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Attorney for Plaintiff

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

ALEX MERRICK, on Behalf of
Herself and All Others Similarly
Situating,
Plaintiff,

vs.

MARS FOOD US, LLC DBA SEEDS
OF CHANGE

Defendant.

Case No.: '26CV4610 JLS JAC

1 Plaintiff, Alex Merrick, (“Plaintiff”), by and through her attorneys, brings
2 this action on behalf of herself and all others similarly situated against Defendant,
3 Mars Food US, LLC dba Seeds of Change. (“Defendant” or “Seeds of Change”).
4 Plaintiff hereby alleges, on information and belief, except for information based
5 on personal knowledge, which allegations are likely to have evidentiary support
6 after further investigation and discovery, as follows:
7

8 **INTRODUCTION**

9
10 1. Seeds of Change is an Illinois-based company, with its principal place of
11 business in Chicago, Illinois. It markets organic rice and other grain products for
12 consumers. Seeds of Change manufactures, distributes, and sells these products.
13 Defendant sells its products by deceiving the public about their ingredients and
14 nutritional value, specifically in its Organic Quinoa, Brown & Red Rice with
15 Flaxseed variety (the “Product”).
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18 2. Quinoa is prominently displayed first in the Product’s name on the front of
19 the package. By prominently identifying the Product as “QUINOA, BROWN &
20 RED RICE WITH FLAXSEED,” with quinoa appearing first, Defendant
21 represents to reasonable consumers that quinoa is a substantial or main ingredient
22 in the Product.
23

24 3. This representation is false and misleading. Contrary to the impression
25 created by the front of the package, the Product’s ingredient list identifies quinoa
26 among those ingredients comprising less than 2% of the Product. Although quinoa
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28

1 is prominently displayed first in the Product's name, it is not a main or substantial
2 ingredient

3 4. Plaintiff and members of the classes purchased the Product for its
4 ingredients and purported nutritional benefits. They paid a premium for
5 Defendant's Product over comparable products that were not promoted with the
6 misrepresentations at issue here.
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8 5. Defendant's misrepresentations concerning the Product are unfair, unlawful,
9 and fraudulent, and have the tendency or capacity to deceive or confuse reasonable
10 consumers. As such, Defendant's practices violate California consumer laws.
11

12 **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

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14 6. This Court has jurisdiction over this matter under the Class Action Fairness
15 Act ("CAFA"), 28 U.S.C. § 1332(d), as the amount in controversy exceeds \$5
16 million, exclusive of interests and costs; it is a class action of over 100 members;
17 and the Plaintiff is a citizen of a state different from at least one Defendant. Plaintiff
18 alleges that the total claims of individual members of the proposed Classes (as
19 defined herein) are well in excess of \$5,000,000.00 in the aggregate, exclusive of
20 interest and costs.
21

22
23 7. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendant. Defendant has
24 sufficient minimum contacts with the state of California and purposefully availed
25 itself, and continues to avail itself, of the jurisdiction of California through the
26 privilege of conducting its business ventures in the state of California thus
27
28

1 rendering the exercise of jurisdiction by the Court permissible under traditional
2 notions of fair play and substantial justice.

3 8. Venue is proper in this district under 28 U.S.C. § 1391(a) because a
4 substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to Plaintiff's claims occurred
5 in this district, as Defendant does business throughout this district. Plaintiff made
6 her purchase of the Seeds of Change Products in this district. The purchased
7 Product was delivered to, and used, in this district.
8
9

10 **THE PARTIES**

11 9. Plaintiff, Alex Merrick, is a natural person residing in San Diego County,
12 California, who is a citizen of the State of California. Plaintiff purchased the
13 Product from Target in San Diego County, California during the class period. Prior
14 to making her purchase, Plaintiff saw and reviewed the Product label containing
15 Defendant's representation that Quinoa was a main ingredient in the Product.
16 Plaintiff relied upon Defendant's representation that quinoa was the main
17 ingredient in the Product. This representation was false as quinoa is listed among
18 the ingredients comprising less than 2% of the Product. Plaintiff did not receive
19 the promised benefits or receive the full value of her purchase. Plaintiff would not
20 have purchased the Product or would not have paid as much for the Product if she
21 had known it did not in fact contain the claimed characteristics as alleged herein.
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10. Defendant, Seeds of Change, is a corporation with its principal place of business in Chicago, Illinois. Defendant is licensed to conduct business in California.

11. Plaintiff reserves the right to amend this Complaint to add different or additional defendants, including without limitation any officer, director, employee, supplier, or distributor of Defendant who has knowingly and willfully aided, abetted, or conspired in the false and deceptive conduct alleged herein.

