herein, all correspondence and notice required to be provided pursuant to this Settlement Agreement shall be in writing and sent by: (a) personal delivery; (b) first-class, registered or certified mail, return receipt requested; or (c) a recognized overnight courier on any Party by the other at the following addresses:

For Woodland Foods:

Judith M. Praitis
Faegre Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP
1800 Century Park East, Ste. 1500
Los Angeles, California 90067
judith.praitis@faegredrinker.com.

For EHA:

Noam Glick
Entorno Law, LLP
225 Broadway, Suite 1900
San Diego, CA 92101.

Any Party may, from time to time, specify in writing to the other a change of address to which all notices and other communications shall be sent.

10. COUNTERPARTS; FACSIMILE SIGNATURES

This Settlement Agreement may be executed in counterparts and by facsimile or portable document format (PDF) signature, each of which shall be deemed an original, and all of which, when taken together, shall constitute one and the same document.

11. COMPLIANCE WITH HEALTH & SAFETY CODE § 25249.7(f)

EHA and its attorneys agree to comply with the reporting form requirements referenced in California Health and Safety Code § 25249.7(f).

12. MODIFICATION

This Settlement Agreement may be modified only by written agreement of the Parties.

13. AUTHORIZATION


The undersigned are authorized to execute this Settlement Agreement on behalf of their respective Parties and have read, understood, and agree to all of the terms and conditions of this Settlement Agreement.

AGREED TO:

AGREED TO:

Date: 4/17/26

Date: 4/17/26

By: 
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH
ADVOCATES, INC.

By: 
WOODLAND FOODS, LLC