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9		S DISTRICT COURT
10	SOUTHERN DISTR	RICT OF CALIFORNIA
11		
12	RAMON BARCIA; RANDALL LEWIS; on behalf of themselves, and on behalf of all	CASE No. 07 CV 0938 IEG (JMA)
13	persons similarly situated,	FIRST AMENDED COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES, RESTITUTION, AND
14 15	Plaintiff,	INJUNCTIVE RELIEF: (1) FAILURE TO PAY EARNED
16	VS.	WAGES AND OVERTIME COMPENSATION IN VIOLATION OF
17	CONTAIN-A-WAY INC., a California corporation, doing business as NEXCYCLE	CAL. LAB. CODE §§ 204, 210, 218, 510, 1194 AND 1198;
18	and 20/20 RECYCLE CENTERS, Defendants.	(2) FAILURE TO PROVIDE REST PERIODS IN VIOLATION OF CAL. LAB. CODE §§ 226.7 AND 512;
19	Defendants.	(3) FAILURE TO PROVIDE ACCURATE ITEMIZED STATEMENTS IN VIOLATION
20		OF LABOR CODE § 226; (4) UNFAIR COMPETITION IN
21		VIÒLATION OF CAL. BUS. & PROF. CODE § 17200 et seq.;
22		(5) CLAIM FOR BENEFITS DUE, DECLARATORY RELIEF AND
23		EQUITABLE RELIEF UNDER ERISA PLAN [29 U.S.C. § 1132]; and,
24		(6) VIOLATION OF FAIR LABOR STANDARDS ACT [29 U.S.C. § 216]
25		(7) LABOR CODE PRIVATE ATTORNEY GENERAL ACT [Labor Code § 2698]
26		DEMAND FOR A JURY TRIAL
27		Filed in accordance with the Court's Order of April 1, 2008
28		J,

INTRODUCTION

2	1. This class action is brought by RAMON BARCIA and RANDALL LEWIS
3	individually and on behalf of all present and former employees employed by DEFENDANTS in
4	California during the Class Period (hereinafter "PLAINTIFFS"). The DEFENDANTS are
5	CONTAIN-A-WAY INC., a California corporations, doing business as NEXCYCLE and 20/20
6	RECYCLE CENTERS (hereinafter collectively referred to as "DEFENDANTS"). DEFENDANTS
7	systematically failed to pay PLAINTIFFS for the actual numbers of hours worked, regular and
8	overtime, during the Class Period. These employees were unlawfully paid wages based solely upon
9	the hours the recycling site was open to the public, without regard to the fact that all floaters and site
10	attendants were required to work before site opening to prepare the site and after site closing to
11	close down the site and complete the paperwork and inventory work of the DEFENDANTS.
12	DEFENDANTS have systematically refused to pay this class of employees for the substantial
13	amount of hours worked after site closing, including but not limited to overtime hours. In addition,
14	when acting in the role of the ERISA plan fiduciary administrator for DEFENDANTS' ERISA
15	plan(s), DEFENDANTS failed to provide employees with the required benefits and breached their
16	responsibilities, obligations and duties owed by DEFENDANTS under the ERISA plan(s), so as to
17	wrongfully prohibit PLAINTIFFS and other similarly situated persons, as site attendant and/or
18	floater employees, from participating in the DEFENDANTS' ERISA plan(s) and receiving the
19	benefits for which they were eligible under the DEFENDANTS' ERISA plan(s). All allegations in
20	this Complaint are based upon information and belief except for those allegations which pertain to
21	the PLAINTIFFS named herein and their counsels. Each allegation in this Complaint either has
22	evidentiary support or is likely to have evidentiary support after a reasonable opportunity for further
23	investigation and discovery. PLAINTIFFS seek an injunction enjoining such conduct by
24	DEFENDANTS in the future, relief for the named PLAINTIFFS and all other class members who
25	have been economically injured by DEFENDANTS' past conduct, and all other appropriate
26	equitable relief.
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JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 2. This Court has jurisdiction over this action pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 1132(e) and 29 U.S.C. §216(b). The action is brought as a class action pursuant to Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, §23. The named PLAINTIFFS bring this action on their own behalf, and on behalf of all persons within the Class as hereinafter defined.
- 3. Venue is proper in this Court because the DEFENDANTS have and at all relevant times maintained offices in San Diego County, California and committed wrongful conduct against members of the class in San Diego County, California.

