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CENTRAL DIST. OF CALIF.
LOS ANGELES

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7 (Continued on next page)

8 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**
9 **FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

10
11 MARK WILLITS, JUDY GRIFFIN,
12 BRENT PILGREEN, and
13 COMMUNITIES ACTIVELY
14 LIVING INDEPENDENT AND FREE
("CALIF"), on behalf of themselves
and all others similarly situated,

15 Plaintiffs,

16 vs.

17 CITY OF LOS ANGELES, a public
entity; ANTONIO VILLARAIGOSA,
18 in his official capacity as Mayor; ERIC
GARCETTI, in his official capacity as
19 President of the Los Angeles City
Council; ED REYES, PAUL
20 KREKORIAN, DENNIS P. ZINE,
TOM LABONGE, PAUL KORETZ,
21 TONY CARDENAS, RICHARD
ALARCON, BERNARD PARKS,
22 JAN PERRY, HERB J. WESSON, JR.,
BILL ROSENDAHL, GREIG SMITH,
23 JOSE HUIZAR, AND JANICE
HAHN, in their official capacities as
24 members of the Los Angeles City
Council,

25 Defendants.
26
27
28

Case No.:

CV 10 5782-R (RG)

CLASS ACTION

COMPLAINT FOR VIOLATIONS OF:

1. Americans with Disabilities Act
(42 U.S.C. § 12131 *et seq.*)
2. Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act
of 1973 (29 U.S.C. § 794 *et seq.*)
3. California Government Code Section
11135, *et seq.*
4. Unruh Civil Rights Act (Cal. Civil
Code § 51, *et seq.*)
5. California Government Code § 4450,
et seq.
6. California Disabled Persons Act (Cal.
Civil Code § 54)

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JURISDICTION AND VENUE

1
2 1. The first two claims alleged herein arise under the Americans with Disabilities
3 Act (42 U.S.C. §§ 12131 et seq.) (“ADA”), and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of
4 1973 (29 U.S.C. §794 et seq.) (“Section 504”), such that the jurisdiction of this Court is
5 invoked pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and 1343. Through the same actions and
6 omissions that form the basis of Plaintiffs’ federal claims, Defendants have also violated
7 Plaintiffs’ rights under state law, over which this Court has supplemental jurisdiction
8 pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1367. This Court has jurisdiction over Plaintiffs’ claims for
9 declaratory and injunctive relief pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 2201 and 2202 and Rule 65 of
10 the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

11 2. Venue over Plaintiffs’ claims is proper in the Central District of California
12 because Defendants reside in the Central District of California within the meaning of 28
13 U.S.C. § 1391, and because the events, acts, and omissions giving rise to Plaintiffs’
14 claims occurred in the Central District of California.

INTRODUCTION

15
16 3. This lawsuit is brought against the City of Los Angeles (“the City”), the Mayor,
17 and City Council Members in their official capacities (collectively, “Defendants”) to
18 redress the Defendants’ systemic and pervasive discrimination against Plaintiffs and
19 similarly situated individuals with mobility disabilities through the denial of meaningful
20 access to the City’s curb ramps, sidewalks, crosswalks, pedestrian crossings and other
21 walkways (hereafter “pedestrian rights of way”). Plaintiffs include a membership
22 organization dedicated to providing services and advocacy by and for persons with
23 disabilities in the City and three residents of the City with mobility disabilities, as well as
24 those similarly situated.

25 4. The City’s pedestrian rights of way, when viewed in their entirety, are not
26 readily accessible to and usable by persons with mobility disabilities due to the pervasive
27 existence of numerous architectural and other physical access barriers along the path of
28 travel. The City has constructed, caused and/or failed to eliminate these barriers. As a

1 result, Plaintiffs and other persons with mobility disabilities must choose between
2 remaining segregated from significant amounts of daily activities -- including visiting
3 public facilities, places of public accommodation, or friends -- and thereby remaining
4 safe, or risking injury or death by traveling on or around inaccessible pedestrian rights of
5 way. The lack of access to the City's system of pedestrian rights of way deprives people
6 with mobility disabilities of their independence, and essentially relegates them to second-
7 class citizen status.

8 5. The discrimination and denial of meaningful access to the City's pedestrian
9 rights of way for persons with mobility disabilities complained of herein is the direct
10 result of Defendants' policies and practices with regard to the City's pedestrian walkways
11 and disability access, including, but not limited to the following:

- 12 a. The failure to install curb ramps at intersections in the City that are necessary
13 to provide meaningful access to the pedestrian rights of way;
- 14 b. The failure to develop and implement a process for identifying intersections
15 and corners throughout the City at which curb ramps are necessary to provide
16 meaningful access to the pedestrian rights of way;
- 17 c. The failure to install accessible curb ramps at locations where no curb ramps
18 exist, or where inaccessible curb ramps exist, within the time required by
19 applicable state and federal disability access laws or on any other reasonable
20 schedule;
- 21 d. The failure to install accessible curb ramps within the time permitted by
22 statute or within any other reasonable time frame, after receiving a request to
23 do so or otherwise being notified of the need for a curb at a particular
24 location;
- 25 e. With respect to intersections on streets that are resurfaced or otherwise
26 altered or newly constructed, the failure to install accessible curb ramps at
27 those intersections;
- 28 f. With respect to newly constructed curb ramps, the failure to adopt and utilize

1 or require and enforce the utilization of a design standard that complies with
2 acceptable federal design guidelines and/or applicable state building code
3 standard.

- 4 g. The failure to ensure the repair or elimination of mid-block barriers to access
5 on City sidewalks and other pedestrian walkways in the form of broken,
6 cracked, crumbled, steep, sunken, uneven or otherwise inaccessible surfaces,
7 as well as obstacles placed in the path of travel, such as bus stop benches or
8 light poles, when necessary to provide meaningful access to the pedestrian
9 rights of way.
- 10 h. The failure to adopt or implement any adequate procedure for inspecting,
11 repairing and maintaining the pedestrian rights of way from barriers to
12 access;
- 13 i. With respect to intersections on streets that are resurfaced or otherwise
14 altered or newly constructed, the failure to repair or eliminate mid-block
15 barriers to access on City sidewalks and other pedestrian rights of way.
- 16 j. The failure to adopt, implement or enforce ordinances or other requirements
17 necessary to ensure that pedestrian rights of way are kept free of temporary
18 or permanent obstructions resulting in barriers to access, such as the
19 enforcement of California Vehicle Code § 22500(f) and Los Angeles
20 Municipal Code § 80.53, prohibiting what is known as apron parking
21 (vehicles parking in driveways so they protrude onto the pedestrian rights of
22 way and leave insufficient space for persons with mobility aids to pass
23 through).

24 6. These policies and practices, or lack thereof, have resulted in discrimination
25 against persons with disabilities in the form of denial of access to the City's pedestrian
26 rights of way that manifests in common ways throughout the City. Nearly half of the
27 City's thousands of miles of pedestrian rights of way are in need of repair and are not
28 accessible to persons with mobility disabilities. The City's current expenditures on this

1 problem will not address all of the current inaccessible and broken pedestrian rights of
 2 way for more than 80 years. Moreover, this estimate does not even include stretches of
 3 accessible pedestrian rights of way that will become damaged or worn during the
 4 intervening years.

5 7. In addition, the City fails to provide curb ramps at all required locations and the
 6 installation of curb ramps has been shrinking. Notably, the City's purported installation
 7 of curb ramps has been reduced from 7,205 in 1999-2000 to only 570 in 2006-2007.
 8 Continuing its policy to make the public sidewalk system more accessible "as-needed"
 9 and based on complaints filed by "concerned constituents,"¹ the City estimated it would
 10 install a meager 916 curb ramps per year between 2007 and 2009. Without curb ramps,
 11 Plaintiffs cannot access the City's pedestrian rights of way or their intended destinations
 12 at all or at least without significant difficulty, delay, or danger. Finally, Plaintiffs are
 13 informed and believe, and on that basis allege, that Defendants have no plan to maintain
 14 curb ramps or accessible sidewalks once they are built.

