

1 **FARUQI & FARUQI, LLP**
 2 Benjamin Heikali (State Bar No. 307466)
 3 Email: *bheikali@faruqilaw.com*
 4 Ruhandy Glezakos (SBN 307473)
 5 Email: *rglezakos@faruqilaw.com*
 6 Joshua Nassir (State Bar No. 318344)
 7 Email: *jnassir@faruqilaw.com*
 8 10866 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 1470
 Los Angeles, California 90024
 Telephone: (424) 256-2884
 Facsimile: (424) 256-2885

9 *Counsel for Plaintiff Mary Condreay*
 10 *and the putative Classes*

11 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**
 12 **CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**
 13 **WESTERN DIVISION**

14
 15 MARY CONDREAY, individually)
 16 and on behalf of all others similarly)
 17 situated,)
 18
 19 Plaintiff,)
 20
 21 v.)
 22 EDGEWELL PERSONAL CARE)
 BRANDS, LLC,)
 23
 Defendant.)
 24
 25
 26
 27
 28

CASE NO.:2:21-cv-07100
CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT
JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

1 Plaintiff Mary Condrey (“Plaintiff” or “Ms. Condrey”) brings this Class
2 Action Complaint against Edgewell Personal Care Brands, LLC (“Defendant”), on
3 behalf of herself and all others similarly situated, and alleges upon information and
4 belief, the following:

5 **NATURE OF THE ACTION**

6 1. Plaintiff brings this consumer protection and false advertising class
7 action lawsuit against Defendant regarding its misleading business practices with
8 respect to the labeling, marketing, and sale of its Banana Boat® “Reef Friendly”
9 sunscreen products (the “Products”).¹

10 2. Defendant has marketed and sold the Products with labeling,
11 packaging, and advertising that leads consumers to believe that the Products are
12 “Reef Friendly,” when in fact, they are not. Specifically, the label of each of the
13 Products states that the Products are “Reef Friendly.” However, there are at least two
14 active ingredients in the Products – avobenzone and octocrylene – which are not safe
15 for coral reefs and other marine life. Thus, Defendant’s claim that the Products are
16 “Reef Friendly” is false, misleading, and deceptive.

17 3. Had Plaintiff and other consumers known that the Products contain
18 ingredients that are harmful to coral reefs and other marine life, they would not have
19 purchased the Products or would have paid significantly less for them. Therefore,
20 Plaintiff and other consumers have suffered an injury-in-fact as a result of
21 Defendant’s deceptive practices.

22 4. Thus, Plaintiff, on behalf of himself and all others similarly situated,
23 brings this case seeking damages, restitution, declaratory and injunctive relief, and
24 all other remedies this Court deems appropriate.

25
26
27 ¹ The “Products” are further defined and depicted in Paragraphs 16-17.

1 photosynthesis gives coral energy, and the algae itself provides the coral’s vibrant
2 colors. As coral grows, it forms branching structures culminating in reefs. When
3 coral reefs face oxidative stress from pollutants, they expel the algae from their
4 surface, turning the coral white (also known as bleaching). This process often leads
5 to the coral reef’s demise.³ For these reasons, coral reefs are endangered, with
6 warnings being issued by oceanic societies worldwide.

7 13. According to studies, up to 14,000 tons of sunscreen are estimated to
8 wash into coral reefs around the globe each year.⁴ The chemical compounds found
9 in sunscreen products that wash into coral reefs can cause abrupt and complete
10 bleaching of hard corals, even at extremely low concentrations.⁵

11 14. For these reasons, there has been a surge in the manufacture,
12 advertising, and sale of sunscreen products purporting to be safe or friendly for reefs
13 and other marine life.⁶

14 **II. Defendant and the Products**

15 15. Defendant is a leading manufacturer and merchant of sunscreen
16 products, including its Banana Boat® line of sunscreen products.

17 16. The Products at issue in this action are Defendant’s Banana Boat® Sport
18 Ultra sunscreen products bearing a “Reef Friendly” representation on the front label.
19 The Products include, but are not limited to, the following products (in various
20 sizes):

21 _____
22 ³ Samantha L. Schneider and Henry W. Lim, *Review of environmental effects of oxybenzone and*
23 *other sunscreen active ingredients*, J. Am. Acad. Dermatology (2019)

24 ⁴ *Id.*

25 ⁵ *Bleached, But Not by the Sun; Sunscreen Linked to Coral Damage*,
26 <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2291012/>, (last visited on September 2, 2021);
Protect Yourself and Protect the Reef, [https://www.nps.gov/articles/protect-yourself-and-protect-](https://www.nps.gov/articles/protect-yourself-and-protect-the-reef.htm)
[the-reef.htm](https://www.nps.gov/articles/protect-yourself-and-protect-the-reef.htm) (last visited September 2, 2021)