CLASS DEFINITION

- 4. The CLASS consists of all persons employed by DEFENDANTS during the Class Period as a site attendant or floater for one or more of DEFENDANTS' recycling sites in California and who were not paid wages for hours worked and/or were denied benefits by DEFENDANTS (the "CLASS"). The Class Period is defined as the period commencing on the date that is within four years prior to the filing of this complaint and through the class period cutoff date (the "Class Period"). To the extent equitable tolling operates to toll claims by the CLASS against DEFENDANTS, the Class Period should be adjusted accordingly.
- 5. DEFENDANTS, as a matter of a uniform corporate policy, practice and procedure, and in violation of the applicable California Labor Code ("Labor Code") and Industrial Welfare Commission ("IWC") Wage Order Requirements, unlawfully, intentionally and knowingly failed to pay employees for all hours worked, including overtime hours, and instead paid such employees based solely upon the hours the site was open to the public, without regard to the fact that employees were required to work to prepare the site before the site opened for the public and also to remain at the site to complete work after the recycling site closed to the public. Further, DEFENDANTS altered time records for these employees and otherwise failed to pay employees for hours worked by the employees.
- 6. DEFENDANTS maintain records from which the Court can ascertain and identify each of DEFENDANTS' employees who as CLASS members have systematically not been paid for

the hours worked by the employee, as a matter of DEFENDANTS' corporate policy, practices and procedures.

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CLASS ALLEGATIONS

- 7. PLAINTIFF RAMON BARCIA was, at all material times mentioned herein, an individual who resided in California and worked for DEFENDANTS as a floater during the Class Period. His employment with CONTAINER-A-WAY, doing business as NEXCYCLE and 20/20 RECYCLE CENTERS, in California, began August 11, 2005 and continued to May 2007. Mr. Barcia was paid hourly at a regular rate of between \$10 and \$11.25 per hour. Using this hourly rate, DEFENDANTS paid Mr. Barcia not based upon the actual number of hours worked, but instead solely on the basis of fictional hours manufactured by the Defendant, irrespective of the fact that Mr. Barcia, like all other floaters and site attendants, was uniformly required to work at a site before opening and after closing. One example of this practice by the DEFENDANTS occurred when a supervisor came to Mr. Barcia's house where the supervisor altered and forged time-card of the employees. As a result of the DEFENDANTS' practice, Mr. Barcia was not paid for all hours worked as required by California law, including but not limited to overtime hours. Mr. Barcia suffered an economic injury as the result the DEFENDANTS' failure to pay him for all hours worked. DEFENDANTS also failed to provide Mr. Barcia with all statutorily required meal and rest period breaks during the Class Period. Mr. Barcia was an employee of DEEFNDANTS eligible to participate in and receive benefits from DEFENDANTS' ERISA plan, but was denied participation in DEFENDANTS' benefit plans as a matter of uniform corporate policy and practice to refuse benefits to eligible site attendant and floater employees.
- 8. PLAINTIFF RANDALL LEWIS was, at all material times mentioned herein, an individual who resided in California who worked for DEFENDANTS during the Class Period. His employment with CONTAINER-A-WAY, doing business as NEXCYCLE and 20/20 RECYCLE CENTERS, as a recycling site attendant operated by DEFENDANTS in California, began in July of the 2006 and ended on March 28, 2007. Mr. Lewis was paid hourly at a regular hourly rate of \$9.00 per hour. Using this agreed regular rate, DEFENDANTS paid Mr. Lewis, not based upon the actual

- 9. The California Legislature has commanded that "all wages... ...earned by any person in any employment are due and payable twice during each calendar month, on days designated in advance by the employer as the regular paydays", and further that "[a]ny work in excess of eight hours in one workday and any work in excess of 40 hours in any one workweek...shall be compensated at the rate of no less than one and one-half times the regular rate of pay for an employee." (Lab. Code §204 and §510(a).) The Industrial Welfare Commission (IWC), however, is statutorily authorized to "establish exemptions from the requirement that an overtime rate of compensation be paid... ...for executive, administrative, and professional employees, provided [inter alia] that the employee is primarily engaged in duties that meet the test of the exemption, [and] customarily and regularly exercises discretion and independent judgment in performing those duties..." (Lab. Code §510(a).) None of the PLAINTIFFS or the members of the CLASS qualify for exemption from the above requirements.
- 10. This Class Action meets the statutory prerequisites for the maintenance of a Class Action as set forth in the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, rule 23, in that:
 - (a) The persons who comprise the CLASS are so numerous that the joinder of all

such persons is impracticable and the disposition of their claims as a class will benefit the parties and the Court;

