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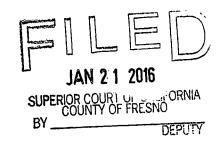
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Attorneys for Monsanto Company



SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

COUNTY OF FRESNO

OF FRESNO

MONSANTO COMPANY,

Plaintiff,

٧.

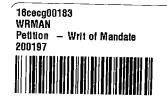
OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH HAZARD ASSESSMENT; LAUREN ZEISE, in her official capacity as Acting Director of the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment,

Defendants.

Case No.:

16 CE CG 00183

MONSANTO COMPANY'S VERIFIED PETITION FOR WRIT OF MANDATE AND COMPLAINT FOR PRELIMINARY AND PERMANENT INJUNCTIVE AND DECLARATORY RELIEF



Petitioner and Plaintiff Monsanto Company ("Monsanto") seeks a writ of mandate and declaratory and injunctive relief against Defendants Office of Environmental Health Hazard

Assessment ("OEHHA" or the "Agency") and Lauren Zeise, in her official capacity as Acting Director of OEHHA, and alleges as follows:

INTRODUCTION

- 1. This Petition and Complaint seeks a writ of mandate and declaratory and injunctive relief to enjoin OEHHA from adding the herbicide glyphosate to the Proposition 65 list of chemicals that are "known to the state of California to cause cancer."
- 2. Glyphosate is a widely used herbicide that is highly effective in controlling weeds in agricultural, residential, aquatic, and other settings. It is marketed under a number of trade names, by Monsanto and others, and is registered for use in more than 160 countries.

- 3. In the United States, glyphosate, like other pesticide products, is subject to extensive regulation at both the federal and California state levels. *See generally* Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act ("FIFRA"), *codified at* 7 U.S.C. § 136 *et seq.*; Cal. Code. Reg., tit. 3, Div. 6 (implementing the California Food and Agricultural Code).
- 4. Numerous regulatory agencies and independent scientists have evaluated glyphosate over the course of its more than forty years of use and have concluded that glyphosate does not present a carcinogenic risk to humans. These regulatory and scientific bodies include, among others, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA"), the European Commission ("EC"), the European Food Safety Authority ("EFSA"), the Health Canada Pest Management Regulatory Agency ("PMRA"), and the World Health Organization ("WHO").
- 5. In 1997 and again in 2007, OEHHA itself, as the "lead state agency for the assessment of health risks posed by environmental contaminants," evaluated the carcinogenicity of glyphosate for purposes of establishing a Public Health Goal for glyphosate in drinking water.

 After reviewing the scientific data, OEHHA concluded: "Based on the weight of evidence, glyphosate is judged unlikely to pose a cancer hazard to humans."
- 6. Nevertheless, on September 4, 2015, OEHHA issued a Notice of Intent to List glyphosate under Proposition 65 as a chemical "known to the state to cause cancer" pursuant to OEHHA's interpretation and application of section 25249.8(a) of the California Health and Safety Code (the so-called "Labor Code listing mechanism").
- 7. OEHHA has interpreted the Labor Code listing mechanism to require the Agency to list any substance identified by the International Agency for Research on Cancer ("IARC") as a human or animal carcinogen. *See* Cal. Code Regs., tit. 27, § 25904. According to OEHHA, the Agency has no discretion not to list a substance that IARC has classified as a carcinogen. OEHHA's regulations state, for example, that OEHHA "shall not consider comments related to the underlying scientific basis for classification of a chemical by IARC as causing cancer." *Id.* at § 25904(c). Consequently, OEHHA has described listings under the Labor Code listing mechanism as a "ministerial" and essentially automatic process.

- 8. In providing notice of its intent to list glyphosate in this manner, OEHHA relied exclusively on a determination by IARC that glyphosate is a "probable carcinogen." OEHHA allowed IARC's determination to overrule OEHHA's opposite conclusion that glyphosate is "unlikely to pose a cancer hazard to humans," which conclusion followed OEHHA's independent review of the very same animal carcinogenicity studies relied upon by IARC to find "sufficient evidence" of carcinogenicity in experimental animals. In other words, OEHHA effectively elevated the determination of an ad hoc committee of an unelected, foreign body, which answers to no United States official (let alone any California state official), over the conclusions of its own scientific experts.
- 9. IARC's process for classifying chemicals, such as glyphosate, as to their carcinogenicity contains no inherent safeguards against arbitrary action. Indeed, IARC expressly disavows any law- or policy-making role -- despite OEHHA's virtually automatic application of IARC determinations to list chemicals under Proposition 65 -- thereby misleading the public and perhaps IARC panelists into underestimating the effects of IARC panel decisions.
- 10. The so-called Labor Code listing mechanism, as applied by OEHHA in proposing to list glyphosate under Proposition 65, violates the California and United States Constitutions:
- a. First, by delegating law-making authority to an unelected, undemocratic, unaccountable, and foreign body without providing intelligible principles or procedural safeguards to define the boundaries of that authority or prevent its arbitrary exercise, the Labor Code listing mechanism, as interpreted and applied by OEHHA, violates the non-delegation doctrine that is rooted in principles of separation of powers, in violation of the California Constitution.
- b. Second, by providing for the placement of substances on the Proposition 65 list pursuant to a constitutionally deficient process that includes no procedural safeguards or governmental oversight and that is overwhelmingly likely to lead to erroneous results, the Labor Code listing mechanism, as interpreted and applied by OEHHA, violates Monsanto's right to procedural due process under the California and United States Constitutions.
- c. Third, by identifying IARC to have the power to identify substances for placement on the Proposition 65 list without any substantive review by OEHHA or any other

California governmental entity, the Labor Code listing mechanism, as interpreted and applied by
OEHHA, violates Article II, Section 12 of the California Constitution, which states that "no statute
proposed to the electors by initiative" that "identifies any private corporation to have any
power" may "have any effect."