15 8. As a result of the above, the City's pedestrian rights of way, when viewed in
 16 their entirety, are characterized by numerous physical access barriers, including but not
 17 limited to the following:

- 18 a. Unsafe, noncomplying (slopes too steep, hazardous cross-slopes, high curb
 19 ramp lips), or missing of curb ramps;
- 20 b. Broken pedestrian rights of way that are cracked, crumbled, steep, sunken, or
 21 uneven or that have improper slopes or broken and inaccessible surfaces;
- 22 c. Physical obstacles on the sidewalk between intersections, such as improperly
 23 placed signs, poles, or bus stop benches; and
- 24 d. Apron parking (vehicles parking in driveways so they protrude onto the
 25 pedestrian rights of way and leave insufficient space for persons with mobility aids to
 26

27 ¹ See Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Revised Transition Plan, City of Los
 28 Angeles, Revised September, 2000, p. 3-26, attached herein as Exhibit A.

1 pass through).

2 9. Accessibility of pedestrian rights of way goes to the heart of the purpose of the
3 Americans with Disabilities Act (“ADA”) and other disability rights laws, including
4 integration and accessibility. Defendants provide and are responsible for maintaining
5 these public pedestrian rights of way, which constitute an essential government program,
6 service, and activity for residents and visitors alike. Yet, when viewed in their entirety,
7 this system of pedestrian rights of way is not accessible to persons with mobility
8 disabilities in violation of multiple federal and state disability rights laws. This lawsuit
9 seeks to force Defendants to comply with these laws and finally, some 20 years after the
10 enactment of the ADA and many more years after enactment of California’s disability
11 rights protections, provide access to City pedestrian rights of way for all Californians.

12 10. Plaintiffs thus bring this action to remedy violations of Title II of the ADA, 42
13 U.S.C. § 12131, et seq., and its accompanying regulations, Section 504 of the
14 Rehabilitation Act, 29 U.S.C. § 794, et seq. (the “Rehabilitation Act”) and its
15 accompanying regulations, as well as analogous state statutes including California
16 Government Code § 11135, California Civil Code § 51, et seq., California Civil Code §
17 54, et seq. and California Government Code §4450. Plaintiffs seek declaratory and
18 injunctive relief pursuant to the above statutes, as well as an award of attorneys’ fees and
19 costs under applicable law. Named Plaintiffs Willits, Griffin and Pilgreen also seek
20 damages.

21 PARTIES

22 11. Organizational Plaintiff Communities Actively Living Independent and Free
23 (“CALIF”) is an independent living center: a private, non-profit community-based
24 corporation providing services and advocacy by and for persons with disabilities in the
25 City, including individuals who have been discriminated against and subjected to
26 hazardous conditions due to the access barriers at issue in the present case. CALIF seeks
27 to achieve full inclusion, equality, and civil rights for people with disabilities.
28 Accordingly, the interests that CALIF seeks to protect through this litigation are germane

1 to its mission and purpose. Furthermore, CALIF's members include persons with
2 mobility disabilities that have been harmed and continue to experience harm because the
3 City has failed and continues to fail to provide access to its system of pedestrian rights of
4 way and/or CALIF has suffered injury as a result of the City's inaccessible pedestrian
5 rights of way. Because CALIF seeks only injunctive relief, individual participation of
6 CALIF members is not required.

7 12. Named Plaintiff Mark Willits is a resident of the Woodland Hills who is
8 quadriplegic and uses a motorized wheelchair for mobility. Plaintiff Willits is a
9 "qualified person with a disability" and a person with "a disability" within the meaning of
10 all applicable statutes and regulations including 42 U.S.C. § 12131(2), 28 C.F.R. §
11 35.104, 29 U.S.C. § 705(20)(B), and California Government Code § 12926.

12 13. Named Plaintiff Judy Griffin is a resident of the Westwood neighborhood of Los
13 Angeles with muscular dystrophy who uses a motorized wheelchair for mobility.
14 Plaintiff Griffin is a "qualified person with a disability" and a person with "a disability"
15 within the meaning of all applicable statutes and regulations including 42 U.S.C. §
16 12131(2), 28 C.F.R. § 35.104, 29 U.S.C. § 705(20)(B), and California Government Code
17 § 12926.

18 14. Named Plaintiff Brent Pilgreen is a resident in Sherman Oaks who is
19 quadriplegic and uses a motorized wheelchair for mobility. Plaintiff Pilgreen is a
20 "qualified person with a disability" and a person with "a disability" within the meaning of
21 all applicable statutes and regulations including 42 U.S.C. § 12131(2), 28 C.F.R. §
22 35.104, 29 U.S.C. § 705(20)(B), and California Government Code § 12926.

23 15. The Plaintiff class consists of all persons with mobility disabilities who have
24 been denied access to pedestrian rights of way in the City as a result of Defendants'
25 policies and practices with regard to the City's pedestrian walkways and disability access.

26 16. Hereafter, references to Plaintiffs shall be deemed to include the named
27 Plaintiffs and each member of the class, unless otherwise indicated.

28 17. Presently, and at all times relevant to this complaint, Defendant City of Los

1 Angeles has been a public entity within the meaning of Title II of the ADA and have
2 received federal financial assistance within the meaning of the Rehabilitation Act, and
3 state financial assistance within the meaning of Government Code Section 11135. The
4 City of the Los Angeles has received federal and state financial assistance sufficient to
5 invoke the coverage of Section 504 and California Government Code Section 11135.

6 18. The City is a local government entity with the responsibility of providing
7 Plaintiffs with access to its public facilities, programs, services, and activities. The City
8 is responsible for constructing, maintaining, repairing, and regulating the system of
9 pedestrian rights of way within the City.

10 19. Antonio Villaraigosa is the Mayor of the City (hereinafter the "Mayor"); Eric
11 Garcetti is the President of the City Council; Ed Reyes, Paul Krekorian, Dennis P. Zine,
12 Tom LaBonge, Paul Koretz, Tony Cardenas, Richard Alarcón, Bernard Parks, Jan Perry,
13 Herb J. Wesson, Jr., Bill Rosendahl, Greig Smith, José Huizar, and Janice Hahn are
14 members of the Los Angeles City Council (hereinafter the "City Council"). The Mayor
15 and the City Council are each, in their official capacity, legally responsible for ensuring
16 compliance with federal and state law by the City.

17 20. Plaintiffs are informed and believe and thereon allege that each defendant was
18 the agent and employee of every other defendant and was at all times acting within the
19 scope of such agency.

20 21. The City, the Mayor and the City Council members will be collectively referred
21 to as "Defendants."

22 22. Hereafter, references to Defendants shall be deemed to include all named
23 Defendants, unless otherwise indicated.

24 **FACTS APPLICABLE TO ALL CLAIMS**

25 23. Defendants have systematically failed, and are failing, to install and maintain
26 accessible pedestrian rights of away in violation of federal and state law. As a result of
27 Defendants' policies and practices with regard to the City's pedestrian walkways and
28 disability access, the pedestrian rights of way are characterized by pervasive disability

1 access problems, which include but are not limited to the following examples:

- 2 a. Unsafe, noncomplying (slopes too steep, hazardous cross-slopes, high curb ramp
- 3 lips), or missing curb ramps;
- 4 b. Broken pedestrian rights of way that are cracked, crumbled, steep, sunken, or
- 5 uneven or that have improper slopes or broken and inaccessible surfaces;
- 6 c. Physical obstacles on the sidewalk between intersections, such as improperly
- 7 placed signs or bus stop benches; and
- 8 d. Apron parking (vehicles parking in driveways so they protrude onto the
- 9 pedestrian rights of way and leave insufficient space for persons with mobility
- 10 aids to pass through).