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

12. Defendant manufactures, distributes, advertises, and sells the Organic Quinoa, Brown & Red Rice with Flaxseed product. At all relevant times, Defendant has marketed the Product consistently and uniformly relating to ingredients and nutritional benefits. Defendant sells the Product on its website, popular retail grocers, and through various other distributors.

13. Quinoa is regarded as having multiple health benefits which include being high-protein, high-fiber, and containing necessary vitamins that are essential to overall good health. The fiber content aids in digestive processes, while the protein can make it a good choice for those wanting to stay satiated, which can contribute to weight loss. These benefits make it a healthier alternative to rice.¹

¹ <https://health.clevelandclinic.org/quinoa-benefits> (Last accessed on August 5, 2026).

14. Defendant's Product label describes it as a blend of quinoa, brown, and red rice, with flaxseed added. A representative picture of the front of the label from Defendant's website² is as follows:



15. Defendant's webpage for the Product does not contain a picture of the back of the package.³ However, the ingredient list in fine print on the back of the packaging reveals that quinoa is not a main or substantial ingredient. Rather, quinoa appears only after the statement "LESS THAN 2% OF," together with other ingredients, including brown flax seeds.⁴

² <https://www.seedsofchange.com/products/rice-grains/seeds-change-certified-organic-quinoa-brown-red-rice-flaxseed-85-oz-pouch>

³ Id.

⁴ <https://www.walmart.com/ip/SEEDS-OF-CHANGE-Organic-Quinoa-Brown-Red-Rice-8-5oz/51762366> (Last accessed on August 5, 2026).



16. Quinoa is known for having more health benefits, but also for being more expensive than rice products. “Quinoa costs roughly 3-5 times as much as white rice per pound.”⁵

17. Quinoa contains almost twice as much protein as brown rice.⁶ Further, unlike rice, quinoa is a complete protein, containing all nine essential amino acids that our bodies cannot make on their own.⁷ These amino acids support vital functions, including tissue repair, and can only be obtained through food.⁸

18. Defendant used this commonly known information regarding the nutritional benefits and cost of quinoa to induce Plaintiff and class members to pay more than

⁵ <https://quinoakitchen.com/guides/quinoa-vs-rice/> (Last accessed on August 5, 2026).

⁶ <https://ufhealth.org/care-sheets/healthy-food-trends-quinoa>

⁷ <https://nutritionsource.hsph.harvard.edu/food-features/quinoa/>

⁸ Agarwal A, Rizwana, Tripathi AD, et al. [Nutritional and functional new perspectives and potential health benefits of quinoa and chia seeds](#). *Antioxidants (Basel)*. 2023;12(7):1413. doi:10.3390/antiox12071413

1 what the Product was worth based on its deceptive marketing and labels. The
2 Product's packaging was designed to make consumers believe that there was an
3 amount of quinoa in it that would yield health and nutritional benefits that quinoa
4 is known for. In reality, there was a negligible proportion of quinoa in the Product
5 that could not have provided the health benefits sought by Plaintiff and class
6 members, nor did the quantity match what was advertised on the packaging.
7

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9 19. All of Defendant's misrepresentations and omissions at issue here were
10 consistently made during the applicable class period. Defendant made uniform
11 misrepresentations about the Product that Plaintiff and all class members were
12 exposed to and relied upon.
13

14 20. Plaintiff and Class members would not have purchased the Product, or
15 would not have paid as much for the Product, had they known the truth about the
16 mislabeled and falsely advertised Products.
17

18 **CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS**

19 21. **Class Definition:** Plaintiff brings this class action on behalf of herself, and as
20 a class action on behalf of the following putative classes (the "Class"):
21

22 **Nationwide Class:** All individual residents of the United States who
23 purchased the Seeds of Change Quinoa, Brown & Red Rice with Flaxseed Product
24 through the date of class certification. Excluded from the Class are: (1) Defendant
25 and all directors, officers, employees, partners, principals, shareholders, and agents
26 of Defendant; (2) Any currently sitting United States District Court Judge or Justice,
27
28

1 and the current spouse and all persons within the third-degree of consanguinity to
2 such judge/justice; and (3) Class Counsel.

3 **California Sub-Class:** All individual residents of the State of California who
4 purchased the Seeds of Change Quinoa, Brown & Red Rice with Flaxseed Product
5 through the date of class certification. Excluded from the Class are: (1) Defendant
6 and all directors, officers, employees, partners, principals, shareholders, and agents
7 of Defendant; (2) Any currently sitting United States District Court Judge or Justice,
8 and the current spouse and all other persons within the third-degree of consanguinity
9 to such judge/justice; and (3) Class Counsel.

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13 22. Plaintiff reserves the right to amend the Class definitions if further
14 investigation and discovery indicates that the Class definitions should be narrowed,
15 expanded, or otherwise modified.