- (b) Nearly all factual, legal, statutory, declaratory and injunctive relief issues that are raised in this Complaint are common to the CLASS and will apply uniformly to every member of the CLASS;
- each member of the CLASS. PLAINTIFFS, like all other members of the CLASS, were systematically not paid wages, including overtime wages, for hours worked before site opening and after the recycling site was closed to the public, arising from DEFENDANTS' uniform practice and violations of the laws of California. PLAINTIFFS and the members of the CLASS were and are similarly or identically harmed by the same unlawful, deceptive, unfair and pervasive pattern of misconduct engaged in by DEFENDANTS' policy and practice of paying employees based solely upon the hours the site was open to the public, and not for the actual hours worked by employees, including but not limited to overtime hours (i.e. in excess of eight (8) hours in one workday and/or in excess of forty (40) hours per workweek). Further, PLAINTIFFS, like all other members of the CLASS, were uniformly denied participation in DEFENDANTS' benefits in contravention of the terms of the benefit plans and in violation of the DEFENDANTS' responsibilities, obligations and duties as the plan administrator.
- (d) The representative PLAINTIFFS will fairly and adequately represent and protect the interest of the CLASS, and has retained counsel who are competent and experienced in Class Action litigation. There are no material conflicts between the claims of the representative PLAINTIFFS and the members of the CLASS that would make class certification inappropriate. Counsel for the CLASS will vigorously assert the claims of all Class Members.
- 11. In addition to meeting the statutory prerequisites to a Class Action, this action is properly maintained as a Class Action pursuant to the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, rule 23(b), in that:
 - (a) Without class certification and determination of declaratory, injunctive,

hours worked by employees.

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13. Defendant CONTAINER-A-WAY, at all times during the Class Period was a California Corporation with its principal place of business in the State of California. CONTAINER-A-WAY operates recycling sites throughout California, including but not limited to sites in San Diego, Redlands, and Fairfield, California. CONTAINER-A-WAY operates these recycling sites using its corporate name, or under the fictitious business names NEXCYCLE and/or 20/20 RECYCLE CENTERS, and therefore, collectively, these businesses are jointly referred to herein as CONTAINER-A-WAY or DEFENDANTS. CONTAINER-A-WAY was the employer of PLAINTIFFS and is or was the current and/or former employer of the putative CLASS members during the Class Period. CONTAINER-A-WAY systematically, failed to pay wages due for hours worked at the recycling sites to PLAINTIFFS and the other members of the CLASS as a matter of corporate policy, practice and procedure.

THE CONDUCT

or about August 11, 2005 as a floater employee for CONTAINER-A-WAY's recycling sites in Monterey and Santa Cruz counties, California. As a floater, his job duties are to attend various recycling sites where needed in Monterey and Santa Cruz counties, and perform the same duties as a site attendant employee. Floaters also spend time delivering supplies and picking up paperwork. None of these duties are "exempt" and floaters, just like site attendants, are not exempt and are paid hourly by DEFENDANTS. Just like a site attendant, Mr. Barcia was required to open the recycling center at 10:00 a.m. and keep the recycling center open to the public until 4:30 p.m. In addition, as a floater for DEFENDANTS, Mr. Barcia was required, before site opening, to prepare the site for business, and, after site closing, to continue working by completing DEFENDANTS' paperwork and handling the recycled materials for storage and transport. Also, as a floater, Mr. Barcia was required to spend time driving and making phone calls for the DEFENDANTS for which time he was not compensated. As part of the job duties of PLAINTIFFS, DEFENDANTS uniformly required employees to perform these activities before the employee can leave the site and after the

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site is closed to the public. As a result, Mr. Barcia has been forced to work before a site opening and at the site after closing at 4:30 p.m., often until 6:00 p.m., however, DEFENDANTS systematically failed, and continue to refuse, to fully compensate Mr. Barcia for the hours worked after site closing (4:30 p.m.). DEFENDANTS are aware of the additional work, but as a matter of corporate practice and policy, instead record Mr. Barcia's hours worked based solely upon the time the site is open to the public (10:00 a.m. to 4:30 a.m.), and systematically disregarded the actual hours worked by Mr. Barcia. DEFENDANTS' practice and policy therefore requires Mr. Barcia to work hours each day without compensation in violation of California law. Further, if Mr. Barcia's hours worked were correctly recorded and paid by DEFENDANTS, many of the additional hours worked by Mr. Barcia would have to be paid at the overtime wage required by Cal. Labor Code § 510. Mr. Barcia was eligible to receive benefits under the DEFENDANTS' ERISA plan, however, DEFENDANTS uniform corporate policy and practice was to refuse participation to eligible site attendant and floater employees. Finally, Mr. Barcia did not always receive the required break for lunch and Mr. Barcia was not provided with the statutorily required rest period breaks during the class period based upon his actual hours worked.

