1	Thomas E. Miller, Esq. (Bar No. 57821) Craig Brunet, Esq. (Bar No. 112366)	Electronically FILED by Superior Court of California,
2	James J. Patrick, Esq. (Bar No. 135382)	County of Los Angeles 8/22/2023 12:15 PM
3	THE MILLER LAW FIRM 595 Pacific Ave., 4th Flr.	David W. Slayton, Executive Officer/Clerk of Court, By J. Nunez, Deputy Clerk
4	San Francisco, CA 94133 (415) 437-1800 / Fax: (415) 437-0177	-,,,p,
5	tmiller@constructiondefects.com	
6	Attorneys for Plaintiff ALDEA COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION	
7		
8	SUPERIOR COURT OF TH	E STATE OF CALIFORNIA
9	IN AND FOR THE COU	NTY OF LOS ANGELES
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11	ALDEA COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION,	CASE NO.: 238TCV20094
12	a California nonprofit, mutual benefit corporation,	COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES:
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14	Plaintiff,	1. Violation of Building Standards (<i>Civil Code</i> §§ 895 - 897)
15	vs.	2. Negligence (Design Professionals)3. Strict Liability (Components)
16		4. Breach of Fiduciary Duty5. Violation of Governing Documents
17	PORTER RANCH DEVELOPMENT CO., a California joint venture comprised of	
18	SHAPELL INDUSTRIES, INC., a Delaware corporation and LIBERTY BUILDING	DEMAND FOR JUDICIAL REFERENCE (Code of Civil Procedure § 638(a))
19	COMPANY, a California corporation;	
20	SHAPELL INDUSTRIES, INC., a Delaware corporation;	
21	LIBERTY BUILDING COMPANY, a California corporation;	
22	TOLL BROTHERS, INC., a Delaware	
23	corporation; PRD INVESTORS, INC., a Delaware	
24	corporation; PRD INVESTORS, LLC, a California	
25	limited liability company; and	
26	DOES 1 – 150, inclusive,	
27	Defendants.	
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	COMPLAINTE	COD DAMA CEC

COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES

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Plaintiff, ALDEA COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, a California nonprofit, mutual benefit corporation ("ASSOCIATION") hereby alleges against Defendants, and each of them, and states as follows:

GENERAL AND FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

- 1. Plaintiff ASSOCIATION is, and at all relevant times was, a nonprofit, mutual benefit corporation duly organized and existing by virtue of the laws of the State of California, with its principal place of business located in the City of Los Angeles, County of Los Angeles, California.
- The ASSOCIATION was formed under the laws of the State of California for the benefit of its members, to manage the affairs of a common interest condominium project consisting of 130 residential units, common areas and exclusive use areas within the Seville section of the Porter Ranch development, located in the Northridge section of Los Angeles, California ("PROJECT").
- ASSOCIATION is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that as part of and pursuant to the Public Reports, Defendants SHAPELL INDUSTRIES, INC. and LIBERTY BUILDING COMPANY, jointly and severally, by and through PORTER RANCH DEVELOPMENT CO., a joint venture comprised of SHAPELL INDUSTRIES, INC., a Delaware corporation LIBERTY BUILDING COMPANY, a California corporation; TOLL BROTHERS, INC., a Delaware corporation; PRD INVESTORS, INC., a Delaware corporation; and PRD INVESTORS, LLC, a California limited liability company, caused and assented to the filing of certain Articles of Incorporation (hereinafter the "Articles") in the Office of the Secretary of State of the State of California, further caused and assented to the preparation and execution of certain Bylaws (hereinafter the "Bylaws") pertaining to ASSOCIATION, and further caused and assented to the recordation of a certain original, amended and restated Declaration of Covenants, Conditions, and Restriction of Easements for Aldea at Porter Ranch that are duly recorded for the subject Los Angeles County property and PROJECT.
- On October 18, 2000, Declarants PORTER RANCH DEVELOPMENT CO., a California joint venture comprised of SHAPELL INDUSTRIES, INC., a Delaware corporation and LIBERTY BUILDING COMPANY, a California corporation, were the declarants who caused to be

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executed and recorded the "First Amendment to the Declaration of Covenants, Conditions, and Restriction of Easements for Porter Ranch Maintenance Association" as Document No. 00-1621367 in the Recorder's Office, County of Los Angeles, State of California.

- 5. On November 10, 2008, Defendants PORTER RANCH DEVELOPMENT CO., a California joint venture comprised of SHAPELL INDUSTRIES, INC., a Delaware corporation and LIBERTY BUILDING COMPANY, a California corporation, were the declarants who caused to be executed and recorded the "Amended and Restated Declaration of Covenants, Conditions, and Restriction of Easements for Aldea at Porter Ranch" as Document No. 2008-1984762 in the Recorder's Office, County of Los Angeles, State of California.
- 6. On February 14, 2012, Defendants PORTER RANCH DEVELOPMENT CO., a California joint venture comprised of SHAPELL INDUSTRIES, INC., a Delaware corporation and LIBERTY BUILDING COMPANY, a California corporation, were the declarants who caused to be executed and recorded the "Master Homeowner Title 7 Declaration for Aldea" as Document No. 2012-0246428 in the Recorder's Office, County of Los Angeles, State of California.
- 7. On March 30, 2015, Defendants PORTER RANCH DEVELOPMENT CO., a California joint venture, by and through SHAPELL INDUSTRIES, INC., a Delaware corporation, PRD INVESTORS, INC., a Delaware corporation; and PRD INVESTORS, LLC, a California limited liability company, were the declarants who caused to be executed and recorded the "Supplemental Declaration of Covenants, Conditions, and Restriction of Easements for Aldea at Porter Ranch" as Document No. 2015-0338795 in the Recorder's Office, County of Los Angeles, State of California.
- On March 30, 2015, Defendants PORTER RANCH DEVELOPMENT CO., a 8. California joint venture, by and through SHAPELL INDUSTRIES, INC., a Delaware corporation, PRD INVESTORS, INC., a Delaware corporation; and PRD INVESTORS, LLC, a California limited liability company, were the declarants who caused to be executed and recorded the "Notice of Addition of Territory and Supplemental Declaration of Covenants, Conditions, and Restriction of Easements for Aldea at Porter Ranch" as Document No. 2015-0338794 in the Recorder's Office, County of Los Angeles, State of California.

