

Todd D. Carpenter, Cal. State Bar No. 234464
todd@lcllp.com
Jennifer M. French, Cal. State Bar No. 265422
jennf@lcllp.com
LYNCH CARPENTER, LLP
9171 Towne Centre Drive, Suite 180
San Diego, California 92122
Telephone: 619-762-1900
Facsimile: 858-313-1850

*Attorneys for Plaintiffs
and the Putative Class*

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

STACI VALDEZ, DANIELLE
KERSTETTER, KYLE KERSTETTER,
JOSH TEPERSON, and ANGELA
WALDNER, individually and on behalf of
all others similarly situated,

Plaintiffs,

v.

KELLOGG SUPPLY, INC., a California
corporation, and DOES 1-20, inclusive,

Defendants.

Case No. **'25CV2917 CAB MMP**

CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT for:

- 1) Violation of California's Unfair Competition Law (Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code §§ 17200–17208);
- 2) Violation of California's False Advertising Law (Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code §§ 17500–17509);
- 3) Violation of California's Consumer Legal Remedies Act (Cal. Civ. Code §§ 1750–1784);
- 4) Violation of the New York Consumer Protection from Deceptive Acts & Practices Act (N.Y. Gen. Bus. Law § 349); and
- 5) Violation of the New York False Advertising Act (N.Y. Gen. Bus. Law § 350).

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

I. INTRODUCTION

1 1. This consumer class action arises out of Kellogg Supply, Inc.’s false
2 advertising of its organic soil and fertilizer products (the Products). Kellogg falsely
3 represents that the Products are organic even though they contain synthetic, non-organic,
4 and harmful forever chemicals known as perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances
5 (PFAS).

6 2. Kellogg uses the term organic to induce consumers into believing that the
7 Products contain only naturally occurring, non-synthetic ingredients and are therefore a
8 superior alternative to competing—and less expensive—products that are not labeled as
9 organic. Reasonable consumers do not expect Kellogg’s organic Products to contain toxic
10 forever chemicals like PFAS, especially when marketed for use in residential gardens to
11 grow fruits and vegetables. Kellogg fails to disclose that PFAS are present in its Products
12 because it knows that this likely would influence their purchasing decisions to Kellogg’s
13 financial detriment.

14 3. Plaintiffs Staci Valdez, Danielle Kerstetter, Kyle Kerstetter, Josh Teperson,
15 Angela Waldner, and Class members would not have purchased, or would have paid less
16 money for, Kellogg’s organic Products had they known that the Products contain PFAS.
17 Kellogg’s misleading, deceptive, and false advertising, and its unlawful, unfair, and
18 fraudulent business practices, caused Valdez, the Kerstetters, Teperson, Waldner, and
19 Class members to purchase, purchase more of, or pay more for the Products than they
20 would have but for Kellogg’s misrepresentations.

II. PARTIES

21 4. Valdez, the Kerstetters, Teperson, and Waldner are consumers who relied on
22 Kellogg’s false advertisements to purchase the Products, and they bring this action on
23 behalf of themselves and all those similarly situated.

24 5. Staci Valdez resides in San Diego County, California. On or about
25 March 23, 2025, Valdez purchased Kellogg Garden Organics All Natural Indoor Potting
26 Mix from the Home Depot store located at 1001 N El Camino Real, Encinitas, CA 92024.

1 Valdez reviewed the labels on the Kellogg Garden Organics All Natural Indoor Potting
2 Mix bag and relied on the representations that the Product was organic when she decided
3 to purchase it. Valdez would not have purchased the Kellogg Garden Organics All
4 Natural Indoor Potting Mix, and would not have paid the price premium that organic
5 products command, had she known that it contained synthetic, inorganic PFAS.

6 6. Valdez continues to desire to purchase organic soil and believes she would
7 purchase organic soil if they were truly organic and did not contain PFAS. She would
8 purchase one of Kellogg's Products again if she could have confidence regarding the
9 truth of its advertisements. But because of Kellogg's ongoing false, deceptive, and
10 misleading advertising, Valdez will be unable to rely on the advertising and packaging
11 when deciding in the future whether to purchase Kellogg's organic soil Products. She will
12 be harmed if, in the future, she is left to guess whether Kellogg's Products contain
13 ingredients like PFAs and whether the Products are worth the prices charged.

14 7. Danielle and Kyle Kerstetter also reside in San Diego County, California.
15 On or about September 30, 2024, the Kerstetters purchased Kellogg Garden Organics
16 Raised Bed & Potting Mix and Kellogg Garden Organics Amend Garden Soil for
17 Flowers and Vegetables from the Home Depot website and picked them up at the store
18 located at 7530 Broadway, Lemon Grove, CA 91945. That same month, on or about
19 September 2024, the Kerstetters purchased Kellogg Garden Organics Plus Patio Premium
20 Outdoor Potting Mix from the same Home Depot store in Lemon Grove. The Kerstetters
21 reviewed the labels on the Products' packaging and relied on the representations that the
22 Products were organic when they decided to purchase them. The Kerstetters would not
23 have purchased the Products, would not have purchased as many Products, and would not
24 have paid the price premium that organic products command had they known that the
25 Products contained synthetic, inorganic PFAS.

26 8. The Kerstetters continue to desire to purchase organic soil and believe they
27 would purchase organic soil if it was truly organic and did not contain PFAS. They would
28 purchase one of Kellogg's Products again if they could have confidence regarding the

1 truth of its advertisements. But because of Kellogg's ongoing false, deceptive, and
2 misleading advertising, the Kerstetters will be unable to rely on the advertising and
3 packaging when deciding in the future whether to purchase Kellogg's organic soil
4 Products. They will be harmed if, in the future, they are left to guess whether Kellogg's
5 Products contain ingredients like PFAs and whether the Products are worth the prices
6 charged.

7 9. Josh Teperson resides in San Diego County, California, as well. In May of
8 2025, Teperson purchased Kellog Garden Organics All Natural Garden Soil for
9 Flowers & Vegetables from the Home Depot store located at 1001 N El Camino Real,
10 Encinitas, CA 92024. Teperson reviewed the label on the Kellog Garden Organics All
11 Natural Garden Soil for Flowers & Vegetables packaging and relied on the representation
12 that the soil was organic when he decided to purchase it. Teperson would not have
13 purchased the Kellog Garden Organics All Natural Garden Soil for Flowers & Vegetables
14 Product, and would not have paid the price premium that organic products command, had
15 he known that it contained synthetic, inorganic PFAS.

16 10. Teperson continues to desire to purchase organic soil and believes he would
17 purchase organic soil if they were truly organic and did not contain PFAS. He would
18 purchase one of Kellogg's Products again if he could have confidence regarding the truth
19 of its advertisements. But because of Kellogg's ongoing false, deceptive, and misleading
20 advertising, Teperson will be unable to rely on the advertising and packaging when
21 deciding in the future whether to purchase Kellogg's organic soil Products. He will be
22 harmed if, in the future, he is left to guess whether Kellogg's Products contain ingredients
23 like PFAs and whether the Products are worth the prices charged.

24 11. Angela Waldner resides in Bergen County, New Jersey. On or about
25 April 11, 2025, Waldner purchased Kellog Garden Organics All Natural Garden Soil for
26 Flowers & Vegetables and Kellogg Garden Organics Raised Bed & Potting Mix from the
27 Home Depot store located at 43 Hutton Ave, Nanuet, NY 10954. Waldner reviewed the
28 labels on the Products' packaging and relied on the representations that the Products were

1 organic when she decided to purchase them. Waldner would not have purchased the
2 Products, would not have purchased as many Products, and would not have paid the price
3 premium that organic products command had she known that they contained synthetic,
4 inorganic PFAS.

