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10 IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
11 FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
12 SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION

FILED  
2013 SE. 16 P 2:47  
LB  
CV 13 4291

13 MARY SWEARINGEN and ROBERT FIGY,  
14 individually and on behalf of all others similarly  
15 situated,

16 Plaintiffs,

17 vs.

18 SANTA CRUZ NATURAL, INC.

19 Defendant.

Case No.

**CLASS ACTION AND REPRESENTATIVE  
ACTION COMPLAINT FOR EQUITABLE  
AND INJUNCTIVE RELIEF**

**JURY TRIAL DEMANDED**

Action Filed: September 16 , 2013

20 Plaintiffs MARY SWEARINGEN and ROBERT FIGY, ("Plaintiffs") bring this  
21 lawsuit against Defendant Santa Cruz Natural, Inc. ("SANTA CRUZ" or "Defendant") based upon  
22 their personal knowledge as to their acts and upon information and belief as to all other matters.

23 **INTRODUCTION**

24 1. This case seeks to recover for the injuries suffered by the Plaintiffs and the Class as  
25 a direct result of the Defendant's unlawful sale of misbranded food products. Defendant's actions  
26 violate numerous California statutes as well as the unlawful prong of California's Unfair  
27 Competition Law, Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17200 ("UCL") and the Consumers Legal Remedies  
28 Act, Cal. Civ. Code §1750, *et seq.* ("CLRA"). Defendant packaged and labeled its food products in  
violation of California's Sherman Law which adopts, incorporates, and is, in all relevant aspects,  
identical to the federal Food Drug & Cosmetic Act, 21 U.S.C. § 301 *et seq.* ("FDCA") and the

1 regulations adopted pursuant to that act. These violations render Defendant's food products  
2 "misbranded."  
3

4 2. Under California law, misbranded food products cannot be legally sold or possessed,  
5 have no economic value and are legally worthless. Indeed, the sale or possession of misbranded  
6 food products is a criminal act in California.

7 3. By selling such illegal products to unsuspecting Plaintiffs, the Defendant profited at  
8 the Plaintiffs' expense and unlawfully deprived Plaintiffs of the money they paid to purchase illegal  
9 food products that were illegal to sell, possess or resell and had no economic value while  
10 simultaneously exposing the Plaintiffs to potential legal risk by virtue of their possession of  
11 misbranded food products.

12 4. The "Class Period" is September, 2009 to the present.

13 5. "Purchased Products" are those products that were purchased by Plaintiffs during the  
14 Class Period. Plaintiff MARY SWEARINGEN purchased SANTA CRUZ's Lemonade Soda and  
15 Orange Mango Soda. Plaintiff ROBERT FIGY purchased SANTA CRUZ'S Raspberry Lemonade  
16 Soda and Ginger Ale Soda. Photographs of the Purchased Products are attached as Exhibits 1 - 4.

17 6. "Class Products" are the Purchased Products and Defendant's other 16 products listed  
18 below in paragraph 15 that bear the identical unlawful and illegal label statement as that found on  
19 the Purchased Products. SANTA CRUZ uses unlawful labels containing the unlawful term "organic  
20 evaporated cane juice" ("ECJ") for all the Class products as is more fully described below. ECJ is a  
21 term which is specifically banned from use on food labels under California and federal law.

#### 22 PARTIES, JURISDICTION AND VENUE

23 7. Plaintiffs MARY SWEARINGEN and ROBERT FIGY are citizens of the state of  
24 California. During the Class Period, Plaintiffs purchased, in San Francisco, California, SANTA  
25 CRUZ products that unlawfully listed the term ECJ on their labels as an ingredient. These products  
26 are SANTA CRUZ's Lemonade Soda, Orange Mango Soda, Raspberry Lemonade Soda, and Ginger  
27 Ale Soda.

28 8. Defendant SANTA CRUZ is organized and existing under the laws of the state of  
California. SANTA CRUZ's headquarters is located at 37 Speedway Avenue, Chico, California,

5  
2 95928-9554. SANTA CRUZ manufactures, advertises, markets and sells illegal products labeled as  
3 containing ECJ to tens of thousands of consumers nationwide, including many residing in California.

4 9. This Court has original jurisdiction over this action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1332(d)  
5 because this is a Class Action in which: (1) there are over 100 members in the proposed Class; (2)  
6 members of the proposed Class have a different citizenship from Defendant; and (3) the claims of  
7 the proposed Class members exceed \$5,000,000 in the aggregate.

8 10. The Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendant because a substantial portion of  
9 the wrongdoing alleged in this Complaint occurred in California, Defendant is authorized to do  
10 business in California, Defendant has sufficient minimum contacts with California, and Defendant  
11 otherwise intentionally availed itself of the markets in California through the promotion, marketing  
12 and sale of products, sufficient to render the exercise of jurisdiction by this Court permissible under  
13 traditional notions of fair play and substantial justice.

14 11. Because a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to these claims  
15 occurred in this District and because the Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendant, venue is  
16 proper in this Court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(a) and (b).

17 **FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS**

18 12. SANTA CRUZ food products, with their distinctive packaging and array of flavors,  
19 are available at most major supermarket chains and other retail outlets from coast to coast. SANTA  
20 CRUZ also maintains its own company store that sells the misbranded products at issue in this case.  
21 All of SANTA CRUZ's food products have unlawfully utilized the illegal term ECJ in the ingredient  
22 list on their labels.