- 9. The above-referenced Declarations of Covenants, Conditions, Restrictions and Reservation of Easements for Aldea at Porter Ranch (hereinafter the "CC&Rs") and the Articles and Bylaws are hereinafter collectively referred to as the "Governing Documents."
- 10. The ASSOCIATION is empowered under California law with authority to exercise all powers of a non-profit mutual benefit corporation operating for the benefit of and on behalf of the members of ASSOCIATION, consisting of the owners of condominiums within the common interest development. Subject to the provisions of the ASSOCIATION'S Governing Documents, the ASSOCIATION provides for the protection, preservation, maintenance, restoration, and repairs, of common areas and the other separate interests that the ASSOCIATION is obligated to maintain, repair, or replace under the Governing Documents.
- 11. The true names and capacities, whether individual, corporate, associate or otherwise, of Defendants DOES 1 through 150, inclusive, are unknown to ASSOCIATION, who therefore sues said Defendants by such fictitious names pursuant to *Code of Civil Procedure* § 474. ASSOCIATION is informed and believes and thereon alleges that the liability of DOES 1 through 150 inclusive, arises out of the same general facts as set forth herein. The ASSOCIATION will seek to amend this Complaint to assert the names and/or theories of liability against said fictitiously named Defendants when those bases have been ascertained.
- 12. The ASSOCIATION is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that each of said DOE Defendants were and are business entities, organizations, joint ventures, partnerships, associations, public entities, public agencies, individuals and co-conspirators who participated either as investors, construction consultants, inspectors, accountants, brokers, and agents involved in the financing, acquisition, ownership, subdivision, design, development, improvement, incorporation, budget preparation, mass production, construction, inspection, promotion, sale, initial management and/or maintenance of the PROJECT, and are responsible in some manner for the events and happenings herein referred to, and proximately caused the damages alleged by the ASSOCIATION.
- 13. The ASSOCIATION is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that at all relevant times herein mentioned, each Defendant was the agent and/or employee of the remaining Defendants and was acting within the course and scope of said agency and/or employment with respect to the acts

complained of in this Complaint and with the full knowledge, ratification, and consent, either express or implied, of each other. As such and based upon the theories of liability asserted in this Complaint, Defendants are jointly and severally liable to the ASSOCIATION.

- 14. The ASSOCIATION is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, Defendant SHAPELL INDUSTRIES, INC. ("SHAPELL") is a Delaware limited liability company, registered with the California Secretary of State, with its principal place of business in the State of California. The ASSOCIATION alleges on information and belief, that at all relevant tines, SHAPELL has been in the business of developing, building, financing, constructing, marketing, and selling residential condominium units to members of the public, including the PROJECT. SHAPELL is a "Declarant" in the Governing Documents of the PROJECT and the seller of residential units within the PROJECT.
- 15. The ASSOCIATION is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, Defendant LIBERTY BUILDING COMPANY ("LIBERTY") is a California corporation, registered to do business with the California Secretary of State, with its principal place of business in the State of California. The ASSOCIATION alleges on information and belief, that at all relevant times, LIBERTY has been in the business of developing, building, financing, constructing, marketing, and selling residential condominium units to members of the public, including the PROJECT. LIBERTY is a "Declarant" in the Governing Documents of the PROJECT and the seller of residential units within the PROJECT.
- 16. Together, Defendants SHAPELL and LIBERTY formed "PORTER RANCH DEVELOPMENT CO., a joint venture comprised of SHAPELL INDUSTRIES, INC., a Delaware corporation and LIBERTY BUILDING COMPANY, a California corporation," along with Defendants TOLL BROTHERS, INC., PRD INVESTORS, INC. and PRD INVESTORS, LLC, which joint venture is the "Declarant" in the Governing Documents of the PROJECT and the seller of residential units within the PROJECT.
- 17. The ASSOCIATION is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, SHAPELL and LIBERTY, individually and collectively by and through their joint venture PORTER RANCH DEVELOPMENT CO., and DOES 1 through 40, and later, with along with Defendants TOLL

BROTHERS, INC., PRD INVESTORS, INC. and PRD INVESTORS, LLC (hereinafter collectively referred to as "BUILDER" or 'BUILDERS") developed, planned, funded, improved, designed, constructed, promoted, marketed, advertised, and sold units within the PROJECT to individual members of the ASSOCIATION and/or their predecessors, and was in the business of developing and marketing new residential housing to the public. The ASSOCIATION is further informed and believes and alleges based thereon that each BUILDER is a Builder within the meaning of *Civil Code* § 911 and is jointly and severally liable to the ASSOCIATION for violation of the building standards of residential construction enumerated in *Civil Code* §§ 895 - 897.

18. The ASSOCIATION is informed and believes and thereon alleges that Defendants SHAPELL and LIBERTY, individually and collectively by and through their joint venture PORTER RANCH DEVELOPMENT CO., TOLL BROTHERS, INC., PRD INVESTORS, INC., and PRD INVESTORS, LLC, were at all relevant times mentioned herein the alter-ego and/or agents and representatives of DOES 1 through 40, and were undercapitalized, operated as a shell company, and operated as a instrumentality and conduit of DOES 1 through 40 for the purpose of carrying out their business in corporate name only, operated with such unity of interest and ownership that separate business identity, independent management and/or operation was disregarded and they existed and operated as the alter ego of DOES 1 through 40, inclusive, and left the PROJECT insufficient capital to cover foreseeable liabilities.