5 12. Waldner continues to desire to purchase organic soil and believes she would
6 purchase organic soil if they were truly organic and did not contain PFAS. She would
7 purchase one of Kellogg's Products again if she could have confidence regarding the
8 truth of its advertisements. But because of Kellogg's ongoing false, deceptive, and
9 misleading advertising, Waldner will be unable to rely on the advertising and packaging
10 when deciding in the future whether to purchase Kellogg's organic soil Products. She will
11 be harmed if, in the future, she is left to guess whether Kellogg's Products contain
12 ingredients like PFAs and whether the Products are worth the prices charged.

13 13. Class members will also continue to purchase the Products, reasonably, but
14 incorrectly, believing that they are organic, based on the unlawful conduct alleged herein.

15 14. Defendant Kellogg Supply, Inc. is a corporation organized and existing
16 under the laws of the state of California, with its headquarters and principal place of
17 business at 350 West Sepulveda Boulevard, Carson, California 90745. Kellogg markets
18 its Products under the names Kellogg Garden Products, Kellogg Garden Organics, and
19 NearSource Organics.

20 15. Valdez, the Kerstetters, Teperson, and Waldner are unaware of the true
21 names or capacities of the Defendants sued herein under the fictitious names Does 1
22 through 20 but pray for leave to amend and serve such fictitiously named Defendants
23 once their names and capacities become known.

24 16. Valdez, the Kerstetters, Teperson, and Waldner allege on information and
25 belief that the named and Doe Defendants were: (1) acting as express agents, implied
26 agents, ostensible agents, servants, partners, and/or employees of each other; (2) acting
27 within the scope of and under such agency and employment, and with the full knowledge,
28 consent, permission, approval, and ratification, either express or implied, of each of the

other Defendants and benefited from the actions of every other Defendant, thereby adopting such conduct and actions as their own; (3) acting as each other's alter egos; and (4) aiding and abetting and offering substantial assistance to each other in the commission of the alleged wrongful acts.

17. Valdez, the Kerstetters, Teperson, and Waldner are informed and believe, and based thereon allege, that each Defendant is in some manner intentionally, negligently, or otherwise responsible for the acts, omissions, occurrences, and transactions alleged herein.

III. JURISDICTION AND VENUE

18. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction under the Class Action Fairness Act, 28 U.S.C. § 1332(d), because the amount in controversy exceeds \$5 million, there are more than 100 proposed Class members, and minimal diversity is met. Waldner is a citizen of New Jersey, and Kellogg is a citizen of California.

19. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Kellogg because it is a California corporation with its headquarters and principal place of business in California. Kellogg has marketed, promoted, and sold its Products in California throughout the Class Period (i.e., the statute of limitations preceding the filing of this action).

20. Venue is proper under 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b)(2) and California Civil Code § 1780(d) because a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to Valdez, the Kerstetters, and Teperson's claims occurred while they resided in this judicial district.

IV. FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

A. **PFAS Are Not Organic**

21. Merriam-Webster's Dictionary defines organic as "of, relating to, or derived from living organisms."¹ The common understanding of the phrase "organic fertilizer" refers to ingredients that are derived or harvested from once-living plants or animals.² In

¹ *Organic*, Merriam-Webster Dictionary, <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/organic> (last visited Oct. 29, 2025).

² Sally Reill, *A Guide to Understanding Fertilizers*, OSU Extension Service (pub. Jan. 2019, reviewed 2024), <https://extension.oregonstate.edu/gardening/techniques/guide-understanding-fertilizers>.

California, “natural organic fertilizer” means “materials derived from either plant or animal products” that “shall not be mixed with synthetic materials.”³

22. PFAS are highly resistant synthetic chemicals used in widespread industrial and consumer products since the 1940s.⁴ In 2024, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency declared the two most studied and produced types of PFAS—perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS)—as dangerous substances.⁵

23. PFAS persist and bioaccumulate in the food chain when released into the environment and build up in the body when humans consume PFAS-contaminated food or water or are otherwise exposed to PFAS.⁶ Exposure to PFAS, even at low parts-per-trillion, can build up in the human body over time and cause severe adverse health effects.⁷ Because of the cumulative effect, even a de minimus amount of PFAS exposure can negatively impact health.⁸

24. The United States Department of Agriculture’s National Organic Program develops and enforces national standards for organic crops, livestock, and agricultural

³ Cal. Food & Agric. Code § 1548.

⁴ *PFAS Explained*, U.S. EPA 1 (2024), <https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2023-10/final-virtual-pfas-explainer-508.pdf>.

⁵ Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), 42 U.S.C.A. § 9602(a); 40 C.F.R. § 302.4, App. A; Designation of Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA) and Perfluorooctanesulfonic Acid (PFOS) as CERCLA Hazardous Substances, 89 Fed. Reg. 39,124-01, 39,125 (May 8, 2024).

⁶ Sibel Barisci & Rominder Suri, *Occurrence and Removal of Poly/Perfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) in Municipal and Industrial Wastewater Treatment Plants*, 84(12) Water Science & Tech. 3442, 3443 (2021), <https://pdfs.semanticscholar.org/3b10/37f0c12ad3757c8ffd0922cff95ab36ecb46.pdf>.

⁷ See Rabia Amen, et al., *A Critical Review on PFAS Removal from Water: Removal Mechanism and Future Challenges*, 15 Sustainability 16173, at 1–3 (2023), <https://www.mdpi.com/2071-1050/15/23/16173/pdf>; see also U.S. National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, *Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)* (last reviewed May 6, 2025), <https://www.niehs.nih.gov/health/topics/agents/pfc>; Cleveland Clinic, *What Are Forever Chemicals (PFAS)? 5 Ways Forever Chemicals (PFAS) May Affect Your Health* (June 6, 2024), <https://health.clevelandclinic.org/what-are-forever-chemicals-pfas>.

⁸ *PFAS Explained*, *supra* note 4, at 1; see also Molly M. Ginty & Courtney Lindwall, “Forever Chemicals” Called PFAS Show Up in Your Food, Clothes and Home, Nat’l Res. Def. Council (Sept. 18, 2025), <https://www.nrdc.org/stories/forever-chemicals-called-pfas-show-your-food-clothes-and-home>.

1 products sold in the United States.⁹ Agricultural products are any commodity or product
 2 derived from livestock marketed for either human or livestock consumption.¹⁰ The
 3 USDA standards do not apply to non-food products, including soils and fertilizers, and
 4 the USDA does not regulate the use of “organic” for non-food products.¹¹ Nevertheless,
 5 non-food products like soil and fertilizers can meet non-government, privately
 6 maintained standards that rely on the USDA regulations, like those created by the
 7 Organic Material Review Institute (OMRI).¹²

8 25. Under USDA regulations, “organic matter” means the “remains, residues, or
 9 waste products of any organism.”¹³ And the USDA defines “organic fraud” as the
 10 “deceptive representation, sale, or labeling of nonorganic agricultural products or
 11 ingredients as 100 percent organic, organic, or made with organic [ingredients].”¹⁴

12 26. The USDA maintains a National List of Allowed and Prohibited Substances
 13 for organic production.¹⁵ In general, the National List allows nonsynthetic materials and
 14 prohibits the use of synthetic materials.¹⁶ The National List does not identify any
 15 “allowed” PFAS.

16 27. Put simply, PFAS do not fall within any definition of organic, and no
 17 reasonable customer purchasing organic soil or fertilizer would expect their organic
 18 product to contain PFAS.

19
 20
 21 ⁹ USDA Agriculture Marketing Service, *National Organic Program*, <https://www.ams.usda.gov/about-ams/programs-offices/national-organic-program> (last visited Oct. 29, 2025);
 22 *see also* USDA Agriculture Marketing Service, *USDA Certified Organic: Understanding the Basics*, <https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/organic-certification/organic-basics> (last
 23 visited Oct. 29, 2025).