23 13. SANTA CRUZ unlawfully uses the illegal term ECJ on its package labels, instead of  
24 the proper term sugar. Plaintiffs allege that the ingredient called "Organic Evaporated Cane Juice"  
25 by Defendant was in fact sugar. It is possible, however, that instead of adding crystalized sugar as  
26 the ingredient at issue that the Defendant added dried sugar cane syrup as the ingredient as the  
27 ingredient at issue. The common and usual name of such a syrup is "cane syrup" as detailed in 21  
28 CFR § 168.130. Regardless of whether the ingredient in question was sugar or cane syrup, calling  
the ingredient ECJ was unlawful and violated the same state and federal statutory and regulatory

1 provisions and was contrary to FDA policy and guidance. Moreover, the use of the term ECJ renders  
2 the products misbranded and illegal to sell or possess regardless of whether the ECJ was actually  
3 sugar or cane syrup. While Plaintiffs allege that the ingredient in question was in fact sugar, the  
4 Plaintiffs' allegations that the ingredient listed as ECJ was sugar should be read to mean the  
5 ingredient listed as ECJ was sugar or, in the alternative, dried cane syrup.  
6

7 14. SANTA CRUZ uses the term ECJ to make its products appear healthier than a  
8 product that contains "sugar" as an ingredient. This illegal label is used to increase sales and to  
9 charge a premium by making a product seem healthier than it is in reality.

10 15. SANTA CRUZ sells a number of products with identical ECJ labels, including:

11 **SANTA CRUZ Products**

12 Lemonade Soda - Ex. 1

13 Orange Mango Soda - Ex. 2

14 Raspberry Lemonade Soda - Ex. 3

15 Ginger Ale Soda - Ex. 4

16 Lemon Organic Juice Box - Ex. 5

17 Grape Organic Juice Box - Ex. 6

18 Limeade - Ex. 7

19 Lemon Lime Soda - Ex. 8

20 Mango Lemonade Soda - Ex. 9

21 Pomegranate Limeade Soda - Ex. 10

22 Root Beer Soda - Ex. 11

23 Sparkling Lemonade - Ex. 12

24 Sparkling Limeade - Ex. 13

25 Sparkling Tangerine - Ex. 14

26 Cherry Lemonade - Ex. 15  
27  
28

1 Peach Lemonade Ex. 16

2 Mango Lemonade – Ex. 17

3 Raspberry Lemonade – Ex. 18

4 Strawberry Lemonade – Ex. 19

5 Original Lemonade – Ex. 20

6  
7  
8 16. Exemplar labels are provided below in Exhibits 1-20. These exhibits are true, correct  
9 and accurate photographs of SANTA CRUZ's identical ECJ package labels. At all times during the  
10 Class Period, the above listed SANTA CRUZ products listed "Organic Evaporated Cane Juice" as an  
11 ingredient.

12 17. SANTA CRUZ's product labeling fails to accurately identify sugar as an ingredient of  
13 its products. Rather, the labeling identifies "Organic Evaporated Cane Juice" as an ingredient,  
14 despite the fact that the FDCA requires that the ingredient be called "sugar" or "cane syrup." The  
15 ingredient is not "juice," but is "sugar" or "syrup." 21 C.F.R. § 101.4 (a)(1) provides "[i]ngredients  
16 required to be declared on the label or labeling of a food...shall be listed by common or usual  
17 name..." 21 C.F.R. § 102.5 requires that the common or usual name must accurately describe "the  
18 basic nature of the food or its characterizing properties or ingredients", and may not be "confusingly  
19 similar to the name of any other food that is not reasonably encompassed within the same name."  
20 These federal regulations have been adopted by California pursuant to the Sherman Law. The FDA  
21 has expressly held that ECJ is not the common or usual name of any food ingredient. The FDA's  
22 determination on this issue is dispositive. The FDA has further held that the term ECJ fails to reveal  
23 the basic nature of the food and its characterizing properties, *i.e.* the ingredient is sugar or syrup and  
24 not juice. The FDA's determination on this issue is dispositive.

25 18. Consistent with the common and usual name regulations, the FDA has issued warning  
26 letters that specifically told companies not to use the term ECJ. According to the FDA's published  
27 policy, ECJ is simply an unlawful way of describing sugar.

28 19. In October of 2009, the FDA issued *Guidance for Industry: Ingredients Declared as  
Evaporated Cane Juice, Draft Guidance*, ("2009 ECJ Guidance") which advised industry that:

1  
2 [T]he term “evaporated can juice” has started to appear as an ingredient on food labels,  
3 most commonly to declare the presence of sweeteners derived from sugar cane syrup.  
4 However, FDA’s current policy is that sweeteners derived from sugar cane syrup should  
5 not be declared as “evaporated cane juice”

6 As provided in 21 CFR 101.4(a)(1), “Ingredients required to be declared on the label or  
7 labeling of a food... shall be listed by common or usual name...” The common or usual  
8 name for an ingredient is the name established by common usage or by regulation (21  
9 CFR 102.5(d)). The common or usual name must accurately describe the basic nature  
10 of the food or its characterizing properties or ingredients, and may not be “confusingly  
11 similar to the name of any other food that is not reasonably encompassed within the same  
12 name” (21 CFR 102.5(a))...

