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8 **IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**
9 **COUNTY OF VENTURA - EAST COUNTY DIVISION**

10 THEODORE M. SULLIVAN and PAULA C.) CASE NO. 56-2011-00395532-CU-CO-SIM
11 SULLIVAN,)
12 Plaintiffs,) Unlimited Civil Case
13 vs.) FIRST AMENDED COMPLAINT FOR:
14 WOOD RANCH SYCAMORE CANYON) 1. Breach of Written Contract;
15 VILLAGE ASSOCIATION, a California) 2. Breach of Oral Contract;
16 nonprofit mutual benefit corporation; and) 3. Negligence;
DOES 1 through 25, Inclusive,) 4. Nuisance;
17 Defendants) 5. Breach of Fiduciary Duty;
) 6. Permanent Injunction and
) Damages - Removal of Association
) Trees;
) 7. Declaratory Relief
18

19 Plaintiffs THEODORE M. SULLIVAN and PAULA C. SULLIVAN, hereby allege:

20 **GENERAL ALLEGATIONS**

21 (Against all Defendants)

22 1. Plaintiffs THEODORE M. SULLIVAN ("TED") and PAULA C. SULLIVAN are
23 husband and wife who reside in Ventura County, California (collectively "Plaintiffs" or
24 "SULLIVAN"). SULLIVAN are, and at all times mentioned in this Complaint since in or about
25 October 1999 were, the record owners of that residential real property located at [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Simi Valley, California 93065 ("Property"), which legal description of the
27 Property is as follows: "LOT [REDACTED], TRACT NO. 4053, as per Map thereof recorded in Book 113,
28 Pages 63 through 82, inclusive, of Maps, in the Office of the County Recorder of said County."

1 The Property is located within Defendant WOOD RANCH SYCAMORE CANYON VILLAGE
2 ASSOCIATION (“Association”), and is subject to its covenants, conditions, restrictions,
3 reservations, easements, and rights-of-way of record. Plaintiffs are, and at all times mentioned in
4 this Complaint since they purchased the Property were, Members in good standing of the
5 Association.

6 2. Defendant WOOD RANCH SYCAMORE CANYON VILLAGE ASSOCIATION
7 is a California nonprofit mutual benefit corporation, which was incorporated on May 5, 1989.

8 3. Plaintiffs are unaware of the names and capacities of the defendants sued
9 herein as Does 1 through 25 and therefore sue said defendants by such fictitious names.
10 Plaintiffs will amend this Complaint to allege their true names and capacities when they become
11 known. Plaintiffs are informed and believe and on that basis allege that each of the fictitiously
12 named defendants is responsible in some manner for the damages suffered by Plaintiffs as alleged
13 in this Complaint.

14 4. The Association caused to be recorded its Declaration of Covenants, Conditions
15 and Restrictions on July 29, 1988 as Instrument No. 88-107320 (“Original CC&Rs”). The
16 Association caused to be recorded its Restated Declaration of Covenants, Conditions and
17 Restrictions on July 22, 1998 as Instrument No. 98-121774 (“CC&Rs” or “Restated CC&Rs”).
18 Section 12.10 of the CC&Rs requires, “[e]xcept for injunctive relief, and unless the parties agree
19 to alternative dispute resolution, any dispute which arises in connection with management or
20 operation of the Association (other than the collection of Assessments) including but not limited
21 to claims to enforce or interpret the terms of the Governing Documents” to be “heard by judicial
22 reference (‘Referee’) without a jury pursuant to the provisions of Section 638 of the Code of
23 Civil Procedure.” This action falls within Section 12.10 of the CC&Rs and, among other things,
24 seeks to enforce and interpret the Governing Documents of the Association. Upon service of this
25 First Amended Complaint (“Complaint”) on the Association, Plaintiffs, through their attorneys,
26 will cooperate with the Association, by its attorneys, to select a mutually acceptable Referee.