27 ⁶ *Your Guide to Reef Friendly Sunscreens*, [https://www.surfrider.org/coastal-blog/entry/your-](https://www.surfrider.org/coastal-blog/entry/your-guide-to-reef-friendly-sunscreens)
28 [guide-to-reef-friendly-sunscreens](https://www.surfrider.org/coastal-blog/entry/your-guide-to-reef-friendly-sunscreens), (last visited on September 2, 2021)

- 1 a. Banana Boat[®] Sport Ultra Sunscreen Lotion SPF 15
- 2 b. Banana Boat[®] Sport Ultra Sunscreen Lotion SPF 30
- 3 c. Banana Boat[®] Sport Ultra Sunscreen Lotion SPF 50+
- 4 d. Banana Boat[®] Sport Ultra Sunscreen Spray SPF 15
- 5 e. Banana Boat[®] Sport Ultra Sunscreen Spray SPF 30
- 6 f. Banana Boat[®] Sport Ultra Sunscreen Spray SPF 50+
- 7 g. Banana Boat[®] Sport Ultra Sunscreen Spray SPF 50+
- 8 h. Banana Boat[®] Sport Coolzone Sunscreen Spray SPF 30
- 9 i. Banana Boat[®] Sport Coolzone Sunscreen Spray SPF 50+
- 10 j. Banana Boat[®] Sport Ultra Sunscreen Stick SPF 50+

11 17. As depicted below, Defendant has labeled, packaged, marketed,
12 distributed and sold the Products with the prominent representation on the front label
13 that the Products are “Reef Friendly.”

14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28



1 18. By representing that the Products are “Reef Friendly,” Defendant leads
2 consumers into reasonably believing that the Products contain only ingredients that
3 are safe for coral and other marine life.

4 19. However, this representation is deceptive and misleading because the
5 Products contain at least two active ingredients – avobenzone and octocrylene – that
6 are harmful to coral reefs and other marine life.

7 **III. Avobenzone and Octocrylene**

8 20. Both avobenzone and octocrylene are well documented as being
9 harmful to coral reefs and lead to coral bleaching and other harmful effects on reef
10 reproduction.⁷

11 21. Specifically, octocrylene is an endocrine disruptor and has
12 demonstrated reproductive and developmental toxicities for both marine mammals
13 and various other marine life, such as fish and coral.⁸ Indeed, according to
14 ecotoxicologist Craig Downs, studies have shown that “fish exposed to octocrylene
15 exhibited endocrine disruption, brain deformities in larvae and reproductive
16 toxicity.”⁹ Furthermore, a study published in 2014 in the journal *Science of the Total*
17 *Environment*, for example, found that octocrylene might affect brain and liver
18 development in zebrafish, a fish commonly found in coral reefs.¹⁰

19 _____
20 ⁷ *Protect Yourself and Protect the Reef*, [https://www.nps.gov/articles/protect-yourself-and-protect-](https://www.nps.gov/articles/protect-yourself-and-protect-the-reef.htm)
21 [the-reef.htm](https://www.nps.gov/articles/protect-yourself-and-protect-the-reef.htm) (last visited September 2, 2021)

22 ⁸ *Benzophenone Accumulates over Time from the Degradation of Octocrylene in Commercial*
23 *Sunscreen Products*, <https://pubs.acs.org/doi/10.1021/acs.chemrestox.0c00461>(last visited
24 September 2, 2021)

25 ⁹ *Hawaii Senate Bill Bans Harmful Sunscreen Chemicals*,
26 [https://biologicaldiversity.org/w/news/press-releases/hawaii-senate-bill-bans-harmful-sunscreen-](https://biologicaldiversity.org/w/news/press-releases/hawaii-senate-bill-bans-harmful-sunscreen-chemicals-2021-03-09/)
27 [chemicals-2021-](https://biologicaldiversity.org/w/news/press-releases/hawaii-senate-bill-bans-harmful-sunscreen-chemicals-2021-03-09/)
28 03-09/ (last visited September 2, 2021)

¹⁰ *Accumulation and effects of the UV- filter octocrylene in adult and embryonic zebrafish*,
<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0048969714000242?via%3Dihub> (last
visited September 2, 2021)

1 22. Avobenzene is also a known endocrine disruptor that can reduce coral
 2 resilience against high ocean temperatures that are killing corals through global
 3 warning. Furthermore, avobenzene may kill corals' cells which induces a bleaching
 4 effect on them.¹¹

5 23. For these reasons, octocrylene is on Haereticus Environment
 6 Laboratory's¹² List (the "HEL List") of ingredients that are unsafe for ocean systems.
 7 Moreover, octocrylene is on the National Ocean Service's (an office within the U.S.
 8 Department of Commerce National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) list
 9 of common chemicals in sunscreen that can be harmful to marine life.¹³

SUNSCREEN CHEMICALS AND MARINE LIFE
 How sunscreen chemicals enter our environment:

The sunscreen you apply may not stay on your skin. When we swim or shower, sunscreens may wash off and enter our waterways.