- 15. Mr. Barcia attempted to accurately record the actual hours worked, however, he learned that representatives changed employee time records to reflect only the hours the site was open to the public, and not the actual hours worked by Mr. Barcia. Mr. Barcia had complained about the fabrication of the hours and the underpayment of wages due to his supervisor, but such complaint was ignored and the underpayment was not remedied.
- 16. The relevant facts regarding the employment and payment of wages to PLAINTIFF RANDALL LEWIS are nearly identical to the circumstances of Mr. Barcia. PLAINTIFF RANDALL LEWIS was hired by defendant CONTAINER-A-WAY on or about July of 2006 as a site attendant employee for one of the CONTAINER-A-WAY recycling sites in California, where his job duties are to attend the recycling center and pay customers for the recyclable aluminum cans, plastic bottles and glass that are returned by the customer. Mr. Lewis was required to open the recycling center at 10:00 a.m. and keep the recycling center open to the public until 4:30 p.m. In addition, as a recycling site attendant for DEFENDANTS, Mr. Lewis was required, before site

17. DEFENDANTS systematically recorded hours worked and thereupon paid wages to the PLAINTIFFS and all other members of the CLASS, using this same unlawful practice and policy of recording time based solely upon the time the site was open to the public and without regard to the hours actually worked by employees. Consequently, PLAINTIFFS and the other members of the CLASS were uniformly and systematically denied payment for wages and compensation for hours worked and denied overtime wages for hours worked in excess of eight hours per day and/or forty hours per week during the class period. In addition, DEFENDANTS, acting in their role as the ERISA plan fiduciary, failed to comply with the terms of the

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DEFENDANTS' plan(s) and systematically violated the DEFENDANTS' responsibilities, obligations and duties as plan administrator for the purpose of denying all site attendant and floaters participation in and benefits under the DEFENDANTS' ERISA plan. DEFENDANTS were informed of the wrongful recording of hours worked, but refused and failed to correct such recording of hours. Under the terms of the plans, all site attendant and floater employees are and/or were eligible to participate and receive benefits under the DEFENDANTS' ERISA plan(s).

- 18. Accordingly, and despite the fact that PLAINTIFFS, and the other members of the CLASS, worked after the recycling center closed to the public, in excess of 8 hours a day and 40 hours per week they did not receive wages for all hours worked, did not receive overtime compensation, were refused benefits for which they were eligible, and as a result, all suffered the same form of economic injury.
- 19. In addition, under Cal. Lab. Code §§ 226.7 and 512, based upon the actual hours worked by the employees, PLAINTIFFS and the other members of the CLASS, were required to be provided with at least two (2) rest period breaks each workday. DEFENDANTS failed to provide PLAINTIFFS and all other members of the CLASS with these statutorily required meal and rest period breaks during the Class Period which has caused additional economic injuries to PLAINTIFFS and other members of the CLASS.
- 20. Finally, DEFENDANTS engaged in a policy and practice of threatening and/or terminating employees who complained about the DEFENDANTS' violations of the California Labor Code or who requested to be paid for all hours worked. Further, DEFENDANTS threaten to, and in fact do, retaliate against employees who refuse to participate in activities that violate California law, including but not limited to, inaccurate reporting of hours worked and the fraudulent alteration of time records and employee information. For example, Candy Dotson, a regional manager of Defendants, went to all of the sites she manages and instituted DEFENDANTS' policy and practice of threatening and/or terminating employees who complained about the DEFENDANTS' violations of the California Labor Code by informing employees that they would be terminated if they reported Labor Code violations, sought to enforce their rights under the Labor Code, and/or disclosed their knowledge of Labor Code violations by the DEFENDANTS.

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

For Failure To Pay Earned Wages and Overtime Compensation [Cal. Lab. Code §§ 204, 210, 218, 510, 1194 and 1198]

(By PLAINTIFFS and the CLASS and Against all Defendants)

- 21. PLAINTIFFS, and the other members of the CLASS, reallege and incorporate by this reference, as though fully set forth herein, paragraphs 1 through 20 of this Complaint.
- 22. Cal. Lab. Code § 204 requires employers to pay employees for all hours worked as follows: "all wages... ...earned by any person in any employment are due and payable twice during each calendar month, on days designated in advance by the employer as the regular paydays." Cal. Lab. Code § 510 further provides that employees in California shall not be employed more than eight (8) hours in any workday or forty (40) hours in a workweek unless they receive additional compensation beyond their regular wages in amounts specified by law.
- 23. Cal. Lab. Code § 218 and §1194 establishes an employee's right to recover unpaid wages overtime compensation, interest thereon, together with the costs of suit, and attorneys fees. Cal. Lab. Code § 1198 states that the employment of an employee for longer hours than those fixed by the Industrial Welfare Commission is unlawful.
- 24. As set forth herein, DEFENDANTS' policy and practice was to intentionally and uniformly deny payment to site attendant and floater employees for all hours worked, and further failed to pay overtime compensation for hours worked in excess of eight hours in a day and/or forty hours in a workweek. This was done in an illegal attempt to avoid payment of earned wages, overtime compensation and other benefits in violation of the Cal. Lab. Code and Industrial Welfare Commission requirements.
- 25. The Industrial Welfare Commission, ICW Wage Order No. 4, and Labor Code §515, set forth the requirements which must be complied with to classify an employee as exempt from applicable labor laws. For an employee to be exempt from these rules as a bona fide "executive," all the following criteria must be met and DEFENDANTS have the burden of proving that:
- (a) The employee's primary duty must be management of the enterprise, or of a customarily recognized department or subdivision; and,