27 5. The original developer of the Association was Olympia/Roberts Company, a
28 California general partnership, whose general partner was The Roberts Group, Inc., a California

1 corporation, with an affiliated entity known as The Roberts Group VII, Inc., a California
2 corporation, which assigned its Development Agreement with the City of Simi Valley recorded
3 on March 16, 1982, as amended, to Standard Pacific Corp., a Delaware corporation ("Standard
4 Pacific") (Olympia/Roberts Company, with its affiliated entities, and Standard Pacific
5 collectively "Developer"). Plaintiffs purchased the Property in or about October 1999 from
6 Standard Pacific. Plaintiffs are the first owners of the Property, on which they built their
7 residence. The Property is a Farm Style Ranch Lot in accordance with the Wood Ranch Specific
8 Plan (Reformatted and Published: July 1999) ("Specific Plan").

9 6. On August 7, 1989, the Developer caused to be recorded an Easement Corporation
10 Grant Deed with the Ventura County Recorder as Instrument No. 89-123061 ("Easement
11 Corporation Grant Deed"). The Easement Corporation Grant Deed granted to the Association
12 various easements for slope maintenance and fuel modification purposes, obligating the
13 Association to continuously maintain the areas described therein. Exhibit "A" requires the
14 Association to maintain a strip of land located on the Property for fuel modification zone
15 purposes. Exhibit "G" requires the Association to maintain a strip of land located on the
16 Property for slope maintenance purposes, which includes a large number of trees on a hillside,
17 including one of the Association Trees, defined in Paragraph 12 herein. Exhibit "L" requires the
18 Association to maintain a strip of land on the Property for slope maintenance purposes which
19 includes approximately 16 Tipu trees that the Association abandoned, and approximately five of
20 the Association Trees, as well as ground cover and an irrigation system that the Association
21 abandoned.

22 7. Landscape plans for the Property and surrounding area show the location of an
23 "Assessment District" that is approximately 400 feet long and approximately 120 feet wide at the
24 widest point, bordering Wood Ranch Parkway, located on/over the Property ("Assessment
25 District"). Plaintiffs are informed and believe and on that basis allege that the Association is
26 obligated to maintain the Assessment District. Approximately three of the Association Trees are
27 located in this Assessment District, as well as three surviving Sycamore trees, and brush and
28 weeds in this area, all of which the Association has failed to maintain.

1 8. There are two "Right of Way" areas on the Property as it borders North Martha
2 Morrison Drive, located across from Warrendale Avenue and Twin Peaks Street (collectively
3 "Rights of Way"). Plaintiffs are informed and believe and on that basis allege that the
4 Association is obligated to maintain these Rights of Way. Approximately five Association Trees
5 are located in these Rights of Way. The Association has failed to clear the weeds and brush in
6 the Rights of Way.

7 9. Among other relevant provisions of the CC&Rs, Section 1.5 includes within the
8 definition of "Association," when the context requires, "its Board of Directors, officers, and duly
9 authorized representatives and agents." "Governing Documents" are defined in Section 1.18 to
10 "mean these CC&Rs, Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws, Architectural Standards, Rules and
11 Regulations, any amendments to these documents, and such other written documents, reports,
12 maps, schedules and exhibits as are required by law to be recorded, filed or issued in connection
13 with the Village." "Village" is defined in Section 1.33 as "the planned residential development
14 known as Sycamore Canyon Village situated in the master planned community known as Wood
15 Ranch in Simi Valley, California."

16 10. Section 7.03(b) of the Original CC&Rs required every "Owner" to "install and
17 thereafter maintain in attractive and viable condition front yard landscaping in accordance with
18 the provisions of this Article." Section 7.04(b) of the Original CC&Rs required the "Owner" to
19 maintain the landscaping of "all portions of a Lot which are unimproved with a Dwelling or
20 Structure" "in a clean, safe and attractive condition" Section 7.04(b) of the Original CC&Rs
21 further states: "Any Maintenance Association shall maintain any landscaped areas which it owns
22 or which are owned in common by its members in a clean, safe and attractive condition according
23 to any rules promulgated by the Board." Section 4.2 of the CC&Rs requires the Association to
24 maintain "in a first-class condition," among other things, "landscaping and rail fences located on
25 Wood Ranch Parkway, Martha Morrison Drive" Section 4.3 requires the Association to
26 "maintain the Village landscaping in a first-class condition along the street sides of Martha
27 Morrison Drive . . . for the full length of those streets. The Association shall also maintain the
28 street side landscaping on both sides of Wood Ranch Parkway" Pursuant to Section 4.4,