13 Sugar cane products with common or usual names defined by regulation are sugar (21  
14 CFR 101.4(b)(20)) and cane sirup (alternatively spelled “syrup”) (21 CFR 168.130)....

15 The intent of this draft guidance is to advise the regulated industry of FDA’s view that  
16 the term “evaporated cane juice” is not the common or usual name of any type of sweetener,  
17 including dried can syrup...

18 Sweeteners derived from sugar cane syrup should not be listed in the ingredient declaration  
19 by names which suggest that the ingredients are juice, such as “evaporated cane juice.”  
20 ....such representations ... fail to reveal the basic nature of the food and its characterizing  
21 properties (i.e., that the ingredients are sugars or syrups) as required by 21 CFR 102.5.  
22 Furthermore, sweeteners derived from sugar cane syrup are not juice and should not be  
23 included in the percentage juice declaration on the labels of beverages that are represented to  
24 contain fruit or vegetable juice (see 21 CFR 101.30). (emphasis added).

25 [http://www.fda.gov/Food/GuidanceComplianceRegulatoryInformation/GuidanceDocuments/FoodLa  
26 belingNutrition/ucm181491.html](http://www.fda.gov/Food/GuidanceComplianceRegulatoryInformation/GuidanceDocuments/FoodLabelingNutrition/ucm181491.html).

27 20. The FDA’s position is clear: ECJ is an unlawful term because it is not the common or  
28 usual name for sugar. The ingredient listed as “Organic Evaporated Cane Juice” on Defendant’s  
29 labels is really “sucrose” as defined in 21 C.F.R. § 184.1854 which is required to be listed as  
30 sugar. While FDA regulations generally provide that “[t]he name of an ingredient shall be a specific  
31 name and not a collective (generic) name,” the regulations expressly provide that “[f]or purposes of  
32 ingredient labeling, the term *sugar* shall refer to sucrose, which is obtained from sugar cane or sugar  
33 beets in accordance with the provisions of 184.1854 of this chapter.” 21 C.F.R. §  
34 101.4(b)(20)(emphasis in original).

35 21. 21 C.F.R. § 184.1854 lists the chemical names, CAS number and structure of  
36 sugar/sucrose (C<sub>12</sub> H<sub>22</sub> O<sub>11</sub>, CAS Reg. No. 57-50-11-1, β-D-fructofuranosyl-α-D-glucopyranoside)

1  
2 as well as its common names (sugar, sucrose, cane sugar, or beet sugar). 21 C.F.R. § 184.1854 also  
3 confirms that the definition of sugar/sucrose covers products “obtained by crystallization from sugar  
4 cane or sugar beet juice that has been extracted by pressing or diffusion, then clarified and  
5 evaporated.” As such, Defendant cannot call its ingredient ECJ but must call it “sugar.”

6 22. Defendant could easily have complied with the labeling regulations by simply  
7 following the FDA’s clear example and listing “sugar” on the ingredient list instead of resorting to  
8 the illegal term ECJ.

9 23. When the food industry first approached the FDA in 1999 with the idea of calling  
10 sugar ECJ, the FDA responded with a guidance letter (“2000 Guidance Letter”), saying that certain  
11 sweeteners have “well recognized common or usual name[s]” and the common or usual name  
12 of “[t]he product extracted from sugar cane is either ‘sugar’ [21CFR § 101.4(b)(20) and 184.1854],  
13 or ‘cane sirup’ [21 CFR § 168.130].” The 2000 Guidance Letter went on to point out to the industry  
14 that sweeteners such as the sugar at issue here:

15 should not be declared in the ingredient declaration by names which suggest that the  
16 ingredients are juice, e.g. "evaporated \_ juice" or "\_nectar", or in such a way as to  
17 suggest that the ingredients contain no sugar, e.g. "natural extract of \_". Such  
18 representations .... fail to reveal the basic nature of the food and its characterizing  
19 properties, i.e. the ingredients are sugar or syrups. They are not juice..... As you  
20 know, many of FDA's criminal prosecutions of manufacturers and seizures of fruit  
21 juices for economic adulteration have involved precisely these sweeteners being  
22 misrepresented in such a way as to mislead consumers. .... We trust that the  
23 foregoing will be helpful in providing guidance on the appropriate labeling of these  
24 ingredients.

25 [www.regulations.gov/#!documentDetail:D=FDA-2009-D-0430-0005](http://www.regulations.gov/#!documentDetail:D=FDA-2009-D-0430-0005)

26 24. Since it issued the 2000 Guidance Letter the FDA has sent out numerous warning  
27 letters to food manufacturers saying that ECJ is not the common or usual name of any sweetener,  
28 and that its use on food labels is unlawful. The FDA warning letters issued after the 2009 ECJ  
29 Guidance have all expressly stated that “evaporated cane juice is not the common or usual name of  
30 any type of sweetener. The proper way to declare this ingredient can be found on the FDA website”  
31 in the 2009 ECJ Guidance.