16
17 23. **Numerosity and Ascertainability:** Plaintiff does not know the exact
18 number of members of the putative classes. Due to Plaintiff's initial investigation,
19 however, Plaintiff is informed and believes that the total number of Class members
20 is at least in the tens of thousands, and that members of the Class are numerous and
21 geographically dispersed throughout the United States and California. While the
22 exact number and identities of the Class members are unknown at this time, such
23 information can be ascertained through appropriate investigation and discovery,
24 including Defendant's records, either manually or through computerized searches.
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1 24. **Typicality and Adequacy:** Plaintiff's claims are typical of those of the
2 proposed Class, and Plaintiff will fairly and adequately represent and protect the
3 interests of the proposed Class. Plaintiff does not have any interests that are
4 antagonistic to those of the proposed Class. Plaintiff has retained counsel competent
5 and experienced in the prosecution of this type of litigation.
6

7 25. **Commonality:** The questions of law and fact common to the Class
8 members, some of which are set out below, predominate over any questions affecting
9 only individual Class members:
10

11 a. whether Defendant committed the conduct alleged herein;
12

13 b. whether Defendant's conduct constitutes the violations of laws alleged
14 herein;
15

16 c. whether Defendant's labeling, sale and advertising set forth herein are
17 unlawful, untrue, or are misleading, or reasonably likely to deceive;
18

19 d. whether Defendant knew or should have known that the representations
20 were false or misleading;
21

22 e. whether Defendant knowingly concealed or misrepresented material facts
23 for the purpose of inducing consumers into spending money on the Products;
24

25 f. whether Defendant's representations, concealments and non-disclosures
26 concerning the Products are likely to deceive the consumer;
27

28 g. whether Defendant should be permanently enjoined from making the claims
at issue; and

1 h. whether Plaintiff and the Class are entitled to restitution and damages.

2 26. **Predominance and Superiority:** Common questions, some of which
3 are set out above, predominate over any questions affecting only individual Class
4 members. A class action is the superior method for the fair and just adjudication of
5 this controversy. The expense and burden of individual suits make it impossible and
6 impracticable for members of the proposed Class to prosecute their claims
7 individually and multiplies the burden on the judicial system presented by the
8 complex legal and factual issues of this case. Individualized litigation also presents
9 potential for inconsistent or contradictory judgments. In contrast, the class action
10 device presents far fewer management difficulties and provides the benefits of single
11 adjudication, economy of scale, and comprehensive supervision by a single court on
12 the issue of Defendant's liability. Class treatment of the liability issues will ensure
13 that all claims and claimants are before this Court for consistent adjudication of the
14 liability issues. A class action is superior to other available methods for the fair and
15 efficient adjudication of this controversy for at least the following reasons:
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- 21 a. given the complexity of issues involved in this action and the expense of
22 litigating the claims, few, if any, Class members could afford to seek legal
23 redress individually for the wrongs that Defendant committed against them,
24 and absent Class members have no substantial interest in individually
25 controlling the prosecution of individual actions;
26
27
28

- 1 b. when Defendant's liability has been adjudicated, claims of all Class members
2 can be determined by the Court;
- 3 c. this action will cause an orderly and expeditious administration of the Class
4 claims and foster economies of time, effort and expense, and ensure
5 uniformity of decisions; and
- 6
7 d. without a class action, many Class members would continue to suffer injury,
8 and Defendant's violations of law will continue without redress while
9 Defendant continues to reap and retain the substantial proceeds of its wrongful
10 conduct.
11

12
13 27. **Manageability:** The trial and litigation of Plaintiff's and the proposed Class
14 claims are manageable. Defendant has acted and refused to act on grounds generally
15 applicable to the Class, making appropriate final injunctive relief and declaratory
16 relief with respect to the Class as a whole.
17

18 **COUNT I**
19 **CALIFORNIA UNFAIR COMPETITION LAW ("UCL")**
20 **Violation of Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code §§ 17200, *et seq.***
21 ***(By Plaintiff Merrick, individually, and on behalf***
of the California Class)

22 28. Plaintiff, individually, and on behalf of the California Class, re-alleges and
23 incorporates by reference paragraphs 1 through 20 as though fully set forth herein.
24

25 29. Defendant is a "person" as defined by California Business and Professions
26 Code § 17201.
27

28 30. A reasonable consumer would have been misled and deceived by the

1 Product's labels. Specifically, Defendant marketed, labeled, and represented the
2 Product with the representations described herein, when in fact the Product contains
3 a negligible amount of quinoa. Accordingly, the labels are demonstrably and literally
4 false.
5