How sunscreen chemicals can affect marine life:

Chemicals in some sunscreens that can harm marine life:

- 3-Benzylidene camphor
- 4-Methylbenzylidene camphor
- Octocrylene
- Benzophenone-1
- Benzophenone-8
- OD-PABA
- nano-Titanium dioxide
- nano-Zinc oxide
- Octinoxate
- Oxybenzone

GREEN ALGAE: Can impair growth and photosynthesis.

CORAL: Accumulates in tissues. Can induce bleaching, damage DNA, deform young and even kill.

MUSSELS: Can induce defects in young.

SEA URCHINS: Can damage immune and reproductive systems, and deform young.

FISH: Can decrease fertility and reproduction, and cause female characteristics in male fish.

DOLPHINS: Can accumulate in tissues and be transferred to young.

Here are a few ways to protect ourselves and marine life:

Consider sunscreen without chemicals that can harm marine life, seek shade between 10 am & 2 pm, and use Ultraviolet Protection Factor (UPF) sunwear.

Seek shade, Umbrella, Sun hat, Sunscreen, UV Sun glasses, Sun shirt, Leggings

Revised Sep. 2020 oceanservice.noaa.gov/sunscreen

11 *Id.*

12 HEL is a non-profit scientific organization dedicated to increasing the scientific, social and economic knowledge of natural environmental habitats in order to better conserve and restore threatened environmental habitats and resources. *See About Us - Haereticus Environmental Laboratory*, <http://haereticus-lab.org/about-us/> (last visited September 2, 2021)

13 *Skincare Chemicals and Coral Reefs*, <https://oceanservice.noaa.gov/news/sunscreen-coral.html> (footnote continued)

1 24. Moreover, in order to protect coral reefs and marine life, Hawaii has
2 introduced a bill that would ban the sale, offer for sale, and distribution of any
3 sunscreen that contains avobenzone or octocrylene.¹⁴

4 25. Lastly, due to its harmful effects on coral reef and marine life,
5 octocrylene has been banned in sunscreen products sold in the U.S. Virgin Islands,
6 in Key West, Florida, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands.¹⁵

7 26. Both avobenzone and octocrylene are active ingredients in the
8 Products. Thus, Defendant’s front label representation that the Products are “Reef
9 Friendly” is false and deceptive.

10 **IV. Defendant’s Deceptive and False Conduct Harms Consumers**

11 27. Defendant deceptively labeled and packaged the Products to target a
12 growing consumer interest in purchasing products that would not cause or
13 potentially cause any harm to coral reefs and other marine life.

14 28. As the entity responsible for the development, manufacturing,
15 packaging, advertising, distribution, and sale of the Products, Defendant knew or
16 should have known that each of the Products falsely and deceptively misrepresents
17 that the Products are “Reef Friendly.”

18 29. Defendant knows, knew or should have known, that Plaintiff and other
19 consumers did and would rely on the labeling, packaging, and advertising before
20 purchasing the Products, and would reasonably believe that the Products contained
21 no ingredients that would harm coral reefs and other marine life.

22 30. Plaintiff and other reasonable consumers did not know, and had no
23

24 (last visited September 2, 2021)

25 ¹⁴ SB132 SD2 HD1,
26 https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/measure_indiv.aspx?billtype=SB&billnumber=132&year=2021
27 (last visited September 2, 2021)

28 ¹⁵ The Republic of the Marshall Islands has also banned avobenzone.

1 reason to know, that the Products contain ingredients that can harm coral reefs and
2 other marine life. The Products are marketed to consumers with only their front
3 labels displayed to consumers in store. However, the front label of the Products does
4 not contain any disclaimer or other statement indicating that some of the ingredients
5 in the Products are actually not safe for coral reefs and other marine life. Moreover,
6 even if a reasonable consumer was to turn to the back label of the Products and read
7 the ingredient list, a reasonable consumer would not know whether octocrylene or
8 avobenzone are in fact reef safe or not.

9 31. Because the Products are not “Reef Friendly” as reasonably expected
10 by Plaintiff and other consumers, Defendant’s marketing of the Products was and
11 continues to be misleading and deceptive.

12 32. Moreover, by deceptively labeling and misleading consumers that the
13 Products are “Reef Friendly,” Defendant is in violation of FDA regulations, which
14 prohibit “claims that would be false and/or misleading on sunscreen products.” 21
15 C.F.R. § 201.327(g).

16 33. Each consumer has been exposed to the same or substantially similar
17 deceptive practices because: (1) each of the Products’ front label states “Reef
18 Friendly” and (2) each of the Products contain at least two active ingredients,
19 avobenzone and octocrylene, that are harmful to coral and marine life.

