

# California Prop 65

## HISTORY, EVOLUTION and MILESTONES



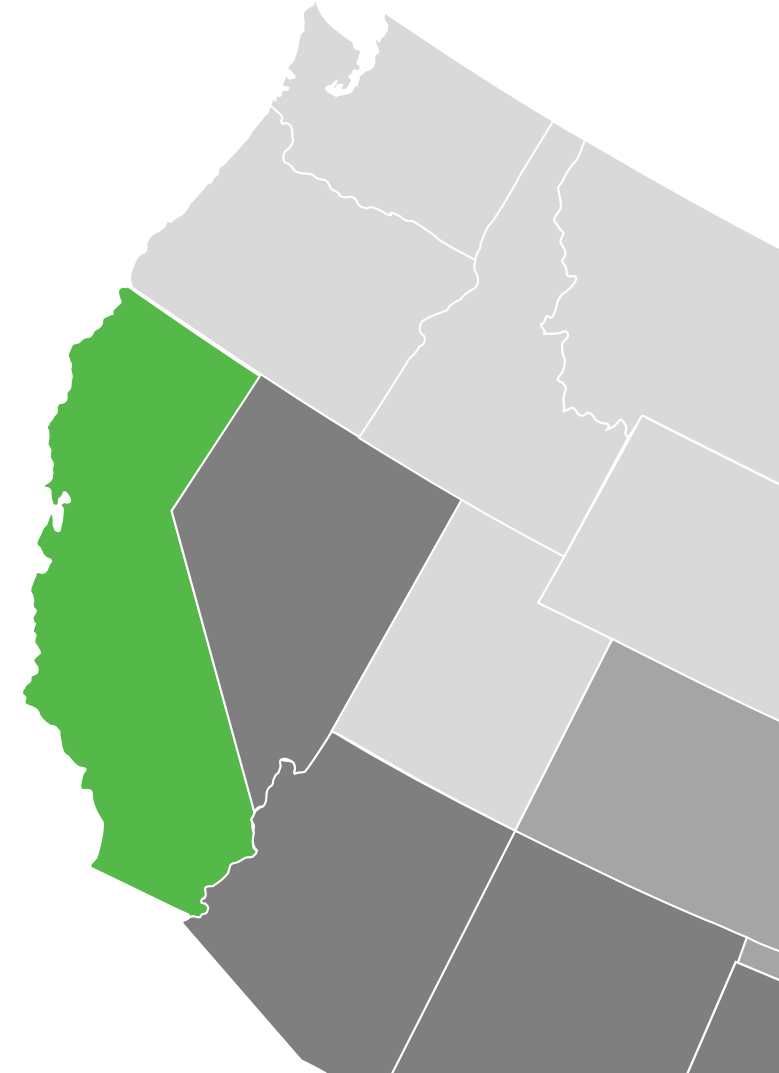
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News

# When?

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Created in 1987



# Why?

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## Understanding the political environment in the 1980s

- Mistrust in Government agencies
  - Lack of environmental and safety disclosures to workers and consumers
- Consumers wanted information and protection from exposure to hazardous chemicals

## “Right to Know”



Movement created by workers in various occupational settings who were exposed to chemicals.

No knowledge on the hazards of interacting with the chemicals

Consumers imposing pressure on Government agencies to go into further detail on the chemicals running into drinking water

Workers were never informed on potential hazards with exposure to chemicals in the workplace – prominent in defense industry

# Evolution

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## Prop 65 Ballet initiative



Won by 2/3's majority

**Still** minimal knowledge on what Prop 65 would accomplish

No education on how dangerous some of the California Prop 65 chemicals were

# Milestone

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## 1<sup>st</sup> Prop 65 win



Workers notified and educated on the Prop 65 chemicals danger

Received proper protection from chemicals and plan of action for improper handling of chemicals

# Pro vs. Con

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## PRO

- Helped consumers and businesses steer their processes in environmentally conscious direction

## CON

- Private and public prosecution
  - Bounty hunter effect
- Unclear long term benefits

## Prop 65 evolution



Public health law designed to keep consumers and workers safe from exposure to high levels of hazardous chemicals

Unique in enforcement (public & public) – most controversial feature of California Prop 65 today



# Evolution

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## Prop 65 chemical warning label information



Original guidelines did not call for chemical names to be on labels

In 2013, Governor Edmund Brown made chemical labeling a critical success point of Prop 65

At least 1 chemical needed to be named – serious backlash from manufacturers and retailers

# Present day

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## California Prop 65 today



Become larger than safe drinking water statute

Become a driver in product safety evolution

”Right to Know” movement

Still problematic – bounty hunters and regulatory grey areas