6 31. The misrepresentation is material to a reasonable consumer. The ingredient
7 quinoa is prominently displayed on the Product's front label as the first ingredient
8 because Defendant understands consumers value the nutritional benefits of quinoa.
9 Accordingly, consumers are willing to pay a premium for foods containing quinoa.
10

11 32. Plaintiff and Class Members who purchased Defendant's Product suffered an
12 injury by virtue of buying Products in which Defendant misrepresented the Products'
13 true quality. Had Plaintiff and Class Members known that Defendant misrepresented
14 material information regarding the Product's ingredient content, they would not have
15 purchased the Product(s), or would have paid less for them.
16
17

18 33. Defendant's conduct, as alleged herein, violates the laws and public policies
19 of California and the United States, as set out in this Class Action Complaint.
20

21 34. There is no benefit to consumers or competition by allowing Defendant to
22 deceptively label, market, and advertise its Product(s).
23

24 35. The harm suffered by Plaintiff and Class Members who purchased
25 Defendant's Products outweighs any legitimate justification, motive, or reason for
26 packaging, marketing, advertising, and labeling the Products in a deceptive and
27 misleading manner. These are practices and uniform courses of conduct that offend
28

1 an established public policy or that are immoral, unethical, oppressive,
2 unscrupulous, or substantially injurious to consumers.

3 36. The acts of Defendant in disseminating said misleading and deceptive
4 statements to consumers throughout the state of California, including to Plaintiff and
5 Class Members, were and are likely to deceive reasonable consumers by obfuscating
6 the true nature of Defendant's Products and, thus, were violations of California
7 Business and Professions Code §§ 17500, *et seq.*

10 37. Defendant also violated the UCL's proscription against engaging in unfair
11 business practices. Defendant's acts, omissions and non-disclosures as alleged
12 herein also constitute "unfair" business acts and practices within the meaning of
13 California Business and Professions Code §§ 17200, *et seq.* in that Defendant's
14 conduct is substantially injurious to consumers, offends public policy and is immoral,
15 unethical, oppressive and unscrupulous, as the gravity of the conduct outweighs any
16 alleged benefits attributable to such conduct.

19 38. Defendant further violated the UCL's proscription against engaging in
20 fraudulent business practices. Defendant's claims, nondisclosures and misleading
21 statements with respect to the Products, as more fully set forth herein, were false,
22 misleading and/or likely to deceive the consuming public within the meaning of
23 California Business and Professions Code § 17200.

26 39. Plaintiff and the other Class Members suffered a substantial injury by virtue
27 of buying the Products they would not have purchased, or would have paid less for,
28

absent Defendant's unlawful, fraudulent and unfair marketing, advertising, packaging and omission about the defective nature of the Products.

40. As a result of Defendant's above unlawful, unfair, and fraudulent acts and practices, Plaintiff, on behalf of herself and all others similarly situated, and as appropriate, on behalf of the general public, seeks injunctive relief prohibiting Defendant from continuing these wrongful practices. Plaintiff intends to purchase the Products or similar products if the requested injunctive relief is granted.

41. Additionally, Plaintiff seeks restitution if monetary damages are not available. Restitution under the UCL can be awarded in situations where the entitlement to damages may prove difficult. But even if damages were available, such relief would not be adequate to address the injury suffered by Plaintiff and other Class Members. Unlike damages, the Court's discretion in fashioning equitable relief is very broad. Thus, restitution would allow recovery even when normal consideration associated with damages would not.

COUNT II
CALIFORNIA FALSE ADVERTISING LAW ("FAL")
Violation of Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code §§ 17500, *et seq.*
(By Plaintiff, individually, and on behalf of the California Class)

42. Plaintiff, individually, and on behalf of the California Class, re-alleges and incorporates by reference paragraphs 1 through 20 as though fully set forth herein.

1 43. The conduct described herein took place within the State of California and
2 constitutes deceptive or false advertising in violation of California Business and
3 Professions Code § 17500.

4
5 44. The FAL provides that “[i]t is unlawful for any person, firm, corporation or
6 association, or any employee thereof with intent directly or indirectly to dispose of
7 real or personal property or to perform services” to disseminate any statement
8 “which is untrue or misleading, and which is known, or which by the exercise of
9 reasonable care should be known, to be untrue or misleading.” Cal. Bus. & Prof.
10 Code § 17500.
11

12
13 45. Defendant violated the FAL by representing its Product contained quinoa as
14 the main ingredient when in fact it contained a negligible amount.

15
16 46. Defendant’s descriptions of the Products were false, misleading, and likely to
17 deceive Plaintiff and other reasonable consumers.

18
19 47. Defendant’s conduct therefore constitutes deceptive or misleading
20 advertising.