- d. Fourth, by empowering an unelected, undemocratic, unaccountable, and foreign body to make laws applicable in California, the Labor Code listing mechanism, as interpreted and applied by OEHHA, violates the Guarantee Clause of the United States Constitution, which guarantees to the citizens of every state, including California, a "Republican Form of Government." U.S. Const. Art. IV, Sec. 4, Cl. 1.
- e. Fifth, the Labor Code listing mechanism, as interpreted and applied by OEHHA, effectively empowers an unelected, undemocratic, unaccountable, and foreign body to make laws applicable in California. Such a radical change to the system of government in the state of California would require a revision (or, at a minimum, an amendment) to the California Constitution, which is outside the reach of the initiative process by which section 25249.8(a) of the California Health & Safety Code was adopted.
- f. Sixth, the listing of glyphosate under Proposition 65 would violate Monsanto's right to free speech under Article I, Section 2 of the California Constitution and the First Amendment to the United States Constitution. If glyphosate is added to the Proposition 65 list, Monsanto will be required to provide a "clear and reasonable warning" on its glyphosate-based products that states that the products contain a chemical "known to the state to cause cancer." However, OEHHA's scientific experts in fact reached the opposite conclusion -- namely, that glyphosate is "unlikely to pose a cancer hazard to humans." As such, the Proposition 65 warning requirement, as applied to glyphosate, would compel Monsanto to affix false and/or misleading statements to its products. Such compelled commercial speech does not advance any legitimate or substantial government interest.
- 11. The listing of glyphosate would cause irreparable injury to Monsanto and the public. The listing would adversely affect Monsanto's reputation for manufacturing safe and reliable herbicides; would potentially result in lost sales due to consumer deselection of glyphosate-based

herbicides; and would require Monsanto to spend significant sums of money to re-label and re-shelf its products. In addition, Monsanto would not be able to recover its financial losses from OEHHA if OEHHA's action in listing glyphosate is subsequently held to be unlawful because there is no legal mechanism for Monsanto to do so.

12. The public would be harmed as well because listing glyphosate would create unfounded consumer fear, causing farmers, government agencies, and other users of glyphosate-based herbicides to switch to other products and/or processes for vegetation management that may not provide the same level of safety, effectiveness, or reliability.

PARTIES

- 13. Plaintiff Monsanto Company is a corporation headquartered in St. Louis, Missouri and incorporated in the state of Delaware. Monsanto is the leading manufacturer of the herbicide glyphosate, which is the main ingredient in Monsanto's Roundup® line of products.
- 14. Defendant OEHHA is the agency of the State of California designated by the Governor under section 25249.12 of the California Health and Safety Code to be the lead agency charged with implementing Proposition 65. Cal. Code Regs., tit. 27, § 25102(o). OEHHA has offices in Sacramento and Oakland, California.
- 15. Defendant Lauren Zeise, Ph.D., is the Acting Director of OEHHA and as such is its highest administrative official. Acting Director Zeise is sued solely in her official capacity.

 OEHHA and Acting Director Zeise shall be referred to hereafter collectively as "OEHHA."

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 16. This Court has jurisdiction over this petition for writ of mandate and complaint for declaratory and injunctive relief pursuant to sections 525, 526, 1060, and 1085 of the California Code of Civil Procedure, and Article VI, Section 10 of the California Constitution.
- 17. Venue is proper in this county pursuant to sections 395 and 401 of the California Code of Civil Procedure because this is an action against the State, or a department, officer or other agency thereof, that may be commenced in the County of Sacramento, and therefore may also be commenced in any county in which the California Attorney General has an office. The California Attorney General has an office in this county.

STATUTORY AND REGULATORY BACKGROUND

- 18. In 1986, the California voters, by initiative, enacted the Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986, now codified at California Health & Safety Code §§ 25249.5, et seq. ("Proposition 65"). In general, Proposition 65 prohibits businesses from (i) knowingly and intentionally exposing California residents to chemicals known to cause cancer or reproductive toxicity without providing a clear and reasonable warning, or (ii) knowingly discharging or releasing a chemical known to the state to cause cancer or reproductive toxicity into the environment where the chemical passes or probably will pass into a source of drinking water. Cal. Health & Safety Code §§ 25249.5 and 25249.6.
- 19. Proposition 65 requires OEHHA to publish "a list of those chemicals known to the state to cause cancer or reproductive toxicity." Cal. Health & Safety Code § 25249.8(a).
- 20. The statute provides several mechanisms by which OEHHA may place a substance on the Proposition 65 list. As relevant here, the statute states that the "list shall include at a minimum those substances identified by reference in Labor Code Section 6382(b)(1) and those substances identified additionally by reference in Labor Code Section 6382(d)." *Id.* Section 6382(b)(1) of the Labor Code, in turn, identifies by reference "[s]ubstances listed as human or animal carcinogens by the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC)."
- 21. There is ambiguity in the statutory provision at section 25249.8(a) of the California Health & Safety Code as to whether it was intended to refer only to those substances classified by IARC as of the enactment of Proposition 65 (a known quantity) or instead also to those substances that IARC may classify in the future (an unknown quantity). The first interpretation would have merely incorporated into the original Proposition 65 list a known set of substances, with no legal infirmity. The second interpretation, however, would delegate to IARC the power to list chemicals under Proposition 65.
- 22. OEHHA has adopted the second interpretation of Cal. Health & Safety Code § 25249.8(a), and has codified that interpretation in its regulations implementing Proposition 65 at Cal. Code Regs., tit. 27, § 25904. This mechanism for placing substances on the Proposition 65 list by reference to determinations by IARC that were made after the enactment of Proposition 65 is

referred to herein as the "Labor Code listing mechanism."

- 23. The First District Court of Appeal upheld OEHHA's interpretation and resolved the statutory ambiguity in favor of permitting OEHHA to list chemicals classified by IARC on an ongoing basis. *California Chamber of Commerce v. Brown*, 196 Cal. App. 4th 233 (2011). However, the parties in that case did not raise, and the Court of Appeal did not consider, constitutional concerns related to the delegation of authority to an unelected, undemocratic, unaccountable, foreign body. Those constitutional claims are raised for the first time in this lawsuit.
- 24. OEHHA regulations implementing the Labor Code listing mechanism state: "A chemical or substance shall be included on the list if it is classified by [IARC] in its IARC Monographs series on the Evaluation of Carcinogenic Risks to Humans (most recent edition), or in its list of Agents Classified by the IARC Monographs, as: (1) Carcinogenic to humans (Group 1), or (2) Probably carcinogenic to humans (Group 2A) with sufficient evidence of carcinogenicity in experimental animals, or (3) Possibly carcinogenic to humans (Group 2B) with sufficient evidence of carcinogenicity in experimental animals." Cal. Code Regs., tit. 27, § 25904(b).
- 25. OEHHA regulations further require OEHHA to publish a notice of intent to list a chemical or substance via the Labor Code listing mechanism, and to provide a 30-day public comment period "on whether or not the chemical or substance has been identified by reference in Labor Code section 6382(b)(1)." *Id.* at § 25904(c). OEHHA's regulations make clear that the scope of comments on a Labor Code listing is limited: "Comment is restricted to whether the identification of the chemical or substance meets the requirements of this section. The lead agency shall not consider comments related to the underlying scientific basis for classification of a chemical by IARC as causing cancer." *Id.*