- 19. On information and belief, the ASSOCIATION alleges that Defendants DOES 41 through 70 (sometimes collectively referred to as "DESIGNERS"), are architects, engineers, geologists, consultants, designers and/or design-build contractors, who provided professional services relating to the planning, design, engineering, and construction of the PROJECT. DESIGNERS prepared plans, drawings, specifications, developed timelines, reviewed draw requests, prepared drawings, addressed submittals, responded to requests for information, and observed construction of the PROJECT.
- 20. On information and belief, the ASSOCIATION alleges that Defendants DOES 71 through 120 (sometimes collectively referred to as "CONTRACTORS") were contractors, subcontractors, testing companies and consultants who conducted and/or oversaw construction of the

21. Upon information and belief, the ASSOCIATION alleges that during the development and construction of the PROJECT, BUILDERS, DESIGNERS and CONTRACTORS acted in concert, and worked jointly in the development and construction of the PROJECT. Said Defendants attended joint meetings, jointly reviewed plans, submitted and responded to change order requests, made proposals, recommended materials, options and alternatives, discussed and engaged in electronic and written communications with each other and other third parties concerning the development, design and/or construction of the PROJECT.

- 22. Upon information and belief, Defendants DOES 121 through 130 (sometimes collectively referred to as "SUPPLIERS") selected and supplied materials and components to be used in the construction and/or sale of units within the PROJECT to the public, including but not limited to the ASSOCIATION'S members and their predecessors.
- 23. Upon information and belief, Defendant DOES 131 through 150 (sometimes collectively referred to as "MANUFACTURERS") manufactured materials and/or component parts used in the construction of the PROJECT.
- 24. ASSOCIATION is informed and believes and thereon alleges that BUILDERS formed the ASSOCIATION, and caused it to accept management, operation, and control of the common areas and various aspects of the PROJECT.
- 25. On information and belief, BUILDER'S business includes setting up and funding homeowner associations for new residential developments and operating such associations through BUILDER-controlled directors, management companies, accountants, vendors.
- 26. In connection with the preparation of budgets and reserves, the BUILDERS omitted necessary information about foreseeable costs and expenses related to the corrections of poor construction, underestimated the scope and magnitude of foreseeable expenses and/or the cost of replacement of PROJECT components, and understated the cost of repair of long-term components and capital improvements requiring repair and/or replacement before the normal expiration of the useful life of the components that the ASSOCIATION is required to maintain, repair and replace, and, exaggerated the expected useful life of components they were required to

properly review, investigate and examine as part of their reserve budget preparation.

- 27. The residential PROJECT was built with multiple deficiencies and Building Standard Violations, as more fully described in **Exhibit "A"** attached to this Complaint and incorporated herein by reference. The construction defects and Building Standard Violations referenced in **Exhibit "A,"** in addition to other currently unascertained defects existing at the PROJECT, are collectively referred to as the "PROJECT DEFECTS." The PROJECT DEFECTS were proximately caused by Defendants' actions and/or omissions, jointly and severally during planning, design and/or construction of the PROJECT.
- 28. The ASSOCIATION has been damaged as a result of PROJECT DEFECTS. PROJECT DEFECTS have caused physical damage to the PROJECT, including damage to ASSOCIATION common areas and areas which the ASSOCIATION is obligated to maintain, repair or replace. PROJECT DEFECTS and the resulting repair process impair habitability of residential units and the use of community amenities. Upon information and belief, the PROJECT DEFECTS and necessary repairs have and will continue to result in relocation and storage expenses, loss of business income, and reasonable investigative expenses.
- 29. The ASSOCIATION has incurred, and will continue to incur, costs and expenses to investigate and evaluate the nature and extent of the PROJECT DEFECTS, the nature and extent of resulting damage, and the scope and cost of repairing such matters.
- 30. BUILDER, DESIGNERS, CONTRACTORS, MANUFACTURERS and SUPPLIERS designed, supplied, installed, constructed, tested, managed, and developed the PROJECT, including buildings, structures, improvements, recreational facilities, HVAC equipment, and their component parts, in a deficient and defective manner and/or in violation of the Building Standard Violations, and caused the ASSOCIATION to be damaged. The damages to the ASSOCIATION exceed the minimum jurisdiction of this Court.
- 31. Pursuant to California *Civil Code* § 5980, the ASSOCIATION has standing to institute litigation "in its own name as the real party in interest and without joining with it the members, in matters pertaining to the following: ... (b) Damage to the common area. (c) Damage to a separate interest that the association is obligated to maintain or repair [or] (d) Damage to a separate interest

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that arises out of, or is integrally related to, damage to the common area or a separate interest that the association is obligated to maintain or repair." (See *Windham at Carmel Mountain Ranch Assn. v. Superior Court*, 109 Cal. App. 4th 1162, 1175 (2003), ("the legislative intent of section [5980] is to give associations the standing to sue as real parties in interest in all types of actions for damage to common areas").

- 32. The ASSOCIATION, by and through its board of directors, is authorized pursuant to its CC&Rs, California *Civil Code* § 5980 and applicable California case law, to bring all of the causes of action alleged in this Complaint against Defendants for the damages to the common areas, for damages to the separate interests that the ASSOCIATION is obligated to maintain or repair, and for damages to separate interests that arise out of, or that are integrally related to, damage to the common areas or separate interests that the ASSOCIATION is obligated to maintain or repair. The ASSOCIATION has fulfilled all conditions and requirements under the *Civil Code* and the Governing Documents. As such, the ASSOCIATION brings this action in part to recover monetary damages that are sufficient to repair all defective conditions and damages noted above.
- 33. In compliance with the claim procedures set forth in Article 12, Section 12.13 of the CC&Rs, on or about July 20, 2023, the ASSOCIATION served both SHAPELL and LIBERTY with an initial Notice of Dispute pursuant to Civil Code sections 910 and 6000.
- 34. In accordance with the Governing Documents, the ASSOCIATION'S action against Defendants and declarants SHAPELL, LIBERTY, TOLL BROTHERS, INC., PRD INVESTORS, INC., and PRD INVESTORS, LLC, and DOES 1 through 150 shall be tried as Judicial Reference in accordance with California *Code of Civil Procedure* §§ 638 *et seq.* Accordingly, ASSOCIATION hereby requests Judicial Reference of this Complaint.
- 35. The ASSOCIATION has performed all pre-litigation conditions and obligations required of it under the CC&Rs and California law, including but not limited to the provisions of *Civil Code* §§ 895 through 945.5 and 6000 *et seq*.