32 [www.fda.gov/ICECI/EnforcementActions/WarningLetters/2012/ucm316268.htm](http://www.fda.gov/ICECI/EnforcementActions/WarningLetters/2012/ucm316268.htm)  
33 [www.fda.gov/ICECI/EnforcementActions/WarningLetters/2012/ucm326550.htm](http://www.fda.gov/ICECI/EnforcementActions/WarningLetters/2012/ucm326550.htm)

1  
2 25. The FDA has never wavered from the position that the use of the term ECJ violates  
3 numerous labeling regulations and misbrands products since it was first set out in 2000. Despite the  
4 FDA's numerous policy statements, warning letters and guidance, including the issuance of the  
5 2009 ECJ Guidance, which merely reiterates a position the FDA has taken for at least a full decade,  
6 SANTA CRUZ failed to remove the unlawful term ECJ from their misbranded food products'  
7 ingredient lists.

8 26. Consumers paid a premium price for products that fail to comply with mandatory  
9 labeling requirements to such a degree that they are misbranded and rendered unfit for sale. These  
10 products contain ingredients not listed on the label and are thus illegal to sell or possess. In fact, the  
11 products were worthless due to their illegality and thus the unjustified premium paid for these  
12 products equaled their purchase price.

13 27. Plaintiffs and the Class paid a premium price for SANTA CRUZ products with the  
14 illegal term ECJ listed on their labels. Plaintiffs would not have purchased these products had they  
15 known the products were illegal to sell and possess nor would they have expended the purchase price  
16 for products that were worthless due to their illegality.

17 28. Plaintiffs and the Class have been damaged by SANTA CRUZ's illegal conduct in  
18 that they purchased misbranded and worthless products that were illegal to sell or possess.

19 **DEFENDANT'S CONDUCT IS UNLAWFUL**

20 29. Plaintiffs' case is brought pursuant to the unlawful prong of California's Unfair  
21 Competition Law, Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17200 and the Consumers Legal Remedies Act, Cal.  
22 Civ. Code §1750, *et seq.* Plaintiffs allege that Defendant packaged and labeled the Purchased  
23 Products and Class Products in violation of California's Sherman Law which adopts, incorporates,  
24 and is, in all relevant aspects, identical to the federal Food Drug & Cosmetics Act, 21 U.S.C. § 301  
25 *et seq.* ("FDCA"). Purchased Products and Class Products with this identical type of ECJ labeling  
26 violations are "misbranded."

27 30. 21 C.F.R. §§ 101.3 and 102.5, which have been adopted by California, prohibit  
28 manufacturers from referring to foods by anything other than their common and usual names.  
Pursuant to 21 C.F.R. §102.5 the common or usual name must accurately describe the basic nature of



1  
2 the food or its characterizing properties or ingredients, and may not be “confusingly similar to the  
3 name of any other food that is not reasonably encompassed within the same name” (21 CFR  
4 102.5(a)). Defendant’s use of the term ECJ fails this requirement because that term does not  
5 accurately describe the basic nature of the food or its characterizing properties or ingredients, and is  
6 “confusingly similar to the name of any other food that is not reasonably encompassed within the  
7 same name.” Here, the true nature of the ingredient is a type of sugar added to sweeten food. The  
8 characterizing properties of this ingredient were represented as a juice when in fact they were a sugar  
9 or syrup. Defendant hid this fact by unlawfully using a confusing name (a type of juice) that is not  
10 reasonably encompassed within the same name.

11 31. 21 C.F.R. § 101.4, which has been adopted by California, prohibits manufacturers  
12 from referring to ingredients by anything other than their common and usual names. It specifically  
13 specifies in subsection (b)(20) that “[f]or purposes of ingredient labeling, the term sugar shall refer  
14 to sucrose, which is obtained from sugar cane or sugar beets in accordance with the provisions of  
15 184.1854 of this chapter.” 21 C.F.R. § 101.4(b)(20). 21 C.F.R. § 184.1854 lists the chemical names,  
16 CAS number and structure of sugar/sucrose (C<sub>12</sub> H<sub>22</sub> O<sub>11</sub>, CAS Reg. No. 57-50-11-1, β-D-  
17 fructofuranosyl-α-D-glucopyranoside) as well as its common names (sugar, sucrose, cane sugar, or  
18 beet sugar). 21 C.F.R. § 184.1854 also confirms that the definition of sugar/sucrose covers products  
19 “obtained by crystallization from sugar cane or sugar beet juice that has been extracted by pressing  
20 or diffusion, then clarified and evaporated.”

21 32. The Federal Register makes clear that the definition of sugar/sucrose in 21 C.F.R. §  
22 184.1854 was specifically modified by the FDA to cover sugar/sucrose that was obtained by the  
23 evaporation of sugar cane juice stating:

24 In addition, the agency notes that the description of sucrose in proposed §  
25 184.1854(a) does not explicitly cover the extraction, by pressing, of sugar cane juice  
26 from sugar cane or beet juice from sugar beets and also does not mention the  
27 evaporation of the extracted sugar cane juice or beet juice. Therefore, the agency has  
28 modified § 184.1854(a) to include "pressing" as a possible extraction procedure and  
"evaporated" as a step in the refinement of sucrose.

53 F.R. 44862.

33. SANTA CRUZ has violated the regulatory provisions detailed above by failing to use  
the common or usual name for sugar as mandated by law. In particular, SANTA CRUZ used the

1  
2 unlawful term ECJ on its products in violation of numerous federal and state labeling regulations  
3 designed to protect consumers from illegal misbranded products in direct violation of express FDA  
4 policy as quoted above.

