	Case 3:21-cv-07936-TSH Documen	t 1 Filed 10/08/21 Page 1 of 46
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11	NORTHERN DIST	<b>TRICT OF CALIFORNIA</b>
12	MARTIN LOCKLIN, individually and on	Case No.:
13	behalf of all others similarly situated,	CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT
14	Plaintiff(s),	1. Violation of Unfair Competition Law
15	VS.	(Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code §§ 17200, <i>et seq.</i> )
16	TARGET CORPORATION, a corporation; and FRUIT OF THE EARTH, INC., a	2. Violation of False Advertising Law (Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code §§ 17500, <i>et</i>
17	corporation, Defendant(s).	<ul> <li>seq.)</li> <li>3. Violation of Consumers Legal Remedies Act (Cal. Civ. Code §§</li> </ul>
18	Detendani(s).	1750, <i>et seq.</i> ) 4. Breach of Warranty
19		5. Unjust Enrichment
20		JURY TRIAL DEMANDED
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	CLASS ACT	ION COMPLAINT

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CLARKSON LAW FIRM, P.C. 22525 Pacific Coast Highway Malibu, CA 90265

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CLARKSON LAW FIRM, P.C. 22525 Pacific Coast Highway Malibu, CA 90265

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	ii CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT				

#### **COMPLAINT**

1. Plaintiff(s) Martin Locklin ("**Plaintiff(s**)"), individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated, as more fully described herein (the "**Class**" and "**Class Members**"), bring(s) this class action complaint against Defendant(s) Target Corporation and Fruit of the Earth, Inc. ("**Defendant(s**)"), and allege(s) the following based upon information and belief, unless otherwise expressly stated as based upon Plaintiff(s)'s personal knowledge:

2. **Synopsis.** To obtain an unfair competitive advantage in the billion-dollar sunscreen market, Defendant(s) is(are) exposing consumers and the environment to harmful chemical active ingredients in its(their) sun care products by falsely labeling them as: "reef-conscious formula." Defendant(s) has(ve) reaped millions of dollars through this fraudulent scheme based on a calculated business decision to put profits over people and the environment. Specifically, Defendant(s) deceptively labels certain of its(their) Up & Up<sup>TM</sup> brand *kids* <sup>'</sup> and *sport* sunscreen products with the "reef-conscious formula" claim to deliberately lead reasonable consumers, including Plaintiff, to believe that the Products only contain ingredients that are reef-safe and otherwise cannot harm reefs, including the coral reefs and marine life that inhabits or depends on them (hereinafter, "**Reef Friendly Representation**," "**False Advertising Claim**" and/or "**Challenged Representation**"). Fair and accurate exemplars of the Products' front labels, with the Challenged Representation circled in red, are below.

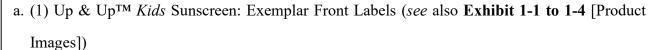
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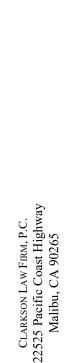
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CLARKSON LAW FIRM, P.C. 22525 Pacific Coast Highway Malibu, CA 90265 3. The Deception of the Challenged Representation. The Challenged Representation has misled reasonable consumers, including Plaintiff(s), into believing that the Products only contain ingredients that are reef-safe or otherwise cannot harm reefs, including the coral reefs and the marine life that inhabits or depends on them. However, contrary to this labeling, the Products actually contain Harmful Ingredients (including avobenzone, homosalate, octisalate, and/or octocrylene), which are chemical ingredients that are not safe for reefs because they can harm and/or kill reefs, including the coral reefs and the marine life that inhabits or depends on them arine life that inhabits or depends on them. Through falsely, misleadingly, and deceptively labeling the Products, Defendant(s) sought to take advantage of consumers' desire for sunscreens that are friendly to or safe for reefs (coral reefs and marine life and related ecosystems that inhabit or depend on coral reefs), while reaping the financial benefits of using less desirable, harmful, and/or less costly chemicals in the Products. Defendant(s) has(ve) done so at the expense of unwitting consumers, as well as Defendant(s)'s lawfully acting competitors, over whom Defendant(s) maintain(s) an unfair competitive advantage.

4. The Products. The products at issue are Up & Up<sup>™</sup> brand sun care products (including sunscreens, sun-blocks, and lip balms) manufactured and/or marketed by Defendant(s) that contain the Challenged Representation on the labels and/or packaging, in all sizes, forms of topical application (including, for example, stick, paste, oil, lotion, cream, liquid, spray, mist, or balm), SPFs, scents and/or flavors, variations, and packs, sets or bundles, which include, but are not necessarily limited to:

20 || a. Up & Up<sup>™</sup> Kids' Sunscreen, including

- (1) Spray, in SPF 50, 5.5-, 7.3-, and 9.1-oz, and
- (2) Stick, in SPF 55, 0.47-oz

(see, supra, paragraph 2, a.; see also Exhibit 1-1 to 1-4 [Product Images]); and
b. Up & Up<sup>™</sup> Sport Sunscreen, including

- (3) Lotion, in SPF 30, 3- and 10.4-oz,
- (4) Lotion, in SPF 50, 10.4-oz,
- (5) Spray, in SPF 15, 9.1-oz,
- (6) Spray, in SPF 30, 2.2-, 5.5-, 7.3-, and 9.1-oz,

- (7) Spray, in SPF 50, 5.5-, 7.3-, and 9.1-oz,
- (8) Stick, in SPF 55, 0.47- and 1.5-oz, and
- (9) Lip Balm, in SPF 50, 0.15-oz

(see, supra, paragraph 2, b.; see also Exhibit 1-5 to 1-18 [Product Images]).

The aforementioned Products are collectively referred to herein and throughout this complaint as the "**Products**." *See* **Exhibit 1** [Product Images].

5. **Primary Dual Objectives.** Plaintiff(s) bring(s) this action individually and on behalf of those similarly situated to represent a National Class and a California Subclass of consumers who purchased the Products (defined *infra*) for dual primary objectives. Plaintiff(s) seek(s), on Plaintiff(s)'s individual behalf and on behalf of the Class, a monetary recovery of the premium consumers paid for the Challenged Representation and Defendant(s)'s ill-gotten gains, as consistent with permissible law (including, for example, damages, restitution, disgorgement, and any applicable penalties/punitive damages solely as to those causes of action so permitted). Plaintiff(s) further seek(s) injunctive relief to stop Defendant(s)'s unlawful labeling and advertising of the Products and to dispel the public's misconception caused by the Challenged Representation, by enjoining Defendant(s)'s unlawful advertising practices for the benefit of consumers, including Plaintiff(s) and the Class.

### **JURISDICTION**

6. This Court has original jurisdiction over this action pursuant to the Class Action Fairness Act of 2005, 28 U.S.C. § 1332(d), because the proposed Class consists of 100 or more members; the amount in controversy exceeds \$5,000,000, exclusive of costs and interest; and minimal diversity exists. This Court also has supplemental jurisdiction over the state law claims pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1367.

## VENUE

7. Venue is proper in this District under 28 U.S.C. § 1391 because a substantial part of
the events and omissions giving rise to Plaintiff(s)'s claims occurred in this District. In addition,
Plaintiff(s) purchased the unlawful Products in this District, and Defendant(s) has(ve) marketed,
advertised, and sold the Products within this District.

6 CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT

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### PARTIES

## A. <u>Plaintiff</u>

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8. Plaintiff Martin Locklin ("Plaintiff" and/or "Locklin"). The following is alleged based upon said Plaintiff's personal knowledge: (1) Plaintiff is a resident of San Francisco, California. (2) Plaintiff purchased the Up & Up<sup>™</sup> Sport Sunscreen Lotion, SPF 50, in approximately 10.4-oz (the "Purchased Product") for approximately \$5.00 at a retail store in or around the City of San Francisco, State of California, in approximately the summer of 2020 (see, Exhibit 1-7 [Exemplar Product Image]). (3) In making the purchase, the Challenged Representation on the Product's label led Plaintiff to believe that the Product's ingredients were all reef-safe and otherwise could not harm reefs, including the coral reefs and marine life that inhabits and depends on them. (4) At the time of purchase, Plaintiff did not know that the aforementioned Challenged Representation was false-i.e., that the Product contains ingredients that were not reef-safe and otherwise could harm reefs, including the coral reefs and marine life that inhabits and depends on them. (5) Plaintiff would not have purchased the Product had Plaintiff known that the Challenged Representation was false-i.e., that the Product contained ingredients that can harm reefs, including the coral reefs and marine life that inhabit and depend on them. (6) Plaintiff continues to see the Products available for purchase and desires to purchase them again if the Challenged Representation was in fact true. (7) Plaintiff is not personally familiar with ingredients in the Products and does not possess any specialized knowledge, skill, experience, or education in sun care products, similar to and including the Products, and their ingredients or formulations; the Harmful Ingredients and similar substances; marine life pollutants and substances hazardous to reefs, including coral reefs and the marine life that inhabits and depends on them; and, therefore, Plaintiff has no way of determining whether the Challenged Representation on the Products is true. (8) Plaintiff is, and continues to be, unable to rely on the truth of the Challenged Representation on the Products' labels.

9. "Plaintiff(s)". The aforementioned Plaintiff(s) is(are) individually and/or collectively
referred to as "Plaintiff(s)" throughout this complaint.

Plaintiff(s)'s Future Harm. Plaintiff(s) would continue to purchase the Products in
the future if the Products, as Defendant(s) continue(s) to advertise and warrant them, lived up to and

conformed with the Challenged Representation. Further, Plaintiff(s) is an (are) average consumer(s) who is(are) not sophisticated in, for example, sun care product formulations, similar to and including the Products, and chemicals hazardous to reefs, similar to and including the Harmful Ingredients. Since Plaintiff(s) would like to purchase the Products again to obtain the benefits of the Challenged Representations that Defendant(s) continue(s) to use—despite the fact that the Products were once marred by false advertising or warranties—Plaintiff(s) would likely and reasonably, but incorrectly, assume the Products are true to and conform with the Challenged Representations on their labels, packaging, and Defendant's advertisements, including Defendant's website(s) and social media platforms. Accordingly, Plaintiff(s) is at risk of reasonably, but incorrectly, assuming that Defendant(s) has(ve) fixed the Products such that Plaintiff(s) may buy them again, believing they are no longer falsely advertised and warranted and instead believing that they comply with the Challenged Representations. In this regard, Plaintiff(s) is(are) currently and in the future deprived of the ability to rely on the Challenged Representations to purchase the Products.

## B. <u>Defendant</u>

11. Defendant Target Corporation ("Defendant(s)" and/or "Target Corp.") is a 16 17 corporation incorporated in the State of Minnesota, and headquartered in the State of Minnesota, 18 with its primary place of business in the State of Minnesota. Defendant was doing business in the 19 State of California at all relevant times. Directly and through its agents, Defendant has substantial 20 contacts with and receives substantial benefits and income from and through the State of California. 21 Defendant is one of the owners, manufacturers, and/or distributors of the Products, and is one of 22 the companies that created and/or authorized the false, misleading, and deceptive labeling of the 23 Products. Defendant and its agents promoted, marketed, and sold the Products at issue in this State 24 and in this judicial district. The unfair, unlawful, deceptive, and misleading Challenged 25 Representations on the Products were prepared, authorized, ratified, and/or approved by Defendant and its agents, and were disseminated throughout this District, California, and the nation by 26 27 Defendant and its agents to deceive and mislead consumers therein into purchasing the Products 28 and paying a premium for the falsely advertised Products' attributes.

> 8 CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT

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12. Defendant Fruit of the Earth, Inc. ("Defendant(s)" and/or "FOTE") is a corporation incorporated in the State of Texas, and headquartered in the State of Texas, with its primary place of business in the State of Texas. Defendant was doing business in the State of California at all relevant times. Directly and through its agents, Defendant has substantial contacts with and receives substantial benefits and income from and through the State of California. Defendant is one of the owners, manufacturers, and/or distributors of the Products, and is one of the companies that created and/or authorized the false, misleading, and deceptive labeling of the Products. Defendant and its agents promoted, marketed, and sold the Products at issue in this State and in this judicial district. The unfair, unlawful, deceptive, and misleading Challenged Representations on the Products were prepared, authorized, ratified, and/or approved by Defendant and its agents, and were disseminated throughout this District, California, and the nation by Defendant and its agents to deceive and mislead consumers therein into purchasing the Products and paying a premium for the falsely advertised Products' attributes.

13. "Defendant(s)". The aforementioned Defendant(s) is(are) individually and/or collectively referred to as "Defendant(s)" throughout this complaint.

## FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

#### Background Α.

18 14. Background. Reefs are some of the most diverse ecosystems in the world. Reefs 19 protect coastlines from storms and erosion, provide jobs for local communities, and offer opportunities for recreation.<sup>1</sup> Over half a billion people depend on reefs for food, income, and 20 protection.<sup>2</sup> Additionally, reef ecosystems are culturally important to people around the world.<sup>3</sup> 22 Indeed, the world's largest reef, the Australian Great Barrier Reef, is considered to be one of the great seven natural wonders of the world due to its scale, beauty, and biodiversity.<sup>4</sup> Despite their

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<sup>1</sup> "Coral Reef Ecosystems," National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration,

- https://www.noaa.gov/education/resource-collections/marine-life/coral-reef-ecosystems (accessed 26 Oct. 1, 2021).
- <sup>2</sup> Id. 27 3 Id.
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Id.; "Great Barrier Reef," WWF [World Wildlife Fund], https://www.wwf.org.au/what-wedo/oceans/great-barrier-reef#gs.b5pmtu (accessed Sept. 29, 2021).

ecological and cultural importance, reefs are disappearing at alarming rates.<sup>5</sup> In fact, some scientists predict that if current trends continue, nearly all reefs will disappear over the next twenty to fifty years.<sup>6</sup> In recent years, consumers have become increasingly concerned about protecting reefs through individual action, including purchasing reef friendly personal care products, in particular sun care and sun protection products, which are free from chemicals that can harm reefs, including the coral reefs and marine life that inhabits and depends on them. Thus, reef-safe personal care products, in particular sun care products such as sunscreens and sun blocks, are rapidly increasing in popularity due to their perceived positive ecological impact.<sup>7</sup>

15. Harmful Chemicals. Avobenzone, homosalate, octisalate, and/or octocrylene (collectively, "Harmful Ingredients") are chemicals that can harm reefs, including coral reefs and the marine life that inhabits and depends on them.

16. The HEL—Octrocrylene. The Haerecticus Environmental Laboratory ("HEL") is a nonprofit organization that specializes in research and advocacy in a number of areas including sunscreens and how their ingredients impact natural environmental habitats. Regarding certain harmful ingredients used in sunscreens, the HEL reports that octrocrylene is a chemical that causes harm and/or can kill coral reefs and pose a substantial threat to ecosystem health.<sup>8</sup>

17. The NOS—Octrocrylene. The National Ocean Service ("NOS") also advocates against the use of certain chemicals, including octocrylene, in the use of sunscreen because of the severe negative impact that is has on coral reefs.<sup>9</sup> The NOS classifies octrocylene as a threat to coral 19 reefs, as well as marine ecosystems.<sup>10</sup> 20

21 <sup>5</sup> *Id*.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> "Nearly All Coral Reefs Will Disappear Over the Next 20 Years, Scientists Say," Forbes (2020), 22 https://www.forbes.com/sites/trevornace/2020/02/24/70-90-percent-of-coral-reefs-will-disappearover-the-next-20-years-scientists-say/?sh=70e461da7d87 (accessed Oct. 1, 2021). 23

<sup>&</sup>quot;Reef Safe Sunscreen Guide," Save the Reef, https://savethereef.org/about-reef-savesunscreen.html (last accessed Sept. 29, 2021); "9 Reasons Why You Should Switch to a Reef Safe Sunscreen," Elle.com, https://www.elle.com/beauty/makeup-skin-care/g32685164/best-reef-safe-24 sunscreen/ (accessed Oct. 1, 2021); "How to Know if Your Sunscreen is Killing Coral Reefs – and 25 the Brands to Try Instead," Travel and Leisure, https://www.travelandleisure.com/style/beauty/reefsafe-sunscreen (accessed Oct. 1, 2021). 26

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> "Protect Land + Sea Certification," Haereticus Environmental Laboratory, http://haereticuslab.org/protect-land-sea-certification-3/ (accessed Oct. 1, 2021). 27

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> "Skincare Chemicals and Coral Reefs," National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration,

https://oceanservice.noaa.gov/news/sunscreen-corals.html (accessed Oct. 1, 2021). 28 <sup>10</sup> *Ìd*.