1 “[t]he Association shall stabilize and maintain, including landscaping and watering, all major
2 slopes and drainage contours throughout the Village” Section 4.5 requires the Association
3 to “control and maintain, in an appropriate manner, as the Board shall determine, the Open Area
4 Lots.” The Open Area Lots, under Section 1.24, are “those lots owned and maintained by the
5 Association.” Under Section 4.6, “[t]he Association shall maintain and replace as required
6 any . . . asset owned by the Association.” Section 7.1 states: “Each Member shall keep all shrubs,
7 trees, grass and plantings of every kind on his Lot, including set-back areas and planted areas
8 between adjacent sidewalks and the street curb neatly trimmed, watered, cultivated and free of
9 trash, weeds and other unsightly material.” Section 7.2 states: “No tree, shrub or planting of any
10 kind shall be allowed to protrude onto a sidewalk or to overhang a sidewalk or other pedestrian
11 walkway from ground level to a height of ten feet.” Section 8.6 states: “All conditions which
12 existed prior to the recording of these Restated CC&Rs which would otherwise violate the
13 provisions of these CC&Rs, are grandfathered and exempted from compliance with these
14 CC&Rs”

15 11. Plaintiffs are informed and believe and on that basis allege that the Association’s
16 maintenance obligations on the Property related to the Easement Corporation Grant Deed,
17 Assessment District and Rights of Way were conditions of development of the Association
18 and/or are incorporated into the Association’s maintenance obligations described in the CC&Rs,
19 constituting a written agreement with Plaintiffs.

20 12. Prior to SULLIVAN’s purchase of the Property in 1999, and prior to the recording
21 of the Restated CC&Rs, the Association, via the Developer and/or Board of Directors (“Board”),
22 planted approximately 47 trees on the Property owned at that time by the Developer or by the
23 Association (“Association Trees”). The Association owned the Association Trees before
24 SULLIVAN purchased the Property and continues to own the Association Trees to this date.
25 Some of the Association Trees were planted near Wood Ranch Parkway and others were planted
26 close to the curb of North Martha Morrison Drive. Prior to the recording of the Restated
27 CC&Rs, prior to SULLIVAN’s purchase of the Property, and continuing through the time that
28 SULLIVAN purchased the Property, the Association, by and through the Developer and/or

1 Board, was watering and maintaining all of the Association Trees, at the Association's sole cost
2 and expense, and continued to do so after SULLIVAN purchased the Property. Plaintiffs are
3 informed and believe and on that basis allege that the Association planted the Association Trees
4 on the Property, and watered and maintained them, prior to the recording of the Restated CC&Rs,
5 and both before and after Plaintiffs purchased the Property, to beautify North Martha Morrison
6 Drive, and the surrounding neighborhood, and because of the Property's proximity to the Open
7 Area Lots. The planting of the Association Trees on the Property did not benefit Plaintiffs in any
8 way.

