Tracey Aders, Esq. (SBN: 353851)
Robert Herrera, Esq. (SBN: 314497)
ADERS & HERRERA, APC
1800 E. Lambert Rd., Suite 215
Brea, CA 92821
Phone: (949) 229-8449 / Facsimile: (949) 996-5152
E-Mail: Team@Aderslaw.com

Attorneys for Plaintiffs, Individually and on Behalf of All Others Similarly Situated

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA – SOUTHERN DIVISION

SOPHIA HUYNH, WILSON NGUYEN; MUOI TRAN; DUNG NGUYEN; KHANG NGUYEN; NINA KIEU ABRAMSON; ANNIE NGOC LE; KATHY LE; ANNIE NGOC LE; THANH NGOC DONG; SAVANNARI STILABOWER; VINCENT TRAN; VIVIAN DAM; DAVID NGUYEN; BEATRICE HEIM; MONG THUY THI NGUYEN; THIEN NGUYEN Individually And on Behalf of All Others Similarly Situated

Plaintiff,

vs.

GKN AEROSPACE TRANSPARENCY SYSTEMS INC., a California Corporation, GKN AEROSPACE SERVICES LTD., a United Kingdom Private Limited Company, and MELROSE INDUSTRIES PLC, a United Kingdom Public Company,

Defendants.

Case No.:

PLAINTIFFS' MOTION FOR LEAVE TO ADD ADDITIONAL PLAINTIFFS AND TO FILE AMENDED CONSOLIDATED CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT

1. Negligence
2. Trespass
3. Private Nuisance
4. Public Nuisance
5. Strict Liability for Ultrahazardous Activity
6. Trespass to Chattels / Conversion

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

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INTRODUCTION

1. Plaintiffs Sophia Huynh, Wilson Nguyen, Muoi Tran, Dung Nguyen, Khang Nguyen, Nina Kieu Abramson, Annie Ngoc Le, Kathy Le, Kenny Duc Le (a minor, by and through his Guardian Ad Litem, Annie Ngoc Le), Thanh Ngoc Dong, Savannari Stilabower, Vincent Tran, Vivian Dam, David Nguyen, Beatrice Heim, Mong Thuy Thi Nguyen, and Thien Nguyen (collectively, "Plaintiffs"), individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated, bring this action against Defendants GKN AEROSPACE TRANSPARENCY SYSTEMS INC., a California Corporation ("GATS"), GKN AEROSPACE SERVICES LTD., a United Kingdom Private Limited Company ("GAS"), and MELROSE INDUSTRIES PLC, a United Kingdom Public Company ("Melrose" and, collectively with GATS and GAS, the "GKN Defendants" or "Defendants"), arising from the negligent storage, containment, handling, monitoring, and release of methyl methacrylate ("MMA") and related hazardous chemical vapors from Defendants' facility located at 12122 Western Avenue, Garden Grove, California 92841 (the "Facility").

2. As a result of the MMA release and the resulting toxic plume, surrounding residents and property owners, including Plaintiffs and members of the proposed Class, were subjected to mandatory evacuation orders, shelter-in-place directives, exposure concerns, noxious chemical odors, fear of contamination, interference with the use and enjoyment of their homes and properties, out-of-pocket displacement expenses, and other damages.

PARTIES

3. Plaintiff Sophia Huynh is an individual who, at all relevant times, owned, rented, and/or resided in real property located in Stanton, California, within the evacuation zone established by emergency officials in response to the incident described herein.

4. Plaintiff Wilson Nguyen is an individual who, at all relevant times, owned, rented, and/or resided in real property located in Stanton California, within the evacuation zone established by emergency officials in response to the incident described herein.

5. Plaintiff Muoi Tran is an individual who, at all relevant times, owned, rented, and/or resided in real property located in Stanton California, within the evacuation zone established by

emergency officials in response to the incident described herein. Plaintiff Muoi Tran is a citizen of the State of California.

6. Plaintiff Dung Nguyen is an individual who, at all relevant times, owned, rented, and/or resided in real property located in Garden Grove, California, within the evacuation zone established by emergency officials in response to the incident described herein. Plaintiff Dung Nguyen is a citizen of the State of California.

7. Plaintiff Khang Nguyen is an individual who, at all relevant times, owned, rented, and/or resided in real property located in Garden Grove, California, within the evacuation zone established by emergency officials in response to the incident described herein. Plaintiff Khang Nguyen is a citizen of the State of California.

8. Plaintiff Nina Kieu Abramson is an individual who, at all relevant times, owned, rented, and/or resided in real property located in Westminster, California, within the evacuation zone established by emergency officials in response to the incident described herein. Plaintiff Nina Kieu Abramson is a citizen of the State of California.

9. Plaintiff Annie Ngoc Le is an individual who, at all relevant times, owned, rented, and/or resided in real property located in Garden Grove, California, within the evacuation zone established by emergency officials in response to the incident described herein. Plaintiff Annie Ngoc Le is a citizen of the State of California.

10. Plaintiff Kathy Le is an individual who, at all relevant times, owned, rented, and/or resided in real property located in Garden Grove, California, within the evacuation zone established by emergency officials in response to the incident described herein. Plaintiff Kathy Le is a citizen of the State of California.