18. The Hawaii Center for Biological Diversity (the "Center")—Octrocrylene & Avobenzone. The Center is petitioning the FDA for a national ban on chemicals, like octocrylene and avobenzone, in sunscreens that harm and kill the coral reefs.<sup>11</sup> The center is also advocating for a statewide ban of octocrylene and avobenzone in sunscreens, noting the toxic impacts these chemicals have on the coral reefs and marine life.<sup>12</sup>

19. **FDA Petition—Octrocrylene.** In fact, a larger group of researchers have also petitioned the FDA to remove from sale all sunscreens that contain octocrylene.<sup>13</sup> Because products made with octocrylene may contain benzophenone, a known carcinogen, and is considered to be an endocrine, metabolic, and reproductive disruptor.<sup>14</sup>

20. **Hawaii Legislature—Octrocrylene & Avobenzone.** In 2018, state lawmakers banned oxybenzone and octinoxate from being included as ingredients in sunscreens sold in Hawaii because of their deleterious impact on coral reefs and dependent marine life. In 2021, state lawmakers amended the bill to also ban the sale of sunscreens that contain avobenzone and octocrylene starting in 2023.<sup>15</sup> Octocrylene was banned because it can disrupt human hormones and has a toxic impact on aquatic ecosystems, including coral reefs.<sup>16</sup> Avobenzone was banned because it is "an endocrine disruptor and can reduce coral resilience against the high ocean temperatures that are killing corals worldwide."<sup>17</sup>

1821. International Bans—Octrocrylene & Homosalate. In June 2019, the US Virgin19Islands banned sunscreens containing octocrylene, oxybenzone, and octinoxate, with the ban

- <sup>13</sup> Popular sunscreens under scrutiny as scientists cite another potential carcinogen, Los Angeles Times (Aug. 10, 2021), https://www.latimes.com/business/story/2021-08-10/sunscreen-fda-carcinogen-benzophenone-octocrylene-concerns (accessed Oct. 1, 2021).
   <sup>14</sup> Id.
- 25 || <sup>15</sup> "Hawaii Senate Bill 132," Hawaii State Legislature,
- https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/measure\_indiv.aspx?billtype=SB&billnumber=132&year=2021(a ccessed on Oct. 1, 2021).
- <sup>16</sup> "Bill would prohibit sale of sunscreen products containing avobenzone and octocrylene," West
   Hawaii Today (March 10, 2021), https://www.westhawaiitoday.com/2021/03/10/hawaii-news/bill-would-prohibit-sale-of-sunscreen-products-containing-avobenzone-and-octocrylene/ (accessed

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28 Oct. 1, 2021, 2021). ^{17} Id.
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## CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT

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 <sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> "Hawai'i Senate Bill Bans Harmful Sunscreen Chemicals" Center for Biological Diversity (March 9, 2021), https://biologicaldiversity.org/w/news/press-releases/hawaii-senate-bill-bans-harmful-sunscreen-chemicals-2021-03-09/ (accessed Oct. 1, 2021).
 <sup>12</sup> Id.

effective beginning March 2020.<sup>18</sup> In addition, Palau, Bonaire, and the nature reserve areas in Mexico have approved legislation for similar bans, and a similar ban is being discussed in Brazil and the EU.<sup>19</sup> Furthermore, the European Commission has recently recommended that homosalate was not safe to use at certain concentrations and should have a maximum concentration of 1.4 percent.<sup>20</sup> Scientists in the United States have likewise raised concerns about the toxic nature of these ingredients, as well as homosalate, and believe they also have a harmful impact on reefs.<sup>21</sup>

22. **The EWG—Octisalate**. The EWG warns consumers that the harmful effect of Octisalate, to the human body and aquatic ecosystems, is mostly uncertain because there lacks sufficient data to determine whether this chemical is safe to use in sun protectants and sunscreens.<sup>22</sup> Octisalate is frequently detected in coral reefs and, unfortunately, common wastewater treatments cannot remove this chemical, leading octisalate to accumulate and negatively affect the coral reef

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 <sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> Narla, et. al., "Sunscreen: FDA regulation, and environmental and health impact," Royal Society of Chemistry (Nov. 22, 2019), https://pubs.rsc.org/en/content/articlehtml/2019/pp/c9pp00366e (accessed on Oct. 1, 2021).
 <sup>19</sup> Id.

 <sup>18
 &</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> "The Trouble with Ingredients In Sunscreen," Environmental Working Group, https://www.ewg.org/sunscreen/report/the-trouble-with-sunscreen-chemicals/ (accessed on Oct. 8, 2021).
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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup> Yang, Changwon, et al. "Homosalate Aggravates the Invasion of Human Trophoblast Cells as Well as Regulates Intracellular Signaling Pathways Including PI3K/AKT and MAPK Pathways," 20 243 Environmental Pollution 1263-73 (Dec. 2018), https://europepmc.org/article/med/30267922 (accessed Oct. 1, 2021); Park, Chang-Beom, et al. "Single- and Mixture Toxicity of Three Organic 21 UV-Filters, Ethylhexyl Methoxycinnamate, Octocrylene, and Avobenzone on Daphnia Magna." Ecotoxicology and Environmental Safety 57-63 (Mar. 137 2017). 22 https://www.researchgate.net/publication/311425878 Single-

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>23</sup> [] filters\_ethylhexyl\_methoxycinnamate\_octocrylene\_and\_avobenzone\_on\_Daphnia\_magna

<sup>(</sup>accessed Oct. 1, 2021); McCoshum, Shaun M., et al. "Direct and Indirect Effects of Sunscreen Exposure for Reef Biota," 776 Hydrobiologia 139-46 (Issue no. 1, Aug. 2016), https://www.researchgate.net/publication/299423358 Direct\_and\_indirect\_effects\_of\_sunscreen\_exposure\_for\_reef\_biota (accessed Sept. 29, 2021); Slijkerman, D. M. E., and M. Keur, "Sunscreen Ecoproducts: Product Claims, Potential Effects and Environmental Risks of Applied UV Filters," Wageningen Marine Research (2018), https://research.wur.nl/en/publications/sunscreenecoproducts-product-claims-potential-effects-and-enviro (accessed Oct. 1, 2021).

 $<sup>27 \</sup>parallel 22$  "The Trouble with Ingredients In Sunscreen," Environmental Working Group,

<sup>28</sup> https://www.ewg.org/sunscreen/report/the-trouble-with-sunscreen-chemicals/ (accessed on Oct. 8, 2021).

ecosystems and marine organisms.<sup>23</sup> The toxicity of this chemical contributes to the bleaching of coral reefs, which ultimately leads to coral extinction.<sup>24</sup>

23. **Consumers' Desire for Reef-Safe Products.** Consequently, because of the ecological concerns about sun care products (such as sunscreens and sun blocks), consumers have increasingly sought out products that are reef-safe and otherwise cannot harm reefs, including coral reefs and the marine life that inhabits and depends on them. As a result, sales have surged in recent years for consumer personal care and sun care products advertised with "reef safe," "reef friendly," "reef conscious," and similar claims.

## B. <u>The Products' Misleading and Deceptive Labeling</u>

24. **Products.** As described *supra*, Defendant manufactures, markets, advertises, labels, packages, and sells the Products.

25. Challenged Representations on Products' Labels. Also as described *supra*, Defendant falsely and misleadingly labels the Products with the Challenged Representation. The Challenged Representation is conspicuous. It is prominently placed on each Product's primary display panel of the front label or packaging. The front primary display panel contains scant imagery and information about the Products, largely limited to the brand name, identity of the product (e.g., sunscreen), and one or a few claims about the Products' attributes (e.g., size). The Challenged Representation is stated in clear, legible, and highly visible font, including a relatively large typeface that starkly contrasts with the background color and imagery. The net-effect or net-impression on consumers who view the Products is that their attention is drawn to the Challenged Representation. *See* Exhibit 1 [Product Images].

26. **Consumers' Reasonably Rely on the Challenged Representation.** Based on the Challenged Representation, reasonable consumers believe that the Products are safe for reefs. Put differently, reasonable consumers believe the Products do not contain any ingredients that can harm

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>23</sup> Ouchene, Lydia, et al. "Hawaii and Other Jurisdictions Ban Oybenzone or Octionaxte Sunscreens Based on the Confirmed Adverse Environmental Effects of Sunscreen Ingredients on Aquatic Environments,: *Journal of Cutaneous Medicine and Surgery*, Nov. 2019, p. 648, doi: 10.1177/1200475419871592 (last accessed Oct. 8, 2021).
<sup>24</sup> Id.

reefs, including coral reefs and the marine life that inhabits and relies on them, as a result of the Challenged Representations.

27. **Harmful Chemicals Contained in the Products.** In spite of the Products labeling, they contain Harmful Ingredients, including avobenzone, homosalate, octisalate, and/or octocrylene, which are chemicals that harm reefs, including coral reefs and the marine life that inhabits them. As summarized below, the Products contain the following active ingredients, which include the Harmful Ingredients:

a. <u>Up & Up<sup>™</sup> Sport Sunscreen (Lotion, SPF 30, All Sizes)</u> Avobenzone 1.8% Homosalate 7% Octorylene 5%

See Exhibit 1-5 to 1-6 (Sport Lotion SPF 30)

 b. <u>Up & Up<sup>™</sup> Kids' and Sport Sunscreen (Lotion, SPF 50, All Sizes)</u> Avobenzone 3% Homosalate 10% Octorylene 6%

See Exhibit 1-7 (Sport Lotion SPF 50)

c. Up & Up<sup>™</sup> Sport Sunscreen (Spray, SPF 15, All Sizes) Avobenzone 2% Octisalate 4.5% Octorylene 7%

See Exhibit 1-8 (Sport Spray SPF 15)

- d. Up & Up<sup>TM</sup> Sport Sunscreen (Spray, SPF 30, All Sizes) Avobenzone 3% Homosalate 10% Octisalate 5% Octorylene 2%
  - See Exhibit 1-9 to 1-12 (Sport Spray SPF 30)

e. <u>Up & Up™ Kids' and Sport Sunscreen (Spray, SPF 50, All Sizes)</u> Avobenzone 3% Homosalate 10% Octisalate 5% Octorylene 4%

See Exhibit 1-1 to 1-3 (Kids Spray SPF 50); Exhibit 1-13 to 1-15 (Sport Spray SPF 50)

f. Exhibit 1-4: Up & Up<sup>™</sup> Kids' and Sport Sunscreen (Stick, SPF 55, All Sizes) Avobenzone 3%

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Case 3:21-cv-07936-TSH Document 1 Filed 10/08/21 Page 18 of 46 15% Homosalate 1 Octisalate 5% Octorylene 10% 2 See Exhibit 1-4 (Kids Stick SPF 55); Exhibit 1-16 to 1-17 (Sport Stick SPF 3 55) 4 Exhibit 1-5 to 1-6: Up & Up<sup>TM</sup> Sport Sunscreen (Lip Balm, SPF 50, All g. Sizes) 5 Avobenzone 3% 8% Homosalate 6 10% Octorylene 7 See Exhibit 1-18 (Sport Lip Balm SPF 50) 8 28. Avobenzone. Avobenzone is typically used in the place of oxybenzone, another 9 harmful chemical ingredient. When avobenzone is exposed to ultraviolet light the compound 10 degrades and causes damage to coral reefs and aquatic life.<sup>25</sup> 11 29. **Octocrylene**. Octocrylene produces benzophenone, which is a mutagen, carcinogen, and endocrine disruptor.<sup>26</sup> It is associated with a wide range of toxicities, including genotoxicity, 12 13 carcinogenicity, and endocrine disruption. Octocrylene has been shown to accumulate in various 14 types of aquatic life and cause DNA damage, developmental abnormalities, and adverse 15 reproductive effects.<sup>27</sup> Bioaccumulation of this chemical leads to endocrine disruption, alteration of gene transcription, and developmental toxicity in fish, dolphins, sea urchins, and other marine life.<sup>28</sup> 16 17 In addition, octocrylene adversely impacts coral reefs, even at low concentrations, by accumulating in coral tissue and triggering mitochondrial dysfunction.<sup>29</sup> 18 19 <sup>25</sup> Ruszkiewicz, Joanna, et al. "Neurotoxic effect of active ingredients in sunscreen products, a contemporary review," PMC, doi: 10.10/16/j.toxrep.2017.05, May 2017, 20 https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5615097/#bib0635 (last accessed Oct. 1, 2021). <sup>26</sup>"Octocrylene" 21 Environmental Working Group. https://www.ewg.org/skindeep/ingredients/704206-OCTOCRYLENE (last accessed on Oct. 1, 2021). 22 <sup>27</sup> Gago-Ferrero, Pablo, et al. "First Determination of UV Filters in Marine Mammals. Octocrylene Levels in Franciscana Dolphins," Environmental Science & Technology, vol. 47, no. 11, American 23 Chemical Society, June 2013, pp. 5619–25, doi:10.1021/es400675y (last accessed Oct. 1, 2021); Zhang, Qiuya Y., et al. "Assessment of Multiple Hormone Activities of a UV-Filter (Octocrylene) 24 in Zebrafish (Danio Rerio)," Chemosphere, vol. 159, Sept. 2016, pp. 433-41, ScienceDirect, doi:10.1016/j.chemosphere.2016.06.037 (last accessed Oct. 1, 2021). 25 <sup>28</sup> Blüthgen, Nancy, et al. "Accumulation and Effects of the UV-Filter Octocrylene in Adult and Embryonic Zebrafish (Danio Rerio)," The Science of the Total Environment, vol. 476-477, Apr. 26 2014, pp. 207–17, PubMed, doi:10.1016/j.scitotenv.2014.01.015 (last accessed Oct. 1, 2021). <sup>29</sup> Stien, Didier, et al. "Metabolomics Reveal That Octocrylene Accumulates in *Pocillopora* 27 Damicornis Tissues as Fatty Acid Conjugates and Triggers Coral Cell Mitochondrial Dysfunction," Analytical Chemistry, vol. 91, no. 1, Jan. 2019, pp. 990–95, DOI.org (Crossref), 28

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doi:10.1021/acs.analchem.8b04187 (last accessed Oct. 1, 2021).

30. **Homosalate.** Homosalate also has harmful effects similar to octocrlyene. Homosalate impacts the bodies hormone system, particularly the estrogen system. This hormone disruption, as well as pesticide disruption, are also cause harm to the coral reefs and aquatic organisms.<sup>30</sup>

31. **Octisalate.** Octisalate also has similar harmful effects to the environment and coral reefs. Octisalate is frequently detected in coral reefs and, unfortunately, common wastewater treatments cannot remove this chemical, leading octisalate to accumulate and negatively affect the coral reef ecosystems and marine organisms.<sup>31</sup> The toxicity of this chemical contributes to the bleaching of coral reefs, which ultimately leads to coral extinction.<sup>32</sup>

32. **True Reef Safe Sunscreens.** True reef-safe sun care products do not contain any ingredients that can harm reefs, including the coral reefs and the marine life that inhabits and depends on them. Many environmental organizations have favored mineral active ingredients that provide sun protection, such as zinc oxide and titanium dioxide, because they have not been determined unsafe for people, the environment, or aquatic life, like reefs. However, manufacturers, such as Defendant, "greenwash" their products by labeling them with environmentally and eco-friendly claims, such as the Challenged Representations, to charge consumers with a premium for reef-safe products, gain an unfair advantage over their competitors, and defraud consumers into buying the Products even though they contain Harmful Ingredients that can harm reefs, including coral reefs and the marine life that inhabits and depends on them.

