

SUMMONS
(CITACION JUDICIAL)

FOR COURT USE ONLY
(SOLO PARA USO DE LA CORTE)

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT:
(AVISO AL DEMANDADO):

THE KROGER CO., an Ohio corporation; and DOES 1 through 10, inclusive,

YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF:
(LO ESTÁ DEMANDANDO EL DEMANDANTE):

ECOLOGICAL ALLIANCE, LLC, a California limited liability company,

NOTICE! You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the information below.

You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court.

There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web site (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), or by contacting your local court or county bar association. NOTE: The court has a statutory lien for waived fees and costs on any settlement or arbitration award of \$10,000 or more in a civil case. The court's lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case. ¡AVISO! Lo han demandado. Si no responde dentro de 30 días, la corte puede decidir en su contra sin escuchar su versión. Lea la información a continuación.

Tiene 30 DÍAS DE CALENDARIO después de que le entreguen esta citación y papeles legales para presentar una respuesta por escrito en esta corte y hacer que se entregue una copia al demandante. Una carta o una llamada telefónica no lo protegen. Su respuesta por escrito tiene que estar en formato legal correcto si desea que procesen su caso en la corte. Es posible que haya un formulario que usted pueda usar para su respuesta. Puede encontrar estos formularios de la corte y más información en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California (www.sucorte.ca.gov), en la biblioteca de leyes de su condado o en la corte que le quede más cerca. Si no puede pagar la cuota de presentación, pida al secretario de la corte que le dé un formulario de exención de pago de cuotas. Si no presenta su respuesta a tiempo, puede perder el caso por incumplimiento y la corte le podrá quitar su sueldo, dinero y bienes sin más advertencia.

Hay otros requisitos legales. Es recomendable que llame a un abogado inmediatamente. Si no conoce a un abogado, puede llamar a un servicio de remisión a abogados. Si no puede pagar a un abogado, es posible que cumpla con los requisitos para obtener servicios legales gratuitos de un programa de servicios legales sin fines de lucro. Puede encontrar estos grupos sin fines de lucro en el sitio web de California Legal Services, (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California, (www.sucorte.ca.gov) o poniéndose en contacto con la corte o el colegio de abogados locales. AVISO: Por ley, la corte tiene derecho a reclamar las cuotas y los costos exentos por imponer un gravamen sobre cualquier recuperación de \$10,000 ó más de valor recibida mediante un acuerdo o una concesión de arbitraje en un caso de derecho civil. Tiene que pagar el gravamen de la corte antes de que la corte pueda desechar el caso.

The name and address of the court is:
(El nombre y dirección de la corte es): Los Angeles Superior Court
Stanley Mosk Branch
111 North Hill St., Los Angeles, CA 90012

CASE NUMBER: (Número del Caso):
22STCV08065

The name, address, and telephone number of plaintiff's attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney, is: (El nombre, la dirección y el número de teléfono del abogado del demandante, o del demandante que no tiene abogado, es):

Vineet Dubey, Esq., Custodio & Dubey LLP, 445 S. Figueroa St., Suite 2520, Los Angeles, CA 90071

DATE: Sherri R. Carter Executive Officer / Clerk of Court Clerk, by Deputy
(Fecha) 03/07/2022 (Secretario) Y. Tarasyuk (Adjunto)

(For proof of service of this summons, use Proof of Service of Summons (form POS-010).)
(Para prueba de entrega de esta citación use el formulario Proof of Service of Summons, (POS-010).)



NOTICE TO THE PERSON SERVED: You are served

1. as an individual defendant.
2. as the person sued under the fictitious name of (specify):
3. on behalf of (specify): The Kroger Co.
under: CCP 416.10 (corporation) CCP 416.60 (minor)
 CCP 416.20 (defunct corporation) CCP 416.70 (conservatee)
 CCP 416.40 (association or partnership) CCP 416.90 (authorized person)
 other (specify):
4. by personal delivery on (date)

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES	Reserved for Clerk's File Stamp
<small>COURTHOUSE ADDRESS:</small> Stanley Mosk Courthouse 111 North Hill Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012	FILED Superior Court of California County of Los Angeles 03/07/2022 Sherri R. Carter, Executive Officer / Clerk of Court By: <u>Y. Tarasyuk</u> Deputy
NOTICE OF CASE ASSIGNMENT UNLIMITED CIVIL CASE	
Your case is assigned for all purposes to the judicial officer indicated below.	<small>CASE NUMBER:</small> 22STCV08065

THIS FORM IS TO BE SERVED WITH THE SUMMONS AND COMPLAINT

	ASSIGNED JUDGE	DEPT	ROOM		ASSIGNED JUDGE	DEPT	ROOM
✓	Lia Martin	16					

Given to the Plaintiff/Cross-Complainant/Attorney of Record
on 03/07/2022
(Date)

Sherri R. Carter, Executive Officer / Clerk of Court
By Y. Tarasyuk, Deputy Clerk

INSTRUCTIONS FOR HANDLING UNLIMITED CIVIL CASES

The following critical provisions of the California Rules of Court, Title 3, Division 7, as applicable in the Superior Court, are summarized for your assistance.

APPLICATION

The Division 7 Rules were effective January 1, 2007. They apply to all general civil cases.

PRIORITY OVER OTHER RULES

The Division 7 Rules shall have priority over all other Local Rules to the extent the others are inconsistent.

CHALLENGE TO ASSIGNED JUDGE

A challenge under Code of Civil Procedure Section 170.6 must be made within **15** days after notice of assignment for all purposes to a judge, or if a party has not yet appeared, within 15 days of the first appearance.