11 24. Many pedestrian rights of way have buckled due to tree roots, resulting in abrupt

12 changes in level. Others have obstacles such as light poles, newspaper stands, and bus

13 benches narrowing the path of travel. Many pedestrian rights of way are overdue for

14 maintenance, with broken, cracked, crumbled, sunken, and/or caved concrete.

15 Defendants have also failed to provide accessible alternative routes during construction.

16 25. Apron parking is prohibited by California Vehicle Code § 22500 and Los Angeles

17 Municipal Code § 80.53. However, Defendants through their local parking enforcement

18 officers do not ticket violators who park on aprons or otherwise effectively enforce these

19 prohibitions. As a result, in certain parts of the City, cars frequently are parked such that

20 they block the path of travel along pedestrian rights of way. This results in obstacles

21 along pedestrian rights of way that make the path of travel too narrow for pedestrians

22 with mobility disabilities.

23 26. Defendants have also failed, and are failing, to install and maintain curb ramps in

24 violation of federal and state law. For example, thousands of intersections in the City

25 have no curb ramps or an inadequate number of curb ramps. Even among the

26 intersections that do have curb ramps, many of them have curb ramps that are improperly

27 installed and/or maintained, have lips where the sidewalk meets the street that are too

28 steep to use, or are otherwise noncomplying (slopes too steep or hazardous cross-slopes).

1 Many other curb ramps are not maintained; they are broken, cracked, crumbled, sunken,
2 and/or caved.

3 27. Additionally, as a result of Defendants' policies and practices with regard to the
4 City's pedestrian walkways and disability access, large segments of the City's pedestrian
5 rights of way do not comply with new construction or alteration accessibility
6 requirements. For example, on information and belief, the City fails to install curb ramps
7 consistently when it repaves streets. As a result, persons with mobility disabilities have
8 been denied meaningful access to the City's pedestrian rights of way, public buildings,
9 parks, transportation, and/or places of public accommodation either through complete
10 denials of access or through delay of travel or unsafe conditions.

11 28. These systemic failures have caused the City's pedestrian rights of way to be
12 inaccessible when viewed in their entirety in violation of state and federal law.

13 29. Plaintiffs allege that these barriers are not isolated or limited circumstances.
14 Rather, these barriers are present throughout the City, thus denying access to persons with
15 disabilities City-wide. Persons with mobility disabilities encounter numerous obstacles to
16 using pedestrian rights of way throughout the City, including but not limited to the
17 Downtown, Venice, Eagle Rock, Los Feliz, Silver Lake, Echo Park, the Valley,
18 Hollywood, Westside and LAX neighborhoods. As a result of these barriers, persons
19 with disabilities have been denied access to accommodations or public services.
20 Furthermore, these barriers discourage persons with mobility disabilities from exploring
21 or visiting areas of the City. These barriers have also delayed travel and caused these
22 persons to fear for their safety, as these conditions often create situations that are
23 downright dangerous for persons with disabilities.

24 30. This discrimination and systemic inaccessibility has a severe negative impact on
25 persons with mobility disabilities within the City as represented by the experiences of the
26 named Plaintiffs.

27 31. Plaintiff CALIF has suffered injuries as a result of the City's inaccessible
28 pedestrian rights of way and/or members who reside and/or work throughout the City and

1 who have used, and will continue to use or attempt to use, the City's system of pedestrian
2 rights of way and who have encountered, and will continue to encounter the various types
3 of access barriers described herein.

4 32. The experience of Named Plaintiffs Willits, Griffin and Pilgreen are further
5 representative of the nature of barriers experienced by persons with disabilities in the
6 City.

7 33. Due to his mobility disability, Named Plaintiff Mark Willits uses a motorized
8 wheelchair. He lives near the intersection of San Feliciano Drive and W. Mulholland
9 Drive in Woodland Hills. He has encountered numerous obstacles to using the sidewalks
10 in his neighborhood and throughout the City. This includes, but is not limited to, those
11 described below.

12 34. Plaintiff Willits is deterred from traveling in his neighborhood because of hundreds
13 of missing curb ramps. For example, there are missing curb ramps at 15 separate
14 intersections along San Feliciano Drive, between Mulholland Drive and De La Guerra
15 Street, stretching approximately 1.2 miles. In addition, there are missing curb ramps at
16 10 separate intersections along Don Pio Drive, between Martinez Street and Pampas
17 Road, stretching approximately 1 mile.

18 35. Plaintiff Willits has encountered various permanent obstructions on Don Pio Drive
19 such as signposts, streetlamps, and power poles, which make the sidewalk completely
20 impassable in many places. There are no curb ramps for half a mile at each intersection
21 along Canoga Drive between Argentine Drive and Ensenada Drive; or the intersection of
22 Canoga Avenue and Mulholland Drive. Likewise curb ramps are missing at the
23 following locations in Plaintiff Willits neighborhood: along Santa Lucia Drive where it
24 intersects De La Luz Avenue, Cardenas Avenue, Galendo Street, and Canoga Drive;
25 along Margarita Drive where it intersects Cass Avenue, Blackfriar Road, Stark Avenue,
26 and Aida Place; along the Mulholland Drive frontage road where it intersects Greer Road,
27 Leydon Avenue, Willens Avenue, Brookfield Avenue, Coloma Avenue, and Manson
28 Avenue (rendering bus stops along this road inaccessible to Plaintiff Willits).

1 36. Similarly, Plaintiff Willits is unable to access other areas of his neighborhood
2 because of missing curb ramps at the following intersections: Cerrillos Drive and Algunas
3 Road; Cerrillos Drive and Quinta Road; Ybarra Road and Coyle Place; Llano Drive and
4 Ninfa Court; Llano Drive and Buena Ventura Street; numerous intersections surrounding
5 Woodland Hills Elementary School (including San Miguel Street and Ninfa Court, De La
6 Osa Street and Clavel Court); Avenida Morelos and Conejo Avenue; Avenida Morelos
7 and Independencia Street.

8 37. The problems that Plaintiff Willits experiences are not limited to his neighborhood.
9 Plaintiff Willits often runs errands and/or shops around the Beverly Center. However, he
10 is unable to access the sidewalks in that area because of damaged, buckled and cracked
11 sidewalks. For example, Plaintiff Willits is deterred from traveling along Blackburn
12 Avenue between South Orlando Avenue and South Edinburgh Avenue because of
13 uplifted sidewalks.

14 38. Similarly, Plaintiff Willits must go downtown for errands and is often forced to
15 travel in the street along with traffic because of the absence of curb ramps. For example
16 Plaintiff Willits must travel in his wheelchair in the street along with traffic on 6th Street
17 where it turns into 5th Street. The street there becomes an overpass over the 110 freeway
18 and there are no curb ramps on the sidewalks on either side of the overpass. He is also
19 deterred from using the sidewalk on 6th Street between Bixel and Beaudry because of
20 uplifted, cracked sidewalks.

21 39. As a result of the foregoing, Plaintiff Willits has been and continues to be deprived
22 of his independence while experiencing segregation from his neighborhood and other
23 parts of his community. He is unable to visit public facilities, places of public
24 accommodations or friends in order to remain safe from the serious risks associated with
25 the inaccessible pedestrian rights of way in the City. He is also forced to risk his safety by
26 traveling in the street while avoiding these obstacles.

27 40. Due to her mobility disability, Named Plaintiff Judy Griffin uses a motorized
28 wheelchair. Plaintiff Griffin lives in residential section of Westwood Village. She has

1 encountered numerous obstacles to using pedestrian rights of way in her neighborhood
2 and throughout the City. This includes, but is not limited to, those described below.