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## C. <u>Plaintiff and Reasonable Consumers Were Misled by the Products</u>

33. **Deception.** Defendant's labeling and advertising of the Products with the Challenged Representation, when they are not reef-safe because they contain the Harmful Ingredients, which can harm reefs, including coral reefs and/or the marine life that inhabits and depends on them,

 <sup>&</sup>lt;sup>30</sup> "EWG's Sunscreen Guide," EWG, https://www.ewg.org/sunscreen/report/executive-summary/ (last accessed Sept. 29, 2021); "Homosalate," Campaign for Safe Cosmetics,

https://www.safecosmetics.org/get-the-facts/chemicals-of-concern/homosalate/ (last accessed Oct. 1, 2021).

 <sup>&</sup>lt;sup>31</sup> Ouchene, Lydia, et al. "Hawaii and Other Jurisdictions Ban Oybenzone or Octionaxte
 Sunscreens Based on the Confirmed Adverse Environmental Effects of Sunscreen Ingredients on Aquatic Environments,: *Journal of Cutaneous Medicine and Surgery*, Nov. 2019, p. 648, doi:

 $<sup>\</sup>begin{array}{c|cccc} 28 & 10.1177/1200475419871592 \text{ (last accessed Oct. 8, 2021).} \\ & 3^2 Id. & 16 \end{array}$ 

misleads and deceives reasonable consumers, including Plaintiff, into purchasing the Products to their financial detriment.

34. **Misrepresentation/Omission.** As set forth herein, the Challenged Representation misrepresents that the Products do not contain ingredients that are unsafe for reefs and that the Products' ingredients otherwise could not harm reefs, including coral reefs and the marine-life that inhabits and depends them, because the Products actually contain Harmful Ingredients that are unsafe for, and can otherwise harm, reefs, including coral reefs and/or the marine life that inhabits and depends on them.

35. **Material.** The Challenged Representation was and is material to reasonable consumers, including Plaintiff, in making the decision to purchase the Products, as set forth herein.

36. **Reliance.** Reasonable consumers, including Plaintiff, relied on the Challenged Representation in deciding to purchase the Products, as set forth herein.

37. **Consumers Lack Knowledge of Falsity.** Consumers, including Plaintiff, who purchased the Products, did not know, and had no reason to know, at the time of purchase that the Products' Challenged Representation was false, misleading, deceptive, and unlawful as set forth herein.

17 38. Defendant' Knowledge. Defendant knew, or should have known, that the Challenged 18 Representation was false, misleading, deceptive, and unlawful, at the time that Defendant 19 manufactured, marketed, advertised, labeled, and sold the Products using the Challenged 20 Representations, and Defendants intentionally and deliberately used the Challenged 21 Representations to cause Plaintiff and similarly situated consumers to buy them believing that the 22 Products are safe for, and otherwise could not harm, reefs (including coral reefs and the marine life 23 that inhabits and depends on them). The conspicuousness of the Challenged Representation on the 24 Products' labels and repeated use of the Challenged Representation in advertisements demonstrate 25 Defendant's awareness of the materiality of this representations and understanding that consumers prefer and are motivated to buy products that conform to the Challenged Representation. Generally, 26 27 manufacturers and marketers repeat marketing messages to emphasize and characterize a brand or 28 product line. Similarly, they reserve the front primary display panel of labels on consumer products

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of similar dimensions for the most important and persuasive information that they believe will motivate consumers to buy the products. Defendant, as the manufacturer, formulated the Products with the Harmful Ingredients and otherwise approved their inclusion in the Products. Defendant, as the manufacturer, had exclusive control over the Challenged Representation's inclusion on the Products' labels and in their advertisements—i.e., Defendant readily and easily could have removed the Challenged Representation or refrained from using it on the labels and advertisements of the Products. Defendant is and was, at all times, statutorily required to ensure it has adequate substantiation for the Challenged Representation prior to labeling the Products, advertising the Products, and selling the Products anywhere in the United States. Here, adequate substantiation and compliance with regulatory law require reliable scientific evidence that supports such far-reaching environment-friendly and/or eco-friendly claims as the Challenged Representation. Thus, Defendant knew, or should have known, at all relevant times, that the Challenged Representations are false and/or deceptive and reasonable consumers, such as Plaintiff, are being misled into buying the Products based on the belief that the Challenged Representations.

39. **Detriment.** Plaintiff and similarly situated consumers would not have purchased the Products, or would not have purchased the Products for as great a price, if they had known that the Challenged Representations were false and, therefore, the Products did not have the attribute claimed, promised, warranted, advertised, and represented. Accordingly, based on Defendant's material misrepresentations and omissions, reasonable consumers, including Plaintiff, purchased the Products to their detriment.

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D.

### The Products are Substantially Similar

40. As described herein, Plaintiff purchased the Purchased Product. The additional Products identified above in paragraph 4 *supra* (collectively, the "**Unpurchased Products**") are substantially similar to the Purchased Product.

a. **Defendant.** All Products are manufactured, sold, marketed, advertised, labeled, and packaged by Defendant.

 b. **Brand.** All Products are sold under the same brand name: Up &  $Up^{TM}$ .

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- c. Marketing Demographics. All Products are marketed directly to consumers for personal use.
- d. **Purpose.** All Products are sun care products primarily designed to provide protection from the sun.
- e. **Application.** All Products are applied in the same manner—topically; directly onto the skin, lips, and/or body surfaces.
- f. **Misrepresentations.** All Products contain the same the same Challenged Representation conspicuously and prominently placed on the primary display panel of the front label.
- g. Packaging. All Products are packaged in similar packaging.
- h. **Key Ingredients.** All Products contain a combination of the same Harmful Ingredients.
- i. **Misleading Effect.** The misleading effect of the Challenged Representation on consumers is the same for all Products—consumers pay for reef-safe products, but receive products that are not reef-safe and otherwise can harm reefs, including coral reefs and the marine life that inhabits and depends on them.

E.

## No Adequate Remedy at Law

41. **No Adequate Remedy at Law.** Plaintiff and members of the Class are entitled to equitable relief as no adequate remedy at law exists.

a. **Broader Statutes of Limitations.** The statutes of limitations for the causes of action pled herein vary. The limitations period is four years for claims brought under the UCL, which is one year longer than the statutes of limitations under the FAL and CLRA. In addition, the statutes of limitations vary for certain states' laws for breach of warranty and unjust enrichment/restitution, between approximately 2 and 6 years. Thus, California Subclass members who purchased the Products more than 3 years prior to the filing of the complaint will be barred from recovery if equitable relief were not permitted under the UCL. Similarly, Nationwide Class members who purchased the Products prior to the furthest

CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT reach-back under the statute of limitations for breach of warranty, will be barred from recovery if equitable relief were not permitted for restitution/unjust enrichment.

Broader Scope of Conduct. In addition, the scope of actionable misconduct b. under the unfair prong of the UCL is broader than the other causes of action asserted herein. It includes, for example, Defendant's overall unfair marketing scheme to promote and brand the Products with the Challenged Representation, across a multitude of media platforms, including the Products' labels and packaging, over a long period of time, in order to gain an unfair advantage over competitor products and to take advantage of consumers' desire for products that comport with the Challenged Representation. The UCL also creates a cause of action for violations of law (such as statutory or regulatory requirements and court orders related to similar representations and omissions made on the type of products at issue). Thus, Plaintiff and Class members may be entitled to restitution under the UCL, while not entitled to damages under other causes of action asserted herein (e.g., the FAL requires actual or constructive knowledge of the falsity; the CLRA is limited to certain types of plaintiffs (an individual who seeks or acquires, by purchase or lease, any goods or services for personal, family, or household purposes) and other statutorily enumerated conduct). Similarly, unjust enrichment/restitution is broader than breach of warranty. For example, in some states, breach of warranty may require privity of contract or pre-lawsuit notice, which are not typically required to establish unjust enrichment/restitution. Thus, Plaintiff and Class members may be entitled to recover under unjust enrichment/restitution, while not entitled to damages under breach of warranty, because they purchased the products from third-party retailers or did not provide adequate notice of a breach prior to the commencement of this action.

c. Injunctive Relief to Cease Misconduct and Dispel Misperception. Injunctive relief is appropriate on behalf of Plaintiff and members of the Class because

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CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT

Defendant continues to misrepresent the Products with the Challenged Representation. Injunctive relief is necessary to prevent Defendant from continuing to engage in the unfair, fraudulent, and/or unlawful conduct described herein and to prevent future harm-none of which can be achieved through available legal remedies (such as monetary damages to compensate past harm). Further, injunctive relief, in the form of affirmative disclosures is necessary to dispel the public misperception about the Products that has resulted from years of Defendant's unfair, fraudulent, and unlawful marketing efforts. Such disclosures would include, but are not limited to, publicly disseminated statements that the Products Challenged Representation is not true and providing accurate information about the Products' true nature; and/or requiring prominent qualifications and/or disclaimers on the Products' front label concerning the Products' true nature. An injunction requiring affirmative disclosures to dispel the public's misperception, and prevent the ongoing deception and repeat purchases based thereon, is also not available through a legal remedy (such as monetary damages). In addition, Plaintiff is *currently* unable to accurately quantify the damages caused by Defendant's future harm, because discovery and Plaintiff's investigation have not yet completed, rendering injunctive relief all the more necessary. For example, because the court has not yet certified any class, the following remains unknown: the scope of the class, the identities of its members, their respective purchasing practices, prices of past/future Product sales, and quantities of past/future Product sales.

- d. **Public Injunction.** Further, because a "public injunction" is available under the UCL, damages will not adequately "benefit the general public" in a manner equivalent to an injunction.
- e. **California vs. Nationwide Class Claims**. Violation of the UCL, FAL, and CLRA are claims asserted on behalf of Plaintiff and the California Subclass against Defendant, while breach of warranty and unjust enrichment/restitution are

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asserted on behalf of Plaintiff and the Nationwide Class. Dismissal of fartherreaching claims, such as restitution, would bar recovery for non-California members of the Class. In other words, legal remedies available or adequate under the California-specific causes of action (such as the UCL, FAL, and CLRA) have no impact on this Court's jurisdiction to award equitable relief under the remaining causes of action asserted on behalf of non-California putative class members.

f. Procedural Posture—Incomplete Discovery & Pre-Certification. Lastly, this is an initial pleading in this action and discovery has not yet commenced and/or is at its initial stages. No class has been certified yet. No expert discovery has commenced and/or completed. The completion of fact/non-expert and expert discovery, as well as the certification of this case as a class action, are necessary to finalize and determine the adequacy and availability of all remedies, including legal and equitable, for Plaintiff(s)'s individual claims and any certified class or subclass. Plaintiff(s) therefore reserve(s) Plaintiff(s)'s right to amend this complaint and/or assert additional facts that demonstrate this Court's jurisdiction to order equitable remedies where no adequate legal remedies are available for either Plaintiff(s) and/or any certified class or subclass. Such proof, to the extent necessary, will be presented prior to the trial of any equitable claims for relief and/or the entry of an order granting equitable relief.

#### **CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS**

22 42. Class Definition. Plaintiff brings this action as a class action pursuant to Federal Rules of Civil Procedure 23(b)(2) and 23(b)(3) on behalf of herself and all others similarly situated, and as members of the Classes defined as follows: 24

- All residents of the United States who, within the applicable statute of limitations periods, purchased the Products for purposes other than resale ("Nationwide Class"); and
- All residents of California who, within four years prior to the filing of this Complaint, purchased the Products for purposes other than resale ("California Subclass").

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## CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT

("Nationwide Class" and "California Subclass," collectively, "Class").

43. **Class Definition Exclusions.** Excluded from the Class are: (i) Defendant, its assigns, successors, and legal representatives; (ii) any entities in which Defendant has controlling interests; (iii) federal, state, and/or local governments, including, but not limited to, their departments, agencies, divisions, bureaus, boards, sections, groups, counsels, and/or subdivisions; and (iv) any judicial officer presiding over this matter and person within the third degree of consanguinity to such judicial officer.

44. **Reservation of Rights to Amend the Class Definition.** Plaintiff reserves the right to amend or otherwise alter the class definition presented to the Court at the appropriate time in response to facts learned through discovery, legal arguments advanced by Defendant, or otherwise.

45. **Numerosity:** Members of the Class are so numerous that joinder of all members is impracticable. Upon information and belief, the Nationwide Class consists of tens of thousands of purchasers (if not more) dispersed throughout the United States, and the California Subclass likewise consists of thousands of purchasers (if not more) dispersed throughout the State of California. Accordingly, it would be impracticable to join all members of the Class before the Court.

46. **Common Questions Predominate:** There are numerous and substantial questions of law or fact common to all members of the Class that predominate over any individual issues. Included within the common questions of law or fact are:

- a. Whether Defendant engaged in unlawful, unfair or deceptive business practices by advertising and selling the Products;
- b. Whether Defendant's conduct of advertising and selling the Products as containing only reef friendly ingredients when they do not constitutes an unfair method of competition, or unfair or deceptive act or practice, in violation of Civil Code section 1750, *et seq.*;
  - c. Whether Defendant used deceptive representations in connection with the sale of the Products in violation of Civil Code section 1750, *et seq.*;
  - d. Whether Defendant represented that the Products have characteristics or quantities that they do not have in violation of Civil Code section 1750, *et seq.*;
- e. Whether Defendant advertised the Products with intent not to sell them as advertised in violation of Civil Code section 1750, *et seq.*;
  - f. Whether Defendant's labeling and advertising of the Products are untrue or misleading in violation of Business and Professions Code section 17500, *et seq.*;

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CLARKSON LAW FIRM, P.C. 22525 Pacific Coast Highway

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23 CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT

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1	g	Whether Defendant knew or by the exercise of reasonable care should have known its
2	g.	labeling and advertising was and is untrue or misleading in violation of Business and Professions Code section 17500, <i>et seq.</i> ;
3	h.	Whether Defendant's conduct is an unfair business practice within the meaning of Business and Professions Code section 17200, <i>et seq.</i> ;
4 5	i.	Whether Defendant's conduct is a fraudulent business practice within the meaning of Business and Professions Code section 17200, <i>et seq.</i> ;
6	j.	Whether Defendant's conduct is an unlawful business practice within the meaning of Business and Professions Code section 17200, <i>et seq.</i> ;
7	k.	Whether Plaintiff and the Class paid more money for the Products than they actually
8	к.	received;
9 10	1.	How much more money Plaintiff and the Class paid for the Products than they actually received;
10	m.	Whether Defendant's conduct constitutes breach of warranty;
12	n.	Whether Plaintiff and the Class are entitled to injunctive relief; and
12	0.	Whether Defendant was unjustly enriched by their unlawful conduct.
14	47.	Typicality: Plaintiff's claims are typical of the claims of the Class Members he seeks
15	to represent because Plaintiff, like the Class Members, purchased Defendant's misleading and	
16	deceptive I	Products. Defendant's unlawful, unfair and/or fraudulent actions concern the same
17	business pr	ractices described herein irrespective of where they occurred or were experienced.
18	Plaintiff and the Class sustained similar injuries arising out of Defendant's conduct. Plaintiff's and	
19	Class Members' claims arise from the same practices and course of conduct and are based on the	
20	same legal theories.	
21	48.	Adequacy: Plaintiff is an adequate representative of the Class he seeks to represent
22	because his	s interests do not conflict with the interests of the Class Members Plaintiff seeks to
23	represent. I	Plaintiff will fairly and adequately protect Class Members' interests and has retained
24	counsel experienced and competent in the prosecution of complex class actions, including complex	
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49. Superiority and Substantial Benefit: A class action is superior to other methods for
the fair and efficient adjudication of this controversy, since individual joinder of all members of the

questions that arise in consumer protection litigation.