24 ¹⁰ Organic Foods Production Act of 1990, 7 U.S.C. § 6502.

25 ¹¹ OMRI, *What We Do*, <https://www.omri.org/what-we-do> (last visited Oct. 29, 2025).

26 ¹² *Id.*

27 ¹³ 7 C.F.R. § 205.2.

28 ¹⁴ *Id.* (citation modified).

¹⁵ 7 C.F.R. §§ 205.600–205.602.

¹⁶ *Id.* §§ 205.601, 206.602; *see also* USDA Agriculture Marketing Service, *The National List of Allowed and Prohibited Substances*, <https://www.ams.usda.gov/rules-regulations/organic/national-list> (last visited Oct. 29, 2025).

B. Kellogg's Products Contain Inorganic PFAS

28. The Products at issue consist of all Kellogg soil and fertilizer products with packaging that represents they are organic. The Products include, but are not limited to: Kellogg Garden Organics All Natural Garden Soil for Flowers & Vegetables, Kellogg Garden Organics Raised Bed & Potting Mix, Kellogg Garden Organics Amend Garden Soil for Flowers & Vegetables, Kellogg Garden Organics Patio Plus Premium Outdoor Potting Mix, Kellogg Garden Organics All Natural Indoor Potting Mix, Kellogg Garden Organics All Natural Potting Mix Premium Mix for Outdoor Containers, and Kellogg Garden Organics, Palm, Cactus and Citrus All Purpose Indoor & Outdoor Mix.

29. During their investigation, Valdez, the Kerstetters, Teperson, and Waldner conducted laboratory tests of various Products with the assistance of qualified expert technicians and consultants. The consultants and internal investigators purchased various Products from over a dozen different locations in Northern and Southern California, New York, New Jersey, and Oregon in 2024 and 2025 (the Sample Products). They transported the Sample Products to lab technicians while following proper chain-of-custody procedures, and the technicians securely tested the Sample Products for PFAS. Valdez, the Kerstetters, Teperson, and Waldner's team also secured, sampled, transported, and tested Waldner, the Kerstetters, Teperson, and Valdez's own Products (the Plaintiffs' Products).

30. Valdez, the Kerstetters, Teperson, and Waldner's experts used EPA Method 1633A to test all Sample Products. The EPA and Department of Defense developed EPA Method 1633A to analyze PFAS in various environmental samples, including soil.¹⁷ The experts compared their results with the EPA's Soil Screening Guidance, designed to help environmental and science professionals evaluate contaminated soil.¹⁸ Generally, if

¹⁷ U.S. EPA, *Method 1633, Revision A: Analysis of Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) in Aqueous, Solid, Biosolids, and Tissue Samples by LC-MS/MS* at 1 (Dec. 2024), <https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2024-12/method-1633a-december-5-2024-508-compliant.pdf>.

¹⁸ U.S. EPA Office of Emergency & Remedial Response, *USEPA Soil Screening Level Guidance* at 1 (July 1996), <https://semspub.epa.gov/work/HQ/175238.pdf>.

contaminate concentrations fall below identified soil screening levels (SSLs), CERCLA does not require any further action or study.¹⁹

31. The laboratory tested for PFAS in Kellogg's Products by comparing their results to the EPA Regional Screening Levels (RSLs), EPA Risk-based SSLs, and EPA Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)-based SSLs for each type of PFAS.

32. Testing revealed that each of Kellogg's organic Products contained numerous PFAS, many of which exceeded applicable RSL and SSLs. In other words, under the EPA's guidance, the levels of PFAS found in Kellogg's Products could trigger further action or study under CERCLA. And none of the Products are organic, despite Kellogg's advertised claims.

Kellogg Garden Organics All Natural Garden Soil for Flowers & Vegetables

33. Testing of the Kellogg Garden Organics All Natural Garden Soil for Flowers & Vegetables Sample Products revealed the presence of multiple PFAs, including PFOA and PFOS, and the PFOA and PFOS results exceeded applicable RSL and SSLs.

34. Tests of Plaintiffs' Products revealed similar results to the Sample Products:

a. Teperson's Kellogg Garden Organics All Natural Garden Soil for Flowers & Vegetables tested positive for multiple PFAS, including PFOA and PFOS. The PFOA and PFOS results both exceeded applicable RSL and SSLs.

b. Similarly, Waldner's Kellogg Garden Organics All Natural Garden Soil for Flowers & Vegetables tested positive for multiple PFAS, including PFOS. The PFOS result also exceeded applicable SSLs.

35. These analytical results indicate that the Kellogg Garden Organics All Natural Garden Soil for Flowers & Vegetables Product is not organic because it contains PFAS—two of which have been designated by the EPA as hazardous substances under CERCLA—which are not related to or derived from living organisms.

¹⁹ *Id.*

Kellogg Garden Organics Raised Bed & Potting Mix

36. Testing of the Kellogg Garden Organics Raised Bed & Potting Mix Sample Products revealed the presence of multiple PFAs, including PFOA and PFOS, and the PFOA and PFOS results exceeded applicable RSL and SSLs.

37. Tests of Plaintiffs' Products revealed similar results to the Sample Products:

a. The Kerstetters' Kellogg Garden Organics Raised Bed & Potting Mix Product revealed similar results to the Sample Products. It tested positive for multiple PFAS, including PFOA and PFOS, and the PFOA and PFOS results both exceeded applicable RSL and SSLs.

b. Similarly, Waldner's Kellogg Garden Organics Raised Bed & Potting Mix Product tested positive for multiple PFAS, including PFOS. The PFOS result also exceeded applicable SSLs.

38. These analytical results indicate that the Kellogg Garden Organics Raised Bed & Potting Mix Product is not organic because it contains PFAS—two of which have been designated by the EPA as hazardous substances under CERCLA—which are not related to or derived from living organisms.

Kellogg Garden Organics Amend Garden Soil for Flowers & Vegetables

39. Tests revealed that Kellogg Garden Organics Amend Garden Soil for Flowers & Vegetables Sample Products contain multiple PFAs, including PFOA and PFOS. When present, the PFOA and PFOS results exceeded applicable RSL and SSLs.

40. Tests of the Kerstetters' Kellogg Garden Organics Amend Garden Soil for Flowers & Vegetables Product revealed similar results to the Sample Products. It tested positive for multiple PFAS, including PFOA and PFOS, and the PFOA and PFOS results both exceeded applicable RSL and SSLs.

41. These analytical results indicate that the Kellogg Garden Organics Amend Garden Soil for Flowers & Vegetables Product is not organic because it contains PFAS—two of which have been designated by the EPA as hazardous substances under CERCLA—which are not related to or derived from living organisms.

1 ***Kellogg Garden Organics Patio Plus Premium Outdoor Potting Mix***

2 42. Tests revealed that Kellogg Garden Organics Patio Plus Premium Outdoor
3 Potting Mix Sample Products contain multiple PFAs, including PFOA and PFOS, and the
4 PFOA and PFOS results exceeded applicable RSL and SSLs.

5 43. Tests of the Kerstetters' Kellogg Garden Organics Patio Plus Premium
6 Outdoor Potting Mix Product revealed similar results to the Sample Products. It tested
7 positive for multiple PFAS, including PFOA and PFOS, and the PFOA and PFOS results
8 both exceeded applicable RSL and SSLs.

9 44. These analytical results indicate that Kellogg Garden Organics Patio Plus
10 Premium Outdoor Potting Mix Product is not organic because it contains PFAS—two of
11 which have been designated by the EPA as hazardous substances under CERCLA—
12 which are not related to or derived from living organisms.