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

I. Glyphosate Is A Widely Used, Effective, and Safe Herbicide.

A. Overview of Glyphosate.

26. Glyphosate is a broad-spectrum herbicide that is used to control weeds in a variety of agricultural, residential, aquatic, and other settings. Since it was first introduced in 1974, glyphosate "has become the world's most widely used herbicide because it is efficacious,

economical and environmentally benign." Stephen B. Powles, *Evolved Glyphosate-Resistant Weeds Around the World: Lessons To Be Learnt*, 64 Pest Management Science 360, 360-365 (April 2008). Glyphosate is marketed under a number of trade names, by Monsanto and others, and is registered for use as a herbicide in more than 160 countries, including the United States.

- 27. Glyphosate is approved for use in more than 250 agricultural crop applications in California. Glyphosate-based herbicides are particularly desirable in the agricultural setting because of their broad-spectrum effectiveness, which allows farmers to control weeds with minimal tilling of soil (a practice known as conservation tilling), thereby conserving valuable topsoil, reducing soil movement into streams and other surface water, retaining soil moisture, and reducing the number of trips across farm fields (which conserves time and fuel).
- 28. Glyphosate-based herbicides are also used to control vegetation in utility right-of-ways, along roadsides and railways, in aquatic environments, and in residential home and garden settings. In addition, glyphosate-based herbicides are used by wildlife organizations to protect and restore wildlife habitats threatened by invasive, non-native vegetation. For example, a Monsanto glyphosate-based herbicide was selected to control *arundo donax* (giant reed) in the Central River Valley area. *Arundo donax* is a highly invasive weed that threatens California's riparian ecosystems by competing with native species, such as willows, for water.
- 29. For many of the applications for which glyphosate is used, glyphosate is the most effective and reliable weed control option. For example, very few herbicides other than glyphosate are approved for use in aquatic environments. Likewise, in many cases, labor-intensive, mechanical means of weed control are the only available alternative to glyphosate. Mechanical alternatives are even less suitable for ditch banks, steep hillsides, and many non-crop areas, which are not accessible by heavy equipment (e.g., mowers), and thus must be managed by hand. The use of glyphosate-based herbicides in these settings reduces the risk of injury to workers who otherwise must frequently enter the area to maintain mechanical control over vegetation.
- 30. Many municipal, county, and state government agencies in California use glyphosate-based herbicides to manage vegetation. These agencies use glyphosate-based herbicides to control weedy vegetation in order to protect infrastructure, water flow, irrigation, and public

safety and health. In addition, glyphosate is widely used by government agencies in California to reduce the risk associated with the rapid spread of wildfires. In particular, glyphosate is used to control vegetation and establish fire breaks during the wet months of the year.

B. <u>OEHHA Previously Concluded That Glyphosate Is Unlikely To Cause Cancer.</u>

- 31. In 1997 and again in 2007, OEHHA conducted risk assessments of glyphosate for purposes of setting a public health goal ("PHG") for glyphosate in drinking water. See OEHHA, Public Health Goal for Chemicals in Drinking Water: Glyphosate (December 1997 and June 2007) (collectively, the "OEHHA Assessments").
- 32. OEHHA develops PHGs "for chemical contaminants based on the best available toxicological data in the scientific literature." 2007 OEHHA Assessment at iii.
- 33. The OEHHA Assessments were prepared by the Pesticide and Environmental Toxicology Branch of OEHHA. Several OEHHA staff members and scientists contributed to the evaluation of glyphosate and the corresponding technical support documents.
- 34. The OEHHA Assessments were subject to notice-and-comment rulemaking. OEHHA received and responded substantively to extensive comments from the regulated community and other interested parties.
- 35. As part of the OEHHA Assessments, OEHHA evaluated the carcinogenicity of glyphosate. Among other things, OEHHA staff reviewed several carcinogenicity studies in which glyphosate was administered to experimental animals (rats and mice). Based on its review of the scientific data, OEHHA, in both 1997 and 2007, concluded that there was no evidence that glyphosate causes cancer. In 2007, for example, OEHHA concluded: "Based on the weight of the evidence, glyphosate is judged unlikely to pose a cancer hazard to humans." *Id.* at 1.
- 36. Notably, OEHHA, in finding that glyphosate is unlikely to be a carcinogen, considered the very same animal carcinogenicity studies that IARC relied upon in reaching the conclusion that there is "sufficient evidence" of carcinogenicity in experimental animals. IARC's assessment of glyphosate is discussed in Section II.B below.