12. Plaintiff Thanh Ngoc Dong is an individual who, at all relevant times, owned, rented, and/or resided in real property located at in Garden Grove, California, within the evacuation zone established by emergency officials in response to the incident described herein. Plaintiff Thanh Ngoc Dong is a citizen of the State of California.

13. Plaintiff Savannari Stilabower is an individual who, at all relevant times, owned, rented, and/or resided in real property located in Anaheim, California, within the evacuation zone established by emergency officials in response to the incident described herein. Plaintiff Savannari Stilabower is a citizen of the State of California.

14. Plaintiff Vincent Tran is an individual who, at all relevant times, owned, rented, and/or resided in real property located in Westminster, California, within the evacuation zone established by emergency officials in response to the incident described herein. Plaintiff Vincent Tran is a citizen of the State of California.

15. Plaintiff Vivian Dam is an individual who, at all relevant times, owned, rented, and/or resided in real property located in Westminster, California, within the evacuation zone established by emergency officials in response to the incident described herein. Plaintiff Vivian Dam is a citizen of the State of California.

16. Plaintiff David Nguyen is an individual who, at all relevant times, owned, rented, and/or resided in real property located in Westminster, California, within the evacuation zone established by emergency officials in response to the incident described herein. Plaintiff David Nguyen is a citizen of the State of California.

17. Plaintiff Beatrice Heim is an individual who, at all relevant times, owned, rented, and/or resided in real property located in Westminster, California, within the evacuation zone established by emergency officials in response to the incident described herein. Plaintiff Beatrice Heim is a citizen of the State of California.

18. Plaintiff Mong Thuy Thi Nguyen is an individual who, at all relevant times, owned, rented, and/or resided in real property located in Garden Grove California, within the evacuation zone established by emergency officials in response to the incident described herein. Plaintiff Mong Thuy Thi Nguyen is a citizen of the State of California.

19. Plaintiff Thien Nguyen is an individual who, at all relevant times, owned, rented, and/or resided in real property located in Garden Grover, California, within the evacuation zone

established by emergency officials in response to the incident described herein. Plaintiff Thien Nguyen is a citizen of the State of California.

20. Defendant GKN AEROSPACE TRANSPARENCY SYSTEMS INC. is a California corporation with its principal place of business at 12122 Western Avenue, Garden Grove, California 92841.

21. Defendant GKN AEROSPACE SERVICES LTD. is a United Kingdom private limited company. Plaintiffs are informed and believe that GAS maintains its principal place of business in the United States at 1301 Solana Boulevard, Suite 1528, Westlake, Texas 76262.

22. Defendant MELROSE INDUSTRIES PLC is a United Kingdom public company. Plaintiffs are informed and believe that Melrose maintains its principal place of business in the United States at 1301 Solana Boulevard, Suite 1528, Westlake, Texas 76262.

23. GATS is a wholly owned United States subsidiary and operating business within the broader GKN Aerospace group, which is headquartered in the United Kingdom and operates globally through GAS. GATS specializes in the design and manufacture of aerospace transparency products, including aircraft windows, cockpit windshields, and military canopies, and functions as part of GKN Aerospace's "transparencies" business line.

24. Public corporate records and industry databases identify GATS as an affiliated subsidiary operating under GAS's "GKN Aerospace" brand and corporate structure. GAS is itself wholly owned by Melrose, a United Kingdom-based aerospace and engineering group. GAS oversees global operations involving airframe systems, transparencies, engine structures, and related aerospace technologies, with facilities in multiple countries, including the United States.

25. At all relevant times, GAS and Melrose exercised centralized oversight, management, direction, and control over hazardous materials policies, operational safety protocols, environmental compliance procedures, risk management practices, industrial safety systems, and corporate governance affecting the operations of GATS, including the handling, storage, containment, monitoring, maintenance, and management of MMA and other hazardous industrial chemicals at the Facility. Plaintiffs are informed and believe, and thereon allege, that

such policies, procedures, operational standards, and safety practices were implemented, coordinated, directed, approved, monitored, and/or enforced on a centralized and enterprise-wide basis by the GKN Defendants.

26. Plaintiffs are ignorant of the true names and capacities of the Defendants sued herein as DOES 1 through 50, inclusive, and therefore sue these Defendants by such fictitious names. Plaintiffs will amend this Complaint to allege their true names and capacities when ascertained. Plaintiffs are informed and believe, and thereon allege, that each of the fictitiously named Defendants is responsible in some manner for the occurrences herein alleged, and that Plaintiffs' damages were proximately caused by their conduct.

27. Plaintiffs are informed and believe, and thereon allege, that at all relevant times each Defendant was the agent, servant, employee, partner, joint venturer, alter ego, parent, subsidiary, and/or affiliate of each of the other Defendants, and in doing the things herein alleged was acting within the course and scope of such agency, employment, partnership, joint venture, and/or affiliation, and with the permission, consent, and ratification of each of the other Defendants.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

28. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction over this action pursuant to the Class Action Fairness Act of 2005, 28 U.S.C. § 1332(d), because this is a class action in which there are more than 100 members of the proposed Class, at least one member of the proposed Class is a citizen of a State different from at least one Defendant, and the aggregate amount in controversy exceeds $5,000,000, exclusive of interest and costs. Plaintiffs and the members of the proposed Class are citizens of the State of California. Defendants GAS and Melrose are citizens of the United Kingdom and, on information and belief, the State of Texas.

29. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendants because Defendants own, operate, and/or control the Facility in Garden Grove, California; conduct substantial and continuous business in the State of California; and committed the tortious acts and omissions alleged herein within the State of California.

30. Venue is proper in this District pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b) because a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to the claims occurred in this judicial district, the Facility is located in this judicial district, and Defendants are subject to the Court's personal jurisdiction in this judicial district. Assignment to the Southern Division is proper because the events giving rise to this action occurred in Orange County, California.

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

I. The Storage of Methyl Methacrylate at the Facility

31. Defendants own and operate an aerospace manufacturing and industrial facility located at 12122 Western Avenue, Garden Grove, California.

32. At all relevant times, Defendants stored, handled, maintained, utilized, transported, processed, controlled, and/or otherwise managed MMA and other hazardous substances at the Facility.

33. MMA is a highly flammable, clear organic liquid with an acrid, fruity odor. Primarily used as a monomer to manufacture acrylic plastics, it is also used to produce latex paints, medical bone cement, dental crowns, and high-strength adhesives. MMA is the key chemical building block used to make polymethyl methacrylate ("PMMA"), commonly known as acrylic or plexiglass. In aerospace, PMMA is valued because it is lightweight, optically clear, impact resistant, and easier to shape than glass.

34. GATS uses MMA primarily to manufacture aerospace-grade acrylic plastics and transparent aircraft components such as aircraft windows, cockpit windshields, military jet canopies, passenger cabin windows, and other "transparency systems" for aerospace applications. GKN Aerospace's own transparency systems division describes its business as producing cockpit windows, passenger cabin windows, military canopies (including F-35 and F-22 systems), and abrasion-resistant coated aerospace transparencies, and notes that it has a "vertically integrated supply of aerospace grade acrylic material."

35. MMA is a hazardous, volatile, highly flammable industrial chemical that presents substantial risks to human health, property, animals, and the environment when improperly stored,

released, or aerosolized. MMA readily vaporizes at room temperature, producing highly concentrated airborne vapors that are heavier than air and capable of settling, pooling, and migrating into low-lying areas, structures, residences, and surrounding communities. Because MMA vapors can travel beyond the point of release and accumulate in confined or poorly ventilated spaces, accidental releases create widespread and foreseeable dangers to nearby persons and property.

36. MMA is highly lipid-soluble, meaning it readily penetrates human skin and can pass through surgical gloves and standard protective clothing. Ordinary protective barriers are often insufficient to prevent chemical exposure. MMA's chemical properties make it particularly dangerous in industrial and populated settings because individuals may unknowingly experience dermal and inhalation exposure even without direct contact with liquid MMA.

37. MMA is extremely flammable and chemically reactive. In the event of a fire, ignition, or explosion, MMA creates severe physical hazards and may generate a complex mixture of toxic and volatile airborne contaminants. The release of MMA therefore presents not only chemical exposure dangers, but also substantial risks of combustion, explosion, toxic smoke generation, and catastrophic harm to surrounding persons and properties.

38. Exposure to MMA vapors poses serious health hazards to humans. Inhalation exposure attacks mucous membranes and commonly causes burning eyes, throat irritation, coughing, chest tightness, respiratory distress, and shortness of breath. Prolonged or concentrated inhalation exposure can result in pulmonary edema, a life-threatening accumulation of fluid within the lungs that severely impairs breathing and oxygen exchange.

39. Direct contact with MMA may cause significant dermatological injuries. MMA strips the skin of natural oils and can cause severe irritation, chemical burns, and contact dermatitis. Repeated exposure may lead to sensitization, meaning that once an individual becomes sensitized to MMA, even minimal future exposure may trigger severe itching, rashes, inflammation, and other allergic reactions.

40. MMA poses substantial neurological dangers because it affects the central nervous system. Overexposure to MMA has been associated with dizziness, nausea, headaches, confusion, cognitive impairment, numbness, weakness in the extremities, and generalized peripheral neuropathy. Chronic or repeated exposure may result in long-term neurological impairment and diminished quality of life. Repeated or chronic MMA exposure may also cause respiratory sensitization and permanent respiratory injury, including occupational asthma, chronic respiratory irritation, reduced lung capacity, and heightened sensitivity to airborne chemical exposures.

41. MMA exposure presents serious hazards to animals. Studies involving animal exposure have demonstrated acute respiratory toxicity, including lung damage and progressive degeneration or necrosis of olfactory tissue. Animal studies have further demonstrated developmental and reproductive toxicity associated with MMA exposure, including reduced fetal weight, skeletal and vertebral abnormalities, developmental defects, and increased fetal deaths in exposed populations.

42. Because of these dangerous characteristics, MMA requires strict storage, containment, monitoring, handling, ventilation, emergency response planning, and safety controls to prevent releases capable of endangering nearby residents, workers, animals, and surrounding communities.

II. The May 2026 MMA Emergency and Mass Evacuation

43. On or about May 21, 2026, a hazardous materials emergency occurred at the Facility after a large industrial storage tank containing MMA began experiencing dangerous thermal instability and uncontrolled chemical reactions. Upon information and belief, the tank became overheated and entered a condition that created a substantial risk of rupture, explosion, fire, and the uncontrolled release of hazardous airborne chemicals into surrounding communities.