13 ***Kellogg Garden Organics All Natural Indoor Potting Mix***

14 45. Tests revealed that Kellogg Garden Organics All Natural Indoor Potting Mix
15 Sample Products contains multiple PFAs, including PFOA and PFOS, and the PFOA and
16 PFOS results exceeded applicable RSL and SSLs.

17 46. Tests of Valdez's Kellogg Garden Organics All Natural Indoor Potting Mix
18 Product revealed similar results to the Sample Products. It tested positive for multiple
19 PFAS, including PFOA and PFOS, and the PFOA and PFOS results both exceeded
20 applicable RSL and SSLs.

21 47. These analytical results indicate that the Kellogg Garden Organics All
22 Natural Indoor Potting Mix Product is not organic because it contains PFAS—two of
23 which have been designated by the EPA as hazardous substances under CERCLA—
24 which are not related to or derived from living organisms.

25 ***Kellogg Garden Organics All Natural Potting Mix Premium Mix for Outdoor***
26 ***Containers***

27 48. Tests revealed that Kellogg Garden Organics All Natural Potting Mix
28 Premium Mix for Outdoor Containers Sample Products contains multiple PFAs,

including PFOA and PFOS, and the PFOA and PFOS results exceeded applicable RSL and SSLs.

49. These analytical results indicate that the Kellogg Garden Organics All Natural Potting Mix Premium Mix for Outdoor Containers Product is not organic because it contains PFAS—two of which have been designated by the EPA as hazardous substances under CERCLA—which are not related to or derived from living organisms.

C. Kellogg's False and Deceptive Advertising

50. On the packaging, Kellogg advertises to consumers that the Products are organic soil and/or fertilizers, safe to use on edible plants and residential gardening. These representations for each Product are false.

51. For example, the packaging of Kellogg Garden Organics All Natural Garden Soil for Flowers & Vegetables appears as follows:



52. On the front of the package, Kellogg markets its Kellogg Garden Organics All Natural Garden Soil for Flowers & Vegetables as an organic soil and implies that it is safe for use on fruit and vegetable plants by providing drawings of a tomato and a carrot

1 with the text “FRUITS, VEGETABLES, & HERBS. Kellogg also includes a prominent
2 logo from OMRI, indicating that the Products are “OMRI Listed for Organic Use.”

3 53. Images of packaging from each of the Products are attached to this
4 complaint as Exhibit A.

5 54. As discussed above, OMRI is a third-party, nonprofit organization that
6 purports to verify the substances used in organic production, including soil and fertilizers.
7 Companies like Kellogg obtain OMRI verification through a self-reporting application
8 process from the companies seeking to use its label.²⁰ OMRI charges initial and annual
9 company and product fees for the use of its “OMRI Listed” label.²¹ The Company Fees
10 vary according to the Company’s Annual Gross Sales, with Initial Review Fees ranging
11 from \$610 to \$7,500 and Annual Renewal Fees from \$395 to \$4,700.²² Multi-ingredient
12 Kellogg’s Products have an initial review fee of \$1,010 and an annual review fee of
13 \$655.²³ OMRI charges annual product fees for each company product, including products
14 that are repackaged and marketed under a different name without any modification.²⁴

15 55. OMRI uses the definitions from the USDA National List of Allowed and
16 Prohibited Substances when verifying whether a company’s self-reported ingredients
17 comply with its standards.²⁵ If one of those ingredients is synthetic—like PFAS—it
18 would have to be allowed on the National List for the product to receive OMRI’s stamp
19 of approval.²⁶ But even though PFAS are not allowed on the National List, Valdez, the
20 Kerstetters, Teperson, and Waldner are informed and believe that OMRI does not test for
21

22
23 ²⁰ OMRI, *What to Expect*, <https://www.omri.org/suppliers/review-requirements> (last
visited Oct. 29, 2025.)

24 ²¹ OMRI, *Review Cost*, <https://www.omri.org/review-cost> (last visited Oct. 29, 2025).

25 ²² *Id.*

26 ²³ *Id.*

27 ²⁴ *Id.*

28 ²⁵ OMRI, *What We Do*, *supra* note 11.

²⁶ USDA Agriculture Marketing Service, National Organic Program, *Guidance
Classification of Materials* (NOP 5033), [https://www.ams.usda.gov/sites/default/files/
media/NOP-5033.pdf](https://www.ams.usda.gov/sites/default/files/media/NOP-5033.pdf) (last visited Oct. 29, 2025).

1 PFAS as part of their process. Kellogg's use of the OMRI "Listed for Organic Use" adds
2 to the deception and false advertisement of the Products as organic.

3 56. Kellogg's marketing, advertisements, and representations that its Products
4 are organic and non-synthetic are false, misleading, and deceptive. Kellogg sells soil and
5 fertilizer products made with ingredients that it knows, or should have known, contain
6 PFAS. And Kellogg fails to disclose and/or conceals the presence of PFAS in its
7 Products, fails to warn consumers of their harms, and falsely advertise its Products as
8 organic despite the presence of PFAS.

9 **V. CLASS ALLEGATIONS**

10 57. Valdez, the Kerstetters, Teperson, and Waldner bring this action on behalf of
11 themselves, and all others similarly situated, under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23
12 and seek certification of the following Classes:

13 California Class: All persons who purchased any of the Products in the State
14 of California for their personal use within the applicable statute of
limitations period.

15 New York Class: All persons who purchased any of the Products in the State
16 of New York for their personal use within the applicable statute of
limitations period.

17 58. The proposed Classes exclude Kellogg's current or former officers,
18 directors, and employees; counsel for the parties; and the judicial officer to whom this
19 lawsuit is assigned.

20 59. There is a well-defined community of interest in the litigation, and the
21 Classes are easily ascertainable:

22 a. Numerosity: The members of the proposed Classes are so numerous
23 that joinder of all members is impracticable. Valdez, the Kerstetters, Teperson, and
24 Waldner are informed and believe that the proposed Classes contain hundreds of
25 thousands of individuals who have been damaged by Kellogg's conduct. Valdez,
26 the Kerstetters, Teperson, and Waldner do not know the precise number of
27 proposed Class members.
28

1 b. Typicality: Valdez, the Kerstetters, Teperson, and Waldner's claims
2 are typical of the Classes' claims because all Class members have been deceived
3 (or were likely be deceived) by Kellogg's false and misleading implied advertising
4 claims about the true chemical composition and ingredients contained in its
5 Products. Valdez, the Kerstetters, Teperson, and Waldner advance the same claims
6 and legal theories on behalf of themselves and all Class members.

7 c. Adequacy: Valdez, the Kerstetters, Teperson, and Waldner will fairly
8 and adequately protect the interests of the Classes. They have retained counsel
9 experienced in complex consumer class action litigation and intend to prosecute this
10 action vigorously. Valdez, the Kerstetters, Teperson, and Waldner do not have any
11 antagonistic or adverse interests to those of the Classes.

12 d. Superiority: The nature of this action and the nature of the laws
13 available to Valdez, the Kerstetters, Teperson, Waldner, and the Classes make the
14 use of the class action format a particularly efficient and appropriate procedure to
15 afford relief to themselves and the Classes for the wrongs alleged. The damages or
16 other financial detriment suffered by individual Class members is miniscule
17 compared to the burden and expense that would be entailed by individual litigation
18 of their claims against Kellogg. It would thus be virtually impossible for Valdez,
19 the Kerstetters, Teperson, Waldner, and the Classes to obtain effective redress for
20 the wrongs done to them on an individual basis.

21 e. Public Policy Considerations: Absent the class action, the Classes and
22 the public would not likely recover, or would not likely have the chance to recover,
23 damages and/or restitution, or receive injunctive relief, and Kellogg will, and will
24 continue to, retain the proceeds of its fraudulent and deceptive misdeeds. A class
25 action serves the important public policy considerations underlying the statutes and
26 the legislature's intent in enacting them.