C. Other Regulatory and Scientific Bodies Worldwide Have Repeatedly Concluded That Glyphosate Is Not A Carcinogen.

- 37. Glyphosate has been the subject of hundreds of toxicological, ecotoxicological, and environmental studies over its more than forty years of use. Regulatory and scientific bodies worldwide have reviewed the research on glyphosate and have repeatedly determined that there is no evidence that glyphosate is carcinogenic to humans.
- 38. These regulatory and scientific bodies include, among others, the U.S. EPA, the German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment ("BfR") (acting as the Rapporteur Member State for the European Union), the European Food Safety Authority ("EFSA") (performing a peer review of the BfR assessment), the European Commission ("EC"), the Canadian Pest Management Regulatory Authority ("PMRA"), and the Joint FAO/WHO Meeting on Pesticide Residues ("JMPR"), which is an international scientific group administered jointly by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations ("FAO") and the World Health Organization ("WHO").
- 39. Glyphosate was first registered for use as an herbicide in the United States in 1974. In 1991, the U.S. EPA conducted a peer review of glyphosate and, in 1993, approved the renewal of glyphosate's registration. The U.S. EPA concluded: "Several chronic toxicity/carcinogenicity studies . . . resulted in no effects based on the parameters examined, or resulted in findings that glyphosate was not carcinogenic in the study." U.S. EPA, Registration Eligibility Decision (RED): Glyphosate, EPA-738-F-93-011 (1993). The U.S. EPA has placed glyphosate in the agency's lowest cancer classification category, Category E ("evidence of non-carcinogenicity for humans -- based on the lack of convincing evidence of carcinogenicity in adequate studies"). *Id*.
- 40. In 2014, the U.S. EPA reaffirmed its determination that glyphosate is not carcinogenic after reviewing more than 55 epidemiological studies of glyphosate, concluding: "Our review concluded that this body of research does not provide evidence to show that glyphosate causes cancer, and it does not warrant any change in EPA's cancer classification for glyphosate. This is the same conclusion reached in 2004 by the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization and affirmed this year by Germany's pesticide regulatory officials." Statement of Carissa Cyran, Chemical Review Manager for the U.S. EPA Office of Pesticide Programs (2015).
 - 41. In December 2013, Germany, through its risk assessment agency, BfR, and acting as

- the Rapporteur Member State ("RMS") for the EU, submitted a glyphosate Renewal Assessment Report to the European Food Safety Authority recommending re-approval of glyphosate for use in Europe. *See* Renewal Assessment Report and Proposed Decision, Volume 1 (Revised Jan. 29, 2015). The Report was revised in 2014 and again in 2015 in response to comments. In the Report, BfR, after investigating a large number of carcinogenicity studies, concluded that glyphosate was "unlikely to pose a carcinogenic risk in humans" and that "[i]n epidemiological studies in humans, there was no evidence of carcinogenicity and there were no effects on fertility, reproduction and development or of neurotoxicity that might be attributed to glyphosate." *Id.* at 35-36.
- 42. In March 2015, in response to IARC's classification of glyphosate as a "probable carcinogen," BfR stated: "As the 'Rapporteur Member State' for the active substance glyphosate within the framework of EU re-evaluation, the Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR) was responsible for the human health risk assessment and has assessed glyphosate as non-carcinogenic." BfR, *Does Glyphosate Cause Cancer*? BfR Communication No. 007/2015 (March 2015).
- 43. BfR further explained: "For this purpose, BfR has compiled the most comprehensive toxicological database, presumably worldwide, for glyphosate. This database comprises hundreds of studies that were performed by or on behalf of the many manufacturers of glyphosate and thousands of references from the open literature. This huge amount of data makes glyphosate nearly unique among the active substances in plant protection products. BfR thinks that the entire database must be taken into account for toxicological evaluation and risk assessment of a substance and not merely a more or less arbitrary selection of studies." *Id*.
- 44. On November 12, 2015, the EFSA released a report entitled *Conclusion on the Peer Review of the Pesticide Risk Assessment of the Active Substance Glyphosate*. EFSA assessed the findings of the BfR and "concluded that glyphosate is unlikely to pose a carcinogenic hazard to humans and the evidence does not support classification with regard to its carcinogenic potential" *Id.* at 1. EFSA further concluded that "[g]lyphosate did not present genotoxic potential and no evidence of carcinogenicity was observed in rats or mice." *Id.* at 10.
- 45. At the request of the EC, EFSA also addressed IARC's classification of glyphosate as a "probable carcinogen" and set forth potential reasons for the diverging views. For example,

EFSA explained: "With regard to the studies on experimental animals, three of the five mice studies used by the EU peer review and three of the nine studies in rats were not assessed by IARC. Importantly, there is a different interpretation of the statistical analysis used to assess the carcinogenic findings in the animal studies and on the use of historical control data; the EU peer review considered relevant historical control data from the performing laboratory. Additionally, referring to the unusually large data base available, it was considered appropriate by the EU peer review to adopt consistently a weight of evidence approach." *Id.* at 11.

- 46. In 2002, the Health and Consumer Protection Directorate-General of the EC conducted a review of glyphosate for purposes of the re-registration of glyphosate for use in Europe and concluded that there was "[n]o evidence of carcinogenicity." EC, Report for the Active Substance Glyphosate, Directive 6511/VI/99, at 12 (Jan. 2002).
- 47. In April 2015, the Canadian PMRA proposed to continue to register products containing glyphosate for sale and use in Canada. See PMRA, Proposed Re-Evaluation Decision, PRVD2015-01, Glyphosate (April 2015). In reaching this determination, the PMRA stated: "In consideration of the strength and limitations of the large body of information on glyphosate, which included multiple short and long term (lifetime) animal toxicity studies, numerous in vivo and in vitro genotoxicity assays, as well as the large body of epidemiological information, the overall weight of evidence indicates that glyphosate is unlikely to pose a human cancer risk. This is consistent with all other pesticide regulatory authorities world-wide, including the most recent, ongoing comprehensive re-evaluation by Germany (Rapporteur Member State for the European Union) that was published for public consultation in 2014." Id. at 15.
- 48. In 2004, the JMPR released a report entitled *Pesticide Residues in Food* that evaluated the possible toxicological effects of glyphosate. The JMPR evaluated several long-term studies of toxicity and carcinogenicity in mice and rats and found that there was no evidence of carcinogenicity in either species. *See* WHO/FAO, Pesticide Residues in Food 2004, Part II: Toxicological, at 158 (2004). The JMPR concluded: "In view of the absence of a carcinogenic potential in animals and the lack of genotoxicity in standard tests, the [JMPR] concluded that glyphosate is unlikely to pose a carcinogenic risk to humans." *Id*.