9 13. In or about 1999, the Association entered into an agreement with SULLIVAN (the
10 "1999 Agreement") whereby, in exchange for SULLIVAN agreeing to permit the Association to
11 plant additional Association Trees on the Property, the Association agreed to: (1) continue to
12 maintain all of the Association Trees on the Property in perpetuity in "first class" condition per
13 the CC&Rs at its sole cost and expense; (2) have the Association's maintenance company move
14 the above ground irrigation pipes/system off of the SULLIVAN's maintenance road and place the
15 pipes/system as close as possible to the Wood Ranch split rail fence so that the irrigation
16 pipe/system did not obstruct the SULLIVAN's maintenance road; and (3) maintain the
17 approximate 10-foot wide strip of land on the Property all along the Wood Ranch split rail fence
18 in perpetuity at its sole cost and expense ("Strip"). The 1999 Agreement was both an oral
19 agreement and a written agreement. It was an oral agreement with respect to the Association's
20 agreement to perform items (1), (2) and (3) described herein. It was a written agreement because
21 the Association was required to perform its obligations under the 1999 Agreement in accordance
22 with the CC&Rs, and the Association's other Governing Documents, as well as operative law.

23 14. Among other provisions of the Governing Documents, the Association was
24 required to comply with Sections 7.1 and 7.2 of the CC&Rs under the 1999 Agreement, having
25 stepped into the shoes of SULLIVAN, as Members, when the Association agreed to perform
26 items (1), (2) and (3). Further, the Association's obligation to water and maintain all of the
27 Association Trees was grandfathered under Sections 7.03(b) and 7.04(b) of the Original CC&Rs
28 and Section 8.6 of the CC&Rs, thereby permanently relieving SULLIVAN from any present or

1 future obligation to water and maintain the Association Trees or otherwise comply with Section
2 7.1 or 7.2 of the CC&Rs or any other provision of the Governing Documents requiring
3 SULLIVAN to maintain the Association Trees or any area surrounding the Association Trees.

4 15. The 1999 Agreement was fully executed by the parties; to wit, the Association
5 planted the additional Association Trees on the Property, moved its irrigation pipes/system to the
6 new location, continued maintenance of the original and new Association Trees and commenced
7 maintenance of the Strip, all at the Association's sole cost and expense. For approximately 21
8 years, the Association watered and maintained the Association Trees on the Property at its sole
9 cost and expense. For approximately 11 years, the Association maintained the Strip at its sole
10 cost and expense.

11 16. Plaintiffs and/or Plaintiffs' attorneys repeatedly notified the Association, via its
12 Board and/or the Association's attorneys, in person and in writing, of the matters described in
13 this Complaint, to no avail.

14 **FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION**

15 **(Breach of Written Contract against all Defendants)**

16 17. Plaintiffs restate the allegations of paragraphs 1 through 16 of the General
17 Allegations of this Complaint and incorporate them into this first cause of action.

18 18. Plaintiffs have performed all obligations required on their part to be performed
19 under the 1999 Agreement and Governing Documents of the Association and in connection with
20 the Assessment District, Rights of Way and Easement Corporation Grant Deed except those
21 obligations, if any, which were excused as a result of defendants' breach of their respective
22 obligations under the 1999 Agreement and the Governing Documents or otherwise.

23 19. Within the last four years prior to the filing of this action, defendants breached
24 their obligations under the 1999 Agreement, Governing Documents, the Easement Corporation
25 Grant Deed, and in connection with the Assessment District and Rights of Way when they failed
26 to perform, or properly perform, their landscape maintenance, Association Tree maintenance and
27 other maintenance duties as required thereunder.

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1 20. In January 2010, defendants breached the 1999 Agreement and the Governing
2 Documents of the Association when the Association, unilaterally, and without any prior notice to
3 SULLIVAN, removed its irrigation pipes/system from the Property, thereby depriving the
4 Association Trees of water. The Association also improperly removed one or more of the pipes,
5 which caused flooding on the Property. Plaintiffs are informed and believe and on that basis
6 allege that the Association, via its Board, removed its irrigation/pipes from the Property in an
7 attempt to deny that it had watered and maintained the Association Trees on the Property and to
8 avoid any continued responsibility for the Association Trees.

9 21. Defendants also breached the 1999 Agreement, the Governing Documents, the
10 Easement Corporation Grant Deed, and their obligations in connection with the Assessment
11 District and the Rights of Way by their actions, or omissions including, but not limited to, the
12 following:

13 (a) Failing to water and maintain the Association Trees and the Strip, as
14 required under the 1999 Agreement, Governing Documents, Easement Corporation Grant Deed,
15 Assessment District and/or Rights of Way including, but not limited to, those sections of the
16 CC&Rs described in the General Allegations of this Complaint.

