

**UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
February 5, 2009**

**ORDER GRANTING CONFIDENTIAL TREATMENT
UNDER THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**

**Penwest Pharmaceuticals Co.
File No. 0-23467 - CF#22959**

Penwest Pharmaceuticals Co. submitted an application under Rule 24b-2 requesting an extension of a previous grant of confidential treatment for information it excluded from the Exhibit to a Form 10-Q filed on August 14, 2000.

Based on representations by Penwest Pharmaceuticals Co. that this information qualifies as confidential commercial or financial information under the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. 552(b)(4), the Division of Corporation Finance has determined not to publicly disclose it. Accordingly, excluded information from the following exhibit(s) will not be released to the public for the time period(s) specified:

Exhibit 10.1 through December 31, 2011

For the Commission, by the Division of Corporation Finance, pursuant to delegated authority:

Craig E. Slivka
Special Counsel