II. IARC's Classification of Glyphosate as a Probable Carcinogen.

A. Overview of IARC.

- 49. IARC is a specialized agency of the WHO that is based in Lyon, France. Among other activities, IARC "prepare[s], with the help of international Working Groups of experts, and ... publish[es] in the form of *Monographs*, critical reviews and evaluations of evidence on the carcinogenicity of a wide range of human exposures." *IARC Monographs on the Evaluation of Carcinogenic Risks to Humans: Preamble* (2006) ("IARC Preamble") at 2.
- 50. As part of the *Monograph* process, IARC convenes ad hoc groups of scientists ("Working Groups"), selected by IARC staff in an opaque, non-public process, to review and summarize scientific research on the carcinogenicity of a particular substance or chemical. IARC convenes a separate Working Group of individual scientists for each volume of the *Monographs*, which may cover a single substance or several related substances.
- 51. IARC, in its sole discretion, selects the members of each Working Group, and excludes any individual who has a "real or apparent conflict of interest." In this respect, pursuant to guidelines issued by the WHO in 2004, each potential Working Group participant is required to declare "any interests that could constitute a real, potential or apparent conflict of interest, with respect to his/her involvement in the meeting or work, between a) commercial entities and the participant personally, and b) commercial entities and the administrative unit with which the participant has an employment relationship." IARC's rules for selecting members of the Working Group thus exclude scientists who have an affiliation with industry, including those who have conducted studies on the chemical at issue for regulatory purposes and thus may be likely to have the greatest knowledge about the chemical.
- 52. Although the Working Group members often are affiliated with a particular organization or government agency, IARC has explained that "[e]ach participant who is a Member of a Working Group serves as an individual scientist and not as a representative of any organization, government or industry." IARC Preamble at 5.
- 53. The Working Group is tasked with reviewing and summarizing the existing scientific literature. Pursuant to IARC policy, the Working Group is only allowed to consider "reports that

have been published or accepted for publication in the openly available scientific literature," "[d]ata from government agency reports that are publicly available," and, in exceptional circumstances, "doctoral theses and other material that are in their final form and publicly available." IARC Preamble at 4. Thus, studies and data submitted to regulatory authorities that are not publicly available are not considered by the Working Group. The Working Group also does not consider review articles or commentaries that do not contain "new data."

- 54. The Working Group also is responsible for making classification determinations. A substance can be classified in one of five groups: carcinogenic to humans (Group 1), probably carcinogenic to humans (Group 2A), possibly carcinogenic to humans (Group 2B), not classifiable as to its carcinogenicity to humans (Group 3), or probably not carcinogenic to humans (Group 4). The Working Group's classification is final and is not subject to public comment, review, or appeal.
- 55. IARC explicitly disavows any policy- or law-making role, and does not intend its determinations to carry the force of law. In particular, the preamble to each of IARC's *Monographs* -- including the *Monograph* on glyphosate -- states: "The evaluations of IARC Working Groups are scientific, qualitative judgments on the evidence for or against carcinogenicity provided by the available data. These evaluations represent only one part of the body of information on which public health decisions may be based. Public health options vary from one situation to another and from country to country and relate to many factors, including different socioeconomic and national priorities. Therefore, no recommendation is given with regard to regulation or legislation, which are the responsibility of individual governments or other international organizations." IARC Preamble at 3.

B. IARC's Assessment of Glyphosate.

- 56. In 2014, IARC convened a Working Group of 17 scientists to assess the carcinogenicity of glyphosate and four insecticides. In March 2015, the IARC Working Group classified glyphosate as "probably carcinogenic to humans" (Group 2A). The Working Group's conclusions were published in Volume 112 of IARC's *Monographs* series.
- 57. IARC, in classifying glyphosate as a "probable carcinogen," is an outlier among the regulatory and scientific bodies that have evaluated the scientific data on glyphosate.

- 58. For example, IARC concluded that there was "sufficient evidence" of carcinogenicity in experimental animals based on four long-term carcinogenicity studies in rodents. Specifically, IARC made the following findings: (i) "[t]here was a positive trend in the incidence of renal tubule carcinoma and of renal tubule adenoma or carcinoma (combined) in males in one feeding study in CD-1 mice"; (ii) "there was a significant positive trend in the incidence of haemangiosarcoma in male CD-1 mice" in a second feeding study of mice; and (iii) two studies in rats "showed a significant increase in the incidence of pancreatic islet cell adenoma in males," and "one of these two studies also showed a significant positive trend in the incidences of hepatocellular adenoma in males and of thyroid C-cell adenoma in females." IARC Monograph Vol. 112 at 76.
- 59. In preparing the OEHHA Assessment in 2007, OEHHA evaluated these same four long-term carcinogenicity studies in rodents (or reviews of these studies). After reviewing the data, OEHHA concluded that glyphosate is "unlikely to pose a cancer hazard to humans."
- 60. As shown in the table in Appendix 1 to this Petition and Complaint, other regulatory and scientific bodies (including other WHO programs), on 17 different occasions, have evaluated one or more of these same long-term carcinogenicity studies in rodents. Each of these reviews has reached the opposite conclusion of IARC -- namely, that the small number of tumors observed in rodents subjected to treatment with glyphosate in these studies were *not* related to glyphosate.

III. OEHHA's Notice of Intent to List Glyphosate.

- 61. On September 4, 2015, OEHHA published a Notice of Intent to List glyphosate pursuant to the Labor Code listing mechanism.
- 62. OEHHA explained that glyphosate met the requirements for a Labor Code listing because (1) IARC classified glyphosate as a "probable carcinogen," and (2) IARC concluded that there was "sufficient evidence" of carcinogenicity in experimental animals.¹ *Id.*; *see also* Cal. Code

(Footnote Cont'd on Following Page)

¹ IARC also considered certain "mechanistic" data in finding glyphosate to be a "probable carcinogen." Mechanistic studies are studies that attempt to identify the mechanisms through which a chemical may increase the risk of cancer (e.g., molecular changes in cells or DNA). IARC explained that the mechanistic and other relevant data supported the classification of glyphosate in Group 2A. However, these mechanistic and other studies are distinct from the animal carcinogenicity studies and did not form a basis for IARC's finding of "sufficient evidence" of carcinogenicity in experimental animals. As such, these studies were not relevant to OEHHA's

Regs., tit. 27, § 25904(b) ("A chemical or substance shall be included on the list if it is classified by [IARC] in its IARC Monographs series . . . as: . . . (2) Probably carcinogenic to humans (Group 2A) with sufficient evidence of carcinogenicity in experimental animals").