20 34. Plaintiff and other consumers have paid an unlawful premium for the
21 Products. Indeed, at least one study has concluded that “reef safe” sunscreen
22 products may be more expensive than regular sunscreen products.¹⁶

23
24
25
26
27 ¹⁶ *Evaluation of “reef safe” sunscreens: Labeling and cost implications for consumers,*
28 [https://www.jaad.org/article/S0190-9622\(19\)32998-6/fulltext](https://www.jaad.org/article/S0190-9622(19)32998-6/fulltext), (last visited September 2, 2021)

1 **Table I Cost of sunscreen according to labeling and compliance with various “reef safe” standards**

2

3

Product type	No.	Average cost (95% CI) in dollars/oz	P value
Products labeled as “reef safe”	52	3.84 (3.07-4.61)	.027
Products not labeled as “reef safe”	45	2.61 (1.83-3.38)	
Products free of oxybenzone and octinoxate	66	3.94 (3.20-4.68)	<.001
Products contain oxybenzone and/or octinoxate	31	1.83 (1.43-2.24)	
Products meet NOAA criteria	28	4.55 (3.96-5.13)	<.001
Products do not meet NOAA criteria	69	2.75 (2.04-3.46)	

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12 35. Moreover, Plaintiff and other consumers would have paid significantly

13 less for the Products had they known that the Products contained active ingredients

14 that would harm coral reefs and marine life. Therefore, Plaintiff and other consumers

15 purchasing the Products suffered injury in fact and lost money as a result of

16 Defendant’s false, unfair, and fraudulent practices, as described herein.

17 36. As a result of its misleading business practices, and the harm caused to

18 Plaintiff and other consumers, Defendant should be enjoined from deceptively

19 representing that the Products are “Reef Friendly.” Furthermore, Defendant should

20 be required to pay for all damages caused to misled consumers, including Plaintiff.

21 **CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS**

22 37. Plaintiff seeks to represent a Class defined as all California citizens who

23 within the relevant statute of limitations periods, purchased any of the Products (the

24 “Class”).

25 38. Plaintiff also seeks to represent a subclass defined as all California

26 citizens who within the relevant statute of limitations periods, purchased for

27 personal, family, or household purposes any of the Products (“Consumer Subclass”)

28 (with all other classes, collectively referred to as the “Classes”).

1 39. Excluded from the Classes are: (a) Defendant, Defendant’s board
2 members, executive-level officers, and attorneys, and immediate family members of
3 any of the foregoing persons; (b) governmental entities; (c) the Court, the Court’s
4 immediate family, and the Court staff; and (d) any person that timely and properly
5 excludes himself or herself from the Class in accordance with Court-approved
6 procedures.

7 40. Plaintiff is a member of all Classes.

8 41. Plaintiff reserves the right to alter the Class definitions as Plaintiff
9 deems necessary at any time to the full extent that the Federal Rules of Civil
10 Procedure, the Local Rules of this District, and applicable precedent allow.

11 42. Certification of Plaintiff’s claims for class-wide treatment is
12 appropriate because Plaintiff can prove the elements of the claims on a class-wide
13 basis using the same evidence that individual Class members would use to prove
14 those elements in individual actions alleging the same claims.

15 43. **Numerosity**: The size of the Classes is so large that joinder of all Class
16 members is impracticable. Due to the nature of Defendant’s business, Plaintiff
17 believes there are thousands, if not hundreds of thousands, of Class members.

18 44. **Predominance of Common Questions of Law and Fact**: There are
19 questions of law and fact common to the Class. These questions predominate over
20 any questions affecting only individual Class members.

21 45. All Class members were exposed to Defendant’s deceptive advertising
22 and marketing representations indicating that the Products were “Reef Friendly,”
23 when in fact the Products contained two active ingredients that harm coral reefs and
24 marine life.

25 46. Furthermore, common legal and factual questions include but are not
26 limited to:

27 a. whether Defendant engaged in the course of conduct alleged

- 1 herein;
- 2 b. whether Defendant’s conduct is likely to deceive a reasonable
- 3 consumer;
- 4 c. whether Defendant’s conduct constitutes an unfair or deceptive
- 5 act or practice;
- 6 d. whether Defendant violated the consumer protection statutes set
- 7 forth below;
- 8 e. whether Plaintiff and the Class members are entitled to actual,
- 9 statutory, or other forms of damages and other monetary relief;
- 10 and
- 11 f. whether Plaintiff and the Class members are entitled to equitable
- 12 relief, including but not limited to injunctive relief and equitable
- 13 restitution.

14 47. Defendant engaged in a common course of conduct in contravention of

15 the laws Plaintiff seeks to enforce individually and on behalf of Class members.