3 41. Plaintiff Griffin is a homemaker and run errands and shops for her family. She also
4 has ongoing medical appointments, requiring her to travel downtown. Plaintiff Griffin
5 uses public transportation to travel throughout the City on her errands and to visit her
6 doctors. Because of multiple barriers she encounters, however, Plaintiff Griffin must face
7 serious risks each day she travels around the City. Moreover, the bus stops she
8 encounters are located adjacent to sidewalks that are blocked by poles, bushes or other
9 obstacles. These areas include, but are not limited to, sidewalks adjacent to bus stops
10 along San Vicente Boulevard between Bundy Drive and Barrington Avenue and along
11 Olympic Boulevard between Westwood Boulevard and Century Park East. As a result,
12 Plaintiff Griffin often must wait in an area away from the bus stop, causing buses to
13 frequently pass her because she is unable to wait at the designated stop. In fact, Plaintiff
14 Griffin must be dropped off in the street with oncoming traffic when she takes certain
15 buses because the sidewalk adjacent to the bus stop is blocked by poles or bushes.

16 42. Plaintiff Griffin must frequently travel to 1500 San Pablo and 1640 Marengo at
17 USC Medical Center for medical appointments. In this area of the City, she encounters
18 inaccessible sidewalks caused by the absence of curb ramps and poorly maintained curb
19 ramps and sidewalks. These areas include barriers such as large cracks, lifted sidewalks,
20 and poles. For example, the curb ramps at the intersection of Marengo Street and Mission
21 Road, which she must cross to get to the bus stop, are difficult to traverse because of their
22 poor condition. In addition, the sidewalk on the east side of Marengo is inaccessible
23 because there are no curb ramps. Likewise, the sidewalk on the west side of Marengo is
24 unsafe to travel due to the uplifted sidewalk in front of the USC Medical Center.

25 43. Plaintiff Griffin travels to downtown Los Angeles where she transfers to a bus to
26 USC Medical Center. Specifically, Plaintiff Griffin travels along Cesar E. Chavez
27 Avenue between Main Street and Broadway where she encounters uprooted sidewalks
28 that are inaccessible. For example, the sidewalk on the south side of Cesar Chavez where

1 N. Spring intersects is impassable due to a severely uprooted and cracked sidewalk. The
2 northwest corner of Main and Cesar Chavez has no curb ramp. Therefore, Plaintiff
3 Griffin must access the sidewalk by entering one of two driveways entering a Chevron
4 gas station and risk being hit by vehicles entering and exiting the gas station. Similarly, in
5 crossing over Main Street on Cesar Chavez from the northwest corner to the southwest
6 corner, Plaintiff Griffin must travel outside of the crosswalk into a lane of traffic to access
7 the curb ramp and sidewalk. In addition, Plaintiff Griffin is unable to access any of the
8 restaurants on the southwest corner of Broadway and Cesar Chavez because of a missing
9 curb cut.

10 44. Plaintiff Griffin also is unable to travel in her neighborhood near the intersection of
11 Eastborne Avenue and Pandora Avenue because the west side of Pandora does not have a
12 curb cut and there is an alleyway on Pandora between Eastborne Avenue and Santa
13 Monica Boulevard without curb ramps. As a result, Plaintiff Griffin must go into the
14 street and enter a dangerously uneven driveway to access the sidewalk. Several stretches
15 of sidewalks feature cracks, significant holes, breaks, and bumps.

16 45. Plaintiff Griffin, who is an artist, frequently shops at Blick Art Materials on the
17 corner of Santa Monica Boulevard and Colby Avenue. In doing so, she must cross over
18 Santa Monica Boulevard by traveling on the street along vehicular traffic to access curb
19 ramps at the intersections. This is due to the placement of pedestrian crosswalks that
20 intersect with the north sidewalk on Santa Monica Boulevard where there are no curb
21 ramps. Furthermore, it is unsafe for Plaintiff Griffin to travel outside of the crosswalks in
22 this area, which experiences fast and heavy traffic flow. Plaintiff Griffin faces a similar
23 risk when she attempts to shop at Vicente Foods located on San Vicente and S. Bundy
24 Drive. When crossing on Bundy towards the grocery store, Plaintiff Griffin is unable to
25 access the sidewalk from the crosswalk with the curb ramp blocked by two steel poles,
26 but instead must enter through a driveway along traffic and risk being struck by a vehicle.

27 46. Similarly, poorly maintained curb ramps create an obstacle for Plaintiff Griffin,
28 causing her to face serious risks every day. For instance, often she crosses at the

1 intersection of Santa Monica Boulevard and Sawtelle where the curb ramps and gutters
2 are bumpy and difficult to cross over. As a result, Plaintiff Griffin often needs to back up
3 to make a second attempt to get over the curb ramp. On one occasion an automobile that
4 was waiting to make a right hand turn started to go forward as Plaintiff Griffin was
5 backing up and came inches from hitting her. In addition, Plaintiff Griffin risks having
6 her wheelchair topple over or become stuck if she travels over these curb ramps.

7 47. Apron parking is widespread in Plaintiff Griffin's neighborhood. Although apron
8 parking is illegal, local parking enforcement officers do not ticket violators who park on
9 aprons and block the sidewalks, even though they do ticket vehicles parked parallel to the
10 curb in violation of parking signs. Plaintiff Griffin has consistently experienced apron
11 parking on a number of sidewalks along Eastborne Avenue and intersecting streets where
12 there is limited, permit parking. The narrow spaces between the vehicles on the sidewalk
13 prevent Plaintiff Griffin from traveling along the sidewalk. As a result, Plaintiff Griffin
14 often must travel on the street to reach her destination, literally risking her life.

15 48. As a result of the foregoing, Plaintiff Griffin has been and continues to be deprived
16 of her independence while experiencing segregation from her neighborhood and other
17 parts of her community. She often decides to not visit public facilities, places of public
18 accommodations or friends in order to remain safe from the serious risks associated with
19 the inaccessible pedestrian rights of way in the City.

20 49. Due to his mobility disability, Named Plaintiff Brent Pilgreen uses a motorized
21 wheelchair. Plaintiff Pilgreen lives at the intersection of Martha Street and Noble Avenue
22 in Sherman Oaks, California. He has encountered numerous obstacles to using pedestrian
23 rights of way in his neighborhood and throughout the City. This includes, but is not
24 limited to, those described below.

25 50. Plaintiff Pilgreen is deterred from traveling on sidewalks near restaurants and
26 stores in his neighborhood and in other areas of the City because of uplifted, cracked
27 sidewalks and permanent obstructions blocking sidewalks. For example, Plaintiff
28 Pilgreen is deterred from traveling along either sidewalk on Sepulveda Boulevard

1 between Burbank Boulevard and Albers Street because of the placement of poles, bus
2 stop benches, or fire hydrants blocking the sidewalk, severely cracked sidewalks and
3 hazardous cross-slopes. Plaintiff Pilgreen will no longer travel along Sepulveda
4 Boulevard because of the risks he must face, including balancing his wheelchair along the
5 top rim of sidewalks crossing over steep driveways while hoping not to fall. As a result,
6 Plaintiff is deterred from numerous activities, including shopping (at his local Target
7 store) and dining at local restaurants.

8 51. Plaintiff Pilgreen frequently eats at Tommy's Burgers on Victory Boulevard and
9 Vesper Avenue. The sidewalks surrounding Tommy's are uplifted by tree roots and
10 inaccessible to Plaintiff Pilgreen, which deters him from visiting any other businesses in
11 the area, including the 7-Eleven next door. Plaintiff Pilgreen is unable to access the
12 sidewalk on Hatteras Street near Victory Boulevard, which is adjacent to a FedEx Kinkos
13 because the sidewalk is broken and drops approximately six inches. Plaintiff Pilgreen also
14 is deterred from traveling on the sidewalks on both Lemona Street and Kester Avenue
15 running between Hatteras and Califa Street because of buckling, cracked and lifted
16 sidewalks.