21
22 48. Plaintiff has standing to pursue claims under the FAL, as she reviewed and
23 relied on Defendant’s packaging, advertising, representations, and marketing
24 materials regarding the Product when selecting and purchasing the Product.

25
26 49. In reliance on the statements made in Defendant’s advertising and marketing
27 materials regarding the content of quinoa as the main ingredient, Plaintiff and Class
28 Members purchased the Product.

1 50. Defendant knew that its representations were false and misleading at the time
2 it made them. Defendant deliberately provided false representations of the Product
3 to induce its customers to purchase the Products.

4
5 51. Defendant's false and misleading advertising statements deceived the general
6 public.

7
8 52. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant's misleading and false
9 advertising, Plaintiff and Class Members have suffered injury-in-fact and have lost
10 money and property.

11
12 53. Plaintiff and Class Members reasonably relied to their detriment on
13 Defendant's material misrepresentations regarding its Products.

14
15 54. As a result of Defendant's above unlawful, unfair and fraudulent acts and
16 practices, Plaintiff, on behalf of herself and all others similarly situated, and as
17 appropriate, on behalf of the general public, seeks injunctive relief prohibiting
18 Defendant from continuing these wrongful practices.

19
20 55. Additionally, Plaintiff seeks restitution if monetary damages are not available.
21 Indeed, restitution under the FAL can be awarded in situations where the entitlement
22 to damages may prove difficult. But even if damages were available, such relief
23 would not be adequate to address the injury suffered by Plaintiff and other Class
24 Members. Unlike damages, the Court's discretion in fashioning equitable relief is
25 very broad. Thus, restitution would allow recovery even when normal consideration
26 associated with damages would not.
27
28

COUNT III
Violation of the Consumers Legal Remedies Act
(“CLRA”) Cal. Civ. Code § 1770 et seq.
(On behalf of the California Subclass)

56. Plaintiff, individually, and on behalf of the California Class, re-alleges and incorporates by reference paragraphs 1 through 20 as though fully set forth herein.

57. Plaintiff and Class Members are “consumers” within the meaning of California Civil Code § 1761(d). By purchasing Defendant’s Products, Plaintiff and members of the California Class engaged in “transactions” within the meaning of California Civil Code §§ 1761(e) and 1770.

58. Defendant, Plaintiff and the Class are “persons” within the meaning of California Civil Code § 1761(c).

59. The Products are “goods” within the meaning of California Civil Code § 1761(a).

60. California Civil Code § 1770(a)(5) prohibits “[r]epresenting that goods or services have sponsorship, approval, characteristics, ingredients, uses, benefits, or qualities which they do not have or that a person has a sponsorship, approval, status, affiliation, or connection which he or she does not have.”

61. The CLRA prohibits “unfair methods of competition and unfair or deceptive acts or practices undertaken by any person in a transaction intended to result or that results in the sale or lease of goods or services to any consumer[.]” Cal. Civ. Code § 1770.

62. Defendant engaged in unfair or deceptive acts or practices when, in the course of its business, it, among other acts and practices, intentionally and knowingly made material misrepresentations regarding the quinoa content of the Product, as detailed herein.

63. Specifically, by representing the Product contained quinoa as the main ingredient when it contained a negligible amount, Defendant engaged in one or more of the following unfair or deceptive business practices as defined in California Civil Code § 1770(a):

- a. Representing that the Products have characteristics, uses, benefits and qualities which they do not have.
- b. Representing that the Products are of a particular standard, quality and grade when they are not.
- c. Advertising the Products with the intent not to sell them as advertised.
- d. Representing that the subject of a transaction has been supplied in accordance with a previous representation when it has not.

Cal. Civ. Code §§ 1770(a)(5), (7), (9) and (16).

64. Defendant's unfair or deceptive acts or practices had a tendency or capacity to mislead and create a false impression in consumers, and were likely to and did in fact deceive reasonable consumers, including Plaintiff and Class Members, about the true quality and true value of the Products.

65. Defendant's wrongful business practices constituted, and still constitute, a continuing course of conduct in violation of the CLRA.

66. Plaintiff and the Class suffered injury in fact and actual damages resulting from Defendant's material misrepresentations.

67. Plaintiff and the Class suffered economic injury as a direct and proximate result of Defendant's violations because: (a) they would not have purchased the Products on the same terms if they had known that the Products were falsely labeled as alleged herein; (b) they paid a price premium compared to products without the misrepresentation alleged herein; and (c) the Products did not have the characteristics, ingredients, uses, benefits or qualities as promised.

68. Defendant's violations present a continuing risk to Plaintiff and the Class, as well as to the general public, and therefore affect the public interest.