5 34. Defendant SANTA CRUZ violated 21 CFR §§ 101.4 and 102.5 (adopted and  
6 incorporated by reference by Sherman Law § 110100) and Sherman Law § 110725. Sherman Law §  
7 110725 mandates that a product is misbranded if the common and usual ingredient names are not  
8 used. Therefore, SANTA CRUZ violated the UCL's unlawful prong by misbranding its products  
9 with ECJ instead of using the term "sugar."

10 35. SANTA CRUZ's act of selling an illegally misbranded product violates Sherman  
11 Law § 110760 which makes it unlawful for any person to manufacture, sell, deliver, hold, or offer  
12 for sale any food that is misbranded. The sale of a misbranded product results in an independent  
13 violation of the unlawful prong of the UCL that is separate from any labeling violation.

14 36. Pursuant to Sherman Law § 111825, the sale of such a misbranded product (*i.e.* one  
15 whose label fails to use the common and usual ingredient name as required by law) constitutes a  
16 criminal act punishable by fine and up to twelve months in jail. As a result, the injury to the Class  
17 arises from the Defendant illegally selling a product it misbranded, the sale of which is a criminal  
18 act. Plaintiffs and the Class have been unlawfully deprived of money in an illegal transaction that  
19 occurred because the Defendant sold them a worthless, illegal product that could not be legally sold  
20 or possessed. Due to the law's prohibition of possession of such a product, consumers have been  
21 unwittingly placed, solely and directly by SANTA CRUZ's conduct, in a legal position that no  
22 reasonable consumer would choose. Consumers have thus been directly injured by the Defendant's  
23 illegal act of unlawfully selling them an illegal product. This harm goes beyond mere economic  
24 injury.

25 37. FDA warning letters have made it clear that the use of the term ECJ is unlawful  
26 because the term does not represent the common or usual name of a food or ingredient. These  
27 warning letters state that foods that bear labels that contain the term ECJ are misbranded. Such  
28 unlawful conduct by Defendant SANTA CRUZ is actionable under California law irrespective of  
any reliance by consumers such as Plaintiffs.

1  
2 38. Under California law, a food product that is misbranded cannot be legally  
3 manufactured, advertised, distributed, possessed or sold. Because these products are illegal to  
4 possess, they have no economic value and are legally worthless. Indeed, the sale or possession of  
5 misbranded food is a criminal act in California. When Plaintiffs and the Class purchased an illegally  
6 misbranded product there is causation and injury even absent reliance on the ECJ misrepresentation  
7 that misbranded the product.

8 **THE UCL's UNLAWFUL PRONG DOES NOT REQUIRE CONSUMER RELIANCE ON**  
9 **AN ILLEGAL LABEL**

10 39. The unlawful sale of misbranded food products that are illegal to sell or possess—  
11 standing alone without any allegations of deception by Defendant other than the implicit  
12 misrepresentation that its products are legal to sell or possess, or any review of or reliance on the  
13 particular labeling claims by Plaintiffs – gives rise to Plaintiffs' cause of action under the UCL and  
14 the CLRA. In short, Defendant's injury causing unlawful conduct is the only necessary element  
15 needed for UCL liability. All Plaintiffs need to show is that they bought an unlawful product that  
16 they would not have otherwise purchased absent the Defendant's failure to disclose the material fact  
17 that the product was unlawful to sell or possess. Therefore, this claim does not sound in fraud;  
18 instead, it alleges strict liability pursuant to the above cited provisions of the federal law and  
19 Sherman Law.

20 40. Under California law, which is identical to federal law, the sale of Defendant's  
21 products listed above are unlawful, because they are misbranded in violation of the Sherman Law.

22 41. SANTA CRUZ's unlawful, identical ingredient lists render these products misbranded  
23 under California law.

24 42. In addition to the violations of law listed above, the Defendant has violated a number  
25 of additional California laws.

26 43. Defendant's Purchased Products and Class Products are misbranded under California  
27 Health & Safety Code § 110705 because words, statements and other information required by the  
28 Sherman Law to appear on their labeling either are missing or not sufficiently conspicuous.

1  
2 44. Defendant's Purchased Products and Class Products are misbranded under  
3 California's Health & Safety Code § 110725 because they fail to use the common or usual name for  
4 ingredients.

5 45. Defendant violated California Health & Safety Code § 110760 which makes it  
6 unlawful for any person to manufacture, sell, deliver, hold, or offer for sale any food that is  
7 misbranded.

8 46. Defendant violated California Health & Safety Code § 110765 which makes it  
9 unlawful for any person to misbrand any food.

10 47. Defendant violated California Health & Safety Code § 110770 which makes it  
11 unlawful for any person to receive in commerce any food that is misbranded or to deliver or proffer  
12 for deliver any such food.

13 48. Defendant violated 21 CFR §§ 101.4 and 102.5 (adopted and incorporated by  
14 reference by Sherman Law § 110100) and Sherman Law § 110725 (mandating common and usual  
15 ingredient names) and thus violated the unlawful prong.

16 49. Products such as Defendant's that use the term ECJ are misbranded under Sherman  
17 Law § 110725 (failure to use common and usual ingredient names misbrand product).