- 63. OEHHA did not make any other findings about the underlying science, and refused to consider comments about the underlying science, stating: "Because these are ministerial listings, comments should be limited to whether IARC has identified the specific chemical or substance as a known or potential human or animal carcinogen. Under this listing mechanism, OEHHA cannot consider scientific arguments concerning the weight or quality of the evidence considered by IARC when it identified these chemicals and will not respond to such comments if they are submitted."
- IV. OEHHA's Proposed Listing of Glyphosate Pursuant to the Labor Code Mechanism Violates the California and United States Constitutions.
 - A. The Labor Code Listing Mechanism Constitutes an Unlawful Delegation of Legislative Authority.
- 64. The Labor Code listing mechanism, as interpreted by OEHHA, violates the "non-delegation doctrine" that is rooted in principles of separation of powers.
- 65. An unconstitutional delegation of legislative power occurs when the Legislature (or the voters by initiative): (1) leaves the resolution of fundamental policy issues to others or (2) fails to provide adequate direction for the implementation of those policies. The doctrine rests upon the premise that the legislative body must itself resolve the truly fundamental issues and cannot escape responsibility by explicitly delegating that function to others or by failing to establish an effective mechanism to assure the proper implementation of its policy decisions.
- 66. The Labor Code listing mechanism of Proposition 65, as interpreted by OEHHA, leaves the resolution of fundamental policy issues -- *i.e.*, decisions about which chemicals should be placed on the Proposition 65 list -- to IARC, an unelected, undemocratic, foreign body that is not under the oversight or control of any California governmental entity.

⁽Footnote Cont'd From Previous Page)

decision to propose listing glyphosate pursuant to the Labor Code mechanism (which turned on IARC's finding of "sufficient evidence" of carcinogenicity in experimental animals).

- 67. The placement of a chemical on the Proposition 65 list has serious policy implications: it results in regulation of that chemical under California law; it requires persons doing business in California to undertake evaluations of possible exposures or discharges; and, in some cases, it requires persons doing business in California to change their use of the chemical or provide warnings to those who may be exposed to the chemical. *See* Cal. Health & Saf. Code §§ 25249.5, 25249.6.
- 68. Neither Proposition 65 nor OEHHA regulations implementing Proposition 65 provide any direction to IARC about how to make classification determinations. As a result, IARC has complete discretion in determining how (or whether) to make classification determinations. Among other things, this means that IARC has unfettered power: (i) to select chemicals for review, (ii) to appoint scientists to the working group's, (iii) to remove scientists from the working groups, (iv) to determine which studies/data are considered, (v) to determine which factors are considered and how those factors are weighed; and (vi) to determine the process by which classification decisions are made.
- 69. There are no mechanisms or procedural safeguards to ensure that IARC performs its function consistent with the policy goals of Proposition 65. IARC is not a regulatory entity and thus is not required or incentivized to consider and weigh competing interests, nor to consider the consequences of identifying a particular chemical or substance as a carcinogen. And indeed, IARC explicitly disavows any regulatory responsibility or law-making role, and thus cannot be expected to consider such consequences. Moreover, IARC selects a different set of individuals, on an ad hoc basis, to form the Working Group for each substance or set of substances, increasing the likelihood of inconsistent and arbitrary classification determinations.
- 70. The determinations of IARC's Working Groups are not subject to public comment or review by any other entity. No California or federal governmental body exercises any oversight, control, or veto power over individual decisions of the IARC Working Groups. There is no appeal from an IARC decision.
- 71. Nor does OEHHA substantively review IARC classification decisions. By regulation, OEHHA's role is limited to ensuring that the listed substance is identified accurately and

that IARC has made findings about the sufficiency of the evidence (pursuant to IARC's own definition of "sufficient evidence" and independent judgment as to whether that standard is met).

Likewise, OEHHA's regulations state explicitly that the Agency will not consider comments related to the underlying scientific basis for a classification decision.

- 72. Under the Labor Code mechanism, as interpreted by OEHHA, OEHHA does not have authority to reject classification decisions made by individual IARC Working Groups. Thus, OEHHA has described Labor Code listings as a "ministerial" and essentially automatic process.
- 73. The absence of procedural safeguards is compounded by the fact that IARC can change its procedures at any time. For example, IARC could appoint patently unqualified individuals, individuals with undisclosed conflicts of interests, or individuals from backgrounds biased for or against certain industries or fields. It could act by majority vote or by dictate. It could be controlled by the chemical industry or by anti-industry activists with any number of agendas.
- 74. For these reasons, the Labor Code listing mechanism of Proposition 65, as applied to the listing of glyphosate, violates the non-delegation doctrine.

B. The Labor Code Listing Mechanism Violates Procedural Due Process.

- 75. The Labor Code listing mechanism violates the Due Process Clauses of Article I, Section 7 of the California Constitution and the Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution.
- 76. Under both the California and United States Constitutions, a person, including a corporation, "may not be deprived of life, liberty, or property without due process of law."
- 77. Monsanto is a leading manufacturer of glyphosate, which is the active ingredient in its Roundup® line of products. In connection with its glyphosate-based herbicides, Monsanto has a property interest in, among other things, its registered trademark, its business goodwill, and its reputation as a manufacturer and distributor of safe and effective herbicides. These property interests already have been impaired by OEHHA's Notice of Intent to List glyphosate, and will impaired further if glyphosate is formally added to the Proposition 65 list as a chemical known to the state to cause cancer.
 - 78. OEHHA intends to add glyphosate to the Proposition 65 list of carcinogens pursuant

to the Labor Code listing mechanism based solely on IARC's classification of glyphosate as a "probable carcinogen."