69. In accordance with Cal. Civ. Code § 1780(a), Plaintiff and the Class seek injunctive and equitable relief for Defendant's CLRA violations. Plaintiff has mailed an appropriate demand letter consistent with California Civil Code § 1782(a). If Defendant fails to take corrective action within 30 days of receipt of the demand letter, Plaintiff will amend her complaint to assert claims for actual, punitive, and statutory damages, as appropriate.

COUNT IV
UNJUST ENRICHMENT

70. Plaintiff, individually, and on behalf of the California Class, re-alleges and

incorporates by reference paragraphs 1 through 20 as though fully set forth herein.

71. At all times relevant hereto, Defendant deceptively marketed, advertised and sold merchandise to Plaintiff and the Classes.

72. Plaintiff and the Classes conferred upon Defendant non-gratuitous payments for the Products that they would not have if not for Defendant's deceptive advertising and marketing. Defendant accepted or retained the non-gratuitous benefits conferred by Plaintiffs and the Classes, with full knowledge and awareness that, as a result of Defendant's deception, Plaintiff and the Classes did not receive Products of the quality, nature, fitness or value that was represented by Defendant and reasonable consumers would expect.

73. Defendant was unjustly enriched in retaining the revenues derived from purchases of merchandise by Plaintiff and the Classes, which retention under these circumstances is unjust and inequitable because Defendant falsely represented that quinoa was the main ingredient in the Products when, in fact, the Products actually contained a negligible amount of quinoa, which caused injuries to Plaintiffs and the Classes because they paid a price premium due to the misleading advertising and labeling on the Product.

74. Retaining the non-gratuitous benefits conferred upon Defendant by Plaintiff and the Classes under these circumstances made Defendant's retention of the non-gratuitous benefits unjust and inequitable. Thus, Defendant must pay restitution and non-restitutionary disgorgement of profits to Plaintiff and the Class Members for its

1 unjust enrichment, as ordered by the Court. Plaintiff, and those similarly situated,
2 have no adequate remedy at law to obtain this restitution.

3 75. Plaintiff, therefore, seeks an order requiring Defendant to make restitution and
4 non-restitutionary disgorgement of profits to Plaintiff and other members of the
5 Classes.
6

7
8 **COUNT V**
9 **NEGLIGENT MISREPRESENTATION**

10 76. Plaintiff, individually, and on behalf of the California Class, re-alleges and
11 incorporates by reference paragraphs 1 through 20 as though fully set forth herein.

12 77. As alleged more fully herein, Defendant made false and misleading
13 representations to Plaintiff and Class Members when it marketed the Product,
14 representing quinoa as the main ingredient.
15

16 78. When Defendant made these representations, it knew or reasonably should
17 have known that they were false and misleading. Defendant had no reasonable
18 grounds for believing that these representations were true when made.
19

20 79. Defendant intended that Plaintiff and Class Members rely on these
21 representations. Plaintiff and Class Members reasonably relied on the representation
22 that quinoa was the main ingredient in purchasing the Products.
23

24 80. Defendant's ingredient representations were a substantial factor and
25 proximate cause of the damages and losses to Plaintiff and Class Members.
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27
28

81. In addition, class-wide reliance can be inferred because Defendant's representation regarding the quinoa content was material, *i.e.*, a reasonable consumer would consider it important in deciding whether to buy the Product.

82. Plaintiff and Class Members were injured as a direct and proximate result of Defendant's conduct because Plaintiff and Class Members would not have purchased the Product, or would have paid significantly less for it, if they knew the Product did not contain quinoa as the main ingredient.

REQUEST FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, individually and on behalf of other members of the proposed Classes, respectfully requests that the Court enter judgment in Plaintiff's favor and against Defendant as follows:

- A. Declaring that this action is a proper class action, certifying the Classes as requested herein, designating Plaintiff as Class Representative and appointing the undersigned counsel as Class Counsel;
- B. For an order of restitution and injunctive relief as pleaded or as the Court may deem proper;
- C. Ordering Defendant to pay attorneys' fees and litigation costs to Plaintiff and the other members of the Classes;
- D. Ordering Defendant to pay both pre- and post-judgment interest on any amounts awarded; and
- E. Ordering such other and further relief as may be just and proper.

JURY DEMAND

Plaintiff demands a trial by jury of all claims in this Complaint so triable.

1 Dated: August 12, 2026

Respectfully Submitted,

2 **The Wright Law Office, P.A.**

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17 Fax: 619-550-4006

18 Attorneys for Plaintiff

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

Alex Merrick

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

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

Nisha Wright The Wright Law Office, P.A.
600 West Broadway, Suite 700 San Diego, CA 92101
Telephone: (619) 393-3677

DEFENDANTS

MARS FOOD US, LLC DBA SEEDS OF CHANGE

County of Residence of First Listed Defendant Cook
(IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY)NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF
THE TRACT OF LAND INVOLVED.