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

(Violations of the Residential Building Standards as set forth in California Civil Code §§ 895 - 897)

Against All Defendants and DOES 1 through 150

- 36. The ASSOCIATION incorporates and realleges, as though fully set forth in this cause of action, each of the preceding paragraphs of this Complaint.
- 37. The ASSOCIATION is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that BUILDERS, CONTRACTORS, SUPPLIERS and MANUFACTURERS provided services and/or materials as developer, builder, seller, general contractor, subcontractor, architect, engineer, consultant, manufacturer, and/or material supplier and developed, planned, advised, managed, built, installed, constructed, improved, graded, performed work at, supplied and/or manufactured materials for the development, construction, marketing and sale of the PROJECT.
- 38. The PROJECT was constructed in violation of the residential building standards set forth in California *Civil Code* §§ 895-897, as more thoroughly described in **Exhibit "A"** hereto.
- 39. The PROJECT DEFECTS have caused physical damage to the common areas and areas of the PROJECT which the ASSOCIATION is obligated to maintain, repair, and/or replace under the Governing Documents. Upon information and belief, the separate interests of unit owners have been damaged because of Building Standard Violations integrally related to property which the ASSOCIATION is obligated to maintain and repair. The ASSOCIATION's investigation is continuing, and additional Building Standard Violations may be discovered as this Complaint proceeds.
- 40. As a direct and proximate result of the Building Standard Violations, the ASSOCIATION has sustained and will continue to sustain damages, for the value of repairing any violation of the standards set forth in *Civil Code* § 895-897, the reasonable cost of repairing any damages caused by the repair efforts, the reasonable cost of repairing and rectifying any damages resulting from the failure of the units to meet the standards, the reasonable cost of removing and replacing any improper repair by the BUILDER, reasonable relocation and storage expenses, lost business income if the unit was used as a principal place of business licensed to be operated from

the unit, reasonable investigative costs for each established violation, and all other costs or fees recoverable by contract or statute, all as set forth in California *Civil Code* § 944.

41. Notwithstanding having been provided the opportunity to do so, BUILDER has failed to correct PROJECT DEFECTS, failed to repair physical damages resulting from such Building Standard Violations, and failed to reimburse the ASSOCIATION for its investigative fees. The ASSOCIATION has performed all conditions precedent required of it under California Law and/or pursuant to its Governing Documents.

WHEREFORE, the ASSOCIATION prays for judgment as hereinafter set forth.

SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION

(Negligence of Design Professionals)

Against DESIGNERS and DOES 41-70

- 42. The ASSOCIATION incorporates and re-alleges each allegation contained in the preceding paragraphs as if set forth fully herein.
- 43. The ASSOCIATION is charged with the responsibility to maintain and repair ASSOCIATION property and common area improvements within the PROJECT. The ASSOCIATION is informed, believes, and thereon alleges that DESIGNERS entered into agreements, whether in writing or oral, with the other Defendants herein for the purpose of providing architectural services in connection with the development of the PROJECT and the construction of the subject improvements, and conducted construction project management for, the construction of the PROJECT.
- 44. The ASSOCIATION is informed, believes, and thereon alleges that BUILDERS and CONTRACTORS entered into written contracts with other Defendants herein to provide design, work, labor, and materials, in connection with the construction of the PROJECT.
- 45. DESIGNERS, and each of them, drew the plans and specifications, and/or engaged in periodic site observations and contract administration respecting the design, development, and construction of the PROJECT and the improvements thereon with the knowledge that said property would be sold to and used by members of the public, including the members of the ASSOCIATION. In so doing, DESIGNERS, and each of them, caused the property and the improvements thereon to

be constructed through their own services. The ASSOCIATION is informed and believes and thereon alleges that DESIGNERS were paid for their services on the PROJECT, making it fair and equitable for these parties to have a duty of care to the ASSOCIATION. The exact amount of compensation received by these parties is presently unknown but will be proven at trial.

- 46. DESIGNERS, and each of them, were under a duty to conform to minimal standard of care of professional engineers, architects, waterproofing consultants, and contract administrators, and to avoid foreseeable injury, including property damage and loss of use, to users and purchasers of the property and improvements, and knew or should have foreseen with reasonable certainty that the PROJECT would suffer property and monetary damage set forth herein if said Defendants, and each of them, failed to perform their duty to cause the property and improvements to be developed, designed, and constructed in a proper and workmanlike fashion.
- 47. In performing the works of an engineer, architect, designers, and project manager, DESIGNERS performed their services in a manner that was below the applicable standard of care for architects, engineers, designer, and project managers. Said Defendants negligently planned and designed the buildings and the common areas for the PROJECT in that the details provided were insufficient, and incapable of being properly executed; negligently failed to warn that their designs would result in conditions as described and alleged herein, cause property damage, and violated statutory requirements including but not limited to *Civil Code* §§ 895-897; negligently failed to properly observe the work in progress; and negligently failed to observe and report Building Standard Violations to the other Defendants identified herein. DESIGNERS negligently designed the PROJECT by, among other things, failing to prepare and disseminate adequate: (1) specifications for the application and use of Defendants' products and materials, and/or (2) precautions to be taken in connection with the installation thereof; and (3) failed to employ adequate quality control to ensure that such products and materials were free of Building Standard Violations.
- 48. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' failure to conform to, and breach of the minimal standard of care of their profession, the PROJECT has sustained damages as set forth herein, the exact amounts of which will be proven at trial.

THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION

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Against MANUFACTURERS, SUPPLIERS and DOES 121 through 150

49. The ASSOCIATION incorporates and re-alleges each allegation contained in the preceding paragraphs as if set forth fully herein.