TIME STANDARDS

Cases assigned to the Independent Calendaring Courts will be subject to processing under the following time standards:

COMPLAINTS

All complaints shall be served within 60 days of filing and proof of service shall be filed within 90 days.

CROSS-COMPLAINTS

Without leave of court first being obtained, no cross-complaint may be filed by any party after their answer is filed. Cross-complaints shall be served within 30 days of the filing date and a proof of service filed within 60 days of the filing date.

STATUS CONFERENCE

A status conference will be scheduled by the assigned Independent Calendar Judge no later than 270 days after the filing of the complaint. Counsel must be fully prepared to discuss the following issues: alternative dispute resolution, bifurcation, settlement, trial date, and expert witnesses.

FINAL STATUS CONFERENCE

The Court will require the parties to attend a final status conference not more than 10 days before the scheduled trial date. All parties shall have motions in limine, bifurcation motions, statements of major evidentiary issues, dispositive motions, requested form jury instructions, special jury instructions, and special jury verdicts timely filed and served prior to the conference. These matters may be heard and resolved at this conference. At least five days before this conference, counsel must also have exchanged lists of exhibits and witnesses, and have submitted to the court a brief statement of the case to be read to the jury panel as required by Chapter Three of the Los Angeles Superior Court Rules.

SANCTIONS

The court will impose appropriate sanctions for the failure or refusal to comply with Chapter Three Rules, orders made by the Court, and time standards or deadlines established by the Court or by the Chapter Three Rules. Such sanctions may be on a party, or if appropriate, on counsel for a party.

This is not a complete delineation of the Division 7 or Chapter Three Rules, and adherence only to the above provisions is therefore not a guarantee against the imposition of sanctions under Trial Court Delay Reduction. Careful reading and compliance with the actual Chapter Rules is imperative.

Class Actions

Pursuant to Local Rule 2.3, all class actions shall be filed at the Stanley Mosk Courthouse and are randomly assigned to a complex judge at the designated complex courthouse. If the case is found not to be a class action it will be returned to an Independent Calendar Courtroom for all purposes.

*Provisionally Complex Cases

Cases filed as provisionally complex are initially assigned to the Supervising Judge of complex litigation for determination of complex status. If the case is deemed to be complex within the meaning of California Rules of Court 3.400 et seq., it will be randomly assigned to a complex judge at the designated complex courthouse. If the case is found not to be complex, it will be returned to an Independent Calendar Courtroom for all purposes.

ATTORNEY OR PARTY WITHOUT ATTORNEY (Name, State Bar number, and address) Vineet Dubey (SBN#243208), Custodio & Dubey LLP 445 S. Figueroa St., Suite 2520 Los Angeles, CA 90071 TELEPHONE NO.: 213-593-9095 FAX NO. (Optional): ATTORNEY FOR (Name): Ecological Alliance, LLC	FOR COURT USE ONLY			
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES STREET ADDRESS: 111 North Hill St. MAILING ADDRESS: same CITY AND ZIP CODE: Los Angeles 90012 BRANCH NAME: Stanley Mosk				
CASE NAME: Ecological Alliance, LLC vs. The Kroger Co.				
<table border="1" style="width:100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width:33%; padding: 5px;"> CIVIL CASE COVER SHEET <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unlimited (Amount demanded exceeds \$25,000) </td> <td style="width:33%; padding: 5px;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Limited (Amount demanded is \$25,000) </td> <td style="width:33%; padding: 5px;"> Complex Case Designation <input type="checkbox"/> Counter <input type="checkbox"/> Joinder Filed with first appearance by defendant (Cal. Rules of Court, rule 3.402) </td> </tr> </table>	CIVIL CASE COVER SHEET <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unlimited (Amount demanded exceeds \$25,000)	<input type="checkbox"/> Limited (Amount demanded is \$25,000)	Complex Case Designation <input type="checkbox"/> Counter <input type="checkbox"/> Joinder Filed with first appearance by defendant (Cal. Rules of Court, rule 3.402)	CASE NUMBER: <div style="font-size: 24px; font-weight: bold; text-align: center;">22STCV08065</div> JUDGE: DEPT.:
CIVIL CASE COVER SHEET <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unlimited (Amount demanded exceeds \$25,000)	<input type="checkbox"/> Limited (Amount demanded is \$25,000)	Complex Case Designation <input type="checkbox"/> Counter <input type="checkbox"/> Joinder Filed with first appearance by defendant (Cal. Rules of Court, rule 3.402)		

Items 1-6 below must be completed (see instructions on page 2).