27 60. This action involves common questions of law and fact that predominate
28 over any questions affecting individual proposed Class members, including:

1 a. whether Kellogg misrepresented material facts and/or failed to
2 disclose material facts in connection with the packaging and advertising of the
3 Products;

4 b. whether Kellogg's use of false or deceptive packaging and advertising
5 constituted false or deceptive advertising;

6 c. whether Kellogg engaged in unfair, unlawful, and/or fraudulent
7 business practices;

8 d. whether Kellogg's conduct, as alleged herein, was intentional and
9 knowing;

10 e. whether Valdez, the Kerstetters, Teperson, Waldner, and the Classes
11 are entitled to damages and/or restitution and in what amount;

12 f. whether Kellogg is likely to continue false, misleading, or unlawful
13 conduct such that an injunction is necessary; and

14 g. whether Valdez, the Kerstetters, Teperson, Waldner, and the Classes
15 are entitled to an award of reasonable attorney's fees, interest, and costs of suit.

16 61. Kellogg engaged in a common course of conduct giving rise to the violations
17 of the legal rights that Valdez, the Kerstetters, Teperson, Waldner, and the Classes seek
18 to uniformly enforce. The claims involve similar or identical statutory violations,
19 business practices, and injuries. The injuries sustained by Valdez, the Kerstetters,
20 Teperson, Waldner, and the Classes flow, in each instance, from a common nucleus of
21 operative fact—namely, Kellogg's deceptive packaging and advertising of the Products
22 as organic. Each instance of harm suffered by Valdez, the Kerstetters, Teperson,
23 Waldner, and the Classes is a direct result of a single course of illegal conduct. Kellogg
24 exposed each Class member to the same or substantially similar deceptive practices, as
25 the packaging of each Product bears the same representation (that the Product is organic).
26 Individual questions, if any, are eclipsed by the numerous common questions presented in
27 this action.

62. Kellogg has also acted, or failed to act, on grounds generally applicable to Valdez, the Kerstetters, Teperson, Waldner, and the Classes, supporting the imposition of uniform relief to ensure compatible standards of conduct towards the members of the Classes.

VI. CAUSES OF ACTION

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

Violation of California's Unfair Competition Law
Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code §§ 17200–17208
(On Behalf of the California Class)

63. Valdez, the Kerstetters, and Teperson repeat and re-allege the allegations contained in every preceding paragraph as if fully set forth herein.

64. Under California's Unfair Competition Law (UCL), an unfair business competition includes any unlawful, unfair, or fraudulent act or practice, as well as any unfair, deceptive, untrue or misleading advertising.²⁷

65. Valdez, the Kerstetters, and Teperson have standing to pursue this claim because they have suffered injury-in-fact and have lost money or property because of Kellogg's unlawful, unfair, and fraudulent actions. As described above, Valdez, the Kerstetters, and Teperson purchased the Products for their own personal use in reliance on Kellogg's false representations that the Products contained only organic ingredients and were therefore healthier, safer, and more environmentally friendly than the non-organic soil fertilizer alternatives. Instead, the Products contained synthetic, non-organic PFAS. As a result of Kellogg's misrepresentations, Valdez, the Kerstetters, and Teperson expended money in the transaction that they otherwise would not have had they known Kellogg's advertising claims were false.²⁸

Unfair Prong

66. A business act or practice is unfair under the UCL if it offends an established public policy or is immoral, unethical, oppressive, unscrupulous, or

²⁷ Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17200.

²⁸ See *infra* ¶¶ 5–10.

1 substantially injurious to consumers, and that unfairness is determined by weighing the
2 reasons, justifications, and motives of the practice against the gravity of the harm to the
3 alleged victims.²⁹

4 67. Kellogg's conduct constitutes an unfair business practice because, as alleged
5 above, Kellogg engaged in a false advertising campaign to mislead consumers into
6 believing that by purchasing Kellogg's organic soil and/or fertilizer Products, they were
7 receiving a product that only contained organic ingredients. There is no societal benefit
8 from false advertising—only harm. Valdez, the Kerstetters, Teperson, and California
9 Class members paid for an organic product that is not actually organic. While Valdez, the
10 Kerstetters, Teperson, and the California Class were harmed, Kellogg was unjustly
11 enriched by its false representations and omissions. Kellogg thus violated established
12 public policy in support of truth in advertising, and engaged in immoral, unethical,
13 oppressive, and unscrupulous activities that are substantially injurious to consumers.

14 68. Kellogg's conduct harms the interests of consumers and market competition,
15 and there is no valid justification for its conduct.

16 ***Fraudulent Prong***

17 69. A business act or practice is fraudulent under the UCL if it is likely to
18 deceive members of the consuming public.³⁰

19 70. Kellogg engaged in a fraudulent business practice by knowingly
20 representing to consumers that the Products were organic and were thus safer and
21 healthier than potential alternative products sold without these claims. Kellogg's
22 deceptive business practices deceived Valdez, the Kerstetters, Teperson, and the
23 California Class who purchased the Products in reliance on Kellogg's false
24 representations and advertisements.

25 71. Kellogg knew, or should have known, that its material misrepresentations
26 and omissions would be likely to deceive and harm the consuming public and result in

27 ²⁹ *Ticconi v. Blue Shield of Cal. Life & Health Ins. Co.*, 160 Cal. App. 4th 528, 539
28 (2008) (citations omitted).

³⁰ *Schnall v. Hertz. Corp.*, 78 Cal. App. 4th 1144, 1167 (2000).

1 consumers making payments to Kellogg for organic Products that are not, in fact,
2 organic.

3 72. This practice is devoid of utility and functions only to maximize Kellogg's
4 profits at the expense of the consuming public. The gravity of harm to Valdez, the
5 Kerstetters, Teperson, and the California Class who lost money or property by paying for
6 the Products far outweighs any benefit Kellogg gained through its practice.

7 ***Unlawful Prong***

8 73. A business act or practice is unlawful under the UCL if it violates any other
9 law or regulation.³¹

10 74. Kellogg's actions, as alleged herein, constitute illegal and unlawful practices
11 committed in violation of California's Food and Agricultural Code, which regulates the
12 production and sale of organic fertilizer.³² Fertilizer is misbranded if "its labeling is false
13 or misleading in any particular way."³³ A fertilizer is adulterated if "its composition falls
14 below or differs from that which it is purported to possess by its labeling" or if "an
15 organic input material contains ingredients that, in type or amount, do not comply with
16 the requirements of the National Organic Program standards."³⁴ As noted above, the
17 Food and Agricultural Code defines an organic fertilizer as one made of materials
18 "derived from either plant or animal products" that "shall not be mixed with synthetic
19 materials."³⁵ And the USDA Organic Program's National List of Allowed and Prohibited
20 Substances does not identify any "allowed" PFAS.³⁶ Kellogg's marketing of the Products
21 as organic therefore violates the UCL.

22
23
24 ³¹ *Cel-Tech Commc'ns, Inc. v. L.A. Cellular Tel. Co.*, 20 Cal. 4th 163, 180 (1999).

25 ³² Cal. Food & Agric. Code § 14502.

26 ³³ *Id.* § 14681(a).

27 ³⁴ *Id.* § 14682(b), (e).

28 ³⁵ *Id.* § 1548.

³⁶ 7 C.F.R. §§ 205.601, 206.602; *see also* USDA Agriculture Marketing Service, *The National List of Allowed and Prohibited Substances*, <https://www.ams.usda.gov/rules-regulations/organic/national-list> (last visited Oct. 29, 2025).

75. Kellogg's actions, as alleged herein, also violate California's False Advertising Law (FAL), as discussed further in the Second Cause of Action.