16 Similar or identical statutory and common law violations, business practices, and

17 injuries are involved. Individual questions, if any, pale by comparison, in both

18 quality and quantity, to the numerous common questions that dominate this action.

19 Moreover, the common questions will yield common answers that will materially

20 advance the litigation.

21 48. **Typicality:** Plaintiff’s claims are typical of the claims of the Class

22 members because Defendant injured all Class members through the uniform

23 misconduct described herein; all Class members were subject to Defendant’s false,

24 misleading, and unfair representations indicating that the Products are “Reef

25 Friendly” when, in fact, they are not; and Plaintiff seeks the same relief as Class

26 members.

27 49. Furthermore, there are no defenses available to Defendant that are

28

1 unique to Plaintiff.

2 50. **Adequacy of Representation**: Plaintiff is a fair and adequate
3 representative of the Class because Plaintiff's interests do not conflict with the Class
4 members' interests. Plaintiff has selected competent counsel that is experienced in
5 class action and other complex litigation. Plaintiff will prosecute this action
6 vigorously and is highly motivated to seek redress against Defendant. Plaintiff and
7 Plaintiff's counsel are committed to prosecuting this action vigorously and have the
8 resources to do so.

9 51. **Injunctive or Declaratory Relief**: The requirements for maintaining a
10 class action pursuant to Rule 23(b)(2) are met, as Defendant has acted or refused to
11 act on grounds generally applicable to the Class, thereby making final injunctive
12 relief or corresponding declaratory relief an appropriate remedy.

13 52. **Superiority**: The class action mechanism is superior to other available
14 means for the fair and efficient adjudication of this controversy for reasons including
15 but not limited to the following:

16 a. The damages individual Class members suffered are small compared to
17 the burden and expense of individual prosecution of the complex and
18 extensive litigation needed to address Defendant's conduct.

19 b. Further, it would be virtually impossible for Class members
20 individually to redress effectively the wrongs done to them. Even if
21 Class members themselves could afford such individual litigation, the
22 court system could not. Individualized litigation would unnecessarily
23 increase the delay and expense to all parties and to the court system and
24 presents a potential for inconsistent or contradictory rulings and
25 judgments. By contrast, the class action device presents far fewer
26 management difficulties, allows the hearing of claims which might
27 otherwise go unaddressed because of the relative expense of bringing
28

1 individual lawsuits, and provides the benefits of single adjudication,
2 economies of scale, and comprehensive supervision by a single court.

3 c. The prosecution of separate actions by individual members of the Class
4 would create a risk of inconsistent or varying adjudications with respect
5 to individual Class members, which would establish incompatible
6 standards of conduct for Defendant.

7 d. The prosecution of separate actions by individual Class members would
8 create a risk of adjudications with respect to them that would, as a
9 practical matter, be dispositive of the interests of other Class members
10 not parties to the adjudications or that would substantively impair or
11 impede their ability to protect their interests.

12 **FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

13 **Violation of California’s Consumers Legal Remedies Act (“CLRA”)**

14 **California Civil Code §§ 1750, *et seq***

15 ***(for the Consumer Subclass)***

16 53. Plaintiff realleges Paragraphs 1-52 above as if fully set forth herein.

17 54. Plaintiff brings this claim individually and on behalf of the members of
18 the proposed Consumer Subclass.

19 55. Each Product is a “good” within the meaning of Cal. Civ. Code
20 § 1761(a), and the purchase of such Products by Plaintiff and members of Consumer
21 Subclass constitute “transactions” within the meaning of Cal. Civ. Code § 1761(e).

22 56. Cal. Civ. Code § 1770(a)(5) prohibits “[r]epresenting that goods or
23 services have sponsorship, approval, characteristics, ingredients, uses, benefits, or
24 quantities which they do not have. . . .” By marketing the Products with their current
25 labels, packaging, and advertisements, Defendant has represented and continues to
26 represent that the Products have characteristics (i.e., are safe for reefs and other
27 marine life) when they are not safe for reefs and other marine life. Therefore,
28 Defendant has violated section 1770(a)(5) of the CLRA.

1 57. Cal. Civ. Code § 1770(a)(7) prohibits “[r]espresenting that goods or
2 services are of a particular standard, quality, or grade, or that goods are of a particular
3 style or model, if they are of another.” By marketing the Products with their current
4 labels, packaging, and advertisements, Defendant has represented and continues to
5 represent that the Products are of a particular standard (i.e., safe for reefs and other
6 marine life) when they do not meet this standard. Therefore, Defendant has violated
7 section 1770(a)(7) of the CLRA.

8 58. Cal. Civ. Code § 1770(a)(9) prohibits “[a]dvertising goods or services
9 with intent not to sell them as advertised.” By labeling, packaging, and marketing
10 the Products as “Reef Friendly” so that a reasonable consumer would believe that
11 the Products are “Reef Friendly,” and then intentionally not selling Products that are
12 “Reef Friendly,” Defendant has violated section 1770(a)(9) of the CLRA.