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CLARKSON LAW FIRM, P.C. 22525 Pacific Coast Highway Malibu, CA 90265 Class is impracticable and no other group method of adjudication of all claims asserted herein is more efficient and manageable for at least the following reasons:

- The claims presented in this case predominate over any questions of law or fact, if a. any exist at all, affecting any individual member of the Class;
- Absent a Class, the members of the Class will continue to suffer damage and b. Defendant's unlawful conduct will continue without remedy while Defendant profits from and enjoy its ill-gotten gains;
- Given the size of individual Class Members' claims, few, if any, Class Members could c. afford to or would seek legal redress individually for the wrongs Defendant committed against them, and absent Class Members have no substantial interest in individually controlling the prosecution of individual actions;
- d. When the liability of Defendant has been adjudicated, claims of all members of the Class can be administered efficiently and/or determined uniformly by the Court; and
  - This action presents no difficulty that would impede its management by the Court as e. a class action, which is the best available means by which Plaintiff and Class Members can seek redress for the harm caused to them by Defendant.

50. Inconsistent Rulings. Because Plaintiff seeks relief for all members of the Class, the

prosecution of separate actions by individual members would create a risk of inconsistent or varying adjudications with respect to individual members of the Class, which would establish incompatible

standards of conduct for Defendant.

51. Injunctive/Equitable Relief. The prerequisites to maintaining a class action for injunctive or equitable relief pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(b)(2) are met as Defendant has acted or refused to act on grounds generally applicable to the Class, thereby making appropriate final injunctive or equitable relief with respect to the Class as a whole.

52. Manageability. Plaintiff and Plaintiff's counsel are unaware of any difficulties that are likely to be encountered in the management of this action that would preclude its maintenance as a class action.

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### COUNT ONE

## Violation of California Unfair Competition Law (Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code §§ 17200, et seq.)

(On Behalf of the California Subclass)

53. **Incorporation by Reference.** Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by reference all allegations contained in this complaint, as though fully set forth herein.

54. California Subclass. This cause of action is brought pursuant to Business and Professions Code Section 17200, et seq., on behalf of Plaintiff and a California Subclass who purchased the Products within the applicable statute of limitations.

55. The UCL. California Business & Professions Code, sections 17200, et seq. (the "UCL") prohibits unfair competition and provides, in pertinent part, that "unfair competition shall mean and include unlawful, unfair or fraudulent business practices and unfair, deceptive, untrue or misleading advertising."

56. False Advertising Claims. Defendant, in its advertising and packaging of the Products, made false and misleading statements and fraudulent omissions regarding the quality and characteristics of the Products—specifically, the Reef Friendly Representation—despite the fact the Products contain chemical ingredients that can harm and/or kill coral reefs. Such claims and omissions appear on the label and packaging of the Products, which are sold at retail stores and point-of-purchase displays.

57. Defendant's Deliberately False and Fraudulent Marketing Scheme. Defendant does not have any reasonable basis for the claims about the Products made in Defendant's advertising and on Defendant's packaging or labeling because the Products contain ingredients that can cause harm and/or kill coral reefs. Defendant knew and knows that the Products are not truly reef friendly sunscreens, though Defendant intentionally advertised and marketed the Products to deceive reasonable consumers into believing that Products contain only ingredients that are safe for coral reefs.

27 58. False Advertising Claims Cause Purchase of Products. Defendant's labeling and 28 advertising of the Products led to, and continues to lead to, reasonable consumers, including

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Plaintiff, believing that the Products are truly reef friendly and do not harm and/or kill coral reefs.

59. Injury in Fact. Plaintiff and the California Subclass have suffered injury in fact and have lost money or property as a result of and in reliance upon Defendant's False Advertising Claims-namely Plaintiff and the California Subclass lost the purchase price for the Products they bought from the Defendant.

60. Conduct Violates the UCL. Defendant's conduct, as alleged herein, constitutes unfair, unlawful, and fraudulent business practices pursuant to the UCL. The UCL prohibits unfair competition and provides, in pertinent part, that "unfair competition shall mean and include unlawful, unfair or fraudulent business practices and unfair, deceptive, untrue or misleading advertising." Cal. Bus & Prof. Code § 17200. In addition, Defendant's use of various forms of advertising media to advertise, call attention to, or give publicity to the sale of goods or merchandise that are not as represented in any manner constitutes unfair competition, unfair, deceptive, untrue or misleading advertising, and an unlawful business practice within the meaning of Business and Professions Code Sections 17200 and 17531, which advertisements have deceived and are likely to deceive the consuming public, in violation of Business and Professions Code Section 17200.

61. No Reasonably Available Alternatives/Legitimate Business Interests. Defendant failed to avail themselves of reasonably available, lawful alternatives to further their legitimate business interests.

62. Business Practice. All of the conduct alleged herein occurred and continues to occur in Defendant's business. Defendant's wrongful conduct is part of a pattern, practice and/or generalized course of conduct, which will continue on a daily basis until Defendant voluntarily alters its conduct or Defendant is otherwise ordered to do so.

23 63. Injunction. Pursuant to Business and Professions Code Sections 17203 and 17535, Plaintiff and the members of the California Subclass seek an order of this Court enjoining Defendant 24 25 from continuing to engage, use, or employ its practice of labeling and advertising the sale and use of the Products. Likewise, Plaintiff and the members of the California Subclass seek an order requiring Defendant to disclose such misrepresentations, and to preclude Defendant's failure to disclose the existence and significance of said misrepresentations.

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64. **Causation/Damages.** As a direct and proximate result of Defendant's misconduct in violation of the UCL, Plaintiff and members of the California Subclass were harmed in the amount of the purchase price they paid for the Products. Further, Plaintiff and members of the California Subclass have suffered and continue to suffer economic losses and other damages including, but not limited to, the amounts paid for the Products, and any interest that would have accrued on those monies, in an amount to be proven at trial. Accordingly, Plaintiff seeks a monetary award for violation of the UCL in damages, restitution, and/or disgorgement of ill-gotten gains to compensate Plaintiff and the California Subclass for said monies, as well as injunctive relief to enjoin Defendant's misconduct to prevent ongoing and future harm that will result.

65. Punitive Damages. Plaintiff seeks punitive damages pursuant to this cause of action for violation of the UCL on behalf of Plaintiff and the California Subclass. Defendant's unfair, fraudulent, and unlawful conduct described herein constitutes malicious, oppressive, and/or fraudulent conduct warranting an award of punitive damages as permitted by law. Defendant's misconduct is malicious as Defendant acted with the intent to cause Plaintiff and consumers to pay for Products that they were not, in fact, receiving. Defendant willfully and knowingly disregarded the rights of Plaintiff and consumers as Defendant was, at all times, aware of the probable dangerous consequences of its conduct and deliberately failed to avoid misleading consumers, including Plaintiff. Defendant's misconduct is oppressive as, at all relevant times, said conduct was so vile, base, and/or contemptible that reasonable people would look down upon it and/or otherwise would despise such corporate misconduct. Said misconduct subjected Plaintiff and consumers to cruel and unjust hardship in knowing disregard of their rights. Defendant's misconduct is fraudulent as Defendant intentionally misrepresented and/or concealed material facts with the intent to deceive Plaintiff and consumers. The wrongful conduct constituting malice, oppression, and/or fraud was committed, authorized, adopted, approved, and/or ratified by officers, directors, and/or managing agents of Defendant.

## A. "Unfair" Prong

66. **Unfair Standard.** Under the UCL, a challenged activity is "unfair" when "any injury it causes outweighs any benefits provided to consumers and the injury is one that the consumers

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themselves could not reasonably avoid." *Camacho v. Auto Club of Southern California*, 142 Cal. App. 4th 1394, 1403 (2006).

67. **Injury.** Defendant's action of mislabeling the Products with the Challenged Representation does not confer any benefit to consumers; rather, doing so causes injuries to consumers, who do not receive products commensurate with their reasonable expectations, overpay for the Products, and receive Products of lesser standards than what they reasonably expected to receive. Consumers cannot avoid any of the injuries caused by Defendant's deceptive labeling and advertising of the Products. Accordingly, the injuries caused by Defendant's deceptive labeling and advertising outweigh any benefits.

68. **Balancing Test.** Some courts conduct a balancing test to decide if a challenged activity amounts to unfair conduct under California Business and Professions Code Section 17200. They "weigh the utility of the defendant's conduct against the gravity of the harm to the alleged victim." *Davis v. HSBC Bank Nevada, N.A.*, 691 F.3d 1152, 1169 (9th Cir. 2012).

69. **No Utility.** Here, Defendant's conduct of labeling the Products with the Reef Friendly Representation when the Products contain harmful chemical ingredients that harm and/or kill coral reefs has no utility and financially harms purchasers. Thus, the utility of Defendant's conduct is vastly outweighed by the gravity of harm.

70. **Legislative Declared Policy.** Some courts require that "unfairness must be tethered to some legislative declared policy or proof of some actual or threatened impact on competition." *Lozano v. AT&T Wireless Servs. Inc.*, 504 F. 3d 718, 735 (9th Cir. 2007).

71. **Unfair Conduct.** Defendant's labeling and advertising of the Products, as alleged herein, is false, deceptive, misleading, and unreasonable, and constitutes unfair conduct. Defendant knew or should have known of its unfair conduct. Defendant's misrepresentations constitute an unfair business practice within the meaning of California Business and Professions Code Section 17200.

Reasonably Available Alternatives. There existed reasonably available alternatives
to further Defendant's legitimate business interests, other than the conduct described herein.
Defendant could have refrained from labeling the Products with the Reef Friendly Representation.

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73. **Defendant's Wrongful Conduct.** All of the conduct alleged herein occurs and continues to occur in Defendant's business. Defendant's wrongful conduct is part of a pattern or generalized course of conduct repeated on thousands of occasions daily.

74. **Injunction.** Pursuant to Business and Professions Code Sections 17203, Plaintiff and the California Subclass seek an order of this Court enjoining Defendant from continuing to engage, use, or employ its practices of labeling the Products with the Reef Friendly Representation.

75. **Causation/Damages.** Plaintiff and the California Subclass have suffered injury in fact and have lost money as a result of Defendant's unfair conduct. Plaintiff and the California Subclass paid an unwarranted premium for these Products. Specifically, Plaintiff and the California Subclass paid for Products that contain chemical active ingredients. Plaintiff and the California Subclass would not have purchased the Products, or would have paid substantially less for the Products, if they had known that the Products' advertising and labeling were deceptive. Accordingly, Plaintiff seeks damages, restitution and/or disgorgement of ill-gotten gains pursuant to the UCL.

## B. "Fraudulent" Prong

76. Fraud Standard. The UCL considers conduct fraudulent (and prohibits said conduct) if it is likely to deceive members of the public. *Bank of the West v. Superior Court*, 2 Cal. 4th 1254, 1267 (1992).

77. **Fraudulent & Material Challenged Representations.** Defendant used the Reef Friendly Representation with the intent to sell the Products to consumers, including Plaintiff and the California Subclass. The Challenged Representation is false and Defendant knew or should have known of its falsity. The Challenged Representation is likely to deceive consumers into purchasing the Products because they are material to the average, ordinary, and reasonable consumer.

78. **Fraudulent Business Practice.** As alleged herein, the misrepresentations by Defendant constitute a fraudulent business practice in violation of California Business & Professions Code Section 17200.

79. **Reasonable and Detrimental Reliance.** Plaintiff and the California Subclass reasonably and detrimentally relied on the material and false Challenged Representation to their detriment in that they purchased the Products.

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80. **Reasonably Available Alternatives.** Defendant had reasonably available alternatives to further its legitimate business interests, other than the conduct described herein. Defendant could have refrained from labeling the Products with the Reef Friendly Representation.

81. **Business Practice.** All of the conduct alleged herein occurs and continues to occur in Defendant's business. Defendant's wrongful conduct is part of a pattern or generalized course of conduct.

82. **Injunction.** Pursuant to Business and Professions Code Sections 17203, Plaintiff and the California Subclass seek an order of this Court enjoining Defendant from continuing to engage, use, or employ its practice of labeling the Products with the Reef Friendly Representation.

83. **Causation/Damages.** Plaintiff and the California Subclass have suffered injury in fact and have lost money as a result of Defendant's fraudulent conduct. Plaintiff paid an unwarranted premium for the Products. Specifically, Plaintiff and the California Subclass paid for products that they believed contained only ingredients that are safe for coral reefs, when, in fact, the Products contained harmful chemical ingredients that can harm and/or kill coral reefs. Plaintiff and the California Subclass would not have purchased the Products if they had known the truth. Accordingly, Plaintiff seeks damages, restitution, and/or disgorgement of ill-gotten gains pursuant to the UCL.

## C. "Unlawful" Prong

84. **Unlawful Standard.** The UCL identifies violations of other laws as "unlawful practices that the unfair competition law makes independently actionable." *Velazquez v. GMAC Mortg. Corp.*, 605 F. Supp. 2d 1049, 1068 (C.D. Cal. 2008).

85. **Violations of CLRA and FAL.** Defendant's labeling of the Products, as alleged herein, violates California Civil Code sections 1750, *et seq.* (the "**CLRA**") and California Business and Professions Code sections 17500, *et seq.* (the "**FAL**") as set forth below in the sections regarding those causes of action.

86. Additional Violations. Defendant's conduct in making the false representations
described herein constitutes a knowing failure to adopt policies in accordance with and/or adherence
to applicable laws, as set forth herein, all of which are binding upon and burdensome to their

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competitors. This conduct engenders an unfair competitive advantage for Defendant, thereby constituting an unfair, fraudulent and/or unlawful business practice under California Business & Professions Code sections 17200-17208. Additionally, Defendant's misrepresentations of material facts, as set forth herein, violate California Civil Code sections 1572, 1573, 1709, 1710, 1711, and 1770, as well as the common law.

87. Unlawful Conduct. Defendant's packaging, labeling, and advertising of the Products, as alleged herein, are false, deceptive, misleading, and unreasonable, and constitute unlawful conduct. Defendant knew or should have known of its unlawful conduct.

88. Reasonably Available Alternatives. Defendant had reasonably available alternatives to further its legitimate business interests, other than the conduct described herein. Defendant could have refrained from labeling the Products with the Reef Friendly Representation.

89. Business Practice. All of the conduct alleged herein occurs and continues to occur in Defendant's business. Defendant's wrongful conduct is part of a pattern or generalized course of conduct.

90. Injunction. Pursuant to Business and Professions Code Section 17203, Plaintiff and the California Subclass seek an order of this Court enjoining Defendant from continuing to engage, use, or employ its practice of false and deceptive advertising of the Products.

18 91. Causation/Damages. Plaintiff and the California Subclass have suffered injury in fact 19 and have lost money as a result of Defendant's unlawful conduct. Plaintiff and the California 20 Subclass paid an unwarranted premium for the Products. Plaintiff and the California Subclass would not have purchased the Products if they had known that Defendant's purposely deceived consumers 22 into believing that the Products are truly safe for coral reefs. Accordingly, Plaintiff seeks damages, restitution and/or disgorgement of ill-gotten gains pursuant to the UCL.

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## COUNT TWO

# Violation of California False Advertising Law (Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code §§ 17500, et seq.) (On Behalf of the California Subclass)

92. **Incorporation by reference.** Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by reference all allegations contained in this complaint, as though fully set forth herein.