44. As the incident escalated, emergency responders determined that the storage tank posed an imminent threat to public safety because it could catastrophically fail, ignite, explode, or release large quantities of toxic chemical vapors into the densely populated residential neighborhoods surrounding the Facility.

45. As the emergency unfolded, hazardous chemical vapors and noxious odors spread beyond the boundaries of the Facility and into neighboring residential communities. Because MMA vapors are heavier than air, the toxic plume posed a heightened risk of migrating into streets, homes, low-lying areas, structures, and occupied residential properties. Residents in surrounding areas reported strong chemical odors, burning sensations, respiratory irritation, headaches, dizziness, and fear regarding potential toxic exposure and contamination.

46. Upon information and belief, MMA vapors, particulates, residues, contaminants, and/or airborne chemical byproducts physically migrated onto and into Plaintiffs' and Class members' real and personal property, including structures, HVAC systems, outdoor surfaces, vegetation, soil, and personal belongings. Plaintiffs are informed and believe that MMA vapors and airborne contaminants infiltrated residences and enclosed structures throughout the evacuation zone.

47. In response to the escalating danger, multiple emergency response agencies, including the Orange County Fire Authority ("OCFA"), hazardous materials response teams, law enforcement agencies, and emergency management personnel, responded to the scene and implemented large-scale emergency measures designed to protect nearby residents and the public.

48. Emergency officials issued mandatory evacuation orders and shelter-in-place directives affecting broad portions of Garden Grove and neighboring communities, including Westminster, Stanton, Cypress, Anaheim, and Buena Park. Authorities closed roads, restricted access to residential neighborhoods, established emergency perimeters, and warned residents of the continuing risk of toxic exposure, fire, explosion, and environmental contamination.

49. Public officials acknowledged that the situation remained unstable and unpredictable for an extended period of time. Emergency responders publicly warned that the MMA storage tank could rupture or explode at any moment, placing nearby residents, occupants, businesses, schools, and properties at continuing risk of catastrophic harm. Authorities further warned that any ignition event or structural failure involving the tank could release a massive volume of hazardous and toxic airborne contaminants into the surrounding environment.

50. Ultimately, approximately 50,000 residents were ordered to evacuate or were otherwise affected by emergency directives associated with the incident. The evacuation orders remained in effect for approximately six days.

51. Plaintiffs and members of the proposed Class were among those forced to evacuate, shelter in place, refrain from occupying their homes, or otherwise alter their use and enjoyment of their properties due to the dangerous conditions created by the GKN Defendants' Facility and hazardous chemical release.

52. As a direct and proximate result of the GKN Defendants' conduct and the MMA release, Plaintiffs and members of the proposed Class suffered substantial interference with the use, occupancy, comfort, enjoyment, and possession of their homes and properties. Plaintiffs and Class members were displaced from their residences; forced to incur evacuation-related expenses, including alternate lodging, meals, transportation, and lost wages; deprived of the safe use of their homes; and subjected to fear, anxiety, annoyance, inconvenience, and distress arising from the threat of toxic exposure and catastrophic chemical storage failure.

53. The MMA release and resulting emergency conditions further caused widespread concern regarding contamination of homes, personal property, outdoor surfaces, pets, vegetation, soil, and the surrounding environment. Plaintiffs and members of the proposed Class reasonably feared both immediate and long-term health consequences associated with exposure to MMA vapors and airborne contaminants.

54. Plaintiffs are informed and believe, and thereon allege, that the dangerous conditions giving rise to the incident were foreseeable and preventable, and resulted from the GKN Defendants' negligent storage, maintenance, monitoring, containment, inspection, handling, supervision, and control of MMA and hazardous industrial chemicals at the Facility. Plaintiffs are further informed and believe that the GKN Defendants had a documented history of environmental and regulatory violations at the Facility, and had been warned by regulators prior to the incident regarding deficiencies in their operations.

55. Plaintiffs are informed and believe, and thereon allege, that hazardous conditions, contamination risks, vapor migration concerns, and environmental impacts associated with the MMA incident may continue to affect Plaintiffs' and Class members' properties and surrounding communities unless and until proper remediation, inspection, containment, monitoring, and environmental response measures are completed.

III. Property Owners and Residents Incurred Substantial Damages

56. As a result of the GKN Defendants' negligence, tens of thousands of properties have been impacted by the release, and will continue for the foreseeable future to be impacted.

57. At present, Plaintiffs primarily seek damages arising from property damage, evacuation-related harm, nuisance conditions, displacement, and interference with the use and enjoyment of property. Plaintiffs expressly reserve all rights and remedies relating to personal injury, latent injuries, future toxic exposure claims, and medical monitoring relief to the extent permitted by applicable law.

58. The presence of MMA has caused harm to property owners and residents for a number of reasons. First, the affected properties need to be properly cleaned to remove the notoriously harsh, pungent, fruity odor of MMA, which readily embeds itself into porous materials such as wood, fabric, carpet, and drywall.

59. Second, MMA is a strong organic solvent that easily dissolves, softens, or degrades many common plastics and rubbers, including natural rubber, ABS, and polycarbonate. It can permanently cloud or craze acrylic glass surfaces and is highly reactive with and corrosive to carbon steel, cast iron, and ductile iron. Many items exposed to MMA will need to be properly cleaned and/or replaced.