1. Check one box below for the case type that best describes this case:

Auto Tort <input type="checkbox"/> Auto (22) <input type="checkbox"/> Uninsured motorist (46) Other PI/PD/WD (Personal Injury/Property Damage/Wrongful Death) Tort <input type="checkbox"/> Asbestos (04) <input type="checkbox"/> Product liability (24) <input type="checkbox"/> Medical malpractice (45) <input type="checkbox"/> Other PI/PD/WD (23) Non-PI/PD/WD (Other) Tort <input type="checkbox"/> Business tort/unfair business practice (07) <input type="checkbox"/> Civil rights (08) <input type="checkbox"/> Defamation (13) <input type="checkbox"/> Fraud (16) <input type="checkbox"/> Intellectual property (19) <input type="checkbox"/> Professional negligence (25) <input type="checkbox"/> Other non-PI/PD/WD tort (35) Employment <input type="checkbox"/> Wrongful termination (36) <input type="checkbox"/> Other employment (15)	Contract <input type="checkbox"/> Breach of contract/warranty (06) <input type="checkbox"/> Rule 3.740 collections (09) <input type="checkbox"/> Other collections (09) <input type="checkbox"/> Insurance coverage (18) <input type="checkbox"/> Other contract (37) Real Property <input type="checkbox"/> Eminent domain/Inverse condemnation (14) <input type="checkbox"/> Wrongful eviction (33) <input type="checkbox"/> Other real property (26) Unlawful Detainer <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial (31) <input type="checkbox"/> Residential (32) <input type="checkbox"/> Drugs (38) Judicial Review <input type="checkbox"/> Asset forfeiture (05) <input type="checkbox"/> Petition re: arbitration award (11) <input type="checkbox"/> Writ of mandate (02) <input type="checkbox"/> Other judicial review (39)	Provisionally Complex Civil Litigation (Cal. Rules of Court, rules 3.400-3.403) <input type="checkbox"/> Antitrust/Trade regulation (03) <input type="checkbox"/> Construction defect (10) <input type="checkbox"/> Mass tort (40) <input type="checkbox"/> Securities litigation (28) <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental/Toxic tort (30) <input type="checkbox"/> Insurance coverage claims arising from the above listed provisionally complex case types (41) Enforcement of Judgment <input type="checkbox"/> Enforcement of judgment (20) Miscellaneous Civil Complaint <input type="checkbox"/> RICO (27) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other complaint (not specified above) (42) Miscellaneous Civil Petition <input type="checkbox"/> Partnership and corporate governance (21) <input type="checkbox"/> Other petition (not specified above) (43)
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2. This case is is not complex under rule 3.400 of the California Rules of Court. If the case is complex, mark the factors requiring exceptional judicial management:
- | | |
|--|--|
| a. <input type="checkbox"/> Large number of separately represented parties | d. <input type="checkbox"/> Large number of witnesses |
| b. <input type="checkbox"/> Extensive motion practice raising difficult or novel issues that will be time-consuming to resolve | e. <input type="checkbox"/> Coordination with related actions pending in one or more courts in other counties, states, or countries, or in a federal court |
| c. <input type="checkbox"/> Substantial amount of documentary evidence | f. <input type="checkbox"/> Substantial postjudgment judicial supervision |
3. Remedies sought (check all that apply): a. monetary b. nonmonetary; declaratory or injunctive relief c. punitive
4. Number of causes of action (specify): One
5. This case is is not a class action suit.
6. If there are any known related cases, file and serve a notice of related case. (You may use form CM-015.)

Date: March 7, 2022

Vineet Dubey, Esq.

(TYPE OR PRINT NAME)

(SIGNATURE OF PARTY OR ATTORNEY FOR PARTY)

NOTICE

- Plaintiff must file this cover sheet with the first paper filed in the action or proceeding (except small claims cases or cases filed under the Probate Code, Family Code, or Welfare and Institutions Code). (Cal. Rules of Court, rule 3.220.) Failure to file may result in sanctions.
- File this cover sheet in addition to any cover sheet required by local court rule.
- If this case is complex under rule 3.400 et seq. of the California Rules of Court, you must serve a copy of this cover sheet on all other parties to the action or proceeding.
- Unless this is a collections case under rule 3.740 or a complex case, this cover sheet will be used for statistical purposes only.

INSTRUCTIONS ON HOW TO COMPLETE THE COVER SHEET

CM-010

To Plaintiffs and Others Filing First Papers. If you are filing a first paper (for example, a complaint) in a civil case, you **must** complete and file, along with your first paper, the Civil Case Cover Sheet contained on page 1. This information will be used to compile statistics about the types and numbers of cases filed. You must complete items 1 through 6 on the sheet. In item 1, you must check **one** box for the case type that best describes the case. If the case fits both a general and a more specific type of case listed in item 1, check the more specific one. If the case has multiple causes of action, check the box that best indicates the **primary** cause of action. To assist you in completing the sheet, examples of the cases that belong under each case type in item 1 are provided below. A cover sheet must be filed only with your initial paper. Failure to file a cover sheet with the first paper filed in a civil case may subject a party, its counsel, or both to sanctions under rules 2.30 and 3.220 of the California Rules of Court.

To Parties in Rule 3.740 Collections Cases. A "collections case" under rule 3.740 is defined as an action for recovery of money owed in a sum stated to be certain that is not more than \$25,000, exclusive of interest and attorney's fees, arising from a transaction in which property, services, or money was acquired on credit. A collections case does not include an action seeking the following: (1) tort damages, (2) punitive damages, (3) recovery of real property, (4) recovery of personal property, or (5) a prejudgment writ of attachment. The identification of a case as a rule 3.740 collections case on this form means that it will be exempt from the general time-for-service requirements and case management rules, unless a defendant files a responsive pleading. A rule 3.740 collections case will be subject to the requirements for service and obtaining a judgment in rule 3.740.

To Parties in Complex Cases. In complex cases only, parties must also use the Civil Case Cover Sheet to designate whether the case is complex. If a plaintiff believes the case is complex under rule 3.400 of the California Rules of Court, this must be indicated by completing the appropriate boxes in items 1 and 2. If a plaintiff designates a case as complex, the cover sheet must be served with the complaint on all parties to the action. A defendant may file and serve no later than the time of its first appearance a joinder in the plaintiff's designation, a counter-designation that the case is not complex, or, if the plaintiff has made no designation, a designation that the case is complex.