because they all fail to meet the requirements of being an exempt "professional" within the meaning

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of Order No. 4.

- 28. PLAINTIFFS, and other members of the CLASS, do not fit the definition of an exempt executive, administrative, or professional employee because:
 - (a) They did not work as executives or administrators; and,
- (b) The professional exemption articulated in Wage Order No. 4, section (1)(A)(3)(h) and Labor Code § 515, do not apply to PLAINTIFFS, or to the other members of the CLASS, because they did not meet all the applicable requirements to work under any of the exemptions.
- 29. During the class period, the PLAINTIFFS, and other members of the CLASS, worked more hours than they were paid for, constituting a failure to pay all earned wages.
- 30. During the Class Period, the PLAINTIFFS, and other members of the CLASS, worked more that eight hours in a workday, and/or more than forty hours in a work week.
- 31. At all times relevant times, DEFENDANTS failed to pay PLAINTIFFS, and other members of the CLASS, wages for the hours they have worked as required by Cal. Lab. Code §204 and § 218, and overtime compensation for the hours they have worked in excess of the maximum hours permissible by law as required by Cal. Lab. Code §§ 510 and 1198, even though PLAINTIFFS, and the other members of the CLASS, were regularly required to work, and did in fact work, hours after the site closed and before the site opened, which further included overtime hours.
- 32. By virtue of DEFENDANTS' unlawful failure to pay additional compensation to the PLAINTIFFS, and the other members of the CLASS, for the hours actually worked, the PLAINTIFFS, and the other members of the CLASS, have suffered, and will continue to suffer, an economic injury in amounts which are presently unknown to them and which will be ascertained according to proof at trial.
- 33. DEFENDANTS knew or should have known that PLAINTIFFS, and the other members of the CLASS, performed hours of work before opening and after the closing of the site to the public. DEFENDANTS systematically elected, either through intentional malfeasance or gross nonfeasance, not to pay them for their labor as a matter of uniform corporate policy, practice and procedure.

	34.	PLAINTIFFS, and the other members of the CLASS, request recovery of wages due			
and applicable overtime compensation according to proof, interest, attorney's fees and cost pursuant					
to Cal. Lab. Code § 218.5 and § 1194(a), as well as the assessment of any statutory penalties against					
DEFENDANTS, in a sum as provided by the Cal. Lab. Code and/or other statutes. Further,					
PLAINTIFFS, and the other members of the CLASS, are entitled to seek and recover reasonable					
attori	neys' fee	s and costs pursuant to Cal. Lab. Code §§ 218.5 and 1194.			

35. In performing the acts and practices herein alleged in violation of labor laws and refusing to provide the requisite overtime compensation, the DEFENDANTS acted and continue to act intentionally, oppressively, and maliciously toward the PLAINTIFFS, and toward the other members of the CLASS, with a conscious and utter disregard of their legal rights, or the consequences to them, and with the despicable intent of depriving them of their property and legal rights and otherwise causing them injury in order to increase corporate profits at the expense of PLAINTIFFS and the members of the Class.

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SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION

For Failure To Provide Meal and Rest Periods

[Cal. Lab. Code §§ 226.7 and 512]

(By PLAINTIFFS and the CLASS and Against All DEFENDANTS)

- 36. PLAINTIFFS, and the other members of the CLASS, reallege and incorporate by reference, as though fully set forth herein, paragraphs 1 through 35 of this Complaint.
- 37. Cal. Lab. Code § 226.7 provides that employers shall authorize and permit employees to take rest periods at the rate of ten (10) minutes net rest time per four (4) hours of work.
- 38. Cal. Lab. Code § 226.7 provides that if an employer fails to provide and employee rest periods in accordance with this section, the employer shall pay the employee one (1) hour of pay at the employee's regular rate of compensation for each workday that the rest period is not provided.
- 39. DEFENDANTS have intentionally and improperly denied rest periods to PLAINTIFFS, and other members of the CLASS, in violation of Cal. Lab. Code §§ 226.7 and 512,

46. Cal. Labor Code § 226 provides that an employer must furnish employees with "an

reference, as though fully set forth herein, paragraphs 1 through 44 of this Complaint.

