## BEFORE THE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PESTICIDE REGULATION STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of Unlawful Sales by

Best Oriental Produce, Inc. 2929 Leonis Blvd. Vernon, CA 90058

## **SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT** Case No.: 24-002R

Respondent/

This Settlement Agreement ("Agreement") is entered into by and between the California Department of Pesticide Regulation ("the Department"), and Best Oriental Produce, Inc. ("the Company"), collectively referred to as the Parties.

1. In the course of the Department's regular inspection and auditing of produce for illegal pesticide residue in California, the department discovered that on June 13, 2023, the Company sold or possessed for sale produce (long beans) in California carrying pesticide residue in excess of the established permissible tolerance.

2. The Company admits to violating California Food and Agricultural Code section 12671, which provides that it is unlawful for any person to pack, ship, or sell any produce that carries pesticide residue in excess of the established permissible tolerance.

3. The Parties agree by this Agreement to resolve this matter without the need for formal litigation.

THEREFORE, the Parties agree as follows:

4. The Department shall take no further civil or criminal action against the Company for the actions described in paragraph 1, during the time period specified in paragraph 1, unless it sets aside this Agreement as specified under paragraph 7.

5. The Company shall pay the Department **\$6,000.00** in one lump sum as a civil penalty, by **June 14, 2024**. The payment shall be payable by check **made out to:** 

## **Cashier, Department of Pesticide Regulation**

and mailed to:

c/o Katherine Gaudinier, Staff Attorney Office of Legal Affairs Department of Pesticide Regulation 1001 I Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Sacramento, California 95814 Best Oriental Produce, Inc. Case Number 24-002R Page Number 2

## A copy of this agreement shall accompany each payment.

6. The Company represents that it will not pack, ship, or sell any produce carrying illegal pesticide residue or pesticide residue in excess of the established permissible tolerance in California after execution of this agreement. Within 30 Days of this agreement, the company shall develop implement, and provide the Department with a written description of control measures the Company will take to ensure the Company will not pack, ship, or sell any produce carrying illegal pesticide residue or pesticide residue in excess of the established permissible tolerance in California, and send it to:

Chief Counsel, Legal Office Department of Pesticide Regulation 1001 I Street, 4th Floor Sacramento, California 95814

7. The Department may set aside this agreement and proceed with action against the Company for all actions described in paragraph 1 should the Department discover that the Company: (a) did not comply with Paragraph 5 of this agreement; (b) did not provide the Department with the written control measures required under paragraph 6 of this Agreement; or (c) made unlawful sales above and beyond those represented by the Company for purposes of this Agreement.

8. This Agreement constitutes the entire understanding between the Parties, is not intended to benefit or obligate any third party, and fully supersedes all prior written or oral negotiations between the Parties.

9. This Agreement binds the Company, its successors and assignees, subsidiary and parent corporations, and the Department and any successor agency that may have responsibility for and jurisdiction over the subject matter of this settlement.

10. If the Attorney General files a civil action to enforce this Agreement, the Company will pay all costs of investigating and prosecuting the action, including expert fees, reasonable attorneys' fees, and costs, in the event the Department is determined to be the prevailing party.

11. This Agreement tolls the statute of limitations relative to any violation covered by paragraph 1 of this Agreement. If the Department sets aside this Agreement, pursuant to paragraph 7, then the Department may take action concerning those violations covered by Paragraph 1.

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12. Each person who signs this Agreement affirms that he or she has the authority to bind that Party.

Executed by: for May 22 2024 on Julie Henderson, Director at Sacramento, California Department of Pesticide Regulation Mar on 2 2024 President a (printed name and title) at vernon, CA (City and State)

Amnart Charoensukvanich for Best Oriental Produce, Inc.