(Strict Liability - Components)

- 50. MANUFACTURERS designed, manufactured, marketed, and sold component parts which were defective, inadequate and/or incompatible with the intended use PROJECT, and which were known and/or reasonably certain to cause physical damage, corrosion and degradation to the components and adjacent building assemblies. MANUFACTURERS of component parts within the PROJECT, knew and/or were reasonably certain that developers and contractors would use and install the MANUFACTURERS' mass-produced components parts within developments such as the PROJECT. MANUFACTURERS of component parts within the PROJECT knew and/or were reasonably certain that end-users of the component parts such as the ASSOCIATION would justifiably rely on the MANUFACTURERS' expertise and would purchase condominium units with such component parts without knowledge of material defects and deficiencies.
- 51. MANUFACTURERS and SUPPLIERS of products and components were an integral part of the overall producing, marketing, and distribution enterprise of the component parts.
- 52. MANUFACTURERS and SUPPLIERS had a duty to provide defect-free products and to warn the end-users such as the ASSOCIATION of defects which foreseeably would cause damage to the ASSOCIATION property or to property it maintains and repairs under the Governing Documents and/or damage to adjacent component systems. As a result, MANUFACTURERS and SUPPLIERS are strictly liable for all damages within the PROJECT from defective and/or incompatible manufactured components parts.
- 53. Components produced by MANUFACTURERS and/or distributed for use in the construction and development of PROJECT by SUPPLIERS contained defects, were not reasonably fit for their intended purpose, and have caused property damage, corrosion and degradation to the components and adjacent building assemblies and components systems.

- 54. At all times mentioned herein, these building structures, improvements, and component parts thereof have been used in the manner for which they were designed and intended.
- 55. As a direct and proximate result of defects the PROJECT has sustained physical damage as set forth herein, the exact amounts of which will be proven at the time of trial.

WHEREFORE, the ASSOCIATION prays for judgment as hereinafter set forth.

FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION

(Breach of Fiduciary Duty)

Against BUILDERS and DOES 1-40

- 56. The ASSOCIATION incorporates and re-alleges each allegation contained in the preceding paragraphs as if set forth fully herein.
- 57. In order to comply with and complete the legal formalities necessary to sell the individual units for profit, BUILDERS formed the ASSOCIATION (as an incorporated owner's association) pursuant to Articles of Incorporation filed with the Secretary of State, prepared and recorded the ASSOCIATION'S Governing Documents, and completed applicable subdivision procedures with the California Department of Real Estate ("DRE").
- 58. In preparing these materials, BUILDERS, their agent and representatives owed a fiduciary duty to the ASSOCIATION, as well as to the existing and future purchasers of the units, to act in the best interests of the ASSOCIATION in all respects, including the creation of an adequate reserve fund, the scheduling of dues and reserves for the future maintenance and capital repair requirements of the PROJECT, the protection and preservation of all improvements, the collection of assessments, the payment of assessments on unsold units, the management of the association, the maintenance of the PROJECT, the enforcement of the governing documents, and compliance with all duties and responsibilities imposed by the Governing Documents.
- 59. The ASSOCIATION is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that as developers, BUILDERS, had a fiduciary duty to adequately finance, acquire, own, design, develop, improve, incorporate, budget for, inspect, promote, sell, manage and maintain the common area in good faith and in a reasonable manner; to repair, replace or disclose the defects at the common area; to disclose material facts to the ASSOCIATION concerning improvements within the PROJECT, to prepare

accurate reserve budgets for the ASSOCIATION's use, and to fund the ASSOCIATION's reserve accounts in accordance with an accurate budget such that the ASSOCIATION could carry out its responsibilities in accordance with the Governing Documents and Davis Sterling Act, *Civil Code* §§ 4000 et seq.

- 60. The budgets, reserves and dues schedules prepared by or at the direction of BUILDERS were submitted to the DRE and subsequently provided by the BUILDERS to prospective purchasers with the express and implied representation that the operating and reserve funds were adequate for the immediate and long-term operation, maintenance of common areas, components and those portions of the PROJECT the Association is obligated to maintain, repair and/or replace under the Governing Documents.
- 61. BUILDERS breached their duty of care and duty of loyalty owed to the ASSOCIATION while the ASSOCIATION was under the BUILDERS' control. BUILDERS, their agents and representatives neglected to adequately prepare or evaluate budgets containing both operating funds and reserve funds for maintenance and long-term replacement of common areas, components and those portions of the PROJECT the Association is obligated to maintain, repair and/or replace under the Governing Documents. BUILDERS neglected to adequately evaluate dues payable by the future unit owners to adequately maintain operating and reserve funds. BUILDERS provided inadequate budgets and deficient funding of reserves for the ASSOCIATION, including the funding and maintenance of a secure location for packages and deliveries, and inadequately funded reserves for the ASSOCIATION to fund and maintain surveillance and security of common areas within the PROJECT. As a result, budgets, reserves, and dues did not provide a good faith estimate of protected operating costs or reserve requirements.
- 62. BUILDERS breached their fiduciary duty by omitting components from the ASSOCIATION budgets and reserves they were required to identify and include in the reserve documents; underestimated the cost of repair of long-term components and capital improvements, over-estimated and exaggerated the useful life of long-term components and capital improvements they were required to properly review, to investigate, and to examine as part of their reserve scheduling. As a result, information provided to prospective buyers and owners regarding operating

budgets, dues and reserve projections were artificially low, which facilitated marketing and sales of units to the public.

- 63. BUILDERS knew or should have known of deficiencies in construction, design, and/or building performance at the PROJECT, and notwithstanding this knowledge and/or in response to the urging by others, failed to take reasonable and necessary action on behalf of the ASSOCIATION to hold the BUILDER accountable for Building Standard Violations under *Civil Code* §§ 895-897.
- 64. BUILDERS breached their fiduciary duty and violated their relationship of trust and confidence by, among other things, failing to properly estimate, budget and schedule adequate dues and reserves for the future operation and maintenance of the PROJECT, failing to hold the BUILDER accountable for Building Standard Violations under *Civil Code* §§ 895-897 as described; failing to assess and collect dues, and adequately fund the reserves; failing to preserve and protect the interests of the ASSOCIATION and its future members; and failing to properly carry out the duties and responsibilities as an incorporator, as imposed by law and the formal Governing Documents.
- 65. As a direct and proximate result of such conduct, the ASSOCIATION has sustained consequential damages as set forth herein, the exact amounts of which will be proven at the time of trial.