18 50. Defendant's act of selling a misbranded product violates Sherman Law § 110760  
19 (unlawful for any person to manufacture, sell, deliver, hold, or offer for sale any food that is  
20 misbranded). The sale of a misbranded product results in an independent violation of the unlawful  
21 prong that is separate from the labeling violations listed above. When Plaintiffs purchased  
22 Defendant's misbranded products there was causation and injury even absent reliance on the  
23 misrepresentation/omission that misbranded the product. This injury arises from the unlawful sale of  
24 an illegal product that is crime to sell and crime to possess. Plaintiffs were deprived of money in an  
25 illegal sale and given a worthless illegal product in return. In addition, due to the law's prohibition of  
26 possession of such a product, consumers have been unwittingly placed by the Defendant's conduct  
27 in a legal position that no reasonable consumer would agree to be placed.

28 51. Thus, in this case, where Defendant unlawfully sold products containing the unlawful  
term ECJ there is 1) a violation of specific labeling regulations and 2) an independent violation of

1  
2 the unlawful prong due to the Defendant's sale of an illegal product that is unlawful to possess.

3 52. The Plaintiffs would not have bought the misbranded food products if Defendant had  
4 disclosed the material fact that the misbranded food products were illegal to sell and possess. The  
5 Defendant had a duty to disclose the illegality of its misbranded products because 1) it had exclusive  
6 knowledge of material facts not known or reasonably accessible to Plaintiffs; and (2) Defendant  
7 actively concealed a material fact from Plaintiffs. Plaintiffs were injured by Defendant's unlawful  
8 act of selling them an illegal product that was illegal to sell or possess.

9 **CLASS ALLEGATIONS**

10 53. Plaintiffs bring this action as a class action pursuant to Federal Rule of Procedure  
11 23(b)(2) and 23(b)(3) on behalf of the following "Class:" All persons in the United States who,  
12 within the Class Period, purchased one or more of the following SANTA CRUZ products:

- 13 • Lemonade Soda
- 14 • Orange Mango Soda
- 15 • Raspberry Lemonade Soda
- 16 • Ginger Ale Soda
- 17 • Lemon Organic Juice Box
- 18 • Grape Organic Juice Box
- 19 • Limeade
- 20 • Lemon Lime Soda
- 21 • Mango Lemonade Soda
- 22 • Pomegranate Limeade Soda
- 23 • Root Beer Soda
- 24 • Sparkling Lemonade
- 25 • Sparkling Limeade
- 26 • Sparkling Tangerine
- 27 • Cherry Lemonade
- 28 • Peach Lemonade
- Mango Lemonade

- Raspberry Lemonade
- Strawberry Lemonade
- Original Lemonade

54. The following persons are expressly excluded from the Class: (1) Defendant and its subsidiaries and affiliates; (2) all persons who make a timely election to be excluded from the proposed Class; (3) governmental entities; and (4) the Court to which this case is assigned and its staff.

55. This action can be maintained as a Class Action because there is a well-defined community of interest in the litigation and the proposed Class is easily ascertainable.

56. Numerosity: Based upon Defendant's publicly available sales data with respect to the misbranded products at issue, it is estimated that the Class numbers in the thousands, and that joinder of all Class members is impracticable.

57. Common Questions Predominate: This action involves common questions of law and fact applicable to each Class member that predominate over questions that affect only individual Class members. Thus, proof of a common set of facts will establish the right of each Class member to recover. Questions of law and fact common to each Class member include, for example:

- a. Whether Defendant engaged in unlawful business practices by failing to properly label its Purchased and Class Products sold to consumers;
- b. Whether Defendant unlawfully sold illegal misbranded food products that were illegal to sell or possess;
- c. Whether the Purchased and Class Products were misbranded as a matter of law;
- d. Whether Defendant labeled and distributed food with identical unlawful ECJ labels;
- e. Whether Defendant violated California Bus. & Prof. Code § 17200 *et seq.*, the CLRA and the Sherman Law;
- f. Whether Plaintiffs and the Class are entitled to equitable and injunctive relief; and
- g. Whether Defendant's unlawful practices harmed Plaintiffs and the Class such that they would be entitled to restitution.

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2 58. Typicality: Plaintiffs' claims are typical of the claims of the Class because Plaintiffs  
3 bought Defendant's Purchased Products during the Class Period. Defendant's unlawful actions  
4 concern the same business practices described herein irrespective of where they occurred or were  
5 experienced. Plaintiffs and the Class sustained similar injuries arising out of Defendant's conduct in  
6 violation of California law. The injuries of each member of the Class were caused directly by  
7 Defendant's wrongful conduct. In addition, the factual underpinning of Defendant's misconduct is  
8 common to all Class members and represents a common thread of misconduct resulting in injury to  
9 all members of the Class. Plaintiffs' claims arise from the same practices and course of conduct that  
10 give rise to the claims of the Class members and are based on the same legal theories.

11 59. Adequacy: Plaintiffs will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the Class.  
12 Neither Plaintiffs nor Plaintiffs' counsel have any interests that conflict with or are antagonistic to  
13 the interests of the Class members. Plaintiffs have retained highly competent and experienced Class  
14 action attorneys to represent their interests and those of the members of the Class. Plaintiffs and  
15 Plaintiffs' counsel have the necessary financial resources to adequately and vigorously litigate this  
16 Class action, and Plaintiffs and their counsel are aware of their fiduciary responsibilities to the Class  
17 members and will diligently discharge those duties by vigorously seeking the maximum possible  
18 recovery for the Class.