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accurate itemized statement in writing showing (1) gross wages earned, (2) total hours worked by the employee, (3) the number of piece rate units earned and any applicable piece rate if the employee is paid on a piece-rate basis, (4) all deductions, provided that all deductions made on written orders of the employee may be aggregated and shown as one item, (5) net wages earned, (6) the inclusive dates of the period for which the employee is paid, (7) the name of the employee and his or her social security number, except that by January 1, 2008, only the last four digits of his or her social security number or an employee identification number other than a social security number may be shown on the itemized statement, (8) the name and address of the legal entity that is the employer, and (9) all applicable hourly rates in effect during the pay period and the corresponding number of hours worked at each hourly rate by the employee."

- 47. At all times relevant herein, DEFENDANTS violated Labor Code § 226, in that DEFENDANTS failed to properly and accurately itemize the number of hours worked by PLAINTIFFS, and the other members of the CLASS at the effective regular rates of pay and the effective overtime rates of pay.
- 48. DEFENDANTS knowingly and intentionally failed to comply with Labor Code § 226, causing damages to PLAINTIFFS, and the other members of the CLASS. These damages include, but are not limited to, unpaid wages for hours actually worked, the costs expended calculating the true hours worked and the amount of employment taxes which were not properly paid to state and federal tax authorities, plus reasonable attorney's fees and costs pursuant to Labor Code § 226(g).

FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION

For Unlawful Business Practices

[Cal. Bus. And Prof. Code § 17200 et seq.]

(By PLAINTIFFS and the CLASS and against All Defendants)

- 49. PLAINTIFFS, and the other members of the CLASS, reallege and incorporate by this reference, as though fully set forth herein, paragraphs 1 through 48 of this Complaint.
 - 50. DEFENDANTS are "persons" as that term is defined under Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code §

17021.

- 51. Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17200 defines unfair competition as any unlawful, unfair, or fraudulent business act or practice. Section 17200 applies to violations of labor laws and in the employment context.
- 52. At all times relevant hereto, by and through the conduct described herein,
 DEFENDANTS have engaged in unfair and unlawful' practices by failing to pay PLAINTIFFS, and
 the other members of the CLASS, wages due, and have failed to provide rest breaks, pursuant to the
 applicable Cal. Lab. Code, and Industrial Welfare Commission requirements in violation of Cal.
 Bus. and Prof. Code § 17200 et seq., and have thereby deprived PLAINTIFF, and the other members
 of the CLASS, of fundamental rights and privileges and caused them economic injury as herein
 alleged. DEFENDANTS engaged in unfair competition by withholding compensation for hours
 worked. DEFENDANTS further engaged in unfair and unlawful business practices by failing to
 keep accurate information and time records and failing to accurately itemize the total hours worked
 by DEFENDANTS' employees, in violation of California law. As herein alleged, DEFENDANTS'
 conduct was unlawful in that, with respect to all California employees, DEFENDANTS uniformly
 violated California law and regulations, including but not limited to Labor Code §201, §202, §216,
 §204, §218, §226, §226.7, §510, §512, §1102.5, §1174, §1175, §1198, and 8 C.C.R. § 11040(7).
 DEFENDANTS' conduct also violated federal law.
- 53. By and through the unfair and unlawful business practices described herein,
 Defendants have obtained valuable property, money, and services from the PLAINTIFFS, and the
 other members of the CLASS, and has deprived them of valuable rights and benefits guaranteed by
 law and contract, all to their detriment and to the benefit of DEFENDANTS so as to allow
 DEFENDANTS to unfairly compete against competitors who comply with the law.
- 54. All the acts described herein as violations of, among other things, the Cal. Lab. Code and Industrial Welfare Commission Wage Order, are unlawful and in violation of public policy; and in addition are immoral, unethical, oppressive, and unscrupulous, and Thereby constitute unfair and unlawful business practices in violation of Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17200 et seq.
 - 55. PLAINTIFFS, and the other members of the CLASS, are entitled to, and do, seek

such relief as may be necessary to restore to them the money and property which DEFENDANTS have acquired, or of which PLAINTIFFS, and other members of the CLASS, have been deprived, by means of the above described unfair and unlawful business practices.