CASE TYPES AND EXAMPLES

<p>Auto Tort</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Auto (22)—Personal Injury/Property Damage/Wrongful Death Uninsured Motorist (46) <i>(if the case involves an uninsured motorist claim subject to arbitration, check this item instead of Auto)</i> <p>Other PI/PD/WD (Personal Injury/Property Damage/Wrongful Death) Tort</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Asbestos (04) Asbestos Property Damage Asbestos Personal Injury/Wrongful Death Product Liability <i>(not asbestos or toxic/environmental)</i> (24) Medical Malpractice (45) Medical Malpractice—Physicians & Surgeons Other Professional Health Care Malpractice Other PI/PD/WD (23) Premises Liability (e.g., slip and fall) Intentional Bodily Injury/PD/WD (e.g., assault, vandalism) Intentional Infliction of Emotional Distress Negligent Infliction of Emotional Distress Other PI/PD/WD <p>Non-PI/PD/WD (Other) Tort</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Business Tort/Unfair Business Practice (07) Civil Rights (e.g., discrimination, false arrest) <i>(not civil harassment)</i> (08) Defamation (e.g., slander, libel) (13) Fraud (16) Intellectual Property (19) Professional Negligence (25) Legal Malpractice Other Professional Malpractice <i>(not medical or legal)</i> Other Non-PI/PD/WD Tort (35) <p>Employment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wrongful Termination (36) Other Employment (15) 	<p>Contract</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Breach of Contract/Warranty (06) Breach of Rental/Lease Contract <i>(not unlawful detainer or wrongful eviction)</i> Contract/Warranty Breach—Seller Plaintiff <i>(not fraud or negligence)</i> Negligent Breach of Contract/Warranty Other Breach of Contract/Warranty Collections (e.g., money owed, open book accounts) (09) Collection Case—Seller Plaintiff Other Promissory Note/Collections Case Insurance Coverage <i>(not provisionally complex)</i> (18) Auto Subrogation Other Coverage Other Contract (37) Contractual Fraud Other Contract Dispute <p>Real Property</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eminent Domain/Inverse Condemnation (14) Wrongful Eviction (33) Other Real Property (e.g., quiet title) (26) Writ of Possession of Real Property Mortgage Foreclosure Quiet Title Other Real Property <i>(not eminent domain, landlord/tenant, or foreclosure)</i> <p>Unlawful Detainer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commercial (31) Residential (32) Drugs (38) <i>(if the case involves illegal drugs, check this item; otherwise, report as Commercial or Residential)</i> <p>Judicial Review</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Asset Forfeiture (05) Petition Re: Arbitration Award (11) Writ of Mandate (02) Writ—Administrative Mandamus Writ—Mandamus on Limited Court Case Matter Writ—Other Limited Court Case Review Other Judicial Review (39) Review of Health Officer Order Notice of Appeal—Labor Commissioner Appeals 	<p>Provisionally Complex Civil Litigation (Cal. Rules of Court Rules 3.400–3.403)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Antitrust/Trade Regulation (03) Construction Defect (10) Claims Involving Mass Tort (40) Securities Litigation (28) Environmental/Toxic Tort (30) Insurance Coverage Claims <i>(arising from provisionally complex case type listed above)</i> (41) <p>Enforcement of Judgment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enforcement of Judgment (20) Abstract of Judgment (Out of County) Confession of Judgment <i>(non-domestic relations)</i> Sister State Judgment Administrative Agency Award <i>(not unpaid taxes)</i> Petition/Certification of Entry of Judgment on Unpaid Taxes Other Enforcement of Judgment Case <p>Miscellaneous Civil Complaint</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> RICO (27) Other Complaint <i>(not specified above)</i> (42) Declaratory Relief Only Injunctive Relief Only <i>(non-harassment)</i> Mechanics Lien Other Commercial Complaint Case <i>(non-tort/non-complex)</i> Other Civil Complaint <i>(non-tort/non-complex)</i> <p>Miscellaneous Civil Petition</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partnership and Corporate Governance (21) Other Petition <i>(not specified above)</i> (43) Civil Harassment Workplace Violence Elder/Dependent Adult Abuse Election Contest Petition for Name Change Petition for Relief From Late Claim Other Civil Petition
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**CIVIL CASE COVER SHEET ADDENDUM AND
STATEMENT OF LOCATION
(CERTIFICATE OF GROUNDS FOR ASSIGNMENT TO COURTHOUSE LOCATION)**

This form is required pursuant to Local Rule 2.3 in all new civil case filings in the Los Angeles Superior Court.

Step 1: After completing the Civil Case Cover Sheet (Judicial Council form CM-010), find the exact case type in Column A that corresponds to the case type indicated in the Civil Case Cover Sheet.

Step 2: In Column B, check the box for the type of action that best describes the nature of the case.

Step 3: In Column C, circle the number which explains the reason for the court filing location you have chosen.

Applicable Reasons for Choosing Court Filing Location (Column C)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Class actions must be filed in the Stanley Mosk Courthouse, Central District. 2. Permissive filing in central district. 3. Location where cause of action arose. 4. Mandatory personal injury filing in North District. 5. Location where performance required or defendant resides. 6. Location of property or permanently garaged vehicle. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7. Location where petitioner resides. 8. Location wherein defendant/respondent functions wholly. 9. Location where one or more of the parties reside. 10. Location of Labor Commissioner Office. 11. Mandatory filing location (Hub Cases – unlawful detainer, limited non-collection, limited collection, or personal injury). |
|--|---|