WHEREFORE, the ASSOCIATION prays for judgment as hereinafter set forth.

FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION

(For Violation of Governing Documents)

Against BUILDERS and DOES 1-40

- 66. ASSOCIATION repeats and re-alleges each allegation contained in the preceding paragraphs as if set forth fully herein.
- 67. During the time BUILDERS and DOES 1 through 40 owned a majority of condominium units at the PROJECT, BUILDERS and DOES 1 through 40 were members of ASSOCIATION, controlled the Board of Directors of ASSOCIATION, and were required to comply with the Governing Documents as well as all statutes pertaining to nonprofit mutual benefit corporations.

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68. During the time BUILDERS and DOES 1 through 40 controlled the Board of Directors of ASSOCIATION, each violated various provisions of the Governing Documents including, but not limited to, provisions requiring that ASSOCIATION maintain, repair, and replace the Common Areas in a safe, sanitary, and attractive condition, and provisions requiring that ASSOCIATION prepare operating and reserve budgets that are consistent with ASSOCIATION'S expenses. BUILDERS and DOES 1 through 40 further failed to pay their share of member dues for the units still in their possession as well as other financial obligations owed to ASSOCIATION pursuant to the Governing Documents.

69. As a direct and proximate cause of the conduct of BUILDERS and DOES 1 through 40, ASSOCIATION has actual and consequential damages, in an amount to be proven at the arbitration hearing. Said damages include, without limitation, the costs associated with expert investigation of the major components and systems at the development, the costs associated with temporary repairs of defects and resultant damage during the course of this dispute, the cost to replace building components that have exceeded their useful life, the cost associated with repairing building components to a level commensurate with the existing line item in the reserve budgets, the cost associated with funding the reserves for the repair or replacement of building components that were improperly excluded from the budgets, the costs associated with the repair of physical damage to property that occurred between the dates of non-disclosure of the substantial defect or malfunction and the date ASSOCIATION can afford to proceed with repairs, the costs associated with the relocation of ASSOCIATION's members during the course of repairs to the extent necessary.

70. ASSOCIATION is additionally entitled to recover attorney fees in accordance with California *Civil Code* Section 5975.

WHEREFORE, ASSOCIATION prays for an award as hereinafter set forth.

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1		PRAYER FOR RELIEF
2		FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION
3		(Violation of the Residential Building Standards as set forth in
4		California Civil Code §§ 895 - 897)
5		Against All Defendants and DOES 1 to 150
6	1.	For general and special damages in an amount to be determined and according to proof at
7		the time of trial.;
8	2.	For prejudgment interest on all sums awarded, at the maximum legal rate;
9	3.	For the reasonable cost of correcting building defects and repairing resulting damages;
10	4.	For the reasonable cost of removing any improper repair by the builder and/or repairing any
11		damages caused by the repair efforts;
12	5.	For reasonable investigative costs;
13	6.	For expert fees and costs;
14	7.	For loss of use of the property;
15	8.	For extra expenses, reasonable relocation and storage expenses;
16	9.	For loss of income;
17	10.	For costs of suit incurred herein; and
18	11.	For such other and further relief as the Referee deems just and proper.
19		SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION
20		(Negligence - Design Professionals)
21		Against DESIGNERS and DOES 41 through 70
22	1.	For general and special damages in an amount to be determined and according to proof at
23		the time of trial;
24	2.	For prejudgment interest on all sums awarded, at the maximum legal rate;
25	3.	For the reasonable cost of correcting and rectifying any damages resulting from the failure
26		of the condominium project and its common elements to meet applicable standards;
27	4.	For the reasonable cost of removing any improper repair by the builder and/or repairing any
28		damages caused by the repair efforts;

1	5.	For reasonable investigative costs;
2	6.	For expert fees and costs;
3	7.	For loss of use of the property;
4	8.	For extra expenses, reasonable relocation and storage expenses;
5	9.	For loss of income;
6	10.	For costs of suit incurred herein; and
7	11.	For such other and further relief as the Referee deems just and proper.
8		THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION
9		(Strict Liability - Components)
10		Against MANUFACTURERS, SUPPLIERS
11		and DOES 121 through 150
12	1.	For general and special damages in an amount to be determined and according to proof at
13		the time of trial;
14	2.	For prejudgment interest on all sums awarded, at the maximum legal rate;
15	3.	For the reasonable cost of correcting building defects and repairing resulting damages;
16	4.	For the reasonable cost of removing any improper repair by the builder and/or repairing any
17		damages caused by the repair efforts;
18	5.	For reasonable investigative costs;
19	6.	For expert fees and costs;
20	7.	For loss of use of the property;
21	8.	For extra expenses, reasonable relocation and storage expenses;
22	9.	For loss of income;
23	10.	For costs of suit incurred herein; and
24	11.	For such other and further relief as the Referee deems just and proper.
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1		FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION
2		(Breach of Fiduciary Duty)
3		Against BUILDERS and DOES 1-40
4	1.	For consequential damages in an amount to be determined and according to proof at the
5		time of trial;
6	2.	For special damages in an amount to be determined and according to proof at the time of
7		trial;
8	3.	For prejudgment interest on all sums awarded, at the maximum legal rate;
9	4.	For reasonable investigative costs for each established violation;
10	5.	For expert fees and costs;
11	6.	For loss of use of the property;
12	7.	For extra expenses, reasonable relocation costs and storage expenses;
13	8.	For loss of business income;
14	9.	For costs of suit incurred herein; and
15	10.	For such other and further relief as the Referee deems just and proper.
16		FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION
17		(For Violation of Governing Documents)
18		Against BUILDERS and DOES 1-40
19	1.	For consequential damages in an amount to be determined and according to proof at the
20		time of trial;
21	2.	For prejudgment interest on all sums awarded, at the maximum legal rate;
22	3.	For reasonable investigative costs for each established violation;
23	4.	For expert fees and costs;
24	5.	For loss of use of the property;
25	6.	For extra expenses, reasonable relocation costs and storage expenses;
26	7.	For loss of business income;
27	8.	For costs of suit incurred herein; and
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1	9. For such other and further relief as the Referee deems just and proper.
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3	Dated: August <u>21</u> , 2023 THE MILLER LAW FIRM
4	To see
5	By: Thomas E. Miller, Esq.
6	Craig W. Brunet, Esq. James J. Patrick, Esq.
7	Attorney for Plaintiff, ALDEA COMMUNITY
8	ASSOCIATION
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EXHIBIT "A"