- 56. PLAINTIFFS, and the other members of the CLASS, are further entitled to, and do, seek a declaration that the above described business practices are unfair and unlawful and that injunctive relief should be issued enjoining DEFENDANTS from engaging in any of these unfair and unlawful business practices in the future.
- 57. PLAINTIFFS, and the other members of the CLASS, have no plan, speedy, and/or adequate remedy at law that will end the unfair and unlawful business practices of DEFENDANTS. As a result of the unfair and unlawful business practices described above, PLAINTIFFS, and the other members of the CLASS, have suffered and will continue to suffer irreparable harm unless DEFENDANTS are restrained from continuing to engage in these unfair and unlawful business practices. In addition, DEFENDANTS should be required to disgorge the unpaid moneys to PLAINTIFFS, and the other members of the CLASS.

FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION

For Declaratory, Equitable, and/or Appropriate Relief Under an ERISA Plan

[29 U.S.C. 1132]

(By PLAINTIFFS and the CLASS and against All Defendants)

- 58. PLAINTIFFS, and the other members of the CLASS, reallege and incorporate by this reference, as though fully set forth herein, paragraphs 1 through 57 of this Complaint.
- 59. PLAINTIFFS and the other members of the CLASS were eligible for benefits under the DEFENDANTS' ERISA plan(s) pursuant to the terms of the ERISA plan(s).
- 60. An actual controversy exists between PLAINTIFFS and the CLASS, on the one hand, and DEFENDANTS, as the fiduciary for the ERISA plan, one the other, with respect to the responsibilities, obligations, and duties of DEFENDANTS to determine and disclose participation and eligibility under the DEFENDANTS' ERISA plan(s) for site attendant and floater employees.

PLAINTIFFS, on behalf of themselves and on behalf of the CLASS, contend that site attendant and floater employees are and/or were eligible to receive benefits under the ERISA plan(s), yet DEFENDANTS, acting as the plan fiduciary, systematically and uniformly denies participation in the ERISA plan and benefits to such employees contrary to the terms of the plans. DEFENDANTS' written and verbal statements to site attendant and floater employees misrepresented both the terms of the plans and these employees eligibility to participate in the plans and thereby deprived these employees their rights under the plans. The DEFENDANTS employee handbook uniformly and systematically informed employees that site attendant and floater employees are not entitled to participate in plans or otherwise receive benefits. DEFENDANTS' conduct, as the ERISA plan fiduciary, is arbitrary, capricious, in bad faith and malicious, and further violates the terms of the plans and violates the DEFENDANTS' responsibilities, obligations and duties as plan administrator. DEFENDANT knew that based upon their conduct and representations that these employees were not adequately informed of their rights and intended that employees would be confused as to their rights so as to deprive the employees of the benefits as to which they were entitled under the terms of the plans.

- 61. PLAINTIFFS, on behalf of themselves and on behalf of the CLASS, request a judicial declaration of the rights of the parties pursuant to the terms of the ERISA plan, and further requests a judicial declaration that DEFENDANTS are required to disclose and comply with the terms of the plans for purposes of determining participation in and/or eligibility for the ERISA plan. To date, Defendant has failed to adequately inform site attendant and floater employees about Defendants' benefit plans and the terms thereof.
- 62. PLAINTIFFS, on behalf of themselves and on behalf of the CLASS, seek injunctive relief requiring the plan fiduciary to correct ERISA plan participation and all other equitable relief available to PLAINTIFFS and the CLASS, pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 1132(a)(3). All site attendant and floater employees of DEFENDANTS are beneficiaries under the express terms of the DEFENDANTS' benefit plans. PLAINTIFFS, on behalf of themselves and on behalf of the CLASS, seek appropriate relief as a result of the violations of DEFENDANTS' responsibilities, obligations and duties as plan administrator, pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 1132(a)(2). PLAINTIFFS, on

behalf of themselves and on behalf of the CLASS, seek to recover benefits due to them under the terms of DEFENDANTS' plans and to clarify and enforce their rights under the terms of DEFENDANTS' plans, pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 1132(a)(1). PLAINTIFFS and the other members of the CLASS could not have sought relief from the plan administrator, who was the DEFENDANT, because DEFENDANT uniformly failed to disclose the terms of the plan and always took the position that site attendant and floater employees were not eligible to benefits under the terms of the plans. The DEFENDANTS' employee handbook also stated to each site attendant and floater employee that they were not eligible for benefits.

- 63. 29 U.S.C. § 1132(g) entitles a plaintiff who prevails in obtaining any of the above relief to an award of reasonable attorneys' fees and costs under the remedial purposes and policies of ERISA. As a result of the conduct of DEFENDANTS, as ERISA plan fiduciary, PLAINTIFFS have been forced to retain and in fact retained legal counsel and have necessarily incurred attorneys' fees and costs in prosecuting this claim and action. PLAINTIFFS request an award of all attorneys' fees and costs, including a multiplier enhancement of the lodestar fee, according to law in an amount to be determined.
- 64. Further, to the extent that DEFENDANTS, as the ERISA plan fiduciary, are found to have violated any provision of ERISA, PLAINTIFFS seek all appropriate and available relief for such violations.

SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION

For Violation of the Fair Labor Standards Act

[29 U.S.C. § 201 et seq.]

(Against All Defendants)

- 64. PLAINTIFFS, and the other members of the CLASS, reallege and incorporate by this reference, as though fully set forth herein, paragraphs 1 through 63 of this Complaint.
- 65. The Fair Labor Standards Act, 29 U.S.C. §201, et seq., states that an employee must be compensated for all hours worked, including all straight time compensation and overtime compensation. 29 C.F.R. §778.223 and 29 C.F.R. §778.315. This Court has concurrent jurisdiction

over claims involving the Fair Labor Standards Act pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 216.

- 66. PLAINTIFFS and the CLASS were all paid by DEFENDANTS on an hourly basis at a regular and agreed hourly rate. PLAINTIFFS and the CLASS worked more than 40 hours per week, but were not paid compensation for all hours worked, including overtime hours.

 PLAINTIFFS and the CLASS were not "exempt" from the requirements of the Fair Labor Standards Act.
- 67. DEFENDANTS violated the Fair Labor Standards Act by failing to pay hourly employees for all hours worked, including overtime hours, as alleged herein above.

SEVENTH CAUSE OF ACTION

Labor Code Private Attorneys General Act

[Cal. Labor Code § 2698]

(Against Defendant Contain-A-Way, Inc., dba Nexcycle)

- 68. PLAINTIFFS, and the other members of the CLASS, reallege and incorporate by this reference, as though fully set forth herein, paragraphs 1 through 67 of this Complaint.
- 69. On January 23, 2008, Plaintiff gave written notice by certified mail to the Labor and Workforce Development Agency and the employer of the specific provisions of this code alleged to have been violated as required by Labor Code § 2699.3. No notice of an intent to investigate or not investigate was provided by the agency within 33 calendar days of the postmark date of the notice. As a result, pursuant to Section 2699.3, Plaintiff may now commence a civil action pursuant to Section 2699.
- 70. The policies, acts and practices heretofore described were and are an unlawful business act or practice because CONTAIN-A-WAY, INC.'s failure to pay wages, failure to provide rest and meal period breaks, failure to pay wages and compensation for work without rest and meal period breaks and failure to provide accurate wage statements and maintain accurate time records for PLAINTIFFS and the other members of the CLASS violates applicable Labor Code sections and gives rise to statutory penalties as a result of such conduct, including but not limited to penalties as provided by Labor Code §§ 221, 226, 226.7, 558, 1174 and 1194, applicable Industrial Welfare

Commission Wage Orders. PLAINTIFFS, as aggrieved employees, hereby seeks recovery of civil penalties as prescribed by the Labor Code Private Attorney General Act of 2004 on behalf of himself and other current and former employees of CONTAIN-A-WAY, INC., dba NEXCYCLE, against whom one or more of the violations of the Labor Code was committed.

PRAYER

WHEREFOR, PLAINTIFFS, on behalf of themselves and the similarly situated CLASS of employees, pray for judgment against each Defendant, jointly and severally, as follows:

1. ON THE FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

- A) For compensatory damages, including lost wages, commissions, bonuses, and other losses, during the period commencing on the date that is four years prior to the date of the filing of this Complaint, according to proof;
 - B) For general damages, according to proof;
 - C) For punitive damages, according to proof;
 - D) For an award of interest, including prejudgment interest at the legal rate;
 - E) For statutory damages, including reasonable attorneys' fees and cost of suit.

2. ON THE SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION

- A) One hour of pay for each workday in which a rest period break was not provided for each four hours of work during the period commencing on the date that is within four years prior to the filing of this Complaint;
 - B) For punitive damages, according to proof;
 - C) For an award of interest, including prejudgment interest at the legal rate;
 - D) For attorneys' fees and costs.

1	DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL			
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3	3 PLAINTIFFS demand jury trial on	PLAINTIFFS demand jury trial on issues triable to a jury.		
4	Dated: April 14, 2008	BLUMENTHAL & NORDREHAUG		
5	5	Rv. s/Norman R Rlumenthal		
6	5	By: s/Norman B. Blumenthal Norman B. Blumenthal Attorneys for Plaintiffs		
7	7	7 tuorneys for 1 faments		
8		UNITED EMPLOYEES LAW GROUP Walter Haines, Esq.		
9		Walter Haines, Esq. 65 Pine Ave, #312 Long Beach, CA 90802 Telephone: (562) 256-1047 Facsimile: (562) 256-1006		
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