	A Civil Case Cover Sheet Category No.	B Type of Action (Check only one)	C Applicable Reasons - See Step 3 Above
Auto Tort	Auto (22)	<input type="checkbox"/> A7100 Motor Vehicle - Personal Injury/Property Damage/Wrongful Death	1, 4, 11
	Uninsured Motorist (46)	<input type="checkbox"/> A7110 Personal Injury/Property Damage/Wrongful Death – Uninsured Motorist	1, 4, 11
Other Personal Injury/ Property Damage/Wrongful Death Tort	Asbestos (04)	<input type="checkbox"/> A6070 Asbestos Property Damage <input type="checkbox"/> A7221 Asbestos - Personal Injury/Wrongful Death	1, 11 1, 11
	Product Liability (24)	<input type="checkbox"/> A7260 Product Liability (not asbestos or toxic/environmental)	1, 4, 11
	Medical Malpractice (45)	<input type="checkbox"/> A7210 Medical Malpractice - Physicians & Surgeons <input type="checkbox"/> A7240 Other Professional Health Care Malpractice	1, 4, 11 1, 4, 11
	Other Personal Injury Property Damage Wrongful Death (23)	<input type="checkbox"/> A7250 Premises Liability (e.g., slip and fall)	1, 4, 11
		<input type="checkbox"/> A7230 Intentional Bodily Injury/Property Damage/Wrongful Death (e.g., assault, vandalism, etc.)	1, 4, 11
	<input type="checkbox"/> A7270 Intentional Infliction of Emotional Distress	1, 4, 11	
	<input type="checkbox"/> A7220 Other Personal Injury/Property Damage/Wrongful Death	1, 4, 11	

	A Civil Case Cover Sheet Category No.	B Type of Action (Check only one)	C Applicable Reasons - See Step 3 Above
Non-Personal Injury/ Property Damage/ Wrongful Death Tort	Business Tort (07)	<input type="checkbox"/> A6029 Other Commercial/Business Tort (not fraud/breach of contract)	1, 2, 3
	Civil Rights (08)	<input type="checkbox"/> A6005 Civil Rights/Discrimination	1, 2, 3
	Defamation (13)	<input type="checkbox"/> A6010 Defamation (slander/libel)	1, 2, 3
	Fraud (16)	<input type="checkbox"/> A6013 Fraud (no contract)	1, 2, 3
	Professional Negligence (25)	<input type="checkbox"/> A6017 Legal Malpractice	1, 2, 3
		<input type="checkbox"/> A6050 Other Professional Malpractice (not medical or legal)	1, 2, 3
Other (35)	<input type="checkbox"/> A6025 Other Non-Personal Injury/Property Damage tort	1, 2, 3	
Employment	Wrongful Termination (36)	<input type="checkbox"/> A6037 Wrongful Termination	1, 2, 3
	Other Employment (15)	<input type="checkbox"/> A6024 Other Employment Complaint Case	1, 2, 3
		<input type="checkbox"/> A6109 Labor Commissioner Appeals	10
Contract	Breach of Contract/ Warranty (06) (not insurance)	<input type="checkbox"/> A6004 Breach of Rental/Lease Contract (not unlawful detainer or wrongful eviction)	2, 5
		<input type="checkbox"/> A6008 Contract/Warranty Breach -Seller Plaintiff (no fraud/negligence)	2, 5
		<input type="checkbox"/> A6019 Negligent Breach of Contract/Warranty (no fraud)	1, 2, 5
		<input type="checkbox"/> A6028 Other Breach of Contract/Warranty (not fraud or negligence)	1, 2, 5
	Collections (09)	<input type="checkbox"/> A6002 Collections Case-Seller Plaintiff	5, 6, 11
		<input type="checkbox"/> A6012 Other Promissory Note/Collections Case	5, 11
<input type="checkbox"/> A6034 Collections Case-Purchased Debt (Charged Off Consumer Debt Purchased on or after January 1, 2014)		5, 6, 11	
Insurance Coverage (18)	<input type="checkbox"/> A6015 Insurance Coverage (not complex)	1, 2, 5, 8	
Other Contract (37)	<input type="checkbox"/> A6009 Contractual Fraud	1, 2, 3, 5	
	<input type="checkbox"/> A6031 Tortious Interference	1, 2, 3, 5	
	<input type="checkbox"/> A6027 Other Contract Dispute(not breach/insurance/fraud/negligence)	1, 2, 3, 8, 9	
Real Property	Eminent Domain/Inverse Condemnation (14)	<input type="checkbox"/> A7300 Eminent Domain/Condemnation Number of parcels _____	2, 6
	Wrongful Eviction (33)	<input type="checkbox"/> A6023 Wrongful Eviction Case	2, 6
	Other Real Property (26)	<input type="checkbox"/> A6018 Mortgage Foreclosure	2, 6
<input type="checkbox"/> A6032 Quiet Title		2, 6	
<input type="checkbox"/> A6060 Other Real Property (not eminent domain, landlord/tenant, foreclosure)		2, 6	
Unlawful Detainer	Unlawful Detainer-Commercial (31)	<input type="checkbox"/> A6021 Unlawful Detainer-Commercial (not drugs or wrongful eviction)	6, 11
	Unlawful Detainer-Residential (32)	<input type="checkbox"/> A6020 Unlawful Detainer-Residential (not drugs or wrongful eviction)	6, 11
	Unlawful Detainer- Post-Foreclosure (34)	<input type="checkbox"/> A6020F Unlawful Detainer-Post-Foreclosure	2, 6, 11
	Unlawful Detainer-Drugs (38)	<input type="checkbox"/> A6022 Unlawful Detainer-Drugs	2, 6, 11

SHORT TITLE: Ecological Alliance, LLC vs. The Kroger Co.