93. California Subclass. Plaintiff brings this claim individually and on behalf of the California Subclass who purchased the Products within the applicable statute of limitations.

FAL Standard. The False Advertising Law, codified at Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code 94. section 17500, et seq., prohibits "unfair, deceptive, untrue or misleading advertising[.]"

95. False & Material Challenged Representations Disseminated to Public. Defendant violated section 17500 when it advertised and marketed the Products through the unfair, deceptive, untrue, and misleading Reef Friendly Representation disseminated to the public through the Products' labeling, packaging and advertising. These representations were false because the Products do not conform to them. The representations were material because they are likely to mislead a reasonable consumer into purchasing the Products.

96. Knowledge. In making and disseminating the representations alleged herein, 18 Defendant knew or should have known that the representations were untrue or misleading, and acted 19 in violation of § 17500.

97. **Intent to sell.** Defendant's Challenged Representation was specifically designed to induce reasonable consumers, like Plaintiff and the California Subclass, to purchase the Products.

22 98. Causation/Damages. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant's misconduct in 23 violation of the FAL, Plaintiff and members of the California Subclass were harmed in the amount 24 of the purchase price they paid for the Products. Further, Plaintiff and members of the Class have 25 suffered and continue to suffer economic losses and other damages including, but not limited to, the 26 amounts paid for the Products, and any interest that would have accrued on those monies, in an 27 amount to be proven at trial. Accordingly, Plaintiff seeks a monetary award for violation of the FAL 28 in damages, restitution, and/or disgorgement of ill-gotten gains to compensate Plaintiff and the

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California Subclass for said monies, as well as injunctive relief to enjoin Defendant's misconduct to prevent ongoing and future harm that will result.

99. Punitive Damages. Defendant's unfair, fraudulent, and unlawful conduct described herein constitutes malicious, oppressive, and/or fraudulent conduct warranting an award of punitive damages as permitted by law. Defendant's misconduct is malicious as Defendant acted with the intent to cause Plaintiff and consumers to pay for Products that they were not, in fact, receiving. Defendant willfully and knowingly disregarded the rights of Plaintiff and consumers as Defendant was aware of the probable dangerous consequences of its conduct and deliberately failed to avoid misleading consumers, including Plaintiff. Defendant's misconduct is oppressive as, at all relevant times, said conduct was so vile, base, and/or contemptible that reasonable people would look down upon it and/or otherwise would despise such corporate misconduct. Said misconduct subjected Plaintiff and consumers to cruel and unjust hardship in knowing disregard of their rights. Defendant's misconduct is fraudulent as Defendant, at all relevant times, intentionally misrepresented and/or concealed material facts with the intent to deceive Plaintiff and consumers. The wrongful conduct constituting malice, oppression, and/or fraud was committed, authorized, adopted, approved, and/or ratified by officers, directors, and/or managing agents of Defendant.

# **COUNT THREE**

### Violation of California Consumers Legal Remedies Act

(Cal. Civ. Code §§ 1750, et seq.)

# (On Behalf of the California Subclass)

100. **Incorporation by Reference.** Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by reference all allegations contained in this complaint, as though fully set forth herein.

24 101. California Subclass. Plaintiff brings this claim individually and on behalf of the
25 California Subclass who purchased the Products within the applicable statute of limitations.

102. CLRA Standard. The CLRA provides that "unfair methods of competition and unfair
or deceptive acts or practices undertaken by any person in a transaction intended to result or which
results in the sale or lease of goods or services to any consumer are unlawful."

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103. **Goods/Services.** The Products are "goods," as defined by the CLRA in California Civil Code §1761(a).

104. **Defendant.** Defendant is a "person," as defined by the CLRA in California Civil Code §1761(c).

105. **Consumers.** Plaintiff and members of the California Subclass are "consumers," as defined by the CLRA in California Civil Code §1761(d).

106. **Transactions.** The purchase of the Products by Plaintiff and members of the California Subclass are "transactions" as defined by the CLRA under California Civil Code section 1761(e).

107. **Violations of the CLRA.** Defendant violated the following sections of the CLRA by selling the Products to Plaintiff and the California Subclass through the false, misleading, deceptive, and fraudulent Challenged Representation:

a. Section 1770(a)(5) by representing that the Products have "characteristics, . . . uses [or] benefits
. . . which [they] do not have."

b. Section 1770(a)(7) by representing that the Products "are of a particular standard, quality, or grade . . . [when] they are of another."

c. Section 1770(a)(9) by advertising the Products "with [the] intent not to sell them as advertised."

108. **Knowledge.** Defendant's uniform and material representations and omissions regarding the Products were likely to deceive, and Defendant knew or should have known that its representations and omissions were untrue and misleading.

109. **Malicious.** Defendant's conduct is malicious, fraudulent, and wanton in that Defendant intentionally misled and withheld material information from consumers, including Plaintiff, to increase the sale of the Products.

110. Plaintiff Could Not Have Avoided Injury. Plaintiff and members of the California
Subclass could not have reasonably avoided such injury. Plaintiff and members of the California
Subclass were unaware of the existence of the facts that Defendant suppressed and failed to disclose,
and Plaintiff and members of the California Subclass would not have purchased the Products and/or
would have purchased them on different terms had they known the truth.

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111. Causation/Reliance/Materiality. Plaintiff and the California Subclass suffered harm as a result of Defendant's violations of the CLRA because they relied on the Challenged Representation in deciding to purchase the Products. The Challenged Representation was a substantial factor. The Challenged Representation was material because a reasonable consumer would consider it important in deciding whether to purchase the Products.

112. Section 1782 – Prelitigation Demand/Notice—Target Corp. Only. Pursuant to California Civil Code section 1782, more than thirty days prior to the filing of this complaint, on or about November 24 or 27, 2020, Plaintiff's counsel, acting on behalf of Plaintiff and members of the Class, deposited a Pre-Lawsuit Demand with the U.S. Postal Service for mailing via certified mail, return receipt requested, addressed to Defendant Target Corp. at its headquarters and principal place of buisness registered with the California Secretary of State (Target Corporation, 1000 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis, MN 55403), and its registered agent for service of process (CT Corporation System, 818 W. 7th Street, Ste. 930, Los Angeles, CA 90017), which were delivered to those addresses on or about November 30, 2020. See Exhibit 2 (Pre-Lawsuit Demand; Signed Return Receipt; USPS Tracking History). Said Pre-Lawsuit Demand described Defendant's particular violations of the California Consumers Legal Remedies Act, as set forth above, and demanded that Defendant correct and otherwise rectify those violations with respect to Plaintiff and all members of the Class. The form, content, and delivery of the Pre-Lawsuit Demand satisfy subsections (1) and (2) of section 1782(a). The Pre-Lawsuit Demand identified the statutes and/or laws violated, described how they were violated, and explained the nature and extent of remedial action required to rectify those violations. As of the filing of this complaint, said Defendant did not adequately correct, repair, replace, and/or otherwise remediate the violations, including the requested remedial action, consistent with section 1782(c).

113. Causation/Damages-Target Corp. Only. As a direct and proximate result of 24 Defendant Target Corp.'s misconduct in violation of the CLRA, Plaintiff and members of the 25 California Subclass were harmed in the amount of the purchase price they paid for the Products. 26 27 Further, Plaintiff and members of the Class have suffered and continue to suffer economic losses 28 and other damages including, but not limited to, the amounts paid for the Products, and any interest

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that would have accrued on those monies, in an amount to be proven at trial. Accordingly, Plaintiff seeks a monetary award *only as to Defendant Target Corp*. for violation of this Act in the form of damages, restitution, disgorgement of ill-gotten gains to compensate Plaintiff and the California Subclass for said monies.

114. Section 1782(d)—Intent to Amend if Not Rectified—FOTE Only. Pursuant to California Civil Code, section 1782, Plaintiff, on Plaintiff's behalf and on behalf of members of the Class, has or will notify *Defendant FOTE* of its alleged violations of the CLRA. Subsequently, and at the appropriate time, Plaintiff will amend the operative complaint to seek damages from *Defendant FOTE*, pursuant to the CLRA, in addition to equitable and injunctive relief, and further request that this Court enter such orders or judgments against *Defendant FOTE* as may be necessary to restore any money that any person in interest may have lost in violation of the CLRA, and for such other relief as is provided under California Civil Code section 1780.

115. **Causation/Damages (Section 1782(d))**—**FOTE Only.** As a direct and proximate result of *Defendant FOTE's* misconduct in violation of the CLRA, Plaintiff and members of the California Subclass were harmed in the amount of the purchase price they paid for the Products. Further, Plaintiff and members of the Class have suffered and continue to suffer economic losses and other damages as a result of *Defendant FOTE's* misconduct including, but not limited to, the amounts paid for the Products, and any interest that would have accrued on those monies, in an amount to be proven at trial.

116. **Injunction.** Given that Defendant's conduct violated California Civil Code section 1780, Plaintiff and members of the California Subclass are entitled to seek, and do hereby seek, injunctive relief to put an end to Defendant's violations of the CLRA. Plaintiff has no adequate remedy at law. Without equitable relief, Defendant's unfair and deceptive practices will continue to harm Plaintiff and the California Subclass.

117. **Punitive Damages—Target Corp. Only.** Defendant's unfair, fraudulent, and unlawful conduct described herein constitutes malicious, oppressive, and/or fraudulent conduct warranting an award of punitive damages as permitted by law. Defendant's misconduct is malicious as Defendant acted with the intent to cause Plaintiff and consumers to pay for Products that they

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were not, in fact, receiving. Defendant willfully and knowingly disregarded the rights of Plaintiff and consumers as Defendant was, at all times, aware of the probable dangerous consequences of its conduct and deliberately failed to avoid misleading consumers, including Plaintiff. Defendant's misconduct is oppressive as, at all relevant times, said conduct was so vile, base, and/or contemptible that reasonable people would look down upon it and/or otherwise would despise such corporate misconduct. Said misconduct subjected Plaintiff and consumers to cruel and unjust hardship in knowing disregard of their rights. Defendant's misconduct is fraudulent as Defendant, at all relevant times, intentionally misrepresented and/or concealed material facts with the intent to deceive Plaintiff and consumers. The wrongful conduct constituting malice, oppression, and/or fraud was committed, authorized, adopted, approved, and/or ratified by officers, directors, and/or managing agents of Defendant. Accordingly, Plaintiff seeks an award of punitive damages against *Defendant Target Corp. only*. If and when *Defendant FOTE* fails to adequately and timely rectify its violations of the CLRA, Plaintiff will amend this complaint to, among other things, seek an award of punitive damages against *Defendant FOTE* also.

# **COUNT FOUR**

### **Breach of Warranty**

### (On Behalf of the Nationwide Class and California Subclass)

118. **Incorporation by Reference.** Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by reference all allegations contained in this complaint, as though fully set forth herein.

119. **Nationwide Class & California Subclass.** Plaintiff brings this claim individually and on behalf of the Nationwide Class and California Subclass (the Class) who purchased the Products within the applicable statute of limitations.

120. **Express Warranty.** By advertising and selling the Products at issue, Defendant made promises and affirmations of fact on the Products' packaging and labeling, and through its marketing and advertising, as described herein. This labeling and advertising constitute express warranties and became part of the basis of the bargain between Plaintiff and members of the Class and Defendant. Defendant purports, through the Products' labeling and advertising, to create express warranties that the Products, among other things, conform to the Challenged Representations.

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CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT

121. Implied Warranty of Merchantability. By advertising and selling the Products at issue, Defendant, a merchant of goods, made promises and affirmations of fact that the Products are merchantable and conform to the promises or affirmations of fact made on the Products' packaging and labeling, and through its marketing and advertising, as described herein. This labeling and advertising, combined with the implied warranty of merchantability, constitute warranties that became part of the basis of the bargain between Plaintiff and members of the Class and Defendant---to wit, that the Products, among other things, conform to the Challenged Representations.

122. Breach of Warranty. Contrary to Defendant's warranties, the Products do not conform to the Challenged Representations and, therefore, Defendant breached its warranties about the Products and their qualities.

123. Causation/Remedies. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant's breach of warranty, Plaintiff and members of the Class were harmed in the amount of the purchase price they paid for the Products. Further, Plaintiff and members of the Class have suffered and continue to suffer economic losses and other damages including, but not limited to, the amounts paid for the Products, and any interest that would have accrued on those monies, in an amount to be proven at trial. Accordingly, Plaintiff seeks a monetary award for breach of warranty in the form of damages, restitution, and/or disgorgement of ill-gotten gains to compensate Plaintiff and the Class for said monies, as well as injunctive relief to enjoin Defendant's misconduct to prevent ongoing and future harm that will result.

124. **Punitive Damages.** Plaintiff seeks punitive damages pursuant to this cause of action for breach of warranty on behalf of Plaintiff and the Class. Defendant's unfair, fraudulent, and unlawful conduct described herein constitutes malicious, oppressive, and/or fraudulent conduct warranting an award of punitive damages as permitted by law. Defendant's misconduct is malicious as Defendant acted with the intent to cause Plaintiff and consumers to pay for Products that they were not, in fact, receiving. Defendant willfully and knowingly disregarded the rights of Plaintiff and consumers as Defendant was aware of the probable dangerous consequences of its conduct and deliberately failed to avoid misleading consumers, including Plaintiff. Defendant's misconduct is oppressive as, at all relevant times, said conduct was so vile, base, and/or contemptible that

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reasonable people would look down upon it and/or otherwise would despise such misconduct. Said misconduct subjected Plaintiff and consumers to cruel and unjust hardship in knowing disregard of their rights. Defendant's misconduct is fraudulent as Defendant, at all relevant times, intentionally misrepresented and/or concealed material facts with the intent to deceive Plaintiff and consumers. The wrongful conduct constituting malice, oppression, and/or fraud was committed, authorized, adopted, approved, and/or ratified by officers, directors, and/or managing agents of Defendant.

# **COUNT FIVE**

### **Unjust Enrichment/Restitution**

# (On Behalf of the Nationwide Class and California Subclass)

125. Incorporation by Reference. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by reference all allegations contained in this complaint, as though fully set forth herein.

126. Nationwide Class & California Subclass. Plaintiff brings this claim individually and on behalf of the Nationwide Class and California Subclass (the Class) who purchased the Products within the applicable statute of limitations.

127. Plaintiff/Class Conferred a Benefit. By purchasing the Products, Plaintiff and members of the Class conferred a benefit on Defendant in the form of the purchase price of the Products.

128. Defendant's Knowledge of Conferred Benefit. Defendant had knowledge of such benefit and Defendant appreciated the benefit because, were consumers not to purchase the Products, Defendant would not generate revenue from the sales of the Products.

129. Defendant's Unjust Receipt Through Deception. Defendant's knowing acceptance and retention of the benefit is inequitable and unjust because the benefit was obtained by Defendant's fraudulent, misleading, and deceptive representations and omissions.

130. Causation/Damages. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant's unjust 24 25 enrichment, Plaintiff and members of the Class were harmed in the amount of the purchase price 26 they paid for the Products. Further, Plaintiff and members of the Class have suffered and continue 27 to suffer economic losses and other damages including, but not limited to, the amounts paid for the Products, and any interest that would have accrued on those monies, in an amount to be proven at

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trial. Accordingly, Plaintiff seeks a monetary award for unjust enrichment in damages, restitution, and/or disgorgement of ill-gotten gains to compensate Plaintiff and the Class for said monies, as well as injunctive relief to enjoin Defendant's misconduct to prevent ongoing and future harm that will result.