17 52. As a result of barriers he has encountered, Plaintiff Pilgreen must be driven to the
18 location he wants to visit in his neighborhood or surrounding areas. Each trip he is
19 required to take in a vehicle causes him extreme exhaustion and requires at least a day to
20 physically recover. Consequently, Plaintiff Pilgreen often avoids leaving his home and is
21 deprived of his independence and is segregated from his neighborhood and other parts of
22 his community. Moreover, he is unable to visit public facilities, places of public
23 accommodations or friends in order to remain safe from the serious risks associated with
24 the inaccessible pedestrian rights of way in the City.

25 53. These experiences are typical of those experienced by persons with mobility
26 disabilities in the City and demonstrate the inaccessibility, fear, humiliation, and isolation
27 that people with mobility disabilities experience while trying to navigate the system of
28 pedestrian rights of way in the City. Defendants have been put on notice of allegations of

1 class-wide violations of federal and state laws regarding people with mobility disabilities
2 for tort claims filed by Plaintiffs Griffin, Willits and Pilgreen and multiple complaints by
3 persons with mobility disabilities about the City's pedestrian rights of way. There is no
4 adequate remedy at law and Plaintiffs have been irreparably harmed.

5 54. Plaintiffs therefore seek injunctive and declaratory relief requiring Defendants to
6 ensure compliance with Title II of the ADA and its accompanying regulations, Section
7 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and its accompanying regulations, California Government
8 Code § 11135, *et seq.*, California Civil Code § 51, *et seq.*, California Civil Code § 54, *et*
9 *seq.* and California Government Code § 4450. Named Plaintiffs also request damages
10 under all applicable statutes.

11 CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS

12 55. The organizational plaintiff CALIF and named Plaintiffs bring this action
13 individually, and on behalf of all persons with mobility disabilities who have been denied
14 access to pedestrian rights of way in the City because of their disabilities as a class action
15 under Rule 23 of the Federal Rule of Civil Procedure.

16 56. Each member of the proposed class is a "qualified person with a disability" and/or
17 a person with a "disability" pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 12131(2), Section 504 of the
18 Rehabilitation Act, and/or applicable California law. The persons in the class are so
19 numerous that the joinder of all such persons is impracticable and that the disposition of
20 their claims in a class action rather than in individual actions will benefit the parties and
21 the court. The class consists of tens of thousands of persons with mobility disabilities.

22 57. Plaintiffs and the class they represent are informed, believe, and thereon allege
23 that Defendants have failed and continue to fail to comply with the ADA and with the
24 Rehabilitation Act and analogous state statutes in its implementation of the City's policies
25 and practices with regard to the City's pedestrian walkways and disability access.

26 58. Plaintiffs and the class they represent are informed, believe, and thereon allege that
27 Defendants have not adopted and do not enforce appropriate policies and procedures to
28 ensure that Defendants are in compliance with these statutes to ensure nondiscrimination

1 against persons with disabilities and equal access to programs, services and activities for
2 persons with disabilities.

3 59. The violations of the ADA, the Rehabilitation Act and related federal and
4 California State statutes set forth in detail have injured all members of the proposed class
5 and violated their rights.

6 60. Defendants acted or refused to act on grounds generally applicable to the class,
7 thereby making appropriate final injunctive or declaratory relief with respect to the class
8 as a whole. Class claims are brought for the purposes of obtaining declaratory and
9 injunctive relief only.

10 61. The claims of Named Plaintiffs are typical of those of the class in that they arise
11 from the same course of conduct engaged in by Defendants. The relief sought herein will
12 benefit all class members alike.

13 62. Named Plaintiffs will fairly and adequately represent the interests of the class.
14 They have no interests adverse to the interests of other members of the class and have
15 retained counsel who are competent and experienced in litigating complex class actions,
16 including large-scale disability rights class action cases.

17 63. The requirements of Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure are met with
18 regard to the proposed class in that:

- 19 a. The class is so numerous that it would be impractical to bring all class
20 members before the Court;
- 21 b. There are questions of law and fact which are common to the class;
- 22 c. The named Plaintiffs' claims for declaratory and injunctive relief are typical
23 of the claims of the class;
- 24 d. The named Plaintiffs will fairly and adequately represent common class
25 interests and are represented by counsel who are extremely experienced in
26 law reform class actions and the disability rights issues in this case;
- 27 e. Defendants have acted or refused to act on grounds generally applicable to
28 the class; and

1 f. The questions of law and fact which are common to the class predominate
2 over individual questions.

3 64. The common questions of law and fact, shared by the named Plaintiffs and all
4 class members, include:

- 5 a. Whether Defendants are violating Title II of the ADA, 42 U.S.C. sections
6 12131, *et seq.*, by failing to make their programs, services and activities
7 accessible to and useable by persons with disabilities, and otherwise
8 discriminating against persons with disabilities, as set forth above;
- 9 b. Whether Defendants are violating Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, 29
10 U.S.C. § 794 *et seq.*, by failing to make their programs, services and
11 activities accessible to and useable by persons with disabilities, and otherwise
12 discriminating against people with disabilities, as set forth above.
- 13 c. Whether Defendants are violating California Government Code Section
14 11135 (a), which prohibits denial of benefits to persons with disabilities of
15 any program or activity that is funded directly by the state or receives any
16 financial assistance from the state.
- 17 d. Whether Defendants are violating California Civil Code §51 *et seq.*, by
18 failing to provide full and equal access to people with disabilities.
- 19 e. Whether Defendants are violating California Civil Code §54 *et seq.*, by
20 failing to provide full and equal access to persons with disabilities.
- 21 f. Whether Defendants are violating California Government Code §4450, *et*
22 *seq.*, by failing to provide full and equal access to persons with disabilities.

23 65. Plaintiffs contemplate the eventual issuance of notice to the proposed class
24 members that would set forth the subject and nature of the instant action. To the extent
25 that any further notices may be required, Plaintiffs contemplate the use of additional
26 media and/or mailings.

27 ///

28 ///

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

The Americans with Disabilities Act

(Against All Defendants)

42 U.S.C. § 12101 *et seq.*

66. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference each and every allegation contained in the foregoing paragraphs.

67. Congress enacted the ADA upon finding, among other things, that “society has tended to isolate and segregate individuals with disabilities” and that such forms of discrimination continue to be a “serious and pervasive social problem.” 42 U.S.C. § 12101(a) (2).

68. In response to these findings, Congress explicitly stated that the purpose of the ADA is to provide “a clear and comprehensive national mandate for the elimination of discrimination against individuals with disabilities” and “clear, strong, consistent, enforceable standards addressing discrimination against individuals with disabilities.” 42 U.S.C. § 12101(b) (1)-(2).

69. Title II of the ADA provides in pertinent part: “[N]o qualified individual with a disability shall, by reason of such disability, be excluded from participation in or be denied the benefits of the services, programs, or activities of a public entity, or be subjected to discrimination by any such entity.” 42 U.S.C. § 12132.

70. At all times relevant to this action, the City is a “public entity” within the meaning of Title II of the ADA and provides a program, service or activity to the general public.

71. At all times relevant to this action, Plaintiffs are qualified individuals with disabilities within the meaning of Title II of the ADA and met the essential eligibility requirements for the receipt of the services, programs, or activities of the City. 42 U.S.C. § 12131.

72. Defendants are mandated to operate each program, service, or activity “so that, when viewed in its entirety, it is readily accessible to and useable by individuals with disabilities.” 28 C.F.R. § 35.150; *see also* 28 C.F.R. §§ 35.149 & 35.151. Pedestrian rights of way

1 themselves constitute a vital public program, service, or activity under Title II of the
2 ADA. 28 C.F.R. § 35.104; *Barden v. City of Sacramento*, 292 F.3d 1073 (2002).

