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**PISTACHIO GROWERS AND PROCESSORS PROVIDE
IMPORTANT FACTS REGARDING FDA ANNOUNCEMENT ON RECALL**

FRESNO, Calif. – June 23, 2009 – The Western Pistachio Association (WPA) provides the following information related to a June 22 press release by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regarding recalled pistachios distributed by Orca Distribution West, Inc. of Anaheim, Calif., due to possible *Salmonella* contamination. This is not a new recall. Rather, it is an announcement due to a company that apparently did not comply with the FDA's original recall requirements.

Pistachio products subject to the recall should have already been removed from the market by each distributor and/or entity that had potentially contaminated product. The WPA does not condone any entity knowingly shipping recalled product or withholding information related to product recalls. Additionally, the WPA provides the following important information related to the previously announced voluntary recall:

1. **The vast majority of pistachio brands and pistachio products are not involved with the previously announced precautionary pistachio recall.** For perspective, the 2008 pistachio harvest was 278 million pounds. According to the FDA, two million pounds of pistachios were recalled representing **less than one percent of the total 2008 harvest amount.**

To help with consumer understanding, pistachio growers and processors also maintain a Web site – www.pistachiorecall.org – that lists more than 100 specific pistachio products and brands that do not contain pistachios affected by the recall.

2. **The FDA reports there have been no illnesses conclusively linked to pistachios.** As such, the voluntary pistachio recall was precautionary and proactive and was not related to recent recalls of peanut products linked to a *Salmonellosis* outbreak.
3. **The pistachio industry is redoubling its efforts to provide a wholesome product.** Nearly a decade ago, in 2000, the U.S. pistachio industry was progressive in establishing proactive food safety practices; today the industry is determined to make those practices and procedures stronger than ever. Pistachio growers and processors are bolstering food safety guidelines to ensure pistachios are uncompromisingly safe, wholesome and delicious – just as the food industry and consumers expect.

The Western Pistachio Association will continue to update information as it becomes available on www.westernpistachio.org and www.pistachiorecall.org.

The Western Pistachio Association

The Western Pistachio Association (WPA) is an agricultural trade association representing pistachio growers in California, Arizona and New Mexico. The organization works on issues vital to growers and activities that affect the U.S. pistachio industry. Pistachio nutrition research and promotion of the heart-healthy properties of pistachios are other important activities conducted by the Association.

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