131. **Punitive Damages.** Plaintiff seeks punitive damages pursuant to this cause of action for unjust enrichment on behalf of Plaintiff and the Class. Defendant's unfair, fraudulent, and unlawful conduct described herein constitutes malicious, oppressive, and/or fraudulent conduct warranting an award of punitive damages as permitted by law. Defendant's misconduct is malicious as Defendant acted with the intent to cause Plaintiff and consumers to pay for Products that they were not, in fact, receiving. Defendant willfully and knowingly disregarded the rights of Plaintiff and consumers as Defendant was aware of the probable dangerous consequences of its conduct and deliberately failed to avoid misleading consumers, including Plaintiff. Defendant's misconduct is oppressive as, at all relevant times, said conduct was so vile, base, and/or contemptible that reasonable people would look down upon it and/or otherwise would despise such corporate misconduct. Said misconduct subjected Plaintiff and consumers to cruel and unjust hardship in knowing disregard of their rights. Defendant's misconduct is fraudulent as Defendant, at all relevant times, intentionally misrepresented and/or concealed material facts with the intent to deceive Plaintiff and consumers. The wrongful conduct constituting malice, oppression, and/or fraud was committed, authorized, adopted, approved, and/or ratified by officers, directors, and/or managing agents of Defendant.

# **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

132. WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated, prays for judgment against Defendant as follows:

- a. **Certification:** For an order certifying this action as a class action, appointing Plaintiff as the Class Representative, and appointing Plaintiff's Counsel as Class Counsel;
- b. **Declaratory Relief:** For an order declaring that Defendant's conduct violates the statutes and laws referenced herein;
- c. **Injunction:** For an order requiring Defendant to immediately cease and desist from selling the unlawful Products in violation of law; enjoining Defendant from continuing to market, advertise, distribute, and sell the Products in the unlawful

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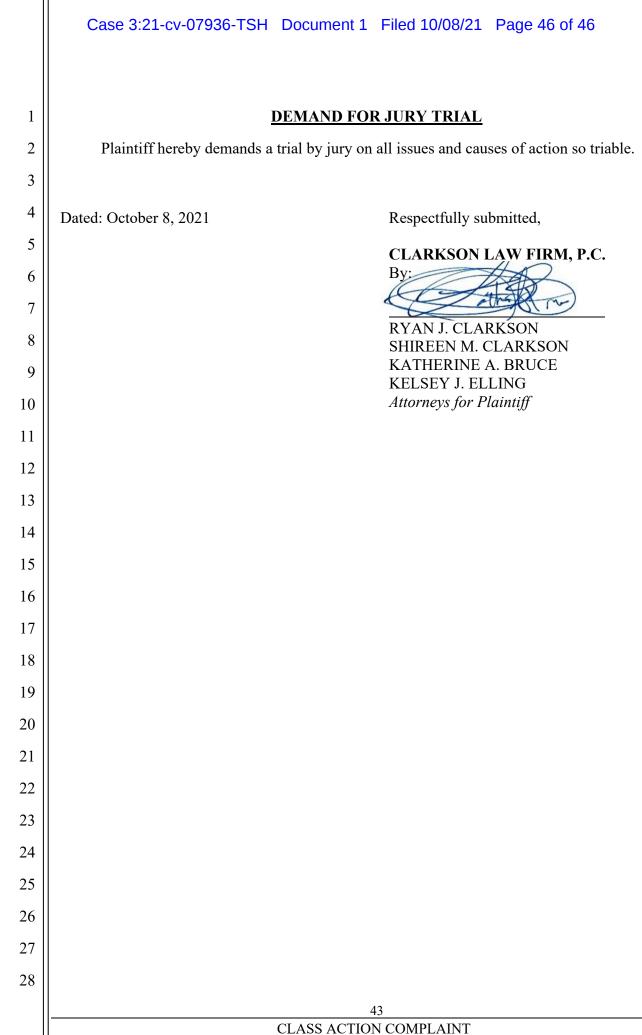
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	Case 3:2	21-cv-07936-TSH	Document 1	Filed 10/08/21	Page 45 of 46
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11	e. f. g.	campaign to disper Defendant's unlawf consistent with per permitted; <b>Damages/Restitutio</b> compensation in the and the Class, const action so permitted; <b>Punitive Damages</b> penalties, and/or mo those causes of action <b>Attorneys' Fees &amp;</b> with permissible law <b>Pre/Post-Judgmen</b> judgment interest, c of action so permitted	el the public ful conduct; and missible law a on/Disgorgeme e form of dama istent with perm /Penalties: For on so permitted. Costs: For an o v and pursuant a t Interest: For onsistent with p ed; and	misperception of d requiring all fun- and pursuant to con- ent: For an ages, restitution, an issible law and p c an order awarding rder awarding atto to only those cause or an order awar permissible law ar	age in an affirmative advertising the Products resulting from rther and just corrective action, only those causes of action so order awarding monetary and/or disgorgement to Plaintiff pursuant to only those causes of ng punitive damages, statutory nissible law and pursuant to only prneys' fees and costs, consistent es of action so permitted; rding pre-judgment and post- nd pursuant to only those causes er relief as the Court deems just
12	h. All Just & Proper Relief: For such other and further relief as the Court deems just and proper.				
13					
14	Dated: Octob	er 8, 2021		Respectfully su	bmitted,
15 16 17 18				CLARKSON I By: RYAN J. CLAI SHIREEN M. C	
19				KATHERINE A KELSEY J. EL	
20				Attorneys for P	laintiff
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	42 CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT				
	CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT				

CLARKSON LAW FIRM, P.C. 22525 Pacific Coast Highway Malibu, CA 90265



Case 3:21-cv-07936-TSH Document 1-1 Filed 10/08/21 Page 1 of 37

# Exhibit "1"

*Product Images* Class Action Complaint Up & Up<sup>™</sup> Kids' Sunscreen (Spray, SPF 50, 5.5-oz): Product Image – Front Label



Exhibit 1-1: (1) Kids' Sunscreen (Spray, SPF 50, 5.5-oz) Labels

Up & Up<sup>™</sup> Kids' Sunscreen (Spray, SPF 50, 5.5-oz): Product Image – Back Label



Exhibit 1-1: (1) Up & Up<sup>™</sup> Kids ' Sunscreen (Spray, SPF 50, 5.5-oz) Labels

Up & Up<sup>™</sup> Kids' Sunscreen (Spray, SPF 50, 7.3-oz): Product Image – Front Label



Exhibit 1-2: (1) Up & Up<sup>™</sup> Kids ' Sunscreen (Spray, SPF 50, 7.3-oz) Labels

Up & Up<sup>™</sup> Kids' Sunscreen (Spray, SPF 50, 7.3-oz): Product Image – Back Label



Exhibit 1-2: (1) Up & Up<sup>™</sup> Kids ' Sunscreen (Spray, SPF 50, 7.3-oz) Labels

Up & Up<sup>™</sup> Kids' Sunscreen (Spray, SPF 50, 9.1-oz): Product Image – Front Label



Exhibit 1-3: (1) Up & Up<sup>™</sup> Kids' Sunscreen (Spray, SPF 50, 9.1-oz) Labels

Up & Up<sup>™</sup> Kids' Sunscreen (Spray, SPF 50, 9.1-oz): Product Image – Back Label



Exhibit 1-3: (1) Up & Up<sup>™</sup> Kids ' Sunscreen (Spray, SPF 50, 9.1-oz) Labels

Up & Up<sup>™</sup> Kids' Sunscreen (Stick, SPF 55, 0.47-oz): Product Image – Front Label



Exhibit 1-4: (1) Up & Up<sup>™</sup> Kids' Sunscreen (Stick, SPF 55, 0.47-oz) Labels

Up & Up™ Kids' Sunscreen (Stick, SPF 55, 0.47-oz): Product Image – Back Label

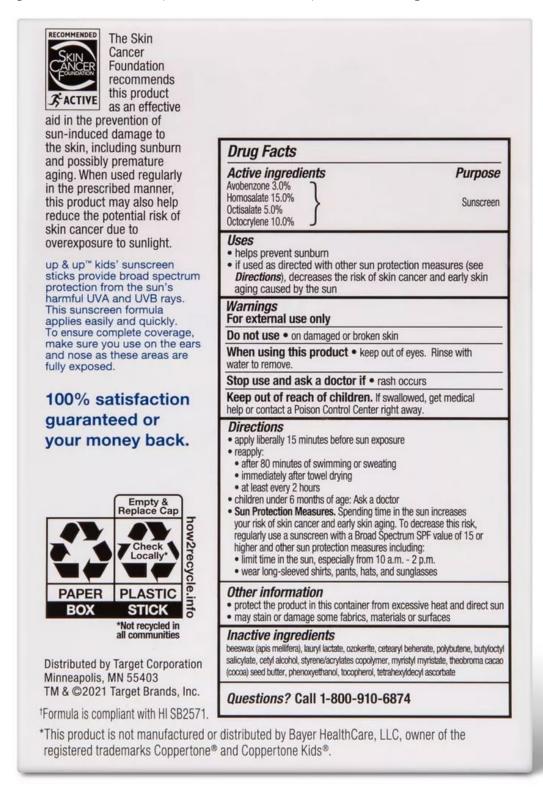


Exhibit 1-4: (1) Up & Up<sup>™</sup> Kids' Sunscreen (Stick, SPF 55, 0.47-oz) Labels

Up & Up<sup>™</sup> Sport Sunscreen (Lotion, SPF 30, 3-oz): Product Image – Front Label



Exhibit 1-5: (2) Up & Up<sup>TM</sup> Sport Sunscreen (Lotion, SPF 30, 3-oz) Labels

Up & Up<sup>™</sup> Sport Sunscreen (Lotion, SPF 30, 3-oz): Product Image – Back Label



Exhibit 1-5: (2) Up & Up<sup>TM</sup> Sport Sunscreen (Lotion, SPF 30, 3-oz) Labels

Up & Up<sup>™</sup> Sport Sunscreen (Lotion, SPF 30, 10.4-oz): Product Image – Front Label



Exhibit 1-6: (2) Up & Up<sup>™</sup> Sport Sunscreen (Lotion, SPF 30, 10.4-oz) Labels

# Up & Up<sup>™</sup> Sport Sunscreen (Lotion, SPF 30, 10.4-oz): Product Image – Back Label



Exhibit 1-6: (2) Up & Up<sup>™</sup> Sport Sunscreen (Lotion, SPF 30, 10.4-oz) Labels

Up & Up<sup>™</sup> Sport Sunscreen (Lotion, SPF 50, 10.4-oz): Product Image – Front Label



Exhibit 1-7: (2) Up & Up<sup>™</sup> Sport Sunscreen (Lotion, SPF 50, 10.4-oz) Labels

Up & Up<sup>™</sup> Sport Sunscreen (Lotion, SPF 50, 10.4-oz): Product Image – Back Label



Exhibit 1-7: (2) Up & Up<sup>™</sup> Sport Sunscreen (Lotion, SPF 50, 10.4-oz) Labels

Up & Up<sup>™</sup> Sport Sunscreen (Spray, SPF 15, 9.1-oz): Product Image – Front Label



Exhibit 1-8: (2) Up & Up<sup>™</sup> Sport Sunscreen (Spray, SPF 15, 9.1-oz) Labels

Up & Up<sup>™</sup> Sport Sunscreen (Spray, SPF 15, 9.1-oz): Product Image – Back Label



Exhibit 1-8: (2) Up & Up<sup>™</sup> Sport Sunscreen (Spray, SPF 15, 9.1-oz) Labels

Up & Up<sup>™</sup> Sport Sunscreen (Spray, SPF 30, 2.2-oz): Product Image – Front Label



Exhibit 1-9: (2) Up & Up<sup>™</sup> Sport Sunscreen (Spray, SPF 30, 2.2-oz) Labels

# Up & Up<sup>™</sup> Sport Sunscreen (Spray, SPF 30, 2.2-oz): Product Image – Back Label

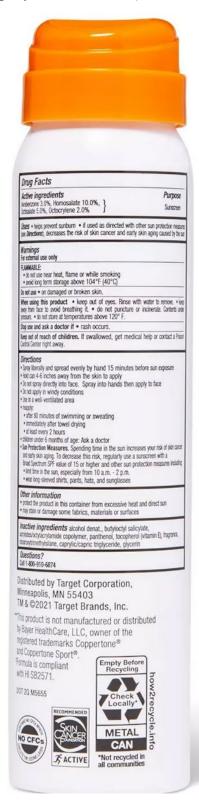


Exhibit 1-9: (2) Up & Up<sup>™</sup> Sport Sunscreen (Spray, SPF 30, 2.2-oz) Labels

Up & Up<sup>™</sup> Sport Sunscreen (Spray, SPF 30, 5.5-oz): Product Image – Front Label



Exhibit 1-10: (2) Up & Up<sup>TM</sup> Sport Sunscreen (Spray, SPF 30, 5.5-oz) Labels

Up & Up<sup>™</sup> Sport Sunscreen (Spray, SPF 30, 5.5-oz): Product Image – Back Label



Exhibit 1-10: (2) Up & Up<sup>TM</sup> Sport Sunscreen (Spray, SPF 30, 5.5-oz) Labels

Up & Up<sup>™</sup> Sport Sunscreen (Spray, SPF 30, 7.3-oz): Product Image – Front Label



Exhibit 1-11: (2) Up & Up<sup>TM</sup> Sport Sunscreen (Spray, SPF 30, 7.3-oz) Labels

Up & Up<sup>™</sup> Sport Sunscreen (Spray, SPF 30, 7.3-oz): Product Image – Back Label



Exhibit 1-11: (2) Up & Up<sup>™</sup> Sport Sunscreen (Spray, SPF 30, 7.3-oz) Labels

Up & Up Sport Sunscreen Spray (Continuous) SPF 30, 9.1-oz: Product Image – Front Label



Exhibit 1-12: (5) Sport Sunscreen Spray (Continuous) SPF 30, 9.1-oz Front Label

Up & Up Sport Sunscreen Spray (Continuous) SPF 30, 9.1-oz: Product Image – Back Label



Exhibit 1-12: (5) Sport Sunscreen Spray (Continuous) SPF 30, 9.1-oz Back Label

Up & Up<sup>™</sup> Sport Sunscreen (Spray, SPF 50, 5.5-oz): Product Image – Front Label



Exhibit 1-13: (2) Up & Up<sup>TM</sup> Sport Sunscreen (Spray, SPF 50, 5.5-oz) Labels



Up & Up<sup>™</sup> Sport Sunscreen (Spray, SPF 50, 5.5-oz): Product Image – Back Label

Exhibit 1-13: (2) Up & Up<sup>™</sup> Sport Sunscreen (Spray, SPF 50, 5.5-oz) Labels

Up & Up<sup>™</sup> Sport Sunscreen (Spray, SPF 50, 7.3-oz): Product Image – Front Label



Exhibit 1-14: (2) Up & Up<sup>™</sup> Sport Sunscreen (Spray, SPF 50, 7.3-oz) Labels

Up & Up<sup>™</sup> Sport Sunscreen (Spray, SPF 50, 7.3-oz): Product Image – Front Label



Exhibit 1-14: (2) Up & Up<sup>™</sup> Sport Sunscreen (Spray, SPF 50, 7.3-oz) Labels

Up & Up<sup>™</sup> Sport Sunscreen (Spray, SPF 50, 9.1-oz): Product Image – Front Label



Exhibit 1-15: (2) Up & Up<sup>™</sup> Sport Sunscreen (Spray, SPF 50, 9.1-oz) Labels

Up & Up<sup>™</sup> Sport Sunscreen (Spray, SPF 50, 9.1-oz): Product Image – Back Label



Exhibit 1-15: (2) Up & Up<sup>™</sup> Sport Sunscreen (Spray, SPF 50, 9.1-oz) Labels

Up & Up<sup>™</sup> Sport Sunscreen (Stick, SPF 55, 0.47-oz): Product Image – Front Label



Exhibit 1-16: (2) Up & Up<sup>™</sup> Sport Sunscreen (Stick, SPF 55, 0.47-oz) Labels