76. Additionally, Kellogg's actions, as alleged herein, constitute illegal and unlawful practices committed in violation of California's Consumer Legal Remedies Act (CLRA), as discussed further in the Third Cause of Action.

77. Each of Kellogg's unfair, fraudulent, and unlawful practices enumerated above was the direct and proximate cause of financial injury to Valdez, the Kerstetters, Teperson, and the California Class. Kellogg has unjustly benefitted because of its wrongful conduct. Valdez, the Kerstetters, Teperson, and the California Class are accordingly entitled to restitution from Kellogg of all monies it wrongfully obtained from them as a result of the conduct alleged herein.

SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION

Violation of California's False Advertising Law
Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code §§ 17500–17509
(On Behalf of the California Class)

78. Valdez, the Kerstetters, and Teperson repeat and re-allege the allegations contained in every preceding paragraph as if fully set forth herein.

79. Valdez, the Kerstetters, and Teperson have standing to pursue this claim because they suffered injury-in-fact and have lost money or property as a result of Kellogg's unlawful, unfair, and fraudulent actions, as alleged above.

80. Under the FAL, it is unlawful for a corporation to make any statement with intent to dispose of personal property that “is *untrue or misleading*, and which is known, or which by the exercise of reasonable care should be known, to be untrue or misleading”³⁷

81. The required intent is the intent to dispose of property, not the intent to mislead the public in the disposition of such property.

82. Kellogg violated the FAL by publicly disseminating false, misleading, and unsubstantiated advertisements that the Products are organic.

³⁷ Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17500 (added emphasis).

83. Kellogg made its false and misleading advertisements to increase the sales of the Products. Kellogg knew, or should have known, its advertisements for the Products were false and misleading. And Kellogg knew, or should have known, that consumers, including Valdez, the Kerstetters, Teperson, and the California Class, would believe that a soil or fertilizer labeled organic would be free from synthetic, non-organic chemicals like PFAS.

84. Valdez, the Kerstetters, Teperson, and the California Class have suffered harm as a result of Kellogg's violations of the FAL because they have paid monies for the Products that they otherwise would not have paid but for Kellogg's false and misleading statements.

85. Kellogg is aware, or, by the exercise of reasonable care, should have been aware, that the above representations were false and/or misleading. Valdez, the Kerstetters, Teperson, and the California Class have suffered injury-in-fact and have lost money as a result of Kellogg's false representations and false advertising.

86. Accordingly, Valdez, the Kerstetters, Teperson, and the California Class seek an order awarding class-wide restitution of all monies wrongfully acquired by Kellogg.

THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION

Violation of California's Consumer Legal Remedies Act
Cal. Civ. Code §§ 1750-84
(On Behalf of the California Class)

87. Valdez, the Kerstetters, and Teperson repeat and re-allege the allegations contained in every preceding paragraph as if fully set forth herein.

88. As alleged herein, Valdez, the Kerstetters, and Teperson have standing to pursue this claim because they have suffered injury-in-fact and have lost money or property as a result of Kellogg's unlawful, unfair, and fraudulent actions, as alleged above.

1 89. The California legislature enacted the CLRA to protect consumers against
2 unfair and deceptive business practices. The CLRA applies to Kellogg's acts and
3 practices because the Act covers transactions involving the sale of goods to consumers.

4 90. Valdez, the Kerstetters, Teperson, and the California Class are consumers
5 under the CLRA,³⁸ and they engaged in transactions under the Act, including purchasing
6 the Products.³⁹ Kellogg is a person under the CLRA,⁴⁰ and the Products are qualified
7 goods.⁴¹

8 91. Kellogg's unfair and deceptive business practices were intended to and did
9 result in the sale of the Products.

10 92. Kellogg violated the CLRA by engaging in the following unfair and
11 deceptive acts and practices:

12 (5) Representing that [the Products] have . . . characteristics . . . [and]
13 benefits . . . that they do not have . . .

14 (7) Representing that [the Products] are of a particular standard, quality,
15 or grade . . . if they are of another.

16 (9) Advertising [the Products] with intent not to sell them as
17 advertised.

18 (16) Representing that [the Products] have been supplied in
19 accordance with a previous representation when [they have] not.⁴²

20 93. Kellogg violated the CLRA by representing that its Products are organic,
21 when, in reality, the Products contain synthetic, non-organic chemicals like PFAS.

22 94. Kellogg knew or should have known that its organic representations were
23 false and misleading and by omitting the presence of PFAS in its Products, it was
24 omitting a material fact that would alter any consumer's decision to purchase the
25 Products.

26 ³⁸ Cal. Civ. Code § 1761(d).

27 ³⁹ *Id.* §§ 1761(e), 1770(a).

28 ⁴⁰ *Id.* § 1761(c).

⁴¹ *Id.* § 1761(a).

⁴² *Id.* § 1770(a)(5), (7), (9), (16) (citation modified).

1 95. Kellogg's violations of the CLRA proximately caused an injury in fact to
2 Valdez, the Kerstetters, Teperson, and the California Class.

3 96. Valdez, the Kerstetters, Teperson, and the California Class purchased
4 Kellogg's Products on the belief that they would have the advertised properties (i.e., that
5 they were in fact organic). If Valdez, the Kerstetters, Teperson, and the California Class
6 had known that Kellogg's Products did not contain the advertised high quality organic
7 ingredients, and instead contained toxic and synthetic PFAS, they would not have
8 purchased the Products. Indeed, no consumer would purchase an organic product unless
9 they believed the product was organic.

10 97. As a direct and proximate result of Kellogg's conduct, Valdez, the
11 Kerstetters, Teperson, and the California Class suffered injury and damages in an amount
12 to be determined at trial.

13 98. On information and belief, Kellogg's actions were willful, wanton, and
14 fraudulent.

15 99. On information and belief, Kellogg's officers, directors, and/or managing
16 agents authorized the use of these misleading statements and material omissions.

17 100. Valdez, the Kerstetters, and Teperson filed the required declaration of venue
18 with this complaint.⁴³

19 101. Valdez, the Kerstetters, Teperson, and the California Class are consumers
20 who have suffered economic injury and damages as a result of Kellogg's unfair and
21 deceptive business practices alleged herein. Valdez, the Kerstetters, and Teperson
22 therefore seek an order enjoining such methods, acts, or practices and an order for
23 restitution and disgorgement on behalf of themselves and the California Class, as well as
24 any other relief the Court deems proper.⁴⁴ Valdez, the Kerstetters, and Teperson
25 additionally seek costs and reasonable attorney's fees.⁴⁵

26
27 ⁴³ Cal. Civ. Code § 1780(d).

28 ⁴⁴ *Id.* § 1782(d).

⁴⁵ *Id.* § 1780(e).

102. On October 29, 2025, Valdez, the Kerstetters, and Teperson, through counsel, sent a CLRA demand letter to Kellogg on behalf of themselves and all other similarly situated consumers. The letter was sent via certified mail, return receipt requested, and provided notice of Kellogg's violations of the CLRA. It demanded that Kellogg correct, repair, replace, or otherwise rectify the unlawful, unfair, false, and deceptive practices complained of herein. The letter also stated that if Kellogg refused to do so, Valdez, the Kerstetters, and Teperson would file an amended complaint seeking damages in accordance with the CLRA. If Kellogg fails to fully rectify the wrongs described in this letter and to provide notice to all affected consumers within 30 days following receipt, Valdez, the Kerstetters, and Teperson intend to seek all legal damages available under the CLRA.⁴⁶

FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION

Violation of the New York Consumer Protection from Deceptive Acts & Practices Act
N.Y. Gen. Bus. Law § 349
(On Behalf of the New York Class)

103. Waldner repeats and re-alleges the allegations contained in every preceding paragraph as if fully set forth herein.

104. Waldner has standing to pursue this claim because she has suffered injury-in-fact and has lost money or property because of Kellogg's unlawful, unfair, and fraudulent actions, as alleged above.⁴⁷

105. The New York Consumer Protection from Deceptive Acts and Practices Act (NYDAP) prohibits "[d]eceptive acts or practices in the conduct of any business, trade or commerce" in the State of New York.⁴⁸

106. Kellogg's acts and practices were consumer-oriented because they undermined the ability of consumers, including Waldner and the New York Class, to evaluate their market options and to make free and intelligent choices.