17 (b) Improperly maintaining the Association Trees including, but not limited
18 to, leaving metal deeply imbedded in the trees, causing trees to become scarred, causing trees to
19 grow with co-dominant trunks, and structural weakness; causing trees to grow with epicomic
20 branches (water sprouts or suckers) caused by bad pruning, other injuries or environmental stress;
21 causing trees to lose large amounts of bark; causing trees that are proportionately very tall and
22 slender and lean toward the street, likely caused by the trees searching for sunlight as they are
23 shadowed by the trees behind them; causing trees to become weakened from wind storms;
24 improperly wiring trees, causing them to weaken; and permitting the roots of trees to grow
25 around rebar, all of the foregoing creating an eyesore on the Property and resulting in hazardous
26 conditions on and off the Property, exposing Plaintiffs to liability, and causing most of the
27 Association Trees to become weak, non-viable and/or in need of drastic rehabilitation.

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1 (c) Failing to properly and timely prune the Association Trees, causing the
2 Association Trees to protrude onto the pedestrian strip of grass/walkway ("Pedestrian Walkway")
3 or to overhang the Pedestrian Walkway in violation of the 1999 Agreement, Governing
4 Documents, Easement Corporation Grant Deed, Assessment District and/or Rights of Way,
5 causing a hazardous condition and exposing Plaintiffs to liability.

6 (d) Failing to cap, or properly cap, the Association pipes when the Association
7 removed its irrigation pipes/system from the Property, causing flooding to the Property in March
8 and April 2010, and preventing trucks from driving up SULLIVAN's maintenance road.

9 (e) Spraying a vegetation killer in the area of the Strip without any
10 authorization by SULLIVAN, damaging, or potentially damaging, organically grown trees on the
11 Property which SULLIVAN planted.

12 (f) Failing to maintain the Association Trees and the Strip, causing an
13 overgrowth of the Association Trees, blocking SULLIVAN's maintenance road, and preventing
14 SULLIVAN's maintenance crew from driving their truck to the necessary locations on the
15 Property to do their work.

16 (g) Dumping debris on the Property including, but not limited to the
17 following: (i) three (3) railroad/tie wooden steps, that the Association's workers dumped on the
18 Property when they put in new steps on the other side of North Martha Morrison Drive, which the
19 Association permitted to remain on the Property for almost one year after TED notified the
20 Association in writing about this situation; (ii) many broken cement pieces from the Wood Ranch
21 split rail fence that the Association's workers dumped on the Property after repairing broken
22 fence sections; (iii) permitting the Association's workers to enter onto the Property on various
23 occasions, despite "No Trespassing" signs, to urinate and defecate on the Property, leaving,
24 among other things, Coke and other bottles containing urine on the Property, after SULLIVAN
25 notified the Association about this problem and demanded that it stop.

26 (h) Unilaterally, and wrongly, declaring that, upon the removal of the
27 irrigation pipes/system from the Property in January 2010, the Association had and has no further

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1 obligation to water or maintain any of the Association Trees and Strip and that SULLIVAN own
2 all of the Association Trees.

3 (i) Unilaterally, and wrongly, demanding, upon the removal of the irrigation
4 pipes/system from the Property in January 2010, that SULLIVAN water, maintain and prune the
5 Association Trees and maintain the Strip.

6 (j) Unreasonably refusing to permit SULLIVAN to remove the Association
7 Trees from the Property, notwithstanding their condition, confirmed by professional arborists, as
8 weak, non-viable and/or in need of drastic rehabilitation.