60. Third, MMA is highly toxic and destructive to plants. Many property owners, occupants, and tenants have outdoor plants and gardens vulnerable to MMA.

61. Fourth, the land and the properties themselves need to be properly cleaned in order to prevent further contamination of land, waterways, and the general environment.

IV. The Class Representatives

62. Plaintiffs are the owners, renters, and/or residents of real property located within the evacuation zone established by OCFA and other emergency officials. Like other property owners, occupants, and tenants whose properties are in the evacuation zone, Plaintiffs were ordered to evacuate their homes beginning on or about May 21 and May 22, 2026, and remained displaced until the evacuation orders were lifted. Plaintiffs have incurred damages including, but not limited to, the cost of alternate housing, meals, and transportation; lost wages; and the cost required to restore their property and residences to the condition they were in prior to being affected by the MMA release. Like other Class members, Plaintiffs' homes became temporarily unsafe, unusable, and/or unsuitable for normal residential occupancy.

CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS

63. Plaintiffs bring this action on their own behalf, and as a class action on behalf of the Class defined herein, pursuant to, and properly maintainable under, Federal Rules of Civil Procedure 23(a) and 23(b)(3). The Class is also maintainable under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23(c)(4) on the issue of liability. The Class consists of thousands of property owners, renters, and residents whose properties were affected by the MMA risk created by the GKN Defendants. Specifically, Plaintiffs bring this suit on behalf of the following Class:

> The **"PROPERTY DAMAGE CLASS":** All persons who own, rent, or reside in real property within the evacuation area as determined by the Orange County Fire Authority and other emergency officials in response to the MMA incident at the GKN Aerospace facility located at 12122 Western Avenue, Garden Grove, California, beginning on or about May 21, 2026. The Class excludes: counsel representing the Class and all persons employed by said counsel; governmental entities; GKN Aerospace Transparency Systems Inc., GKN Aerospace Services Ltd., and Melrose Industries PLC, and their officers, directors, affiliates, legal representatives, employees, co-conspirators, successors, subsidiaries, and assigns; any judicial officer presiding over this matter, the members of their immediate families, and judicial staff; any individual who has filed a personal injury claim against GKN Aerospace Transparency Systems Inc., GKN Aerospace Services Ltd., or Melrose Industries PLC arising out of the same incident; and any other individual whose interests are antagonistic to other Class members.

64. Plaintiffs shall serve as Class representatives of the Property Damage Class.

65. The GKN Defendants subjected Plaintiffs and the Class to the same wrongdoing and harmed them in the same manner. Plaintiffs and the Class seek to enforce the same rights and remedies pursuant to the same legal theories: negligence, trespass, private nuisance, public nuisance, strict liability for ultrahazardous activity, and trespass to chattels / conversion.

66. **Numerosity.** The proposed Class is so numerous that individual joinder of all members is impracticable. While the exact number and identities of the Class members are unknown at this time, such information can be ascertained through appropriate investigation and discovery, including the evacuation maps and orders issued by OCFA and other emergency officials. It is estimated that the Property Damage Class consists of tens of thousands of members. The disposition of the claims of these Class members in a single class action will provide substantial benefits to all parties and to the Court.

67. **Typicality.** Plaintiffs' claims are typical of the claims of the Class in that their claims arise from the same event, practice, and course of conduct that gives rise to the claims of other Class members, and are based on the same legal theories as their claims.

68. **Adequacy of Representation.** Plaintiffs will fairly and adequately represent and protect the interests of the Class. Plaintiffs have retained the undersigned counsel, who have substantial experience in prosecuting personal injury, property damage, and complex litigation. Plaintiffs and undersigned counsel are committed to vigorously prosecuting this action on behalf of the Class and have the resources to do so. Neither Plaintiffs nor their counsel have any interests adverse to the Class.

69. **Superiority of Class Action and Impracticability of Individual Actions.** Plaintiffs and the members of the Class suffered harm as a result of Defendants' unlawful conduct. A class action is superior to other available methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of this controversy. Individual joinder of all members of the Class is impractical. Even if individual Class members had the resources to pursue individual litigation, it would be unduly burdensome to the courts in which the individual litigation would proceed. Individual litigation magnifies the delay and expense to all parties and the court system of resolving the controversies engendered by

Defendants' common course of conduct. The class action device allows a single court to provide the benefits of unitary adjudication, judicial economy, and the fair and equitable handling of all Class members' claims in a single forum. The conduct of this action as a class action conserves the resources of the parties and of the judicial system and protects the rights of the Class members. Adjudication of individual Class members' claims with respect to Defendants would, as a practical matter, be dispositive of the interests of other members not parties to the adjudication and could substantially impair or impede the ability of other Class members to protect their interests.

70. **Common Questions of Law and Fact Predominate.** The requirements of Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23 are satisfied by questions of law and fact common to the claims of Plaintiffs and of each member of the Property Damage Class, which predominate over any question of law or fact affecting only individual members of the Property Damage Class. Common questions of law and fact include, but are not limited to, the following:

(a) Prior to May 21, 2026, were Defendants negligent in their storage, maintenance, monitoring, and containment of MMA at the Facility?

(b) Did MMA and MMA vapors stored at and under the control of Defendants escape their control?

(c) Did Defendants' storage and handling of MMA at the Facility constitute an ultrahazardous or abnormally dangerous activity?