- 79. As described herein, IARC is not subject to any procedural safeguards. IARC is an unelected, undemocratic, foreign body and, as such, is not accountable to the California voters.
- 80. IARC, in its sole discretion, selects ad hoc groups of scientists, chosen in a non-transparent manner, to make classification determinations. IARC, again in its sole discretion, excludes from its Working Groups any individual who has a "real or apparent conflict of interest," and systematically excludes scientists who have an affiliation with industry (irrespective of their knowledge of or experience with the chemical or substance in question).
- 81. IARC selects a different set of individuals to form the Working Group for each substance or set of substances evaluated, increasing the likelihood of inconsistent and/or arbitrary classification determinations.
- 82. The determinations of IARC's Working Groups are not subject to public comment or review by any other entity. No California or federal governmental body exercises any oversight, control, or veto power over individual decisions of the IARC Working Groups. There is no appeal from an IARC classification decision.
- 83. OEHHA does not play any substantive role in reviewing or affirming IARC classification decisions. By regulation, OEHHA's role is limited to ensuring that the listed substance is identified accurately and that IARC has made findings about the sufficiency of the evidence (pursuant to IARC's own definition of "sufficient evidence" and independent judgment as to whether that standard is met). Likewise, OEHHA's regulations state explicitly that the Agency will not consider comments related to the underlying scientific basis for a classification decision. OEHHA has described Labor Code listings as a "ministerial" and essentially automatic process.
- 84. In short, the Labor Code listing mechanism does not include sufficient procedural safeguards and, as such, is overwhelmingly likely to lead to erroneous results. With respect to the proposed listing of glyphosate, these procedural defects include, but are not limited to, the following: (i) the classification of glyphosate was made by a group of individual scientists selected by an unelected, undemocratic, foreign body through a non-transparent process; (ii) the decision of

the IARC Working Group was not subject to review by any other entity, and no California governmental entity played any substantive role in the listing process; (iii) Monsanto (and others) were not afforded an opportunity to comment substantively on OEHHA's decision to list glyphosate as a carcinogen; and (iv) OEHHA has noted its intent to add glyphosate to the Proposition 65 list notwithstanding the fact that OEHHA itself, in 2007, reviewed the exact same set of animal carcinogenicity studies relied upon by IARC (to find "sufficient evidence" of carcinogenicity in experimental animals) and determined that glyphosate is not likely to be a carcinogen.

- 85. For these reasons, the Labor Code listing mechanism, as applied to the listing of glyphosate, violates the Due Process Clauses of the California and United States Constitutions.
 - C. The Labor Code Listing Mechanism Violates Article II, Section 12 of the California Constitution.
- 86. The Labor Code listing mechanism of Proposition 65, as interpreted by OEHHA, violates Article II, Section 12 of the California Constitution.
- 87. Article II, Section 12 of the California Constitution states: "No amendment to the Constitution, and no statute proposed to the electors by the Legislature or by initiative, that names an individual to hold any office, or names or identifies any private corporation to perform any function or to have any power or duty, may be submitted to the electors or have any effect."
- 88. Proposition 65, including the Labor Code listing mechanism, is a statute proposed to the electors by initiative.
- 89. Proposition 65 names or identifies IARC by reference to the Labor Code. IARC is a "private corporation" within the meaning of Article II, Section 12 of the California Constitution.
- 90. As described above, substances classified by IARC as carcinogens are placed on the Proposition 65 list following a "ministerial" and essentially automatic process. OEHHA plays no substantive role in Labor Code listings, and OEHHA has no discretion to reject IARC's classifications. As such, Proposition 65 effectively identifies IARC to have a power -- *i.e.*, the power to identify chemicals for placement on the Proposition 65 list.
- 91. For these reasons, the Labor Code listing mechanism, as applied to the listing of glyphosate, violates Article II, Section 12 of the California Constitution.

D. The Labor Code Listing Mechanism Violates the Guarantee Clause of the United States Constitution.

- 92. The Labor Code listing mechanism violates the Guarantee Clause (Article IV, Section 4, Clause 1) of the United States Constitution, which guarantees to the citizens of each state a "Republican Form of Government," because it empowers an unelected, undemocratic, unaccountable, and foreign body to make laws applicable in California.
- 93. Among the hallmarks of a "Republic Form of Government" are (1) that lawmakers are accountable to the electorate for the laws they enact; (2) that laws are made in a public process; (3) that laws are made by individuals who are elected or appointed with the consent of the governed; and (4) that the decisions of current lawmakers may be reviewed and revised by their duly elected or appointed successors in the future.
- 94. The IARC process for classifying chemicals with respect to their carcinogenicity contains none of these hallmarks and yet results in the enactment of laws that apply to the conduct of private parties in California, thereby violating the Guarantee Clause.

E. The Labor Code Listing Mechanism Constitutes an Unlawful Amendment or Revision of the California Constitution.

- 95. Article 4, Section 1 of the California Constitution vests the legislative power of the state of California in the California Legislature and the people (through the powers of initiative and referendum).
- 96. By empowering an unelected, undemocratic, unaccountable, and foreign body to make laws applicable in California, the Labor Code listing mechanism, as interpreted by OEHHA, delegates the legislative power of the state away from the Legislature and the people, which delegation could only be accomplished through a revision (or, at a minimum, an amendment) of Article 4, Section 1 of the California Constitution pursuant to Article 18 of the California Constitution.
- 97. Section 25249.8(a) of the California Health & Safety Code was not adopted by the electors as an amendment or revision to the California Constitution, but as an ordinary initiative. It therefore was not lawfully adopted.

F. The Listing of Glyphosate Under Proposition 65 Violates Monsanto's Right to Free Speech.

- 98. The listing of glyphosate under Proposition 65 violates Monsanto's right to free speech under Article I, Section 2 of the California Constitution and the First Amendment to the United States Constitution.
- 99. If glyphosate is added to the Proposition 65 list, Monsanto would be required (absent assertion of a viable affirmative defense) to provide a "clear and reasonable warning" on its glyphosate-based products that communicates that glyphosate is "known to the state to cause cancer." Cal. Code Regs., tit. 27, § 25601.
- 100. However, OEHHA, as the "lead state agency for the assessment of health risks posed by environmental contaminants," evaluated the carcinogenicity of glyphosate in 1997 and again in 2007 and concluded that "glyphosate is judged unlikely to pose a cancer hazard to humans." Plainly, glyphosate is not "known to the state to cause cancer."
- 101. Likewise, IARC did not conclude that glyphosate is "known" to cause cancer in humans. Rather, IARC classified glyphosate as a "probable" carcinogen with "limited" evidence of carcinogenicity in humans.
- 102. As such, if glyphosate is formally listed under Proposition 65, Monsanto would be compelled to affix a false and/or misleading statement to its products. Such compelled commercial speech does not advance any legitimate or substantial government interest.
- 103. Accordingly, the listing of glyphosate under Proposition 65, which in turn triggers the warning requirement in Cal. Code Regs., tit. 27, § 25601, violates Monsanto's right to free speech under the California and United States Constitutions.