13 59. Defendant also violated the CLRA by intentionally failing to disclose
14 that the Products contain at least two active ingredients that cause or can cause
15 damage to coral reefs and marine life.

16 60. At all relevant times, Defendant has known or reasonably should have
17 known that the Products are not “Reef Friendly,” and that Plaintiff and other
18 members of the Consumer Subclass would reasonably and justifiably rely on that
19 representation in purchasing the Products.

20 61. Plaintiff and members of the Consumer Subclass have reasonably and
21 justifiably relied on Defendant’s misleading, and fraudulent conduct when
22 purchasing the Products. Moreover, based on the very materiality of Defendant’s
23 fraudulent and misleading conduct, reliance on such conduct as a material reason for
24 the decision to purchase the Products may be presumed or inferred for Plaintiff and
25 members of the Consumer Subclass.

26 62. Plaintiff and members of the Consumer Subclass have suffered and
27 continue to suffer injuries caused by Defendant because they would not have
28

1 purchased the Products or would have paid significantly less for the Products had
2 they known that Defendant’s conduct was misleading and fraudulent.

3 63. Under Cal. Civ. Code § 1780(a), Plaintiff and members of the
4 Consumer Subclass are seeking injunctive relief pursuant to the CLRA, preventing
5 Defendant from further wrongful acts and unfair and unlawful business practices.
6 Plaintiffs and members of the Consumer Subclass are also seeking damages,
7 restitution, disgorgement of profits, and any other relief this Court deems proper.

8 64. Pursuant to Cal. Civ. Code § 1782, on July 9, 2021, counsel for Plaintiff
9 mailed a notice and demand letter by certified mail, with return receipt requested, to
10 Defendant. The CLRA letter provided notice of Defendant’s violation of the CLRA
11 that demanded that Defendant correct, repair, replace, or otherwise rectify the
12 unlawful, unfair, false, and deceptive practices complained of herein. On July 16,
13 2021, Defendant received the notice and demand letter. Counsel for Defendant did
14 not make any contact with counsel of Plaintiff nor did they correct, repair, replace,
15 or otherwise rectify the unlawful, unfair, false, and deceptive practices complained
16 of in the letter. Because Defendant has failed to rectify or remedy its challenged
17 conduct within 30 days after receipt of the notice and demand letter, Plaintiff is
18 timely filing this Class Action Complaint with a claim for damages under the CLRA.

19 65. Attached hereto is an affidavit with facts showing that venue in this
20 Court is proper pursuant to California Civil Code § 1780(d).

21 **SECOND CLAIM FOR RELIEF**
22 **Violation of California’s False Advertising Law**
23 **CAL. BUS. & PROF. CODE § 17500 *et seq.***
(for the Class)

24 66. Plaintiff realleges Paragraphs 1-52 above as if fully set forth herein.

25 67. Plaintiff brings this claim individually and on behalf of the members of
26 the Class.

27 68. The FAL prohibits advertising “which is untrue or misleading, and
28

1 which is known, or which by the exercise of reasonable care should be known, to be
2 untrue or misleading.” CAL. BUS. & PROF. CODE § 17500.

3 69. As detailed above, Defendant’s marketing and sale of the Products as
4 being “Reef Friendly” is likely to deceive a reasonable consumer because the
5 Products contain ingredients that are harmful to coral reefs and other marine life.

6 70. In reliance of Defendant’s false and misleading representations
7 indicating the Products are “Reef Friendly,” Plaintiff and the other members of the
8 Class purchased the Products. Moreover, based on the very materiality of
9 Defendant’s fraudulent and misleading conduct, reliance on such conduct as a
10 material reason for the decision to purchase the Products may be presumed or
11 inferred for Plaintiff and the members of the Class.

12 71. Defendant knew or should have known that its labeling and marketing
13 of the Products is likely to deceive a reasonable consumer.

14 72. Plaintiff and members of the Class request that this Court cause
15 Defendant to restore this fraudulently obtained money to Plaintiff and members of
16 the Class, to disgorge the profits Defendant made on these transactions, and to enjoin
17 Defendant from violating the FAL or violating it in the same fashion in the future as
18 discussed herein. Otherwise, Plaintiff and members of the Class may be irreparably
19 harmed and/or denied an effective and complete remedy if such an order is not
20 granted.

21 **THIRD CLAIM FOR RELIEF**
22 **Violation of California’s Unfair Competition Law**
23 **CAL. BUS. & PROF. CODE § 17200 *et seq.***
(for the Class)

24 73. Plaintiff realleges Paragraphs 1-52 above as if fully set forth herein.

25 74. Plaintiff brings this claim individually and on behalf of the members of
26 the Class.