CASE NUMBER

	A Civil Case Cover Sheet Category No.	B Type of Action (Check only one)	C Applicable Reasons - See Step 3 Above
Judicial Review	Asset Forfeiture (05)	<input type="checkbox"/> A6108 Asset Forfeiture Case	2, 3, 6
	Petition re Arbitration (11)	<input type="checkbox"/> A6115 Petition to Compel/Confirm/Vacate Arbitration	2, 5
	Writ of Mandate (02)	<input type="checkbox"/> A6151 Writ - Administrative Mandamus	2, 8
		<input type="checkbox"/> A6152 Writ - Mandamus on Limited Court Case Matter	2
		<input type="checkbox"/> A6153 Writ - Other Limited Court Case Review	2
Other Judicial Review (39)	<input type="checkbox"/> A6150 Other Writ /Judicial Review	2, 8	
Provisionally Complex Litigation	Antitrust/Trade Regulation (03)	<input type="checkbox"/> A6003 Antitrust/Trade Regulation	1, 2, 8
	Construction Defect (10)	<input type="checkbox"/> A6007 Construction Defect	1, 2, 3
	Claims Involving Mass Tort (40)	<input type="checkbox"/> A6006 Claims Involving Mass Tort	1, 2, 8
	Securities Litigation (28)	<input type="checkbox"/> A6035 Securities Litigation Case	1, 2, 8
	Toxic Tort Environmental (30)	<input type="checkbox"/> A6036 Toxic Tort/Environmental	1, 2, 3, 8
	Insurance Coverage Claims from Complex Case (41)	<input type="checkbox"/> A6014 Insurance Coverage/Subrogation (complex case only)	1, 2, 5, 8
Enforcement of Judgment	Enforcement of Judgment (20)	<input type="checkbox"/> A6141 Sister State Judgment	2, 5, 11
		<input type="checkbox"/> A6160 Abstract of Judgment	2, 6
		<input type="checkbox"/> A6107 Confession of Judgment (non-domestic relations)	2, 9
		<input type="checkbox"/> A6140 Administrative Agency Award (not unpaid taxes)	2, 8
		<input type="checkbox"/> A6114 Petition/Certificate for Entry of Judgment on Unpaid Tax	2, 8
		<input type="checkbox"/> A6112 Other Enforcement of Judgment Case	2, 8, 9
Miscellaneous Civil Complaints	RICO (27)	<input type="checkbox"/> A6033 Racketeering (RICO) Case	1, 2, 8
	Other Complaints (Not Specified Above) (42)	<input type="checkbox"/> A6030 Declaratory Relief Only	1, 2, 8
		<input type="checkbox"/> A6040 Injunctive Relief Only (not domestic/harassment)	2, 8
		<input type="checkbox"/> A6011 Other Commercial Complaint Case (non-tort/non-complex)	1, 2, 8
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A6000 Other Civil Complaint (non-tort/non-complex)	1, 2, 8		
Miscellaneous Civil Petitions	Partnership Corporation Governance (21)	<input type="checkbox"/> A6113 Partnership and Corporate Governance Case	2, 8
	Other Petitions (Not Specified Above) (43)	<input type="checkbox"/> A6121 Civil Harassment With Damages	2, 3, 9
		<input type="checkbox"/> A6123 Workplace Harassment With Damages	2, 3, 9
		<input type="checkbox"/> A6124 Elder/Dependent Adult Abuse Case With Damages	2, 3, 9
		<input type="checkbox"/> A6190 Election Contest	2
		<input type="checkbox"/> A6110 Petition for Change of Name/Change of Gender	2, 7
		<input type="checkbox"/> A6170 Petition for Relief from Late Claim Law	2, 3, 8
<input type="checkbox"/> A6100 Other Civil Petition		2, 9	

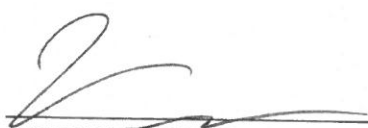
SHORT TITLE Ecological Alliance, LLC vs. The Kroger Co.	CASE NUMBER
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Step 4: Statement of Reason and Address: Check the appropriate boxes for the numbers shown under Column C for the type of action that you have selected. Enter the address which is the basis for the filing location, including zip code. (No address required for class action cases).

REASON: <input type="checkbox"/> 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2. <input type="checkbox"/> 3. <input type="checkbox"/> 4. <input type="checkbox"/> 5. <input type="checkbox"/> 6. <input type="checkbox"/> 7. <input type="checkbox"/> 8. <input type="checkbox"/> 9. <input type="checkbox"/> 10. <input type="checkbox"/> 11.			ADDRESS 1418 Yorkshire Lane
CITY: La Habra	STATE: CA	ZIP CODE: 90631	

Step 5: Certification of Assignment: I certify that this case is properly filed in the Central District of the Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles [Code Civ. Proc., §392 et seq., and Local Rule 2.3(a)(1)(E)].

Dated: March 7, 2022


 (SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY/FILING PARTY)

PLEASE HAVE THE FOLLOWING ITEMS COMPLETED AND READY TO BE FILED IN ORDER TO PROPERLY COMMENCE YOUR NEW COURT CASE:

1. Original Complaint or Petition.
2. If filing a Complaint, a completed Summons form for issuance by the Clerk.
3. Civil Case Cover Sheet, Judicial Council form CM-010.
4. Civil Case Cover Sheet Addendum and Statement of Location form, LACIV 109, LASC Approved 03-04 (Rev. 02/16).
5. Payment in full of the filing fee, unless there is court order for waiver, partial or scheduled payments.
6. A signed order appointing the Guardian ad Litem, Judicial Council form CIV-010, if the plaintiff or petitioner is a minor under 18 years of age will be required by Court in order to issue a summons.
7. Additional copies of documents to be conformed by the Clerk. Copies of the cover sheet and this addendum must be served along with the summons and complaint, or other initiating pleading in the case.