Attorneys (If Known)

'26CV4610 JLS JAC

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 | ☒ 1 | ☐ 1 | Incorporated or Principal Place of Business In This State | ☐ 4 | ☐ 4 |
| Citizen of Another State | ☐ 2 | ☐ 2 | Incorporated and Principal Place of Business In Another State | ☐ 5 | ☒ 5 |
| Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country | ☐ 3 | ☐ 3 | Foreign Nation | ☐ 6 | ☐ 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
☐ 110 Insurance ☐ 120 Marine ☐ 130 Miller Act ☐ 140 Negotiable Instrument ☐ 150 Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement of Judgment ☐ 151 Medicare Act ☐ 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans (Excludes Veterans) ☐ 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits ☐ 160 Stockholders' Suits ☐ 190 Other Contract ☐ 195 Contract Product Liability ☐ 196 Franchise	PERSONAL INJURY ☐ 310 Airplane ☐ 315 Airplane Product Liability ☐ 320 Assault, Libel & Slander ☐ 330 Federal Employers' Liability ☐ 340 Marine ☐ 345 Marine Product Liability ☐ 350 Motor Vehicle ☐ 355 Motor Vehicle Product Liability ☐ 360 Other Personal Injury ☐ 362 Personal Injury - Medical Malpractice PERSONAL INJURY ☐ 365 Personal Injury - Product Liability ☐ 367 Health Care/Pharmaceutical Personal Injury Product Liability ☐ 368 Asbestos Personal Injury Product Liability PERSONAL PROPERTY ☒ 370 Other Fraud ☐ 371 Truth in Lending ☐ 380 Other Personal Property Damage ☐ 385 Property Damage Product Liability	☐ 625 Drug Related Seizure of Property 21 USC 881 ☐ 690 Other LABOR ☐ 710 Fair Labor Standards Act ☐ 720 Labor/Management Relations ☐ 740 Railway Labor Act ☐ 751 Family and Medical Leave Act ☐ 790 Other Labor Litigation ☐ 791 Employee Retirement Income Security Act IMMIGRATION ☐ 462 Naturalization Application ☐ 465 Other Immigration Actions	☐ 422 Appeal 28 USC 158 ☐ 423 Withdrawal 28 USC 157 INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS ☐ 820 Copyrights ☐ 830 Patent ☐ 835 Patent - Abbreviated New Drug Application ☐ 840 Trademark ☐ 880 Defend Trade Secrets Act of 2016 SOCIAL SECURITY ☐ 861 HIA (1395ff) ☐ 862 Black Lung (923) ☐ 863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g)) ☐ 864 SSID Title XVI ☐ 865 RSI (405(g)) FEDERAL TAX SUITS ☐ 870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff or Defendant) ☐ 871 IRS—Third Party 26 USC 7609	☐ 375 False Claims Act ☐ 376 Qui Tam (31 USC 3729(a)) ☐ 400 State Reapportionment ☐ 410 Antitrust ☐ 430 Banks and Banking ☐ 450 Commerce ☐ 460 Deportation ☐ 470 Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations ☐ 480 Consumer Credit (15 USC 1681 or 1692) ☐ 485 Telephone Consumer Protection Act ☐ 490 Cable/Sat TV ☐ 850 Securities/Commodities/Exchange ☐ 890 Other Statutory Actions ☐ 891 Agricultural Acts ☐ 893 Environmental Matters ☐ 895 Freedom of Information Act ☐ 896 Arbitration ☐ 899 Administrative Procedure Act/Review or Appeal of Agency Decision ☐ 950 Constitutionality of State Statutes
REAL PROPERTY ☐ 210 Land Condemnation ☐ 220 Foreclosure ☐ 230 Rent Lease & Ejectment ☐ 240 Torts to Land ☐ 245 Tort Product Liability ☐ 290 All Other Real Property	CIVIL RIGHTS ☐ 440 Other Civil Rights ☐ 441 Voting ☐ 442 Employment ☐ 443 Housing/Accommodations ☐ 445 Amer. w/Disabilities - Employment ☐ 446 Amer. w/Disabilities - Other ☐ 448 Education PRISONER PETITIONS Habeas Corpus: ☐ 463 Alien Detainee ☐ 510 Motions to Vacate Sentence ☐ 530 General ☐ 535 Death Penalty Other: ☐ 540 Mandamus & Other ☐ 550 Civil Rights ☐ 555 Prison Condition ☐ 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):
28 U.S.C. § 1332(d)(2)(A)Brief description of cause:
False Advertising

VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:

☒ CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION UNDER RULE 23, F.R.Cv.P.DEMAND \$
\$5,000,000.00CHECK YES only if demanded in complaint:
JURY DEMAND: ☒ Yes ☐ No