V. OEHHA's Notice of Intent to List Glyphosate Will Cause Irreparable Harm.

- 104. If not enjoined, the addition of glyphosate to the Proposition 65 list of carcinogens will have an immediate and irreversible impact on Monsanto and the public.
- 105. The listing of glyphosate under Proposition 65 would adversely affect Monsanto's reputation and goodwill. Such a listing would harm Monsanto's reputation by implying that its glyphosate-based products may be carcinogenic, despite repeated and extensive testing and determinations by regulatory authorities around the world confirming that glyphosate does not

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cause cancer in humans.

- 106. The listing of glyphosate may also lead to consumer deselection in favor of other weed control alternatives. For example, glyphosate-based herbicides are used by many municipal, county, and state government agencies in California. Many of these government agencies will not use products that appear on the Proposition 65 list. The Irvine Unified School District and several Bay Area cities and school districts already have stopped using glyphosate-based herbicides in response to OEHHA's Notice of Intent to List glyphosate. Many other government agencies in California (including, for example, airports, arenas, municipal buildings, and school districts) are likely to follow suit if glyphosate is formally added to the Proposition 65 list of carcinogens.
- 107. There is also a risk that other consumers, including agricultural and residential users, of glyphosate-based herbicides will switch to non-glyphosate herbicide products or mechanical methods of vegetation management based on unfounded fears that glyphosate causes cancer. For example, food companies who purchase the commodities grown by farmers may be concerned that trace amounts of glyphosate residues will result in the need for Proposition 65 warnings on food products, which could greatly diminish sales of such food products. Such food companies may demand that their suppliers reduce or eliminate glyphosate use in order to control such residues. A number of food companies have already made inquiries of Monsanto concerning the proposed listing of glyphosate by OEHHA.
- 108. If glyphosate is added to the Proposition 65 list, Monsanto also would incur substantial costs in connection with potential enforcement of the Proposition 65 warning and discharge requirements. These costs include expenses related to, among other things: (a) redesigning product labels to include the Proposition 65 warning; (b) removing products from store shelves that do not contain the warning; (c) performing additional scientific and legal analyses to evaluate compliance with the Proposition 65 requirements; and (d) defending Proposition 65 enforcement actions.
- Monsanto would not be able to recover its financial losses from OEHHA if OEHHA's action in listing glyphosate is subsequently held to be unlawful because there is no legal mechanism for Monsanto to do so.

- 110. OEHHA's action in listing glyphosate would also harm the public because it would create unfounded consumer fear, causing farmers, government agencies, and other users of glyphosate-based herbicides to switch to other products and/or processes for vegetation management that may not provide the same level of safety, effectiveness, and/or reliability.
- 111. As described above, glyphosate-based herbicides are used for many important public purposes, including to: (a) reduce the risk of wildfires; (b) protect and restore sensitive wildlife habitats threatened by invasive, non-native vegetation; and (c) control weedy vegetation to protect infrastructure, water flow, irrigation, and public safety and health. These benefits could be lost if consumers and government agencies switch to less reliable weed control alternatives.

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

(Writ of Mandate)

- 112. Monsanto re-alleges and incorporates by reference Paragraphs 1 through 111 above as if fully set forth herein.
- 113. OEHHA has a legal duty and present ability to correctly and reasonably construe and apply Proposition 65 consistent with the California and United States Constitutions, both of which prevent OEHHA from relying on the Labor Code listing mechanism to place glyphosate on the Proposition 65 list.
- 114. OEHHA has failed to comply with its legal duty to correctly and reasonably construe and apply Proposition 65 consistent with the California and United States Constitutions. OEHHA's Notice of Intent to List glyphosate under Proposition 65 pursuant to the Labor Code listing mechanism is contrary to and violates the California and United States Constitutions.
- 115. Monsanto has a clear, present, and legal right to OEHHA's correct and reasonable construction and application of Proposition 65 consistent with the California and United States Constitutions. Monsanto, as the leading manufacturer of glyphosate, has a clear and present beneficial interest in ensuring that OEHHA refrains from adding glyphosate to the Proposition 65 list in violation of California and federal law.
 - 116. Monsanto has no plain, speedy, and adequate remedy in the ordinary course of law.
 - 117. Monsanto therefore requests that the Court issue a writ of mandate, pursuant to

<u>VERIFICATION</u>

I, Christopher Martin, am Assistant Secretary of Plaintiff Monsanto Company. Thave read the foregoing Verified Petition for Writ of Mandate and Complaint for Preliminary and Permanent Injunctive and Declaratory Relief ("Petition and Complaint") and am familiar with its contents. I am informed and believe that the matters set forth in the Petition and Complaint are true and on that ground allege them to be true.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that this verification is true and correct and was executed by me on January 20, 2016, in St. Louis, Missouri.

Christopher Martin

Assistant Secretary, Monsanto Company

Date

1987

1991

WHO/JMPR

17 18 19

2012

2013

2015

2015

2015

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1991 Canada PMRA No No No 1993 US EPA RED Nο No No 1994 WHO/IPCS No No No 1999 Japan FCS No No No 2000 **FAO Specifications** No No No 2002 EU Annex I No No No No 2004 WHO/JMPR No No 2005 WHO/Water Sanitation Health No No No 2007 **OEHHA** No No No No 2008 US EPA Effects Determination No No 2010 Japan FCS No No No

No

No

No

No

Yes

APPENDIX 1

Mouse 11

No

No

Entity Considering Whether

Tumors Are Related to Treatment

US EPA Cancer Classification

US EPA Human Health Risk

EU Annex I Renewal (BfR)

Canada PMRA Registration Rev

Assessment

WHO/IARC

Australia

Were Tumors Related to Treatment?

Rat 2iii

No

Mouse 2iv

Rat 1ⁱⁱ

No

No

No

No

No

No

Yes

No

No

No

No

Yes

Νo

No

No

Yes

ⁱ Knezevich, A.L. & Hogan, G.K. (1983). A chronic feeding study of glyphosate (Roundup Technical) in mice.

ii Lankas, G.R. & Hogan, G.K. (1981). A lifetime study of glyphosate (Roundup Technical) in rats.

iii Stout, L.D. & Ruecker, F.A. (1990). Chronic study of glyphosate administered in feed to albino rats.

iv Atkinson, C., et al. (1993). Glyphosate: 104 week dietary carcinogenicity study in mice.