(d) Does having one's property reached by MMA, or subjected to a mandatory evacuation order arising from Defendants' MMA storage, interfere with the free use or enjoyment of one's property?

(e) Did Plaintiffs and the Class give Defendants permission to release MMA onto their properties?

(f) Did Defendants commit trespass?

(g) Did Defendants create a private nuisance?

(h) Did Defendants create a public nuisance?

(i) Did Defendants convert or trespass upon Plaintiffs' and the Class's personal property?

(j) Are Plaintiffs and the Class entitled to compensatory damages?

(k) Are Plaintiffs and the Class entitled to nominal damages?

(l) Are Plaintiffs and the Class entitled to punitive damages?

(m) Are Plaintiffs and the Class entitled to an award of attorneys' fees and costs?

71. **Notice.** Notice can be provided to the Class via internet publication, published notice, and/or direct mail, and paid for by Defendants.

FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF

NEGLIGENCE

72. Plaintiffs re-allege and incorporate by reference each and every allegation set forth in the preceding paragraphs as though fully set forth herein, and allege as follows on behalf of themselves and the Property Damage Class.

73. Defendants owed Plaintiffs and members of the proposed Class a duty to exercise reasonable care in the ownership, operation, maintenance, storage, containment, monitoring, supervision, inspection, handling, and control of MMA and other hazardous industrial chemicals maintained at the Facility.

74. Defendants further owed a duty to design, implement, maintain, and enforce adequate safety procedures, emergency response protocols, inspection systems, containment measures, warning systems, ventilation systems, cooling systems, and operational safeguards sufficient to prevent the release, overheating, ignition, migration, or uncontrolled discharge of hazardous chemical substances into neighboring communities.

75. Defendants knew or reasonably should have known that MMA is an extremely volatile, flammable, reactive, and toxic chemical substance capable of causing catastrophic harm if improperly stored, maintained, monitored, or contained. Defendants further knew or should have known that any release, overheating event, containment failure, or uncontrolled chemical reaction involving MMA could foreseeably result in airborne toxic vapor migration, fire, explosion,

environmental contamination, mandatory evacuations, respiratory exposure, and widespread harm to nearby residents and properties. Despite such knowledge, Defendants failed to exercise reasonable care in the management and control of the hazardous substances maintained at the Facility.

76. Defendants breached their duties of care by, among other things: negligently storing MMA in dangerous conditions; failing to properly inspect and maintain storage systems and equipment; failing to implement adequate temperature monitoring, pressure monitoring, cooling, containment, and emergency mitigation systems; failing to properly supervise hazardous chemical operations; failing to adequately train personnel responsible for the handling and maintenance of MMA; failing to implement proper emergency procedures; failing to timely warn surrounding residents and governmental agencies of dangerous conditions; failing to remedy deficiencies previously identified by regulators; and otherwise failing to prevent the hazardous conditions and chemical emergency described herein.

77. Defendants further breached their duties by maintaining substantial quantities of hazardous industrial chemicals in close proximity to densely populated residential communities without adequate safeguards sufficient to protect neighboring residents and properties from foreseeable chemical releases, toxic vapor migration, evacuation conditions, and catastrophic industrial failures. Plaintiffs are informed and believe that Defendants prioritized operational convenience, production concerns, cost savings, and/or profit over the implementation of adequate industrial safety measures necessary to protect the public.

78. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' negligent acts and omissions, MMA and hazardous chemical vapors were released into the surrounding environment, creating dangerous emergency conditions that caused governmental evacuation orders, shelter-in-place directives, road closures, public safety warnings, and substantial interference with the use and enjoyment of nearby homes and properties.

79. Plaintiffs and members of the proposed Class were forced to evacuate, refrain from occupying their residences, alter their daily activities, incur displacement-related expenses, lose

wages, and endure fear, anxiety, inconvenience, annoyance, contamination concerns, and other damages arising from the hazardous conditions created by Defendants.

80. The injuries and damages suffered by Plaintiffs and the proposed Class were foreseeable consequences of Defendants' negligent conduct. Defendants knew or reasonably should have known that the negligent storage, handling, maintenance, containment, and supervision of MMA created an unreasonable risk of catastrophic chemical failure and substantial harm to neighboring communities. Nevertheless, Defendants failed to take the reasonable precautions necessary to prevent the MMA emergency and the resulting injuries and damages suffered by Plaintiffs and the proposed Class.

SECOND CLAIM FOR RELIEF

TRESPASS

(By Plaintiffs and the Class Against All Defendants)

81. Plaintiffs re-allege and incorporate by reference each and every allegation set forth in the preceding paragraphs as though fully set forth herein, and allege as follows on behalf of themselves and the Property Damage Class.

82. Plaintiffs and the Class are owners, occupants, and/or tenants of real property, and at all relevant times had the right to possess and occupy that property.

83. The GKN Defendants intentionally, recklessly, or negligently caused MMA and MMA vapors to be released at and near the real properties of Plaintiffs and the Class, which in turn caused MMA, MMA vapors, and related contaminants to enter onto and into the properties of Plaintiffs and the Class.

84. Plaintiffs and the Class did not give the GKN Defendants permission to cause MMA or MMA vapors to enter their properties.

85. As a result of the GKN Defendants' conduct, Plaintiffs and the Class have suffered damages, including the cost to inspect, clean, and restore their properties, loss of use, and diminution in value.