#### Up & Up<sup>™</sup> Sport Sunscreen (Stick, SPF 55, 0.47-oz): Product Image – Back Label

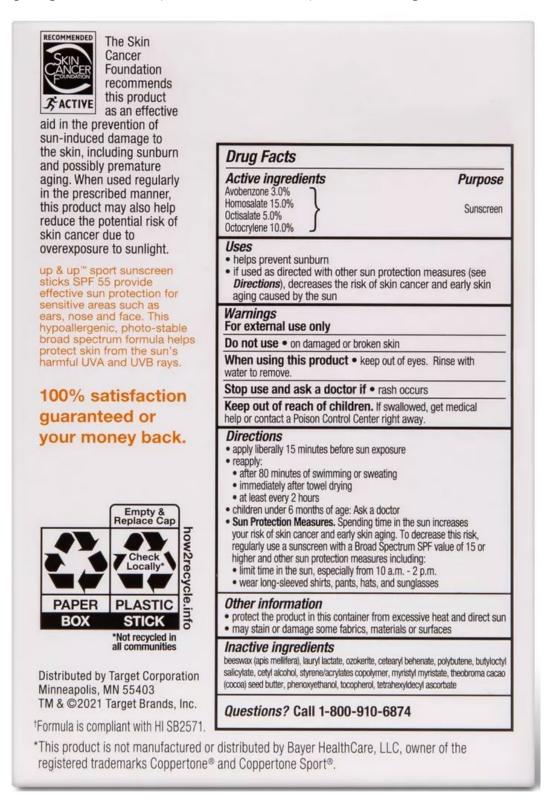


Exhibit 1-16: (2) Up & Up<sup>™</sup> Sport Sunscreen (Stick, SPF 55, 0.47-oz) Labels

Up & Up<sup>™</sup> Sport Sunscreen (Stick, SPF 55, 1.5-oz): Product Image – Front Label



Exhibit 1-17: (2) Up & Up<sup>™</sup> Sport Sunscreen (Stick, SPF 55, 1.5-oz) Labels

Up & Up<sup>™</sup> Sport Sunscreen (Stick, SPF 55, 1.5-oz): Product Image – Back Label



Exhibit 1-17: (6) Sport Sunscreen Stick SPF 55, 1.5-oz Back Label





Exhibit 1-18: (2) Up & Up<sup>™</sup> Sport Sunscreen (Lip Balm, SPF 50, 0.15-oz) Labels

Up & Up<sup>™</sup> Sport Sunscreen (Lip Balm, SPF 50, 0.15-oz): Product Image – Back Label

## PLACEHOLDER

Exhibit 1-18: (2) Up & Up<sup>™</sup> Sport Sunscreen (Lip Balm, SPF 50, 0.15-oz) Labels

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# Exhibit "2"

*Pre-Lawsuit Demand (Target)* Class Action Complaint Case 3:21-cv-07936-TSH Document 1-2 Filed 10/08/21 Page 2 of 11



Experience. Integrity. Justice.

Lauren E. Anderson, Esq. Associate Attorney

Clarkson Law Firm, P.C. 9255 Sunset Blvd., Suite 804 Los Angeles, CA 90069 (213) 788-4050 (Main) (213) 788-4050 (Main) (213) 788-4070 (Fax) (855) 876-1300 (Fax) (855) 876-1300 (Foll-Free) www.clarksonlawfirm.com landerson@clarksonlawfirm.com

November 24, 2020

#### VIA U.S. CERTIFIED MAIL RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Target Corporation Attn: Mr. Brian Cornell 1000 Nicollet Mall Minneapolis, MN 55403 CT Corporation System Re: Target Corporation 818 W. 7th St. Ste. 930 Los Angeles, CA 90017

Re: Target Up&Up "Reef-Conscious" Sunscreen California Litigation

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of Martin Locklin ("Plaintiff") and all others similarly situated,<sup>1</sup> this letter is to notify Target Corporation ("Defendant") that it has violated the California Consumers Legal Remedies Act ("CLRA") by employing or committing methods, acts, or practices declared unlawful by California Civil Code Section 1770. Pursuant to California Civil Code Section 1782(a), after thirty (30) days from the date of this notice, Plaintiff intends to initiate an action against Defendant in a U.S. District Court or a California Superior Court for injunctive relief, restitution, and damages. *See* Cal. Civ. Code § 1782(a)-(b). Further, this letter establishes a limited time period during which informal settlement of Plaintiff and the Plaintiff Class's claims may be accomplished. *Outboard Marine Corp. v. Sup. Ct.*, 52 Cal. App. 3d 30, 41 (1975).

The unlawful acts committed by Defendant, in violation of the CLRA, include deceptive labeling and advertising of all Up&Up "Reef-conscious" sunscreen products manufactured or sold by Defendant, including but not limited to Up&Up Sport Sunscreen Lotion SPF 50 (the "Products"<sup>2</sup>) by falsely representing that the Products are safe for reefs. In reality, the Products

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Plaintiff serves this notice on behalf of all persons who purchased the Product for personal use and not for resale in California (the "Plaintiff Class") within the last four (4) years or since the date of Product launch, which is shorter (the "Class Period").

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Plaintiff reserves the right to broaden his class definition to include, and hereby puts Defendant on notice of similar violations with respect to other similar products within Defendant's product lines. California courts have ruled that standing to pursue claims involving "substantially similar" products exists in circumstances such as these, i.e, similarity in products, claims, and injury to consumers. See, e.g., *Werdebaugh v. Blue Diamond Growers*, 2013 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 144178 (N.D. Cal. Oct. 2, 2013) (finding standing for purchaser of chocolate almond milk to pursue claims related to unpurchased products of flavored almonds, 16 other varieties of almond

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contain ingredients that are toxic to coral and other marine life in the reef ecosystem. Defendant makes false, deceptive, and misleading claims and promises to consumers about the Products in a pervasive, statewide, and nationwide advertising scheme.

Defendant's actions violate Sections 1770(a)(5), (a)(7), and (a)(9) of the CLRA. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant's violations of the CLRA, Plaintiff and members of the proposed Plaintiff Class purchased the Products, which they otherwise would not have purchased but for Defendant's fraudulent representations, and are therefore entitled to restitution in an amount to be determined at trial.

What follows is a recitation of: (1) Defendant's false, misleading, and/or deceptive labeling and advertising; (2) the basis for Plaintiff's Claims; and (3) Plaintiff's demand for relief.

#### I. <u>DEFENDANT'S FALSE AND MISLEADING REPRESENTATIONS</u>

Defendant deceptively labels the Products as "Reef-conscious" sunscreens. Below is a true and correct image of the Up&Up Sport Sunscreen Lotion SPF 50 variety of the Products, evidencing the deception.

milk, and nut chips); *Colucci v. ZonePerfect Nutrition Co.*, 2012 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 183050 (N.D. Cal. Dec. 28, 2012) ("more than enough similarity" between purchased nutrition bar and 19 others not purchased); *Astiana v. Dreyer's Grand Ice Cream, Inc.*, 2012 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 101371 (N.D. Cal. July 20, 2012) (purchaser of ice cream permitted to pursue claims involving unpurchased ice cream because "Plaintiffs are challenging the same basic mislabeling practice across different product flavors"); Koh v. S.C. Johnson & Son, Inc., 2010 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 654 (N.D. Cal. Jan. 6, 2010) (allowing plaintiff to sue for purchased product (Shout) and unpurchased product (Windex) because the challenged representation on the labels was the same on both products; also recognizing that "there is no bright line rule that different product lines cannot be covered by a single class.")

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The "Reef-conscious formula" label communicates that the Products are formulated to be safe for coral reefs. In actuality, the Products contain ingredients that are toxic to reefs and marine ecosystems.

Plaintiff purchased two bottles of Up&Up Sport Sunscreen Lotion SPF 50 from a Target store in Los Angeles, CA in or around July 2020. Plaintiff made his purchase decision in part based on his belief that he would receive products that would be safe for coral reefs. Plaintiff paid approximately \$6.00 per bottle and would not have bought the Products, or would have paid significantly less for them, if he had known they contained chemicals toxic to coral reefs. Plaintiff would like to purchase the Products again in the future if he could be sure the Products were compliant with California and federal consumer protection and labeling laws.

#### II. <u>BASIS OF PLAINTIFF'S CLAIMS</u>

Defendant's labeling, advertising, marketing, and packaging of the Products as "Reefconscious" sunscreens is false, misleading, and deceptive. Defendant represents the Products as being safe for coral reefs, however, the Products contain active ingredients such as octocrylene which are toxic to coral and other marine life.

The chemical octocrylene is known to damage and potentially kill coral reefs. The National Ocean Service and the Haereticus Environmental Laboratory both classify octocrylene as a threat

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to marine ecosystems for a number of reasons.<sup>3,4</sup> Octocrylene accumulates in marine animals, leading to adverse effects.<sup>5,6</sup> Bioaccumulation of the chemical can lead to endocrine disruption, alteration of gene transcription, and developmental toxicity in fish, dolphins, sea urchins, and other marine life.<sup>7,8,9</sup> Furthermore, octocrylene has been found to adversely impact coral, even at low concentrations.<sup>10</sup> Octocrylene accumulates in coral tissue, triggering mitochondrial dysfunction.<sup>11,12</sup> In sum, octocrylene directly harms coral reefs and the variety of species that inhabit reef ecosystems. Accordingly, sunscreens containing octocrylene cannot be considered reef-conscious.<sup>13</sup> The active ingredients of the Products also include homosalate, octisalate, and

<sup>9</sup> Giraldo, A., et al. "Ecotoxicological Evaluation of the UV Filters Ethylhexyl Dimethyl P-Aminobenzoic Acid and Octocrylene Using Marine Organisms Isochrysis Galbana, Mytilus Galloprovincialis and Paracentrotus Lividus." *Archives of Environmental Contamination and Toxicology*, vol. 72, no. 4, May 2017, pp. 606–11. *DOI.org (Crossref)*, doi:10.1007/s00244-017-0399-4. (Last visited November 23, 2020).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, US Department of Commerce. "Sunscreen Chemicals and Marine Life." https://oceanservice.noaa.gov/news/sunscreen-corals.html (Last visited November 23, 2020).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Haereticus Environmental Laboratory. "Protect Land + Sea Certification." http://haereticuslab.org/protect-land-sea-certification-3/ (Last visited November 23, 2020).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Gago-Ferrero, Pablo, et al. "First Determination of UV Filters in Marine Mammals.

Octocrylene Levels in Franciscana Dolphins." Environmental Science & Technology, vol. 47, no.

<sup>11,</sup> American Chemical Society, June 2013, pp. 5619–25. ACS Publications,

doi:10.1021/es400675y. (Last visited November 23, 2020).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Zhang, Qiuya Y., et al. "Assessment of Multiple Hormone Activities of a UV-Filter (Octocrylene) in Zebrafish (Danio Rerio)." *Chemosphere*, vol. 159, Sept. 2016, pp. 433–41. *ScienceDirect*, doi:10.1016/j.chemosphere.2016.06.037. (Last visited November 23, 2020).
<sup>7</sup> *Id*.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Blüthgen, Nancy, et al. "Accumulation and Effects of the UV-Filter Octocrylene in Adult and Embryonic Zebrafish (Danio Rerio)." *The Science of the Total Environment*, vol. 476–477, Apr. 2014, pp. 207–17. *PubMed*, doi:10.1016/j.scitotenv.2014.01.015. (Last visited November 23, 2020).

 <sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> Stien, Didier, et al. "Metabolomics Reveal That Octocrylene Accumulates in *Pocillopora Damicornis* Tissues as Fatty Acid Conjugates and Triggers Coral Cell Mitochondrial Dysfunction." *Analytical Chemistry*, vol. 91, no. 1, Jan. 2019, pp. 990–95. *DOI.org (Crossref)*, doi:10.1021/acs.analchem.8b04187. (Last visited November 23, 2020).
 <sup>11</sup> Id.

 <sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> Tsui, Mirabelle M. P., et al. "Occurrence, Distribution, and Fate of Organic UV Filters in Coral Communities." *Environmental Science & Technology*, vol. 51, no. 8, Apr. 2017, pp. 4182– 90. *DOI.org (Crossref)*, doi:10.1021/acs.est.6b05211. (Last visited November 23, 2020).
 <sup>13</sup> Capritto, Amanda. "Your Sunscreen Might Be Killing Coral Reefs -- Here's What to Buy Instead." *CNET*, https://www.cnet.com/health/reef-safe-sunscreens-explained/. (Last visited November 23, 2020).

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avobenzone. These chemicals have been shown to be harmful to humans and wildlife and have negative impacts on reef ecosystems, acting as endocrine disruptors and acute toxicants.<sup>14,15,16,17</sup>

Coral reefs are delicate ecosystems that have been put at extreme risk by climate change and anthropogenic activities.<sup>18,19</sup> There is a clear causal link between sunscreen washing off into oceans and coral bleaching: chemicals in sunscreen directly harm coral and other marine life integral to the reef ecosystem.<sup>20,21</sup> Consumers seek out reef conscious sunscreens to ensure that they are not contributing to the devastating loss of reef ecosystems. Due to these environmental concerns, many consumers are willing to pay a price premium for reef conscious sunscreens.

By labeling its sunscreens as "Reef-conscious" when they contain octocrylene and other harmful ingredients, Defendant labels and advertises, through a uniform and consistent message, that the Products are something that they are not—safe for coral reef ecosystems. Defendant disseminates this uniform message through a broad range of media, including, by way of example

- <sup>15</sup> Park, Chang-Beom, et al. "Single- and Mixture Toxicity of Three Organic UV-Filters,
- Ethylhexyl Methoxycinnamate, Octocrylene, and Avobenzone on Daphnia Magna."
- Ecotoxicology and Environmental Safety, vol. 137, Mar. 2017, pp. 57-63. ScienceDirect,

<sup>16</sup> McCoshum, Shaun M., et al. "Direct and Indirect Effects of Sunscreen Exposure for Reef Biota." *Hydrobiologia*, vol. 776, no. 1, Aug. 2016, pp. 139–46. *Springer Link*,

<sup>17</sup> Slijkerman, D. M. E., and M. Keur. "Sunscreen Ecoproducts: Product Claims, Potential Effects and Environmental Risks of Applied UV Filters." *Wageningen Marine Research*, 2018.

ScienceDirect, doi:10.1016/j.biocon.2014.06.027. (Last visited November 23, 2020).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> Yang, Changwon, et al. "Homosalate Aggravates the Invasion of Human Trophoblast Cells as Well as Regulates Intracellular Signaling Pathways Including PI3K/AKT and MAPK Pathways." *Environmental Pollution*, vol. 243, Dec. 2018, pp. 1263–73. *ScienceDirect*,

doi:10.1016/j.envpol.2018.09.092. (Last visited November 23, 2020).

doi:10.1016/j.ecoenv.2016.11.017. (Last visited November 23, 2020).

doi:10.1007/s10750-016-2746-2. (Last visited November 23, 2020).

DOI.org (Crossref), doi:10.18174/457209. (Last visited November 23, 2020).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> Hughes, Terry P., et al. "Spatial and Temporal Patterns of Mass Bleaching of Corals in the Anthropocene." *Science*, vol. 359, no. 6371, *Science*, Jan. 2018, pp. 80–83.

science.sciencemag.org, doi:10.1126/science.aan8048. (Last visited November 23, 2020).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> Lamb, Joleah B., et al. "Scuba Diving Damage and Intensity of Tourist Activities Increases

Coral Disease Prevalence." Biological Conservation, vol. 178, Oct. 2014, pp. 88-96.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> Danovaro, Roberto, et al. "Sunscreens Cause Coral Bleaching by Promoting Viral Infections." *Environmental Health Perspectives*, vol. 116, no. 4, Apr. 2008, pp. 441–47. *PubMed Central*, doi:10.1289/ehp.10966. (Last visited November 23, 2020).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup> Elaina Zachos, and Eric Rosen. "What Sunscreens Are Best for You—and the Planet?" *National Geographic*, 21 May 2019.

https://www.nationalgeographic.com/travel/features/sunscreen-destroying-coral-reefs-alternatives-travel-spd/. (Last visited November 23, 2020).