3 73. The regulations implementing Title II of the ADA specifically provide that a
4 public entity must install curb ramps at intersections whenever it newly constructs or
5 alters sidewalks, streets, roads and/or highways at any time after January 26, 1992 and
6 must comply with Uniform Federal Accessibility Standards (UFAS) or with the
7 Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines for Buildings and Facilities
8 (ADAAG). 28 C.F.R. § 35.151. A street resurfacing project by a public entity is an
9 alteration under the meaning of the regulation. *Kinney v. Yersalim*, 9 F.3d 1067, 1073-74
10 (3rd Cir. 1993); *Lonberg v. City of Riverside*, 2007 WL 2005177, * 6 (C.D. Cal. 2007).

11 74. The regulations implementing Title II of the ADA provide that a public entity must
12 maintain the features of all facilities required to be accessible by the ADA. 28 C.F.R. §
13 35.133. Facilities required to be accessible include roads, walks, and passageways. 28
14 C.F.R. § 35.104.

15 75. The regulations implementing Title II also provide that a public entity must
16 provide and maintain accessibility for temporary facilities, including but not limited to,
17 “temporary safe pedestrian passageways around a construction site.” 28 C.F.R. 36 App.
18 A 4.1.1(4).

19 76. Plaintiffs are informed, believe and thereon allege that the City’s pedestrian rights of
20 way are not fully, equally, or safely accessible to Plaintiffs when viewed in their entirety.
21 The premises administered by Defendants include facilities within the meaning of
22 ADAAG and UFAS. Plaintiffs are informed and believe, and on that basis allege, that
23 since January 26, 1992, Defendants have constructed, altered, or repaired parts of these
24 facilities within the meaning of the ADAAG and the UFAS, and that Defendants through
25 their policies and practices have failed to make such facilities readily accessible to and
26 usable by persons with disabilities as required under federal accessibility standards.

27 77. Plaintiffs are informed, believe and thereon allege that Defendants violated and
28 continue to violate the ADA by failing to enforce City and State apron parking codes or

1 otherwise prohibit apron parking and thereby denying them the benefits of the City's
2 pedestrian rights of way.

3 78. Plaintiffs are informed, believe and thereon allege that Defendants and their agents
4 and employees have failed to provide accessible alternative routes during construction
5 through their policies and practices with regard to the City's pedestrian walkways and
6 disability access.

7 79. Plaintiffs are informed, believe and thereon allege that Defendants and their agents
8 and employees have and continue to violate the ADA by failing to timely respond to and
9 remedy complaints about the said barriers through their policies and practices with regard
10 to the City's pedestrian walkways and disability access.

11 80. Plaintiffs are informed, believe and thereon allege that Defendants committed the
12 acts and omissions alleged herein with intent and/or reckless disregard of Plaintiffs'
13 rights.

14 81. As a direct and proximate result of the aforementioned acts, Plaintiffs have
15 suffered, and continue to suffer humiliation, hardship and anxiety, due to Defendants'
16 failure to address accommodations, modifications, services and access required for
17 Plaintiffs' disabilities.

18 82. Because Defendants' discriminatory conduct is ongoing, declaratory and injunctive
19 relief are appropriate remedies.

20 83. Pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 12133, Plaintiffs are entitled to declaratory and injunctive
21 relief as well as reasonable attorneys' fees and costs incurred in bringing this action.
22 Plaintiffs Willits, Griffin, and Pilgreen also seek an award of damages.

23 **SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION**

24 **Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act**

25 **(Against All Defendants)**

26 **29 U.S.C. § 794 *et seq.***

27 84. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference each and every allegation contained in the
28 foregoing paragraphs.

1 85. Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 provides in pertinent part: "[N]o
2 otherwise qualified individual with a disability . . . shall, solely by reason of her or his
3 disability, be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected
4 to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance . . ."
5 29 U.S.C. § 794.

6 86. Plaintiffs are otherwise qualified to participate in the services, programs, or
7 activities that are provided to individuals in the City. *See* 29 U.S.C. § 794(b).

8 87. The City is a direct recipient of federal financial assistance sufficient to invoke the
9 coverage of Section 504, and has received such federal financial assistance at all times
10 relevant to the claims asserted in this Complaint.

11 88. Plaintiffs are informed, believe and thereon allege that Defendants and their agents
12 and employees have and continue to violate the Rehabilitation Act and the regulations
13 promulgated thereunder by excluding Plaintiffs from participation in, denying Plaintiffs
14 the benefits of, and subjecting Plaintiffs based solely by reason of their disability to
15 discrimination in the benefits and services the City's pedestrian rights of way and for the
16 reasons set forth above.

17 89. Plaintiffs are informed, believe and thereon allege that Defendants committed the
18 acts and omissions alleged herein with intent and/or reckless disregard of Plaintiffs'
19 rights.

20 90. As a direct and proximate result of the aforementioned acts, Plaintiffs suffered and
21 continue to suffer humiliation, hardship, and anxiety due to Defendants' failure to address
22 accommodations, modifications, services and access required for their disabilities.

23 91. Because Defendants' discriminatory conduct is ongoing, declaratory and injunctive
24 relief are appropriate remedies.

25 92. Pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 794(a), Plaintiffs are entitled to declaratory and injunctive
26 relief and to recover from Defendants the reasonable attorneys' fees and costs incurred in
27 bringing this action. Plaintiffs Willits, Griffin, and Pilgreen also seek an award of
28 damages.

THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION

California Government Code § 11135

(Against All Defendants)

93. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference each and every allegation contained in the foregoing paragraphs.

94. Section 11135(a) of the California Government Code provides in pertinent part: “No person in the State of California shall, on the basis of . . . disability, be unlawfully denied the benefits of, or be unlawfully subjected to discrimination under, any program or activity that is funded directly by the state or receives any financial assistance from the state.”

95. The City is funded directly by the State of California and receives financial assistance from the State of California sufficient to invoke the coverage of Government Code Sections 11135, *et seq.* The City was the recipient of such funding and financial assistance at all time relevant to the claims asserted in this Complaint.

96. Plaintiffs are informed, believe and thereon allege that Defendants and their agents and employees have and continue to violate California Government Code § 11135 by unlawfully denying Plaintiffs the benefits of, and unlawfully subjecting Plaintiffs to discrimination under the City’s programs and activities and for the reasons set forth above.

97. Defendants have refused and failed to provide Plaintiffs with full and equal access to their facilities, programs, services and activities as required by California Government Code Sections 11135, *et seq.* through their policies and practices with regard to the City’s pedestrian walkways and disability access.

98. As a direct and proximate result of the aforementioned acts, Plaintiffs have suffered, and continue to suffer humiliation, hardship and anxiety, due to Defendants’ failure to address accommodations, modifications, services and access required for Plaintiffs’ disabilities.

1 99. Because Defendants' discriminatory conduct is ongoing, declaratory and
2 injunctive relief are appropriate remedies.

3 100. Plaintiffs are also entitled to reasonable attorneys' fees and costs in filing this
4 action.

5 **FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

6 **Unruh Civil Rights Act**

7 **(Against All Defendants)**

8 **California Civil Code § 51 *et seq.***

9 101. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference each and every allegation contained in the
10 foregoing paragraphs.

11 102. This cause of action arises under California Civil Code section 51, which
12 provides in pertinent part that "All persons within the jurisdiction of this state are free and
13 equal, and no matter what their . . . disability or medical condition are entitled to the full
14 and equal accommodations, advantages, facilities, privileges, or services in all business
15 establishments of every kind whatsoever." Cal. Civil Code § 51(b).