Assigned for all purposes to: Stanley Mosk Courthouse, Judicial Officer: Lia Martin

1 MIGUEL CUSTODIO, STATE BAR NO. 248744
VINEET DUBEY, STATE BAR NO. 243208
2 CUSTODIO & DUBEY LLP
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3 Los Angeles, CA 90071
Telephone: (213) 593-9095
4 Facsimile: (213) 785-2899

5 Attorneys for Plaintiff
ECOLOGICAL ALLIANCE, LLC
6

7 SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
8 COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
9 UNLIMITED CIVIL JURISDICTION

10 ECOLOGICAL ALLIANCE, LLC, a
California limited liability company,

11 Plaintiffs,

12 vs.

13 THE KROGER CO., an Ohio corporation; and
14 DOES 1 through 10, inclusive,

15 Defendants.
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CASE NO.: **22STCV08065**

**COMPLAINT FOR CIVIL PENALTIES
AND INJUNCTIVE RELIEF**

(Health & Safety Code. § 25249.6 *et seq.*)

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2 **NATURE OF THE ACTION**

3 1. This Complaint is brought by plaintiff Ecological Alliance, LLC ("Plaintiff") in
4 the public interest of the People of the State of California to enforce their right to be informed
5 of the presence of chemicals, including Lead, listed by the State of California pursuant to the
6 Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986, codified at Health and Safety Code
7 section 25249.6 *et seq.* ("Proposition 65").

8 2. Plaintiffs seek to remedy Defendants' failure to warn citizens of the State of
9 California, in violation of Proposition 65, about the presence of Lead ("Listed Chemical") in the
10 Defendants': Kroger spinach with bacon salad kits, Kroger sweet peas & carrots, Simple Truth
11 Organic diced peaches & pears; Kroger graham crackers, Simple Truth Organic berry medley;
12 Kroger cinnamon raisin bagels; Simple Truth Organic whole wheat spaghetti; Simple Truth
13 Organic raisin bran; Simple Truth Organic breakfast cookies; Private Selection strawberries;
14 Kroger diced jalapenos, Kroger sliced beets; Kroger Italian Style cut green beans; Kroger
15 cinanpuffs; and Kroger strawberry applesauce; all offered for sale throughout the State of
16 California ("Products").

17 3. Lead is a toxic metal that, even at low levels, may cause a range of health effects,
18 including behavioral problems and learning disabilities. Young children are most at risk because
19 their brains are developing; however, Lead exposure affects people of all ages. Lead exposure
20 negatively affects virtually every aspect of a child's development: neurological, sight, hearing,
21 IQ, intelligence, etc... In adults Lead exposure can lead to high blood pressure, kidney failure,
22 and brain damage. In pregnant women Lead exposure can lead to miscarriage, premature, or
23 stillbirths.

24 4. Defendants' Products contain Lead and consumers of Products in the State of
25 California are exposed to the Lead through ingestion of the Products.

26 5. Plaintiff's testing found that one serving of Kroger spinach with bacon salad kits
27 exposes a consumer to approximately 70.1 micrograms of Lead, over 140 times greater than the
28 0.5 micrograms allowed per day for adults by Proposition 65.

1 6. Plaintiff's testing found that one serving of Kroger sweet peas & carrots exposes
2 a consumer to approximately 33.1 micrograms of Lead, over 66 times greater than the 0.5
3 micrograms allowed per day for adults by Proposition 65.

4 7. Plaintiff's testing found that one serving of Simple Truth Organic diced peaches
5 & pears exposes a consumer to approximately 11.7 micrograms of Lead, over 22 times greater
6 than the 0.5 micrograms allowed per day for adults by Proposition 65.

7 8. Plaintiff's testing found that one serving of Kroger graham crackers exposes a
8 consumer to approximately 11.2 micrograms of Lead, over 22 times greater than the 0.5
9 micrograms allowed per day for adults by Proposition 65.

10 9. Plaintiff's testing found that one serving of Simple Truth Organic berry medley
11 exposes a consumer to approximately 8.34 micrograms of Lead, over 16 times greater than the
12 0.5 micrograms allowed per day for adults by Proposition 65.

13 10. Plaintiff's testing found that one serving of Kroger cinnamon raisin bagels
14 exposes a consumer to approximately 6.82 micrograms of Lead, over 13 times greater than the
15 0.5 micrograms allowed per day for adults by Proposition 65.

16 11. Plaintiff's testing found that one serving of Simple Truth Organic whole wheat
17 spaghetti exposes a consumer to approximately 6.77 micrograms of Lead, over 13 times greater
18 than the 0.5 micrograms allowed per day for adults by Proposition 65.

19 12. Plaintiff's testing found that one serving of Simple Truth Organic raisin bran
20 exposes a consumer to approximately 3.03 micrograms of Lead, over 6 times greater than the 0.5
21 micrograms allowed per day for adults by Proposition 65.

22 13. Plaintiff's testing found that one serving of Simple Truth Organic breakfast
23 cookies exposes a consumer to approximately 3.01 micrograms of Lead, over 6 times greater than
24 the 0.5 micrograms allowed per day for adults by Proposition 65.

25 14. Plaintiff's testing found that one serving of Private Selection strawberries exposes
26 a consumer to approximately 2.47 micrograms of Lead, over 4 times greater than the 0.5
27 micrograms allowed per day for adults by Proposition 65.
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15. Plaintiff's testing found that one serving of Kroger diced jalapenos exposes a consumer to approximately 2.42 micrograms of Lead, over 4 times greater than the 0.5 micrograms allowed per day for adults by Proposition 65.