19 60. Superiority: There is no plain, speedy or adequate remedy other than by maintenance  
20 of this Class action. The prosecution of individual remedies by members of the Class will tend to  
21 establish inconsistent standards of conduct for Defendant and result in the impairment of Class  
22 members' rights and the disposition of their interests through actions to which they were not parties.  
23 Class action treatment will permit a large number of similarly situated persons to prosecute their  
24 common claims in a single forum simultaneously, efficiently and without the unnecessary  
25 duplication of effort and expense that numerous individual actions would engender. Further, as the  
26 damages suffered by individual members of the Class may be relatively small, the expense and  
27 burden of individual litigation would make it difficult or impossible for individual members of the  
28 Class to redress the wrongs done to them, while an important public interest will be served by  
addressing the matter as a Class action. Class treatment of common questions of law and fact would

1  
2 also be superior to multiple individual actions or piecemeal litigation in that Class treatment will  
3 conserve the resources of the Court and the litigants, and will promote consistency and efficiency of  
4 adjudication.

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

9 62. The prerequisites to maintaining a Class action pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(b)(3)  
10 are met as questions of law or fact common to Class members predominate over any questions  
11 affecting only individual members, and a Class action is superior to other available methods for  
12 fairly and efficiently adjudicating the controversy.

13 63. Plaintiffs and Plaintiffs' counsel are unaware of any difficulties that are likely to be  
14 encountered in the management of this action that would preclude its maintenance as a Class action.

## 15 CAUSES OF ACTION

### 16 **FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION**

#### 17 **Business and Professions Code § 17200, *et seq.***

#### 18 **Unlawful Business Acts and Practices**

19 64. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference each allegation set forth above.

20 65. Defendant's use of the term "organic" evaporated cane juice" in the ingredients list  
21 of its Purchased Products and Class Products constitutes unlawful business acts and practices.

22 66. Under California law, unlawful injury causing conduct, such as Defendant's unlawful  
23 sale of an illegal product, is the only element necessary for the UCL claim. No reliance is necessary  
24 when the unlawful sale of an illegal product is at issue. While not required, Plaintiffs relied on the  
25 legality of the Defendant's products and the labeling and label claims of those products. Plaintiffs  
26 would not have purchased Defendant's misbranded food products s had they known they were not  
27 capable of being legally sold or held. No reasonable consumer would have knowing purchased a  
28 product that was illegal to sell or possess.

67. Defendant sold Purchased Products and Class Products in California during the  
Class Period.



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2 68. Defendant is a corporation and, therefore, is a "person" within the meaning of the  
3 Sherman Law.

4 69. Defendant's business practices are unlawful under § 17200, *et seq.* by virtue of  
5 Defendant's violations of the advertising provisions of Article 3 of the Sherman Law and the  
6 misbranded food provisions of Article 6 of the Sherman Law.

7 70. Defendant's business practices are unlawful under § 17200, *et seq.* by virtue of  
8 Defendant's violations of the Consumers Legal Remedies Act, Cal. Civ. Code § 1750, *et seq.*

9 71. Defendant sold Plaintiffs and the Class Purchased Products and Class Products that  
10 were not capable of being sold or held legally and have no economic value and which were legally  
11 worthless. Plaintiffs and the Class lost money as a direct result of Defendant's unlawful conduct.

12 72. As a result of Defendant's illegal business practices, Plaintiffs and the Class, pursuant  
13 to Business and Professions Code § 17203, are entitled to an order enjoining such future conduct and  
14 such other orders and judgments which may be necessary to disgorge Defendant's ill-gotten gains  
15 and to restore to any Class Member any money paid for the Purchased Products and Class Products.

16 73. Defendant's unlawful business acts present a threat and reasonable continued  
17 likelihood of injury to Plaintiffs and the Class.

18 74. As a result of Defendant's conduct, Plaintiffs and the Class, pursuant to Business and  
19 Professions Code § 17203, are entitled to an order enjoining such future conduct by Defendant, and  
20 such other orders and judgments which may be necessary to disgorge Defendant's ill-gotten gains  
21 and restore any money paid for Defendant's Purchased Products by Plaintiffs and any money paid  
22 for Defendant's Class Products purchased by the Class.

23 **SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION**  
24 **Consumers Legal Remedies Act, Cal. Civ. Code §1750, et seq.**

25 75. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference each allegation set forth above.

26 76. This cause of action is brought pursuant to the CLRA. This cause of action does not  
27 currently seek monetary relief and is limited solely to injunctive relief. Plaintiffs intend to amend  
28 this Complaint to seek damages in accordance with the CLRA after providing Defendant with notice  
pursuant to Cal. Civ. Code § 1782.

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2 77. At the time of any amendment seeking damages under the CLRA, Plaintiffs will  
3 demonstrate that the violations of the CLRA by Defendant was willful and oppressive thus  
4 supporting an award of punitive damages.