⁴⁶ Cal. Civ. Code § 1782(a), (e).

⁴⁷ See *infra* ¶¶ 11–12.

⁴⁸ N.Y. Gen. Bus. Law § 349(a).

1 107. Kellogg knowingly and/or willfully committed deceptive acts and practices
2 in violation of the NYDAPA by engaging in a false advertising campaign that misled
3 consumers into believing that by purchasing Kellogg's organic soil and/or fertilizer
4 Products, they were receiving a product that only contained organic ingredients, when, in
5 reality, the Products contain synthetic, inorganic PFAS.

6 108. Kellogg made its false and misleading advertisements to increase the sales of
7 the Products. Kellogg knew, or should have known, that consumers, including Waldner
8 and the New York Class, would believe that a soil or fertilizer labeled organic would be
9 free from synthetic, inorganic chemicals like PFAS.

10 109. Waldner and the New York Class acted as reasonable consumers in relying
11 upon the deceptive acts and practices alleged above when purchasing the Products.
12 Kellogg's conduct is thus likely to mislead reasonable consumers acting reasonably under
13 the circumstances. If Waldner and the New York Class had known that the Products were
14 not organic and contained synthetic, inorganic forever chemicals like PFAS, they would
15 not have purchased the Products, they would not have purchased as many Products, and
16 they would not have paid the price premium that organic products command. Indeed, no
17 consumer would purchase an organic product unless they believed the product was
18 organic.

19 110. Kellogg's deceptive acts and practices are immoral, unethical, oppressive,
20 unscrupulous, unconscionable, and/or substantially injurious to Waldner and the New
21 York Class.

22 111. Kellogg's violations caused injury to Waldner and the New York Class.
23 Waldner and the New York Class have paid, and/or will continue to pay, money for the
24 Products that they otherwise would not have paid but for Kellogg's deceptive acts and
25 practices in violation of the NYDAPA. Kellogg is liable to Waldner and the New York
26 Class because those money paid for the Products directly result from Kellogg's unlawful
27 conduct.
28

1 112. In addition, Kellogg's conduct continues to deceive the public. Kellogg's
2 false and misleading advertisements are likely to deceive current and prospective
3 consumers making corresponding public injunctive relief necessary.⁴⁹

4 113. Therefore, Waldner and the New York Class seek damages, remedies, fees,
5 and costs available under the NYDAPA, including, but not limited to, injunctive relief,
6 recovery of actual damages and/or \$50 per violation in statutory damages, whichever is
7 greater, as well as treble damages, reasonable attorney's fees, and all other remedies this
8 Court deems proper.⁵⁰

9 **FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

10 Violation of the New York False Advertising Act
11 N.Y. Gen. Bus. Law § 350
(On Behalf of the New York Class)

12 114. Waldner repeats and re-alleges the allegations contained in every preceding
13 paragraph as if fully set forth herein.

14 115. Waldner has standing to pursue this claim because she has suffered injury-
15 in-fact and has lost money or property because of Kellogg's unlawful, unfair, and
16 fraudulent actions, as alleged above.

17 116. The New York False Advertising Act (NYFAA) makes "[f]alse advertising
18 in the conduct of any business, trade or commerce" unlawful.⁵¹ False advertising "means
19 advertising, including labeling of a commodity . . . if such advertising is misleading in a
20 material respect," taking into account not only representations, "but also the extent to
21 which the advertising fails to reveal facts material in light of such representations with
22 respect to the commodity"⁵²

23 117. Kellogg's acts and practices as described herein were consumer-oriented
24 because they undermined the ability of consumers, including Waldner and the New York
25 Class, to evaluate their market options and to make free and intelligent choices.

26 ⁴⁹ N.Y. Gen. Bus. Law § 349(h).

27 ⁵⁰ *Id.*

28 ⁵¹ *Id.* § 350.

⁵² *Id.* § 350-a(1).

1 118. Kellogg violated the NYFAA by publicly disseminating false, misleading,
2 and unsubstantiated advertisements regarding the Products. Specifically, Kellogg
3 engaged in a false advertising campaign that misled consumers into believing that by
4 purchasing Kellogg's organic soil and/or fertilizer Products, they were receiving a
5 product that only contained organic ingredients, when, in reality, the Products contain
6 synthetic, inorganic PFAS.

7 119. Kellogg intentionally and knowingly misled consumers by making untrue
8 and misleading statements about the benefits of its Products with intent to mislead
9 Waldner and the New York Class.

10 120. Kellogg's unfair or deceptive acts or practices were likely to and did in fact
11 deceive reasonable consumers, including Waldner and the New York Class, about its
12 Products. Waldner and the New York Class acted reasonably in relying upon the
13 deceptive acts and practices alleged above when purchasing the Products. Kellogg's
14 conduct is thus likely to mislead reasonable consumers acting reasonably under the
15 circumstances.

16 121. Kellogg's violation of the NYFAA, through its unlawful, unfair, and
17 fraudulent business practices, are ongoing and present a continuing threat that Waldner,
18 the New York Class, and the public, who will be deceived into purchasing Products.
19 These false statements led to financial damage for consumers like Waldner and the Class.

20 122. As a direct and proximate result of Kellogg's misleading and false
21 advertisements, as well as Kellogg's deceptive and unfair acts and practices, Waldner and
22 the New York Class suffered ascertainable loss and actual damages.

23 123. Waldner and the New York Class thus seek all damages, remedies, fees, and
24 costs available under the NYFAA, including, but not limited to, injunctive relief,
25 recovery of actual damages and/or \$500 per violation, whichever is greater, as well as
26 treble damages, reasonable attorney's fees, and all other remedies this Court deems
27 proper.⁵³

28

⁵³ N.Y. Gen. Bus. Law §§ 350-d(a), 350-e(3).

1 **VII. PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

2 For these reasons, Valdez, the Kerstetters, Teperson, and Waldner pray for judgment
3 against Kellogg as follows:

- 4 a. certifying the Class, appointing Valdez, the Kerstetters, Teperson, and
5 Waldner as Class Representatives, and appointing their counsel as Class Counsel;
6 b. ordering restitution and disgorgement of all profits and unjust
7 enrichment that Kellogg obtained from Valdez, the Kerstetters, Teperson, Waldner,
8 and the Classes as a result of its unlawful, unfair, and fraudulent business practices;
9 c. awarding Valdez, the Kerstetters, Teperson, Waldner and the Classes
10 all applicable actual, statutory, and punitive damages;
11 d. awarding declaratory and injunctive relief as permitted by law or
12 equity, including enjoining Kellogg from continuing the unlawful practices as set
13 forth herein, and directing Kellogg to identify, with Court supervision, victims of
14 its conduct and pay them all money it is required to pay;
15 e. ordering Kellogg to engage in a corrective advertising campaign;
16 f. ordering Kellogg to pay attorney's fees and litigation costs;
17 g. ordering Kellogg to pay both pre- and post-judgment interest on any
18 amounts awarded; and
19 h. ordering such other and further relief as may be just and proper.