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and without limitation, claims on its official website, packaging and labeling, and the like. This creates consumer confusion about reef safe ingredients and labels.<sup>22</sup>

Defendant falsely represents the characteristics of the Products and fails to inform consumers that the Products contain octocrylene, a chemical known to be toxic to coral and marine life. Plaintiff relied on the Products' "Reef-conscious" label in making his purchase. He would not have purchased the Products, or would have paid significantly less for them, if he had known that they contained chemicals dangerous to coral reefs.

#### III. <u>DEMAND FOR RELIEF</u>

Pursuant to California Civil Code Section 1782(b), Plaintiff demands that Defendant agree to correct, repair, and rectify its unlawful acts within 30 days. In particular, Plaintiff demands that Defendant terminate its unlawful business practice as set forth herein. We also request that Defendant compensates Plaintiff for his attorneys' fees and costs pursuant to Civil Code section 1780(e) and Code of Civil Procedure section 1021.5.

**Litigation Hold Notice:** This letter also serves as a demand that you preserve and maintain all of the following records, including but not limited to, all electronically stored information ("ESI"), records, and date, pending resolution of this matter, in accordance with state and federal law:

- (1) All internal manuals, written policies, directives, memoranda, correspondence, emails, ESI, and all other records of communication concerning the Products' sales within the last four (4) years;
- (2) All internal manuals, written policies, directives, memoranda, correspondence, emails, ESI, and all other records of communication concerning the Products' labeling and advertising within the last four (4) years;
- (3) All materials disseminated to consumers, including all communications by email and other correspondence, including ESI, that discuss or concern the Products within the last four (4) years;
- (4) All internal manuals, written policies, directives, memoranda, correspondence, emails, ESI, and all other records of communication concerning the Products' actual ingredients and formulation within the last four (4) years;
- (5) All documents, including ESI, concerning consumer and employee complaints from all sources in connection with the Products within the last four (4) years;

If you wish to discuss this matter prior to Plaintiff initiating formal litigation, please contact our office at (213) 788-4050 or via email. If we do not hear from you on or before December 24, 2020, then we, on behalf of Plaintiff and the proposed Plaintiff Class, will file our client's complaint.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>22</sup> Tomlin, Annie. "What Does Reef-Safe, Oxybenzone-Free Sunscreen Mean?" *Well+Good*, 17 Aug. 2019. https://www.wellandgood.com/reef-safe-sunscreen/. (Last visited November 23, 2020).

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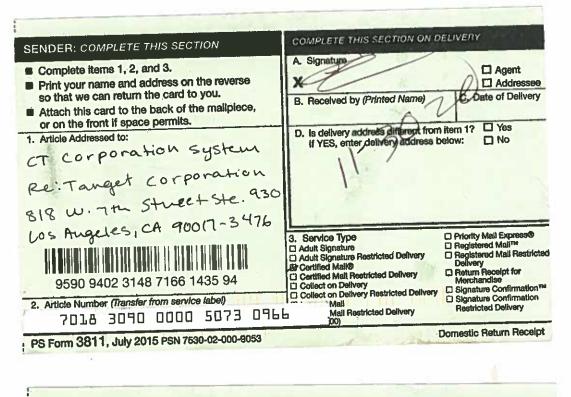
Sincerely,

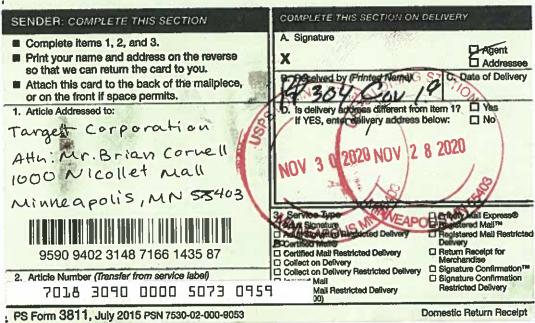
CLARKSON LAW FIRM, P.C.

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Lauren E. Anderson, Esq.

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#### Case 3:21-cv-07936-TSH\_Document 1-3\_Filed 10/08/21 Page 1 of 2 CIVIL COVER SHEET JS-CAND 44 (Rev. 10/2020)

The JS-CAND 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved in its original form by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the Clerk of Court to initiate the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON NEXT PAGE OF THIS FORM.)

I. (a) PLAINTIFFS			DEFE	NDANTS					
Martin Locklin		Target Corporation, Fruit of the Earth							
(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaint (EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)			of Residence PLAINTIFF C			Defendant Minneapolis, Minnesot	a		
		NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE TRACT OF LAND INVOLVED.							
(c) Attorneys (Firm Name, Address, and Telepho Katherine Bruce, Clarkson Law Firm, P.C. Malibu, CA 90265; Tel: 213-788-4050	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	hway,	Attorney	S (If Known)					
II. BASIS OF JURISDICTION (Plac	e an "X" in One Box Only)		<b>TIZENSH</b> Diversity Cas		RINCI	PAL PA	<b>RTIES</b> (Place an "X" in One Bo and One Box for Defend		aintiff
1 U.S. Government Plaintiff 3 Federal C (U.S. Gov	Question vernment Not a Party)	Citize	n of This State	;	РТF Х 1	DEF 1	Incorporated <i>or</i> Principal Place of Business In This State	PTF 4	DEF 4
	Diversity (Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III)		Citizen of Another State		2	2	Incorporated <i>and</i> Principal Place of Business In Another State	5	<b>X</b> 5
Imatcare			Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country		3	3	Foreign Nation	6	6

#### IV. NATURE OF SUIT (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

CONTRACT	TO	RTS	FORFEITURE/PENALTY	OTHER STATUTES					
110 Insurance	PERSONAL INJURY	PERSONAL INJURY	625 Drug Related Seizure of	422 Appeal 28 USC § 158	375 False Claims Act				
120 Marine	310 Airplane	365 Personal Injury – Product	Property 21 USC § 881	423 Withdrawal 28 USC	376 Qui Tam (31 USC				
130 Miller Act	315 Airplane Product Liability	Liability	690 Other	§ 157	§ 3729(a))				
140 Negotiable Instrument	320 Assault, Libel & Slander	367 Health Care/	LABOR	PROPERTY RIGHTS	400 State Reapportionment				
150 Recovery of	330 Federal Employers'	Pharmaceutical Personal	710 Fair Labor Standards Act	820 Copyrights	410 Antitrust				
Overpayment Of	Liability	Injury Product Liability	720 Labor/Management	830 Patent	430 Banks and Banking				
Veteran's Benefits	340 Marine	368 Asbestos Personal Injury Product Liability	Relations	835 Patent-Abbreviated New	450 Commerce				
151 Medicare Act	345 Marine Product Liability	PERSONAL PROPERTY	740 Railway Labor Act	Drug Application	460 Deportation				
152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans (Excludes	350 Motor Vehicle	× 370 Other Fraud	751 Family and Medical	840 Trademark	470 Racketeer Influenced &				
Veterans)	355 Motor Vehicle Product		Leave Act	880 Defend Trade Secrets	Corrupt Organizations				
153 Recovery of	Liability	371 Truth in Lending	790 Other Labor Litigation	Act of 2016	480 Consumer Credit				
Overpayment	360 Other Personal Injury	380 Other Personal Property Damage	791 Employee Retirement	SOCIAL SECURITY	485 Telephone Consumer Protection Act				
of Veteran's Benefits	362 Personal Injury -Medical	385 Property Damage Product	Income Security Act	861 HIA (1395ff)	490 Cable/Sat TV				
160 Stockholders' Suits	Malpractice	Liability	IMMIGRATION	862 Black Lung (923)	850 Securities/Commodities/				
190 Other Contract	CIVIL RIGHTS	PRISONER PETITIONS	462 Naturalization	863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g))	Exchange				
195 Contract Product Liability	440 Other Civil Rights		Application	864 SSID Title XVI	890 Other Statutory Actions				
196 Franchise	440 Other Civil Rights 441 Voting	HABEAS CORPUS	465 Other Immigration	865 RSI (405(g))	891 Agricultural Acts				
REAL PROPERTY	U	463 Alien Detainee	Actions	FEDERAL TAX SUITS	893 Environmental Matters				
210 Land Condemnation	442 Employment 443 Housing/	510 Motions to Vacate Sentence		870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff or	895 Freedom of Information				
220 Foreclosure	Accommodations	530 General		Defendant)	Act				
230 Rent Lease & Ejectment	445 Amer. w/Disabilities-	535 Death Penalty		871 IRS-Third Party 26 USC	896 Arbitration				
240 Torts to Land	Employment	OTHER		§ 7609	899 Administrative Procedure				
245 Tort Product Liability	446 Amer. w/Disabilities-Other	540 Mandamus & Other		0	Act/Review or Appeal of				
290 All Other Real Property	448 Education	550 Civil Rights			Agency Decision				
230 Fill Galer Real Property		555 Prison Condition			950 Constitutionality of State Statutes				
		560 Civil Detainee			Statates				
		Conditions of							
		Confinement							
V.       ORIGIN (Place an "X" in One Box Only)         × 1       Original Proceeding       2       Removed from State Court       3       Remanded from Appellate Court       4       Reinstated or Reopened       5       Transferred from Another District (specify)       6       Multidistrict Litigation–Transfer       8       Multidistrict Litigation–Direct File         VI.       CAUSE OF ACTION       Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under which you are filing (Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity): Class Action Fairness Act ("CAFA"), codified at 28 U.S.C. § 1332(d); Supplemental Jurisdiction, codified at 28 U.S.C. § 1367									
Class Action based on state law claims: consumer protection, false advertising, unfair business practices; breach of warranty; and unjust enrichment									
VII.       REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:       CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION UNDER RULE 23, Fed. R. Civ. P.       DEMAND \$ 5,000,001.00       CHECK YES only if demanded in complaint: JURY DEMAND:       CHECK YES only if demanded in complaint: JURY DEMAND:									
VIII. RELATED CASE(S), JUDGE DOCKET NUMBER									
IX. DIVISIONAL A	SSIGNMENT (Civil L	ocal Rule 3-2)							
(Place an "X" in One Box Only) × SAN FRANCISCO/OAKLAND SAN JOSE EUREKA-MCKINLEYVILLE									
(rimee un 2x în One Dox O									
DATE     10/08/2021     SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD     /s/ Katherine Bruce									

#### **INSTRUCTIONS FOR ATTORNEYS COMPLETING CIVIL COVER SHEET FORM JS-CAND 44**

Authority For Civil Cover Sheet. The JS-CAND 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replaces nor supplements the filings and service of pleading or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved in its original form by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the Clerk of Court to initiate the civil docket sheet. Consequently, a civil cover sheet is submitted to the Clerk of Court for each civil complaint filed. The attorney filing a case should complete the form as follows:

- **I.** a) **Plaintiffs-Defendants.** Enter names (last, first, middle initial) of plaintiff and defendant. If the plaintiff or defendant is a government agency, use only the full name or standard abbreviations. If the plaintiff or defendant is an official within a government agency, identify first the agency and then the official, giving both name and title.
- b) County of Residence. For each civil case filed, except U.S. plaintiff cases, enter the name of the county where the first listed plaintiff resides at the time of filing. In U.S. plaintiff cases, enter the name of the county in which the first listed defendant resides at the time of filing. (NOTE: In land condemnation cases, the county of residence of the "defendant" is the location of the tract of land involved.)
- c) Attorneys. Enter the firm name, address, telephone number, and attorney of record. If there are several attorneys, list them on an attachment, noting in this section "(see attachment)."
- **II. Jurisdiction.** The basis of jurisdiction is set forth under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 8(a), which requires that jurisdictions be shown in pleadings. Place an "X" in one of the boxes. If there is more than one basis of jurisdiction, precedence is given in the order shown below.
  - (1) United States plaintiff. Jurisdiction based on 28 USC §§ 1345 and 1348. Suits by agencies and officers of the United States are included here.
  - (2) <u>United States defendant</u>. When the plaintiff is suing the United States, its officers or agencies, place an "X" in this box.
  - (3) Federal question. This refers to suits under 28 USC § 1331, where jurisdiction arises under the Constitution of the United States, an amendment to the Constitution, an act of Congress or a treaty of the United States. In cases where the U.S. is a party, the U.S. plaintiff or defendant code takes precedence, and box 1 or 2 should be marked.
  - (4) <u>Diversity of citizenship</u>. This refers to suits under 28 USC § 1332, where parties are citizens of different states. When Box 4 is checked, the citizenship of the different parties must be checked. (See Section III below; NOTE: federal question actions take precedence over diversity cases.)
- **III. Residence (citizenship) of Principal Parties.** This section of the JS-CAND 44 is to be completed if diversity of citizenship was indicated above. Mark this section for each principal party.
- **IV.** Nature of Suit. Place an "X" in the appropriate box. If the nature of suit cannot be determined, be sure the cause of action, in Section VI below, is sufficient to enable the deputy clerk or the statistical clerk(s) in the Administrative Office to determine the nature of suit. If the cause fits more than one nature of suit, select the most definitive.
- V. Origin. Place an "X" in one of the six boxes.
  - (1) Original Proceedings. Cases originating in the United States district courts.
  - (2) <u>Removed from State Court</u>. Proceedings initiated in state courts may be removed to the district courts under Title 28 USC § 1441. When the petition for removal is granted, check this box.
  - (3) <u>Remanded from Appellate Court</u>. Check this box for cases remanded to the district court for further action. Use the date of remand as the filing date.
  - (4) <u>Reinstated or Reopened</u>. Check this box for cases reinstated or reopened in the district court. Use the reopening date as the filing date.
  - (5) <u>Transferred from Another District</u>. For cases transferred under Title 28 USC § 1404(a). Do not use this for within district transfers or multidistrict litigation transfers.
  - (6) <u>Multidistrict Litigation Transfer</u>. Check this box when a multidistrict case is transferred into the district under authority of Title 28 USC § 1407. When this box is checked, do not check (5) above.
  - (8) <u>Multidistrict Litigation Direct File</u>. Check this box when a multidistrict litigation case is filed in the same district as the Master MDL docket.

Please note that there is no Origin Code 7. Origin Code 7 was used for historical records and is no longer relevant due to changes in statute.

- VI. Cause of Action. Report the civil statute directly related to the cause of action and give a brief description of the cause. Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity. Example: U.S. Civil Statute: 47 USC § 553. Brief Description: Unauthorized reception of cable service.
- VII. Requested in Complaint. Class Action. Place an "X" in this box if you are filing a class action under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23.

Demand. In this space enter the actual dollar amount being demanded or indicate other demand, such as a preliminary injunction.

Jury Demand. Check the appropriate box to indicate whether or not a jury is being demanded.

- VIII. Related Cases. This section of the JS-CAND 44 is used to identify related pending cases, if any. If there are related pending cases, insert the docket numbers and the corresponding judge names for such cases.
- **IX.** Divisional Assignment. If the Nature of Suit is under Property Rights or Prisoner Petitions or the matter is a Securities Class Action, leave this section blank. For all other cases, identify the divisional venue according to Civil Local Rule 3-2: "the county in which a substantial part of the events or omissions which give rise to the claim occurred or in which a substantial part of the property that is the subject of the action is situated."

Date and Attorney Signature. Date and sign the civil cover sheet.

### **ClassAction.org**

This complaint is part of ClassAction.org's searchable class action lawsuit database and can be found in this post: <u>Class Action Alleges Target Falsely</u> <u>Advertised Up & Up Sunscreen as 'Reef-Conscious'</u>