16 103. Pursuant to California Civil Code § 51(f), a violation of the ADA also
17 constitutes a violation of California Civil Code §51 *et seq.*

18 104. Defendants own, operate and/or lease business establishments within the
19 meaning of the Unruh Civil Rights Act. City facilities are public accommodations whose
20 facilities and programs are open to the general public and are operated for the public
21 benefit. The City provides its facilities, programs and services to the public, enters into
22 business contracts with a myriad of business entities, and markets and promotes its
23 programs, services, facilities and activities to the general public. The City is a "business
24 establishment" and pedestrian rights of way are "accommodations, advantages, facilities,
25 privileges, or services" within the meaning of California Civil Code § 51 *et seq.*

26 105. Plaintiffs are informed, believe and thereon allege that Defendants and their
27 agents and employees have and continue to violate California Civil Code § 51 *et seq.*,
28 through their policies and practices with regard to the City's pedestrian walkways and

1 disability access, by denying Plaintiffs full and equal access to its pedestrian rights of
2 way comparable to the access that it offers to others and for the reasons set forth above,
3 including violating the ADA.

4 106. The actions of Defendants constitute intentional discrimination against persons
5 with disabilities and violate the Unruh Civil Rights Act, Cal. Civ. Code §§ 51, *et seq.*, in
6 that physically disabled persons have been and are denied full and equal
7 accommodations, advantages, facilities, privileges, and services provided to non-disabled
8 persons.

9 107. As a direct and proximate result of the aforementioned acts, Plaintiffs have
10 suffered, and continue to suffer, humiliation, hardship and anxiety, due to Defendants'
11 failure to address accommodations, modifications, services and access required for
12 Plaintiffs' disabilities.

13 108. Because Defendants' discriminatory conduct is ongoing, declaratory and
14 injunctive relief are appropriate remedies.

15 109. Plaintiffs are also entitled to reasonable attorneys' fees and costs in filing this
16 action.

17 110. Plaintiffs Willits, Griffin, and Pilgreen also seek an award of damages. Under
18 California Civil Code § 52.1(f), Defendants are liable to Plaintiffs Willits, Griffin, and
19 Pilgreen for their actual damages, and up to three times their actual damages, but no less
20 than \$4,000 for every violation of California Civil Code § 51 *et seq.* Named Plaintiffs
21 have complied with the California Tort Claims Act requirements.

22 **FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

23 **California Government Code § 4450, *et seq.***

24 **(Against All Defendants)**

25 111. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference each and every allegation contained in the
26 foregoing paragraphs.

27 112. The City's pedestrian rights of way are publicly funded and intended for use by
28 the public within the meaning of California Government Code § 4450, *et seq.*

113. Plaintiffs are informed, believe and thereon allege that Defendants' and their agents and employees have and continue to violate California Government Code § 4450, *et seq.*, and regulations implemented pursuant thereto, by constructing, altering, installing, maintaining, and/or operating its pedestrian rights of way in violation of disability access requirements and for the reasons set forth above. The aforementioned acts and omissions of Defendants constitute a denial of equal access to and use of the City's pedestrian rights of way and caused Plaintiffs to suffer deprivation of their civil rights.

114. As a direct and proximate result of the aforementioned acts, Plaintiffs have suffered, and continue to suffer, humiliation, hardship and anxiety, due to Defendants' failures to address accommodations, modifications, services and access required for Plaintiffs' disabilities.

115. Because the City's discriminatory conduct is ongoing, declaratory and injunctive relief are appropriate remedies.

116. Plaintiffs are also entitled to reasonable attorneys' fees and costs in filing this action.

SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION

Violation of California Civil Code § 54

(Against Defendants)

117. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference each and every allegation contained in the foregoing paragraphs.

118. California Civil Code § 54(a) provides that "[i]ndividuals with disabilities or medical conditions have the same rights as the general public to the full and free use of ...public services...."

119. Plaintiffs are persons with disabilities within the meaning of California Civil Code § 54(b)(1) and California Government Code § 12926.

120. Defendants provide public services within the meaning of § 54 *et seq.*

121. By failing to provide reasonable and equal accommodations to Plaintiffs in light of, and based upon, Plaintiffs disabilities, Defendants have deprived Plaintiffs of their

1 right to have full and free use of public services, and therefore violate California Civil
2 Code § 54.

3 122. Under California Civil Code § 54(c), a violation of the ADA also constitutes a
4 violation of California Civil Code § 54 *et seq.*

5 123. For all the reasons outlined above, Defendants violated the rights of Plaintiffs
6 under the Americans with Disabilities Act, and therefore violated California Code § 54.

7 124. As a direct and proximate result of the aforementioned acts, Plaintiffs have
8 suffered and continue to suffer humiliation, hardship, anxiety and indignity.

9 125. Under California Civil Code § 54 *et. seq.*, Plaintiffs are entitled to injunctive
10 relief, and attorneys' fees and costs.

11 126. Plaintiffs Willits, Griffin, and Pilgreen also seek an award of damages. Plaintiffs
12 Willits, Griffin, and Pilgreen are entitled to damages, including but not limited to,
13 statutory damages in an amount up to a maximum of three times the amount of her actual
14 damages. Cal. Civ. Code § 54.3. Named Plaintiffs have complied with the California
15 Tort Claims Act requirements.

16 **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

17 WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs request judgment as follows:

18 1. A declaration that Defendants' conduct as alleged herein has violated, and
19 continues to violate, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act; Section 504 of the
20 Rehabilitation Act of 1973; California Government Code §§ 11135 and 4450; and
21 California Civil Code §§ 51 and 54;

22 2. Issuance of preliminary and permanent injunctions requiring each Defendant to
23 undertake remedial measures to mitigate the effects of Defendants' past and ongoing
24 violations of Title II of the ADA, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, California
25 Government Code §§ 11135 and 4450; and California Civil Code §§ 51 and 54; and the
26 regulations promulgated under each of these statutes. At a minimum, Defendants must
27 be enjoined to take the following actions:
28

- a. Ensure that the City's pedestrian rights of way when viewed in their entirety are readily accessible to and useable by individuals with disabilities;
 - b. Undertake prompt remedial measures to eliminate the physical barriers to access to pedestrian rights of way to make such rights of way accessible to Plaintiffs in accordance with federal and state nondiscrimination statutes;
 - c. Ensure that all future new construction and alterations to City pedestrian rights of way comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines and/or Uniform Federal Accessibility Standards, Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations standards and Cal. Govt. Code §§ 4450, *et seq.*; and
 - d. Remain under this Court's jurisdiction until Defendants fully comply with the Orders of this Court;
3. Award Plaintiffs' attorneys' fees and costs, as provided by law;
 4. Award of damages to named Plaintiffs Willits, Griffin, and Pilgreen to the extent provided by law; and
 5. Such other relief as the Court finds just and proper.

DATED: August 3, 2010

Respectfully Submitted,

DISABILITY RIGHTS LEGAL CENTER

SCHNEIDER WALLACE COTTRELL
BRAYTON KONECKY LLP

By: _____

Shawna L. Parks

Surisa E. Rivers

Attorneys for Plaintiffs

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

NOTICE OF ASSIGNMENT TO UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE FOR DISCOVERY

This case has been assigned to District Judge Manuel Real and the assigned discovery Magistrate Judge is Rosalyn M. Chapman.

The case number on all documents filed with the Court should read as follows:

CV10- 5782 R (RCx)

Pursuant to General Order 05-07 of the United States District Court for the Central District of California, the Magistrate Judge has been designated to hear discovery related motions.

Unless otherwise ordered, the United States District Judge assigned to this case will hear and determine all discovery related motions.

=====

NOTICE TO COUNSEL

A copy of this notice must be served with the summons and complaint on all defendants (if a removal action is filed, a copy of this notice must be served on all plaintiffs).

Subsequent documents must be filed at the following location:

☒ **Western Division**
312 N. Spring St., Rm. G-8
Los Angeles, CA 90012

☐ **Southern Division**
411 West Fourth St., Rm. 1-053
Santa Ana, CA 92701-4516

☐ **Eastern Division**
3470 Twelfth St., Rm. 134
Riverside, CA 92501

Failure to file at the proper location will result in your documents being returned to you.