20 **VIII. DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL**

21 Valdez, the Kerstetters, Teperson, and Waldner demand a trial by jury of all claims
22 so triable.

23 Dated: October 29, 2025

24 By: /s/ Jennifer M. French
25 Jennifer M. French, Cal. State Bar No. 265422
26 Email: jennf@lcllp.com
27 *Attorneys for Plaintiffs and the Putative Class*
28

CIVIL COVER SHEET

The JS 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 by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON NEXT PAGE OF THIS FORM.)

I. (a) PLAINTIFFS

Staci Valdez, Danielle Kerstetter, Kyle Kerstetter, Josh Teperson, and Angela Waldner, individually and on behalf of

(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff **San Diego**
(EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)

(c) Attorneys (Firm Name, Address, and Telephone Number)

LYNCH CARPENTER, LLP
9171 Towne Centre Dr., Suite 180, San Diego, CA 92122
Telephone: 619-762-1900

DEFENDANTS

Kellogg Supply, Inc., a California corporation, and Does 1-20, inclusive

County of Residence of First Listed Defendant
(IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY)

NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE TRACT OF LAND INVOLVED.

Attorneys (If Known)

'25CV2917 CAB MMP

II. BASIS OF JURISDICTION (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

- ☐ 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff ☐ 3 Federal Question (U.S. Government Not a Party)
- ☐ 2 U.S. Government Defendant ☒ 4 Diversity (Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III)

III. CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES (Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff and One Box for Defendant)

	PTF	DEF		PTF	DEF
Citizen of This State	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1	Incorporated or Principal Place of Business In This State	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 4
Citizen of Another State	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	Incorporated and Principal Place of Business In Another State	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	Foreign Nation	<input type="checkbox"/> 6	<input type="checkbox"/> 6

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

Click here for: [Nature of Suit Code Descriptions.](#)

CONTRACT	TORTS	FORFEITURE/PENALTY	BANKRUPTCY	OTHER STATUTES
<input type="checkbox"/> 110 Insurance <input type="checkbox"/> 120 Marine <input type="checkbox"/> 130 Miller Act <input type="checkbox"/> 140 Negotiable Instrument <input type="checkbox"/> 150 Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement of Judgment <input type="checkbox"/> 151 Medicare Act <input type="checkbox"/> 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans (Excludes Veterans) <input type="checkbox"/> 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits <input type="checkbox"/> 160 Stockholders' Suits <input type="checkbox"/> 190 Other Contract <input type="checkbox"/> 195 Contract Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 196 Franchise	PERSONAL INJURY <input type="checkbox"/> 310 Airplane <input type="checkbox"/> 315 Airplane Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 320 Assault, Libel & Slander <input type="checkbox"/> 330 Federal Employers' Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 340 Marine <input type="checkbox"/> 345 Marine Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 350 Motor Vehicle <input type="checkbox"/> 355 Motor Vehicle Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 360 Other Personal Injury <input type="checkbox"/> 362 Personal Injury - Medical Malpractice PERSONAL INJURY <input type="checkbox"/> 365 Personal Injury - Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 367 Health Care/Pharmaceutical Personal Injury Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 368 Asbestos Personal Injury Product Liability PERSONAL PROPERTY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 370 Other Fraud <input type="checkbox"/> 371 Truth in Lending <input type="checkbox"/> 380 Other Personal Property Damage <input type="checkbox"/> 385 Property Damage Product Liability	<input type="checkbox"/> 625 Drug Related Seizure of Property 21 USC 881 <input type="checkbox"/> 690 Other LABOR <input type="checkbox"/> 710 Fair Labor Standards Act <input type="checkbox"/> 720 Labor/Management Relations <input type="checkbox"/> 740 Railway Labor Act <input type="checkbox"/> 751 Family and Medical Leave Act <input type="checkbox"/> 790 Other Labor Litigation <input type="checkbox"/> 791 Employee Retirement Income Security Act IMMIGRATION <input type="checkbox"/> 462 Naturalization Application <input type="checkbox"/> 465 Other Immigration Actions	<input type="checkbox"/> 422 Appeal 28 USC 158 <input type="checkbox"/> 423 Withdrawal 28 USC 157 INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS <input type="checkbox"/> 820 Copyrights <input type="checkbox"/> 830 Patent <input type="checkbox"/> 835 Patent - Abbreviated New Drug Application <input type="checkbox"/> 840 Trademark <input type="checkbox"/> 880 Defend Trade Secrets Act of 2016 SOCIAL SECURITY <input type="checkbox"/> 861 HIA (1395ff) <input type="checkbox"/> 862 Black Lung (923) <input type="checkbox"/> 863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g)) <input type="checkbox"/> 864 SSID Title XVI <input type="checkbox"/> 865 RSI (405(g)) FEDERAL TAX SUITS <input type="checkbox"/> 870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff or Defendant) <input type="checkbox"/> 871 IRS—Third Party 26 USC 7609	<input type="checkbox"/> 375 False Claims Act <input type="checkbox"/> 376 Qui Tam (31 USC 3729(a)) <input type="checkbox"/> 400 State Reapportionment <input type="checkbox"/> 410 Antitrust <input type="checkbox"/> 430 Banks and Banking <input type="checkbox"/> 450 Commerce <input type="checkbox"/> 460 Deportation <input type="checkbox"/> 470 Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations <input type="checkbox"/> 480 Consumer Credit (15 USC 1681 or 1692) <input type="checkbox"/> 485 Telephone Consumer Protection Act <input type="checkbox"/> 490 Cable/Sat TV <input type="checkbox"/> 850 Securities/Commodities/Exchange <input type="checkbox"/> 890 Other Statutory Actions <input type="checkbox"/> 891 Agricultural Acts <input type="checkbox"/> 893 Environmental Matters <input type="checkbox"/> 895 Freedom of Information Act <input type="checkbox"/> 896 Arbitration <input type="checkbox"/> 899 Administrative Procedure Act/Review or Appeal of Agency Decision <input type="checkbox"/> 950 Constitutionality of State Statutes
REAL PROPERTY <input type="checkbox"/> 210 Land Condemnation <input type="checkbox"/> 220 Foreclosure <input type="checkbox"/> 230 Rent Lease & Ejectment <input type="checkbox"/> 240 Torts to Land <input type="checkbox"/> 245 Tort Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 290 All Other Real Property	CIVIL RIGHTS <input type="checkbox"/> 440 Other Civil Rights <input type="checkbox"/> 441 Voting <input type="checkbox"/> 442 Employment <input type="checkbox"/> 443 Housing/Accommodations <input type="checkbox"/> 445 Amer. w/Disabilities - Employment <input type="checkbox"/> 446 Amer. w/Disabilities - Other <input type="checkbox"/> 448 Education PRISONER PETITIONS Habeas Corpus: <input type="checkbox"/> 463 Alien Detainee <input type="checkbox"/> 510 Motions to Vacate Sentence <input type="checkbox"/> 530 General <input type="checkbox"/> 535 Death Penalty Other: <input type="checkbox"/> 540 Mandamus & Other <input type="checkbox"/> 550 Civil Rights <input type="checkbox"/> 555 Prison Condition <input type="checkbox"/> 560 Civil Detainee - 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 of 2005, 28 U.S.C. § 1332(d)(2), 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b)(2) and California Civil Code § 1780(d)

Brief description of cause:

Plaintiffs allege false advertising of Defendants' Miracle-Gro organic soil and fertilizer products

VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:

☒ CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION UNDER RULE 23, F.R.Cv.P.

DEMAND \$

CHECK YES only if demanded in complaint:

JURY DEMAND: ☒ Yes ☐ No

VIII. RELATED CASE(S) IF ANY

(See instructions):

JUDGE _____ DOCKET NUMBER _____

DATE

Oct 29, 2025

SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD

/s/ Jennifer M. French

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

RECEIPT # _____ AMOUNT _____ APPLYING IFP _____ JUDGE _____ MAG. JUDGE _____