86. The GKN Defendants acted with a conscious disregard of the rights of others and put their own financial interests ahead of the interests of Plaintiffs and the Class, which constitutes malice. The GKN Defendants engaged in despicable conduct that subjected Plaintiffs and the Class to cruel and unjust hardship in conscious disregard of their rights, which constitutes oppression. Plaintiffs and the Class are therefore entitled to punitive damages pursuant to California Civil Code section 3294 in an amount according to proof at trial.

THIRD CLAIM FOR RELIEF

PRIVATE NUISANCE

87. Plaintiffs re-allege and incorporate by reference each and every allegation set forth in the preceding paragraphs as though fully set forth herein, and allege as follows on behalf of themselves and the Property Damage Class.

88. Plaintiffs and the Class are owners, occupants, and/or tenants of real property.

89. In storing, handling, and releasing MMA and MMA vapors at and near the real properties Plaintiffs and the Class owned, occupied, and/or resided in, the GKN Defendants created a condition that was an obstruction to the free use of those properties, so as to interfere with the comfortable enjoyment of life and property, within the meaning of California Civil Code section 3479.

90. The MMA release, the resulting toxic plume, and the mandatory evacuation orders it necessitated substantially interfered with the use and enjoyment of the properties by Plaintiffs and the Class.

91. Plaintiffs and the Class did not consent to the GKN Defendants' conduct. An ordinary person would be reasonably annoyed or disturbed by the GKN Defendants' conduct. The seriousness of the harm outweighs any public benefit of the GKN Defendants' conduct.

92. As a result of the GKN Defendants' conduct, Plaintiffs and the Class have suffered damages.

93. The GKN Defendants acted with a conscious disregard of the rights of others and put their own financial interests ahead of the interests of Plaintiffs and the Class, which constitutes

malice. The GKN Defendants engaged in despicable conduct that subjected Plaintiffs and the Class to cruel and unjust hardship in conscious disregard of their rights, which constitutes oppression. Plaintiffs and the Class are therefore entitled to punitive damages pursuant to California Civil Code section 3294 in an amount according to proof at trial.

FOURTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF

PUBLIC NUISANCE

94. Plaintiffs re-allege and incorporate by reference each and every allegation set forth in the preceding paragraphs as though fully set forth herein, and allege as follows on behalf of themselves and the Property Damage Class.

95. At all relevant times, Defendants owned, operated, controlled, maintained, supervised, managed, and/or were otherwise responsible for the Facility, including the storage, handling, containment, maintenance, monitoring, and control of MMA and related hazardous industrial chemicals.

96. Defendants' acts and omissions, including the negligent storage, containment, maintenance, monitoring, supervision, and control of MMA, created dangerous conditions that substantially and unreasonably interfered with rights common to the general public, including public health, public safety, public peace, public comfort, public convenience, and the safe use of public and private property throughout the surrounding communities, within the meaning of California Civil Code sections 3479 and 3480.

97. The hazardous conditions created by Defendants resulted in widespread emergency response measures, including evacuation orders, shelter-in-place directives, road closures, emergency perimeters, hazardous materials response operations, public safety warnings, and substantial disruption to residential neighborhoods and surrounding communities in Garden Grove, Westminster, Stanton, Cypress, Anaheim, Buena Park, and nearby areas.

98. Defendants' conduct created a substantial and continuing risk of fire, explosion, toxic vapor migration, environmental contamination, airborne chemical exposure, and catastrophic

harm affecting tens of thousands of residents, businesses, schools, roadways, public infrastructure, and properties located near the Facility.

99. The interference caused by Defendants was substantial, unreasonable, offensive, and harmful to the public, and would be highly offensive to an ordinary reasonable person.

100. Plaintiffs and members of the proposed Class suffered injuries and damages different in kind from those suffered by the general public because Plaintiffs and Class members resided within the evacuation and impact zones, were forced to evacuate or shelter in place, suffered direct interference with the use and enjoyment of their homes and properties, incurred displacement-related expenses, and experienced heightened contamination concerns, fear, annoyance, inconvenience, and property-related damages.

101. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' conduct and the public nuisance created thereby, Plaintiffs and members of the proposed Class suffered damages including, but not limited to, loss of use and enjoyment of property, evacuation-related damages, displacement costs, lost wages, diminution in value, nuisance damages, emotional distress, annoyance, inconvenience, remediation-related damages, and other economic and non-economic harm.

102. Defendants acted with conscious disregard for the rights, safety, and well-being of Plaintiffs, the Class, and the surrounding public, thereby entitling Plaintiffs and the Class to punitive damages pursuant to California Civil Code section 3294 according to proof at trial.

FIFTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF

STRICT LIABILITY FOR ULTRAHAZARDOUS ACTIVITY

103. Plaintiffs re-allege and incorporate by reference each and every allegation set forth in the preceding paragraphs as though fully set forth herein, and allege as follows on behalf of themselves and the Property Damage Class.

104. The GKN Defendants' storage, handling, containment, maintenance, processing, monitoring, and control of large quantities of MMA and related hazardous industrial chemicals at the Facility constituted ultrahazardous and/or abnormally dangerous activities. MMA is an inherently volatile, flammable, reactive, and toxic chemical substance that presents a substantial

risk of catastrophic harm to persons, property, animals, and the environment when released, overheated, improperly contained, or otherwise uncontrolled. The dangers associated with MMA include fire, explosion, toxic vapor migration, airborne contamination, respiratory injury, chemical exposure, environmental contamination, and mass evacuation events affecting surrounding communities.