Paula D. Pearlman, SBN 109038
 paula.pearlman@lls.edu
 DISABILITY RIGHTS LEGAL CENTER
 919 Albany Street
 Los Angeles, CA 90015
 Tel: 213-736-1031 (see attachment for add'l atty info)

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
 CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

MARK WILLITS, JUDY GRIFFIN, BRENT
 PILGREEN, (see attachment for additional plaintiffs)

PLAINTIFF(S)

v.

CITY OF LOS ANGELES, a public entity; ANTONIO
 VILLARAIGOSA, in his official capacity as Mayor
 (see attachment for additional defendants)

DEFENDANT(S).

CASE NUMBER

CV 10 5782-R (RG)

SUMMONS

TO: DEFENDANT(S): City of Los Angeles, a public entity; Antonio Villaraigosa, in his official capacity as Mayor (see attachment for additional defendants);

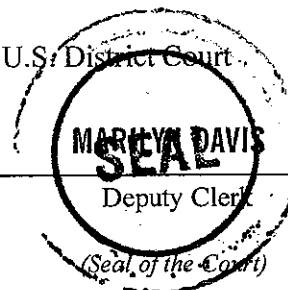
A lawsuit has been filed against you.

Within 21 days after service of this summons on you (not counting the day you received it), you must serve on the plaintiff an answer to the attached ☒ complaint ☐ amended complaint ☐ counterclaim ☐ cross-claim or a motion under Rule 12 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. The answer or motion must be served on the plaintiff's attorney, Surisa E. Rivers, whose address is Disability Rights Legal Center, 919 Albany Street, Los Angeles, CA 90015. If you fail to do so, judgment by default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint. You also must file your answer or motion with the court.

Dated: 4 AUG 2010

Clerk, U.S. District Court

By:



[Use 60 days if the defendant is the United States or a United States agency, or is an officer or employee of the United States. Allowed 60 days by Rule 12(a)(3)].

1 **ATTACHMENT TO SUMMONS**

2
3 ADDITIONAL ATTORNEY INFORMATION:

4 Shawna L. Parks (CA Bar No. 208301)
5 shawna.parks@lls.edu
6 Surisa E. Rivers (CA Bar No. 250868)
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8 DISABILITY RIGHTS LEGAL CENTER
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10 Guy B. Wallace (CA Bar No. 176151)
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12 Mark T. Johnson (CA Bar No. 076904)
13 mjohnson@schneiderwallace.com
14 Andrew P. Lee (CA Bar No. 245903)
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17 180 Montgomery Street, Suite 2000
San Francisco, CA 94104
Tel: (415) 421-7100
Fax: (415) 421-7105

18 ADDITIONAL PLAINTIFFS

19
20 And COMMUNITIES ACTIVELY LIVING INDEPENDENT AND FREE
21 ("CALIF"), on behalf of themselves and all others similarly situated,

22
23 ADDITIONAL DEFENDANTS

24 ERIC GARCETTI, in his official capacity as President of the Los Angeles City
25 Council; ED REYES, PAUL KREKORIAN, DENNIS P. ZINE, TOM LABONGE,
26 PAUL KORETZ, TONY CARDENAS, RICHARD ALARCON, BERNARD
27 PARKS, JAN PERRY, HERB J. WESSON, JR., BILL ROSENDAHL, GREIG
28 SMITH, JOSE HUIZAR, AND JANICE HAHN, in their official capacities as
members of the Los Angeles City Council,

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT, CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
CIVIL COVER SHEET

VIII(a). IDENTICAL CASES: Has this action been previously filed in this court and dismissed, remanded or closed? ☒ No ☐ Yes
 If yes, list case number(s): _____

VIII(b). RELATED CASES: Have any cases been previously filed in this court that are related to the present case? ☒ No ☐ Yes
 If yes, list case number(s): _____

Civil cases are deemed related if a previously filed case and the present case:

- (Check all boxes that apply) ☐ A. Arise from the same or closely related transactions, happenings, or events; or
☐ B. Call for determination of the same or substantially related or similar questions of law and fact; or
☐ C. For other reasons would entail substantial duplication of labor if heard by different judges; or
☐ D. Involve the same patent, trademark or copyright, and one of the factors identified above in a, b or c also is present.

IX. VENUE: (When completing the following information, use an additional sheet if necessary.)

- (a) List the County in this District; California County outside of this District; State if other than California; or Foreign Country, in which **EACH** named plaintiff resides.
☐ Check here if the government, its agencies or employees is a named plaintiff. If this box is checked, go to item (b).

County in this District:*	California County outside of this District; State, if other than California; or Foreign Country
Los Angeles County	

- (b) List the County in this District; California County outside of this District; State if other than California; or Foreign Country, in which **EACH** named defendant resides.
☒ Check here if the government, its agencies or employees is a named defendant. If this box is checked, go to item (c).

County in this District:*	California County outside of this District; State, if other than California; or Foreign Country
Los Angeles County	

- (c) List the County in this District; California County outside of this District; State if other than California; or Foreign Country, in which **EACH** claim arose.
Note: In land condemnation cases, use the location of the tract of land involved.

County in this District:*	California County outside of this District; State, if other than California; or Foreign Country
Los Angeles County	

* Los Angeles, Orange, San Bernardino, Riverside, Ventura, Santa Barbara, or San Luis Obispo Counties

Note: In land condemnation cases, use the location of the tract of land involved

X. SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY (OR PRO PER):

San Diego Date 8/3/10

Notice to Counsel/Parties: The CV-71 (JS-44) Civil Cover Sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required pursuant to Local Rule 3-1 is not filed but is used by the Clerk of the Court for the purpose of statistics, venue and initiating the civil docket sheet. (For more detailed instructions, see separate instructions sheet.)

Key to Statistical codes relating to Social Security Cases:

Nature of Suit Code	Abbreviation	Substantive Statement of Cause of Action
861	HIA	All claims for health insurance benefits (Medicare) under Title 18, Part A, of the Social Security Act, as amended. Also, include claims by hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, etc., for certification as providers of services under the program. (42 U.S.C. 1935FF(b))
862	BL	All claims for "Black Lung" benefits under Title 4, Part B, of the Federal Coal Mine Health and Safety Act of 1969. (30 U.S.C. 923)
863	DIWC	All claims filed by insured workers for disability insurance benefits under Title 2 of the Social Security Act, as amended; plus all claims filed for child's insurance benefits based on disability. (42 U.S.C. 405(g))
863	DIWW	All claims filed for widows or widowers insurance benefits based on disability under Title 2 of the Social Security Act, as amended. (42 U.S.C. 405(g))
864	SSID	All claims for supplemental security income payments based upon disability filed under Title 16 of the Social Security Act, as amended.
865	RSI	All claims for retirement (old age) and survivors benefits under Title 2 of the Social Security Act, as amended. (42 U.S.C. (g))

1 **ATTACHMENT TO CIVIL COVER SHEET**

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23 ED REYES, PAUL KREKORIAN, DENNIS P. ZINE, TOM LABONGE, PAUL
24 KORETZ, TONY CARDENAS, RICHARD ALARCON, BERNARD PARKS,
25 JAN PERRY, HERB J. WESSON, JR., BILL ROSENDAHL, GREIG SMITH,
26 JOSE HUIZAR, AND JANICE HAHN, in their official capacities as members of
27 the Los Angeles City Council,
28

23 ADDITIONAL CAUSES OF ACTION

24 Unruh Civil Rights Act (Cal. Civil Code §51; California Government Code §
25 4450; California Disabled Persons Act (Cal. Civil Code §54; This lawsuit is
26 brought against Defendants to redress the defendants' systemic and pervasive
27 discrimination through denial of meaningful access to City's pedestrian rights of
28 way