16. Plaintiff's testing found that one serving of Kroger sliced beets exposes a consumer to approximately 2.27 micrograms of Lead, over 4 times greater than the 0.5 micrograms allowed per day for adults by Proposition 65.

17. Plaintiff's testing found that one serving of Kroger Italian Style cut green beans exposes a consumer to approximately 2.04 micrograms of Lead, over 4 times greater than the 0.5 micrograms allowed per day for adults by Proposition 65.

18. Plaintiff's testing found that one serving of Kroger cinnapuffs exposes a consumer to approximately 1.7 micrograms of Lead, over 3 times greater than the 0.5 micrograms allowed per day for adults by Proposition 65.

19. Plaintiff's testing found that one serving of Kroger strawberry applesauce exposes a consumer to approximately 1.39 micrograms of Lead, over 2 times greater than the 0.5 micrograms allowed per day for adults by Proposition 65.

20. Defendants know and intend that their Products expose consumers in the State of California to Lead.

21. Plaintiff sent notice of violation letters ("60-Day Notices"), dated June 18, 2021; July 12, 2021; July 13, 2021; and October 25, 2021; to The Kroger Co., and to California's Attorney General. Identical letters were sent to every District Attorney in the state, to the City Attorneys of every California city with a population greater than 750,000, and to all Defendants. Attached to the 60-Day Notices were Certificates of Merit attesting to the reasonable and meritorious basis for this action, Certificates of Service attesting to service of the letters on each entity described above, and a description of Proposition 65 prepared by the California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment. Furthermore, factual information sufficient to establish the basis of the Certificates of Merit was enclosed with the 60-Day Notice sent to California's Attorney General.

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22. After receiving the claims asserted in the 60-Day Notice, the public enforcement agencies identified in Paragraph 5 have failed to commence and diligently prosecute a cause of action against Defendants under Proposition 65.

23. Plaintiff seeks preliminary and permanent injunctive relief to compel Defendants to provide the warning required under Proposition 65 regarding the Products.

24. Pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 25249.7(b), Plaintiff also seeks civil penalties against Defendants for violations of Proposition 65.

PARTIES

25. Plaintiff is a California limited liability company. It brings this action in the public interest pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 25249.7(d).

26. Defendant The Kroger Co. is a “Person” in the course of doing business within the meaning of Health and Safety Code section 25249.11(a) – “Person” means an individual, trust, firm, joint stock company, corporation, company, partnership, limited liability company, and association.”

27. Defendant is a corporation that manufactures, distributes, and/or offers for sale in the State of California, Products that contain Lead.

28. Defendants DOES 1-10, which manufacture, distribute, and/or offers for sale in the State of California Products that contain Lead, are each persons in the course of doing business within the meaning of Health and Safety Code section 25249.11. At this time, the true names and capacities of defendants DOES 1 through 10, inclusive, are unknown to Plaintiff, who, therefore, sues said defendants by their fictitious names pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure section 474. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and on that basis alleges, that each of the fictitiously named defendants is responsible for the acts and occurrences alleged herein. When ascertained, their true names and capacities shall be reflected in an amended complaint.

VENUE AND JURISDICTION

29. The Court has jurisdiction over this action pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 25249.7. Pursuant to California Constitution Article VI, section 10, the California

1 Superior Court has “original jurisdiction in all causes except those given by statute to other trial
2 courts.” The statute under which this action is brought does not specify any other trial courts
3 that should have jurisdiction.

4 30. The Court has jurisdiction over Defendants based on Plaintiff’s information and
5 good faith belief that each Defendant is a person, firm, corporation, or association that is a
6 citizen of the State of California, has sufficient minimum contacts in the State of California,
7 and/or otherwise purposefully avails itself of the California market. Defendants’ purposeful
8 availment renders the exercise of personal jurisdiction by the Court consistent with traditional
9 notions of fair play and substantial justice.

10 31. Venue is proper in this Court because Defendants manufacture, distribute, offer
11 for sale, sell, and/or serve Products that contain the Listed Chemical. Liability for Plaintiff’s
12 causes of action, or some parts thereof, has accordingly arisen during the times relevant to this
13 Complaint and Plaintiff accordingly seeks civil penalties and forfeitures imposed by statutes.

14 **FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION**

15 **(Violation of Proposition 65 - Against All Defendants)**

16 32. Plaintiff realleges and incorporates by reference, as if fully set forth herein,
17 Paragraphs 1 through 15, inclusive.

18 33. Pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 25249.7(b), as a consequence of the
19 above-described acts, Defendants are liable for a violation of Proposition 65.

20 **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

21 Wherefore, Plaintiff prays for judgment against Defendants as follows:

22 1. That the Court, pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 25249.7(a),
23 preliminarily and permanently enjoin Defendants from manufacturing, distributing, offering for
24 sale, selling, and/or serving in the State of California Products that contain the Listed Chemical
25 without first providing a “clear and reasonable warning” under Proposition 65;

26 2. That the Court grant Plaintiff’s reasonable attorneys’ fees and costs of suit;

27 3. That the Court, pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 25249.7(b), assess
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civil penalties against Defendants in such amount as the Court deems appropriate up to \$2,500 per violation; and

4. That the Court grant such other and further relief as may be just and proper.

Dated: March 7, 2022

Respectfully Submitted,
CUSTODIO & DUBEY LLP

By:  _____

Vineet Dubey
Custodio & Dubey LLP
Attorneys for Plaintiff
ECOLOGICAL ALLIANCE, LLC