27 75. The UCL prohibits “unfair competition,” which it defines to “mean and
28

1 include any unlawful, unfair or fraudulent business act or practice and unfair,
2 deceptive, untrue or misleading advertising and any act prohibited by [the FAL].”
3 CAL. BUS. & PROF. CODE § 17200.

4 76. Under the UCL, a business act or practice is “unlawful” if it violates
5 any established state or federal law.

6 77. As detailed herein, Defendant’s acts, misrepresentations, omissions,
7 and practices violate the FAL and the CLRA. On account of each of these violations
8 of law, Defendant has also violated the “unlawful” prong of the UCL.

9 78. As a result of Defendant’s unlawful business acts and practices,
10 Defendant has and continues to unlawfully obtain money from Plaintiff and
11 members of the Class.

12 79. Under the UCL, a business act or practice is “unfair” if the defendant’s
13 conduct is substantially injurious to consumers, offends public policy, and is
14 immoral, unethical, oppressive, and unscrupulous, as the benefits for committing
15 such acts of practices are outweighed by the gravity of the harm to the alleged
16 victims.

17 80. Defendant’s conduct was and continues to be of no benefit to
18 purchasers of the Products, as it is misleading, unfair, unlawful, and is injurious to
19 consumers who purchased the Products and were deceived by Defendant’s
20 misrepresentations. Deceiving consumers about the Products’ impact on the
21 environment is of no benefit to consumers. Therefore, Defendant’s conduct was and
22 continues to be “unfair.”

23 81. As a result of Defendant’s unfair business acts and practices, Defendant
24 has and continues to unlawfully obtain money from Plaintiff and members of the
25 Class.

26 82. Defendant also committed “fraudulent” business acts or practices by,
27 among other things, engaging in conduct Defendant knew or should have known
28

1 would likely to and did deceive reasonable consumers, including Plaintiff and the
2 members of the Class. By relying on Defendant’s false and misleading
3 representations indicating the Products are “Reef Friendly,” Plaintiff and the other
4 members of the Class purchased the Products. Moreover, based on the very
5 materiality of Defendant’s fraudulent and misleading conduct, reliance on such
6 conduct as a material reason for the decision to purchase the Products may be
7 presumed or inferred for Plaintiff and the members of the Class.

8 83. Defendant knew or should have known that its labeling and marketing
9 of the Products would likely deceive a reasonable consumer.

10 84. Plaintiff and members of the Class request that this Court cause
11 Defendant to restore this unlawfully, unfairly, and fraudulently obtained money to
12 Plaintiff, and members of the Class, to disgorge the profits Defendant made on these
13 transactions, and to enjoin Defendant from violating the UCL or violating it in the
14 same fashion in the future as discussed herein. Otherwise, Plaintiff, and members of
15 the Class, may be irreparably harmed and/or denied an effective and complete
16 remedy if such an order is not granted.

17 **FOURTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF**
18 **Breach of Express Warranty**
19 **California Commercial Code § 2313**
20 ***(for the Class)***

21 85. Plaintiff realleges Paragraphs 1-52 above as if fully set forth herein.

22 86. Plaintiff brings this claim individually and on behalf of the members of
23 the proposed Class.

24 87. California Commercial Code § 2313 provides that “(a) Any affirmation
25 of fact or promise made by the seller to the buyer which relates to the goods and
26 becomes part of the basis of the bargain creates an express warranty that the goods
27 shall conform to the affirmation or promise,” and “(b) Any description of the goods
28 which is made part of the basis of the bargain creates an express warranty that the

1 goods shall conform to the description.” Cal. Com. Code § 2313.

2 88. Defendant has expressly warranted on the packaging of the Products
3 that they are “Reef Friendly.” This representation about the Products: (1) is an
4 affirmation of fact and promises made by Defendant to consumers that the Products
5 are in fact “Reef Friendly”; (2) became part of the basis of the bargain to purchase
6 the Products when Plaintiff relied on the representation; and (3) created an express
7 warranty that the Products would conform to the affirmation of fact or promise. In
8 the alternative, the representation about the Products is a description of goods which
9 was made as part of the basis of the bargain to purchase the Products, and which
10 created an express warranty that the Products would conform to the Products’
11 representation.

12 89. Plaintiff and members of the Class reasonably and justifiably relied on
13 the foregoing express warranty, believing that the Products did in fact conform to
14 the warranty.

15 90. Defendant has breached the express warranty made to Plaintiff and
16 members of the Class by selling the Products, which contain ingredients that are not
17 reef friendly or safe.

18 91. Plaintiff and members of the Class paid a premium price for the
19 Products but did not obtain the full value of the Products as represented. If Plaintiff
20 and members of the Class had known of the true nature of the Products, they would
21 not have purchased the Products or would not have been willing to pay the premium
22 price associated with the Products.