PRELIMINARY LIST OF BUILDING STANDARD VIOLATIONS **ACTIONABLE VIOLATIONS UNDER CALIFORNIA CIVIL CODE §§ 895 – 897, 1375**

PRELIMINARY LIST OF BUILDING STANDARD VIOLATIONS

Pursuant to California Civil Code sections California Civil Code section 6000, and further pursuant to California Civil Code section 910 et seg. this Notice of Commencement of Legal Proceedings shall constitute notice and contain a list of deficiencies and violations of the construction standards found in California Civil Code sections 895, 896(a)-(g) and 897 (hereafter referred to as "Building Standard Violations") damaging and/or concerning Common Areas of the Project and areas of the Project which the Homeowners' Association is obligated to repair and maintain.

WITH RESPECT TO WATER ISSUES Α.

- 1. DOORS: Defective construction/installation of mechanical room and balcony doors of the Project to as to allow unintended water to pass beyond, around, or through the door or its designed or actual moisture barriers. Civil Code §§ 895; 896(a)(1)(2)(3), 896(g)(3)(A); 897.
- 2. WINDOWS/DOORS: Defective construction/installation of windows of the Project to as to allow water to pass beyond, around, or through the window or its designed or actual moisture barriers, including, without limitation, internal barriers within the systems themselves and/or allow excessive condensation to enter the structure and cause damage. For purposes of this paragraph, "systems" include, without limitation, windows, window assemblies, framing, substrate, flashings, and trim, if any. Civil Code §§ 895; 896(a)(2)(3), 896(g)(3)(A); 897.
- 3. WINDOWS/DOORS: Windows, exterior and interior doors, patio doors, deck doors, sliding glass deck doors, and their systems throughout the Project allow excessive condensation to pass beyond, around, or through the windows, patio doors, or deck doors or their designed or actual moisture barriers, including, without limitation, internal barriers within the systems themselves. For purposes of this paragraph, "systems" include, without limitation, windows, window assemblies, framing, substrate, flashings, and trim, if any. Civil Code §§ 895; 896(a)(2)(3), 896(g)(3)(A); 897.
- 4. ROOFS: Roofs, roofing systems, and ventilation components of common areas of the Project, allow water to enter the Project or to pass beyond, around or through the designed or actual moisture barriers, including, without limitation, internal barriers located within the systems themselves. For purposes of this paragraph, "systems" include, without limitation, framing, substrate, and sheathing, if any. Civil Code §§ 895; 896(a)(4)(5), 896(g)(3)(A); 897.
- 5. DECKS/BALCONIES: Defective construction of exclusive use deck waterproofing systems and associated integrations results in unintended water passing into the adjacent structure and/or into the waterproofing system itself causing damage. Decks, deck systems, including the podium deck, the topping slab, exclusive use unit decks, rooftop community

decks, related deck systems, balconies, balcony systems, exterior stairs, related stair systems and related water proofing and water proofing systems throughout the Project allow water to pass into the Project. For purposes of this paragraph, "systems" include, without limitation, framing, substrate, flashing, and sheathing, if any. *Civil Code* §§ 895; 896(a)(5)(6)(10)(11),896(g)(3)(A); 897.

- 6. DECKS/BALCONIES: Decks, deck systems, including the podium deck, the topping slab, exclusive use unit decks, rooftop community decks, related deck systems, balconies, balcony systems, exterior stairs, related stair systems and related water proofing and water proofing systems of the Project allow water to pass into the adjacent structure or within the systems themselves and cause damage to the systems. For purposes of this paragraph, "systems" include, without limitation, framing, substrate, flashing, and sheathing, if any. *Civil Code* §§ 895; 896(a)(5)(6)(10)(11), 896(g)(3)(A); 897.
- 7. HARDSCAPE: Defective construction/installation of hardscape/landscaping/drainage systems in such a way as to cause water to enter into or come in contact with the structure so as to cause damage to another building components. *Civil Code* §§ 895; 896(a)(9); 897.
- 8. HARDSCAPE: Common area hardscape, including paths and patios, irrigation systems, landscaping systems, and drainage systems at the Project that were installed as part of the original construction, were installed in such a way as to cause water or soil erosion to enter into and come into contact with the Project so as to cause damage to other building components. *Civil Code* §§ 895; 896(a)(9); 897.
- 9. HARDSCAPE: Defective construction of soils and engineered retaining walls causes damage to the structure built upon the soil/engineered wall or the land upon which no structure is built to become unsuitable for the purpose represented at the time of original sale by the builder. *Civil Code* §§ 895; 896(a)(9); 897. *Civil Code* §§ 895; 896(a)(9); 897.
- 10. BUILDING ENVELOPE: Defective construction of building Stucco and associated components so as to allow unintended water to pass into the adjoining structure and/or beyond, around or through the designed or actual moisture barriers of the system, and/or cause cracking to exterior siding, exterior stairs and exterior stair wells, exterior walls, related waterproofing systems, including, without limitation, exterior framing, other exterior wall finishes and fixtures and components, and horizontal surfaces for the Project allow unintended water to pass beyond, around, or through the designed or actual moisture barriers of each system, including any internal barriers located within the system itself. *Civil Code* §§ 895; 896(a)(10)(11); 897.
- 11. BUILDING ENVELOPE: Stucco, exterior siding, exterior stairs and exterior stair wells and exterior walls, allow excessive condensation to pass beyond, around, or through the designed or actual moisture barriers of each system, including any internal barriers located within the system itself. *Civil Code* §§ 895; 896(a)(10)(11); 897.
- 12. RETAINING WALLS: Common area retaining and site walls, perimeter walls and their associated drainage systems at the Project allow unintended water to pass beyond, around, or through their designed or actual moisture barriers including, without limitation, any internal barriers, and cause damage including cracks and displacement, and soil damage to the retaining wall system. *Civil Code* §§ 895; 896(a)(12); 897.