5 78. Consequently, Plaintiffs and the Class will be entitled to actual and punitive damages  
6 against Defendant for its violations of the CLRA. In addition, pursuant to Cal. Civ. Code §  
7 1782(a)(2), Plaintiffs and the Class will be entitled to an order enjoining the above-described acts  
8 and practices, providing restitution to Plaintiffs and the Class, ordering payment of costs and  
9 attorneys' fees, and any other relief deemed appropriate and proper by the Court pursuant to Cal.  
10 Civ. Code § 1780.

11 79. Defendant's actions, representations and conduct have violated, and continue to  
12 violate the CLRA, because they extend to transactions that are intended to result, or which have  
13 resulted, in the sale of goods to consumers.

14 80. Defendant sold Purchased Products and Class Products in California and throughout  
15 the United States during the Class Period.

16 81. Plaintiffs and members of the Class are "consumers" as that term is defined by the  
17 CLRA in Cal. Civ. Code §1761(d).

18 82. Defendant's Purchased Products and Class Products were and are "goods" within the  
19 meaning of Cal. Civ. Code §1761(a).

20 83. By engaging in the conduct set forth herein (i.e. using the term "organic evaporated  
21 cane juice" in its ingredient list on the Purchased Products and Class Products), Defendant violated  
22 and continues to violate Sections 1770(a)(5) of the CLRA, because Defendant's conduct constitutes  
23 unfair methods of competition and unfair acts or practices in that it misrepresents the particular  
24 ingredients, characteristics, uses, benefits and quantities of the goods.

25 84. By engaging in the conduct set forth herein (i.e. using the term "organic evaporated  
26 cane juice" in its ingredient list on the Purchased Products and Class Products), Defendant violated  
27 and continues to violate Section 1770(a)(7) of the CLRA, because Defendant's conduct constitutes  
28 unfair methods of competition and unfair acts or practices in that it misrepresents the particular  
standard, quality or grade of the goods.

1  
2 85. By engaging in the conduct set forth herein (i.e. using the term “organic evaporated  
3 cane juice” in its ingredient list on the Purchased Products and Class Products), Defendant violated  
4 and continues to violate Section 1770(a)(9) of the CLRA, because Defendant’s conduct constitutes  
5 unfair methods of competition and unfair acts or practices in that it advertises goods with the intent  
6 not to sell the goods as advertised.

7 86. By engaging in the conduct set forth herein (i.e. using the term “organic evaporated  
8 cane juice” in its ingredient list on the Purchased Products and Class Products), Defendant has  
9 violated and continues to violate Section 1770(a)(16) of the CLRA, because Defendant’s conduct  
10 constitutes unfair methods of competition and unfair acts or practices in that it represents that a  
11 subject of a transaction has been supplied in accordance with a previous representation when it has  
12 not.

13 87. Plaintiffs were misled by Defendant’s failure to disclose the material fact that the  
14 misbranded food products were illegal to sell and possess. Plaintiffs were misled by Defendant’s  
15 implicit representation that the misbranded food products were legal to sell and possess and  
16 Defendant’s material omission of the fact that its misbranded food products were illegal to sell or  
17 possess. Plaintiffs relied on Defendant’s representation that the misbranded food products were  
18 legal. Plaintiffs would not have bought the misbranded food products if Defendant had disclosed the  
19 material fact that the misbranded food products were illegal to sell and possess. A reasonable person  
20 would find it important when determining whether to purchase a product that it is unlawful to sell or  
21 possess that product. A reasonable person would not knowingly commit a criminal act. In such a  
22 situation, class wide reliance will be presumed because the misrepresentation or omission is  
23 material. There is no impediment to establishing reliance on a classwide basis for the CLRA claim  
24 in this case because it can be established by showing that the alleged misrepresentation—that  
25 Defendant’s products were legal—was material.

26 88. Plaintiffs request that the Court enjoin Defendant from continuing to employ the  
27 unlawful methods, acts and practices alleged herein pursuant to Cal. Civ. Code § 1780(a)(2). If  
28 Defendant is not restrained from engaging in these practices in the future, Plaintiffs and the Class

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2 will continue to suffer harm. At the present time, Plaintiffs do not seek damages pursuant to the  
3 CLRA at this time and only seek injunctive relief at this time for their CLRA cause of action.

4 **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

5 WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated,  
6 and on behalf of the general public, pray for judgment against Defendant as follows:

7 A. For an order certifying this case as a national Class action and appointing  
8 Plaintiffs and their counsel to represent the Class;

9 B. For an order awarding, as appropriate, restitution pursuant to the UCL to  
10 Plaintiffs and the Class for all causes of action other than the CLRA, as Plaintiffs do not seek  
11 monetary relief under the CLRA, but intend to amend their Complaint to seek such relief;

12 C. For an order requiring Defendant to immediately cease and desist from selling  
13 its Class Products listed in violation of law; enjoining Defendant from continuing to market,  
14 advertise, distribute, and sell these products in the unlawful manner described herein; and ordering  
15 Defendant to engage in corrective action;

16 D. For all equitable remedies available pursuant to Cal. Civ. Code § 1780;

17 E. For an order awarding attorneys' fees and costs;

18 F. For an order awarding pre-and post-judgment interest; and

19 G. For an order providing such further relief as this Court deems proper.

20 Dated: September 16, 2013

*Pierce Gore*

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