105. The risks associated with the storage and management of MMA in the quantities maintained at the Facility are extraordinary and extend far beyond those ordinarily associated with routine industrial operations. Because MMA vapors readily aerosolize, migrate through the air, and accumulate in populated and low-lying areas, any loss of containment creates a substantial and foreseeable danger to neighboring residences, occupants, businesses, schools, and the public at large. MMA's highly flammable and reactive nature creates a continuing risk of catastrophic ignition, combustion, explosion, and uncontrolled toxic release capable of causing widespread property damage, physical injury, contamination, displacement, and environmental harm.

106. The ultrahazardous nature of the GKN Defendants' activities is further demonstrated by the fact that the risks posed by large-scale MMA storage and handling cannot be eliminated through the exercise of reasonable care. Even where precautions are undertaken, the storage of substantial quantities of volatile industrial chemicals in close proximity to residential communities necessarily creates a high degree of risk of serious harm in the event of equipment failure, overheating, containment failure, human error, chemical instability, mechanical malfunction, fire, or other operational failure. The magnitude of potential harm associated with an MMA release, including toxic airborne plume migration, mandatory evacuations, exposure to hazardous vapors, and the threat of catastrophic explosion, renders such activities abnormally dangerous as a matter of law. Such activity is not a matter of common usage, and its value to the community is outweighed by its dangerous attributes when conducted in a densely populated residential area.

107. At all relevant times, the GKN Defendants engaged in, authorized, controlled, supervised, and/or benefited from such ultrahazardous activities at the Facility. The GKN

Defendants knew or should have known that the storage and handling of MMA in substantial quantities created a foreseeable and unreasonable risk of catastrophic harm to nearby residents and properties, particularly given the Facility's proximity to densely populated residential communities.

108. As a direct and proximate result of the GKN Defendants' ultrahazardous activities, MMA and hazardous vapors were released from the Facility into the surrounding environment, creating emergency conditions that resulted in evacuation orders, shelter-in-place directives, widespread fear of toxic exposure, interference with the use and enjoyment of residential properties, contamination concerns, and other damages suffered by Plaintiffs and members of the proposed Class.

109. Because the GKN Defendants engaged in ultrahazardous and abnormally dangerous activities, the GKN Defendants are strictly liable for all injuries, damages, losses, interference with property rights, evacuation-related harm, nuisance conditions, contamination-related damages, diminution in value, emotional distress, and other injuries proximately resulting from the MMA release and related hazardous conditions, regardless of the degree of care exercised by the GKN Defendants.

SIXTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF

TRESPASS TO CHATTELS / CONVERSION

110. Plaintiffs re-allege and incorporate by reference each and every allegation set forth in the preceding paragraphs as though fully set forth herein, and allege as follows on behalf of themselves and the Property Damage Class.

111. At all times relevant to this Complaint, Plaintiffs and the Class had, and continue to have, actual and constructive possession of, and the immediate right to possession of, personal property located at and within their residences, including furnishings, clothing, vehicles, electronics, household goods, plants, and other personal belongings.

112. The GKN Defendants' improper storage and release of MMA, as described herein, near Plaintiffs' and the Class's personal property caused an intrusion upon, changes to, damage to,

and/or destruction of Plaintiffs' and the Class's personal property and their property interests therein, and deprived Plaintiffs and the Class of the possession, control, and use of their personal property for the duration of the evacuation and thereafter.

113. Such interference by the GKN Defendants has wrongfully interfered with Plaintiffs' and the Class's rights of ownership and possession of their personal property so as to constitute a trespass to chattels and/or conversion of Plaintiffs' and the Class's property interests in their personal property.

114. As a direct and proximate result of the GKN Defendants' conduct, Plaintiffs and the Class have suffered the injuries and damages described herein. The GKN Defendants are liable for all such damages and for punitive damages as set forth herein.

115. The aforementioned acts of the GKN Defendants were willful, wanton, malicious, and oppressive, were undertaken with intent to interfere with, or in reckless disregard of, Plaintiffs' and the Class's property rights, and justify an award of exemplary and punitive damages pursuant to California Civil Code section 3294.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs, individually and on behalf of the Class, pray for judgment against the GKN Defendants, and each of them, as follows:

a) For remediation damages;

b) For loss of use damages;

c) For diminution in value damages;

d) For evacuation and displacement damages, including alternate lodging, meals, transportation, and lost wages;

e) For nuisance damages;

f) For all other compensatory damages suffered by Plaintiffs and the Class according to proof;

g) For punitive damages;

h) For all reasonable and necessary attorneys' fees as permitted by law;

i) For costs of suit;

j) For pre-judgment and post-judgment interest; and

k) For such other and further relief as the Court may deem just and proper.

Dated: September 23, 2026

ADERS & HERRERA, APC

Robert Herrera, Attorney for Plaintiffs

JURY DEMAND

Plaintiffs hereby demand a trial by jury on all issues triable.

Dated: September 23, 2026

ADERS & HERRERA, APC

Robert Herrera, Attorney for Plaintiffs