VIII. RELATED CASE(S) IF ANY

(See instructions):

JUDGE _____ DOCKET NUMBER _____

DATE

SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD

August 12, 2026

Nisha Wright

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

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

INSTRUCTIONS FOR ATTORNEYS COMPLETING CIVIL COVER SHEET FORM JS 44

Authority For Civil Cover Sheet

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replaces nor supplements the filings and service of pleading or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved 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. Consequently, a civil cover sheet is submitted to the Clerk of Court for each civil complaint filed. The attorney filing a case should complete the form as follows:

- I. (a) **Plaintiffs-Defendants.** Enter names (last, first, middle initial) of plaintiff and defendant. If the plaintiff or defendant is a government agency, use only the full name or standard abbreviations. If the plaintiff or defendant is an official within a government agency, identify first the agency and then the official, giving both name and title.
 - (b) **County of Residence.** For each civil case filed, except U.S. plaintiff cases, enter the name of the county where the first listed plaintiff resides at the time of filing. In U.S. plaintiff cases, enter the name of the county in which the first listed defendant resides at the time of filing. (NOTE: In land condemnation cases, the county of residence of the "defendant" is the location of the tract of land involved.)
 - (c) **Attorneys.** Enter the firm name, address, telephone number, and attorney of record. If there are several attorneys, list them on an attachment, noting in this section "(see attachment)".
- II. **Jurisdiction.** The basis of jurisdiction is set forth under Rule 8(a), F.R.Cv.P., which requires that jurisdictions be shown in pleadings. Place an "X" in one of the boxes. If there is more than one basis of jurisdiction, precedence is given in the order shown below.
- United States plaintiff. (1) Jurisdiction based on 28 U.S.C. 1345 and 1348. Suits by agencies and officers of the United States are included here. United States defendant. (2) When the plaintiff is suing the United States, its officers or agencies, place an "X" in this box.
- Federal question. (3) This refers to suits under 28 U.S.C. 1331, where jurisdiction arises under the Constitution of the United States, an amendment to the Constitution, an act of Congress or a treaty of the United States. In cases where the U.S. is a party, the U.S. plaintiff or defendant code takes precedence, and box 1 or 2 should be marked.
- Diversity of citizenship. (4) This refers to suits under 28 U.S.C. 1332, where parties are citizens of different states. When Box 4 is checked, the citizenship of the different parties must be checked. (See Section III below; **NOTE: federal question actions take precedence over diversity cases.**)
- III. **Residence (citizenship) of Principal Parties.** This section of the JS 44 is to be completed if diversity of citizenship was indicated above. Mark this section for each principal party.
- IV. **Nature of Suit.** Place an "X" in the appropriate box. If there are multiple nature of suit codes associated with the case, pick the nature of suit code that is most applicable. Click here for: [Nature of Suit Code Descriptions](#).
- V. **Origin.** Place an "X" in one of the seven boxes.
- Original Proceedings. (1) Cases which originate in the United States district courts.
- Removed from State Court. (2) Proceedings initiated in state courts may be removed to the district courts under Title 28 U.S.C., Section 1441.
- Remanded from Appellate Court. (3) Check this box for cases remanded to the district court for further action. Use the date of remand as the filing date.
- Reinstated or Reopened. (4) Check this box for cases reinstated or reopened in the district court. Use the reopening date as the filing date.
- Transferred from Another District. (5) For cases transferred under Title 28 U.S.C. Section 1404(a). Do not use this for within district transfers or multidistrict litigation transfers.
- Multidistrict Litigation – Transfer. (6) Check this box when a multidistrict case is transferred into the district under authority of Title 28 U.S.C. Section 1407.
- Multidistrict Litigation – Direct File. (8) Check this box when a multidistrict case is filed in the same district as the Master MDL docket.
- PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE IS NOT AN ORIGIN CODE 7.** Origin Code 7 was used for historical records and is no longer relevant due to changes in statute.
- VI. **Cause of Action.** Report the civil statute directly related to the cause of action and give a brief description of the cause. **Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity.** Example: U.S. Civil Statute: 47 USC 553 Brief Description: Unauthorized reception of cable service.
- VII. **Requested in Complaint.** Class Action. Place an "X" in this box if you are filing a class action under Rule 23, F.R.Cv.P.
- Demand. In this space enter the actual dollar amount being demanded or indicate other demand, such as a preliminary injunction.
- Jury Demand. Check the appropriate box to indicate whether or not a jury is being demanded.
- VIII. **Related Cases.** This section of the JS 44 is used to reference related cases, if any. If there are related cases, insert the docket numbers and the corresponding judge names for such cases.

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