- 13. RETAINING WALLS: Defective construction of site drainage systems causes water to contact the wall system and causes Common area retaining walls and site walls, perimeter walls, metal fences, and their associated drainage systems at the Project to allow water to flow beyond, around, or through the areas not designated by design. *Civil Code* §§ 895; 896(a)(12)(13); 897.
- 14. PLUMBING: The lines and components of the plumbing system, sewer system and utility systems for the Project leak. *Civil Code* §§ 895; 896(a)(14)(15), 896(g)(3)(A); 897.
- 15. PLUMBING: Plumbing lines, sewer lines, and utility lines located at the Project are corroded and their useful life has been reduced. *Civil Code* §§ 895; 896(a)(14)(15), 896(g)(3)(A); 897.
- 16. PLUMBING: Sewer systems were improperly constructed and/or installed and do not allow the designated amount of sewage to flow through the system. *Civil Code* §§ 895; 896(a)(16), 896(g)(3)(A); 897.
- 17. PLUMBING AND SEWER: Plumbing and sewer systems were improperly constructed and/or installed so as to cause the systems to operate improperly, which impairs their reasonable intended use of the structure by its inhabitants. *Civil Code* §§ 895; 896(e); 897.
- 18. ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS: Electrical systems fail to operate properly and thereby materially impair the use of the structure by its inhabitants. *Civil Code* §§ 895; 896(f); 897.

B. <u>WITH RESPECT TO STRUCTURAL ISSUES:</u>

- 1, FOUNDATIONS/SLABS: Foundations, load bearing components and slabs contain significant cracks and/or significant vertical displacement. *Civil Code* §§ 895; 896(b)(1); 897.
- 2. FOUNDATIONS/SLABS: Defective construction of the Project does not materially comply with the design criteria for earthquake and wind load resistance, as set forth in the applicable governments building codes in effect at the time of the original construction. *Civil Code* §§ 895; 896(b)(3); 897.

C. <u>WITH RESPECT TO SOIL ISSUES:</u>

- 1. SOILS: Defective construction/preparation of on-site soil resulted in damage to the structure built upon the soil Defective construction/preparation of on-site soil resulting in damage to the structure built upon the soil or engineered retaining walls. *Civil Code* §§ 895; 896(c)(1); 897.
- 2. SOILS: Soils and engineered retaining walls, in combination or in part, cause the structure to be structurally unsafe. *Civil Code* §§ 895; 896(c)(2); 897.

3. SOILS: Soils cause, in whole or in part, the land upon which no structure is built to become unusable for the purpose represented at the time of the original sale by the builder or for which that land is commonly used. *Civil Code* §§ 895; 896(c)(3); 897.

D. <u>WITH RESPECT TO FIRE PROTECTION ISSUES:</u>

- 1. FIRE PROTECTION: Fire rated assemblies and components within the Project do not materially comply with the design criteria of the applicable building codes, regulations, and ordinances for fire protection of the occupants in effect at the time of the original construction. *Civil Code* §§ 895; 896(d)(1); 897.
- 2. FIRE PROTECTION: Defective electrical and mechanical systems have been constructed and installed in such a way as to cause an unreasonable risk of fire. *Civil Code* §§ 895; 896(d)(3); 897.

E. <u>WITH RESPECT TO ISSUES WITH OTHER CONSTRUCTION AREAS:</u>

- 1. EXTERIOR PATHWAYS: Exterior pathways, driveways, hardscape, sidewalks and patios defectively constructed and/or installed by the original builder contain cracks and have excessive displacement. *Civil Code* §§ 895; 896(g)(1); 897.
- 2. HARDSCAPE: Hardscape and planters were improperly constructed resulting in trapping water against walls of structures of the Project causing damage. *Civil Code* §§ 895; 896(a)(9)(10)(11)(12)(13); 897.
- 3. MANUFACTURED PRODUCTS: Manufactured products, including, but not limited to windows, doors, roofs, pumps, plumbing products and fixtures, fireplaces, electrical fixtures, HVAC units, countertops, cabinets, paint, and appliances shall not be installed so as interfere with the product's useful life, if any. *Civil Code* §§ 895; 896(g)(3)(A); 897.
- 4. ROOFS: The roofs of the Project lack roof top tie points and fail to comply with building standards for safe use and maintenance of the roofs and building exteriors. *Civil Code* §§ 895; 896(d)(1), 896(g)(15); 897.
- 5. ROOFS: The failure to design and install an adequate fall restraint system for the roofs for the Project has caused an unreasonable safety risk. *Civil Code* §§ 895; 896(d)(1), 896(g)(15); 897.
- 6. ROOFS: Manufactured products within the roofs and the roof systems of the Project and parapet walls, including, but not limited to waterproofing components, drainage components, and surface components, have been installed in manner that interferes with the product's useful life and/utility. *Civil Code* §§ 895; 896(g)(3)(A); 897.
- 7. ROOFS: The pavers on the common area roof decks were not properly installed resulting in damage to adjacent building systems and components. *Civil Code* §§ 895; 896(g)(3)(A); 897.

The standards set forth above are not intended to address every function or component of the subject structures. To the extent that a function or component of a structure is not addressed by these standards, it shall be actionable if it causes damage. *Civil Code* § 897. It is the intention of the Association to conduct additional investigations into some or all of these areas. The Association reserves the right to supplement its list and notify you of additional building standard violations as additional information is discovered.