23 92. As a result, Plaintiff and the Class suffered injury and deserve to
24 recover all damages afforded under the law.

25
26
27
28

FIFTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF
Breach of Implied Warranty
California Commercial Code § 2314
(for the Class)

1
2
3
4 93. Plaintiff realleges Paragraphs 1-52 above as if fully set forth herein.

5 94. Plaintiff brings this claim individually and on behalf of the members of
6 the proposed Class.

7 95. California’s implied warranty of merchantability statute provides that
8 “a warranty that the goods shall be merchantable is implied in a contract for their
9 sale if the seller is a merchant with respect to goods of that kind.” Cal. Com.
10 Code § 2314(1).

11 96. California’s implied warranty of merchantability statute also provides
12 that “[g]oods to be merchantable must be at least such as . . . (f) [c]onform to the
13 promises or affirmations of fact made on the container or label if any.” Cal. Com.
14 Code § 2314(2)(f).

15 97. Defendant is a merchant with respect to the sale of sunscreen products,
16 including the Products. Therefore, a warranty of merchantability is implied in every
17 contract for sale of the Products to California consumers.

18 98. By advertising the Products with their current labeling, Defendant made
19 a promise on the label of the Products that the Products are “Reef Friendly.” But the
20 Products have not “conformed to the promises...made on the container or label”
21 because they are not “Reef Friendly” as outlined above. Plaintiff, as well as other
22 California consumers, did not receive the goods as impliedly warranted by
23 Defendant to be merchantable.

24 99. Therefore, the Products are not merchantable under California law and
25 Defendant has breached its implied warranty of merchantability in regard to the
26 Products.

27 100. If Plaintiff and members of the Class had known that the Products were
28

1 not “Reef Friendly,” they would not have been willing to pay the premium price
2 associated with them or would not have purchased them at all. Therefore, as a direct
3 and/or indirect result of Defendant’s breach, Plaintiff and members of the Class have
4 suffered injury and deserve to recover all damages afforded under the law.

5 **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

6 WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, individually and on behalf of the members of the
7 Classes, respectfully requests the Court to enter an Order:

8 A. certifying the proposed Classes under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure
9 23(a), (b)(2), and (b)(3), as set forth above;

10 B. declaring that Defendant is financially responsible for notifying the
11 Class members of the pendency of this suit;

12 C. declaring that Defendant has committed the violations of law alleged
13 herein;

14 D. providing for any and all injunctive relief the Court deems appropriate;

15 E. awarding statutory damages in the maximum amount for which the law
16 provides;

17 F. awarding monetary damages, including but not limited to any
18 compensatory, incidental, or consequential damages in an amount that the Court or
19 jury will determine, in accordance with applicable law;

20 G. providing for any and all equitable monetary relief the Court deems
21 appropriate;

22 H. awarding punitive or exemplary damages in accordance with proof and
23 in an amount consistent with applicable precedent;

24 I. awarding Plaintiff reasonable costs and expenses of suit, including
25 attorneys’ fees;

26 J. awarding pre- and post-judgment interest to the extent the law allows;
27 and providing such further relief as this Court may deem just and proper.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

Plaintiff hereby demands a trial by jury on all claims so triable.

Date: September 2, 2021

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Benjamin Heikali

FARUQI & FARUQI, LLP
Benjamin Heikali (State Bar No. 307466)
bheikali@faruqilaw.com
Ruhandy Glezakos (SBN 307473)
Email: *rglezakos@faruqilaw.com*
Joshua Nassir (State Bar No. 318344)
Email: *jnassir@faruqilaw.com*
10866 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 1470
Los Angeles, California 90024
Telephone: (424) 256-2884
Facsimile: (424) 256-2885

*Counsel for Plaintiff
and the Proposed Classes*

CLRA Venue Declaration Pursuant to California Civil Code Section 1780(d)

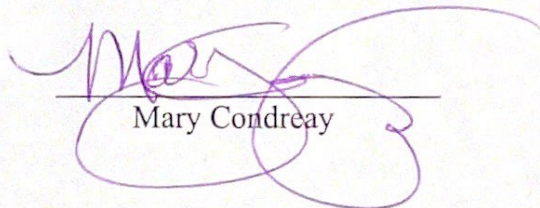
I, Mary Condreay, declare as follows:

1. I am the Plaintiff in this action and a citizen of the State of California.

I have personal knowledge of the facts stated herein and, if called as a witness, I could testify competently thereto.

2. This Class Action Complaint is filed in the proper place of trial because I purchased the Products in this District.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct, executed on 9/1/2021 in Simi Valley, California.



Mary Condreay

ClassAction.org

This complaint is part of ClassAction.org's searchable class action lawsuit database and can be found in this post: [Banana Boat 'Reef Friendly' Sunscreen Contains Chemicals Harmful to Marine Life, Lawsuit Alleges](#)