9 (k) Harassing SULLIVAN including, but not limited to, sending a letter to
10 SULLIVAN on behalf of the Board dated August 17, 2010, demanding that SULLIVAN remove
11 overgrown weeds along "Martha Morrison North," which is not required by Owners of Farm
12 Style Ranch Lots in accordance with the Specific Plan, and demanding that SULLIVAN remove
13 so-called "debris" that was either not debris or were items described in this Paragraph 21(g) that
14 the Association dumped on the Property and which the Association was responsible for
15 removing. Plaintiffs are informed and believe and on that basis allege that the Association, via
16 the Board, sent the aforementioned letter to SULLIVAN as a disingenuous and clearly veiled
17 attempt to avoid its maintenance responsibilities on the Property.

18 (l) Harassing and singling SULLIVAN out by sending SULLIVAN a letter
19 dated April 13, 2011 on behalf of the Board, stating: "It has come to the HOA's attention that the
20 required 100-foot brush clearance along the perimeter of your property, which had been cleared
21 by the HOA in the past, is the homeowner's responsibility to maintain" and requiring that
22 SULLIVAN "arrange for the brush clearance to be completed in the area by June 1, 2011 to meet
23 the Fire Department's deadline." Said letter/demand was contrary to the express language of the
24 Easement Corporation Grant Deed, recorded in August 1989, which requires the Association to
25 perform all brush clearance/fuel modification zone clearance at/on the Property. Moreover, the
26 Association, via the Board, sent this letter to SULLIVAN while, at the same time, arranging for
27 the Association to perform the required brush clearance/fuel modification on the property of
28 SULLIVAN's fellow "homeowner" neighbor, whose property was subject to the same Easement

1 Corporation Grant Deed. On May 6, 2011, the Board withdrew its request that SULLIVAN
2 perform the above brush clearance (but was investigating whether it would do so in the future)
3 only after receiving a letter from SULLIVAN's attorneys, wherein the Board/Association stated:
4 ". . . the Association (at its expense) has arranged for the 100-foot brush clearance to be
5 completed in this area by June 1, 2011 to meet the Fire Department's deadline." Despite the
6 foregoing promise by the Association, by and through the Board, as of June 22, 2011, the
7 Association had only completed about half of the required brush clearance and had not removed
8 the cuttings from the area where the brush clearance had been done, representing a fire hazard
9 and failure to meet the Fire Department's June 1, 2011 deadline.

10 (m) Failing to perform, or properly perform, the maintenance obligations on/at
11 the Property required under the Easement Corporation Grant Deed.

12 (n) Failing to perform, or properly perform, the maintenance obligations on/at
13 the Property required in connection with the Assessment District.

14 (o) Failing to perform, or properly perform, the maintenance obligations on/at
15 the Property required in connection with the Rights of Way.

16 22. As a result of defendants' breach of the 1999 Agreement, the Governing
17 Documents, the Easement Corporation Grant Deed, and their obligations in connection with the
18 Assessment District and the Rights of Way, Plaintiffs have been damaged in an amount and of a
19 nature according to proof at trial.

20 23. Pursuant to Civil Code section 1354(c), and Section 12.11 of the CC&Rs,
21 Plaintiffs are entitled to recover from defendants their reasonable attorneys' fees and costs.

22 **SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION**

23 **(Breach of Oral Contract against all Defendants)**

24 24. Plaintiffs restate the allegations of paragraphs 1 through 16 of the General
25 Allegations of this Complaint and paragraphs 18 through 23 of the First Cause of Action and
26 incorporate them into this Second Cause of Action.

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1 Action and paragraphs 35 through 41 of the Fourth Cause of Action and incorporate them into
2 this Fifth Cause of Action.

3 43. The Association, by and through its Board, had, and has, a fiduciary relationship
4 with Plaintiffs, who are analogous to shareholders of a corporation, which gave rise to a special
5 duty of good faith on the Association's part, as the fiduciary, to comply with the 1999
6 Agreement, the Governing Documents, Easement Corporation Grant Deed, and its obligations in
7 connection with the Assessment District and Rights of Way, and to exercise due care for
8 Plaintiffs, their Property, the Strip, and the Association Trees which are planted on the Property.
9 The Association, by and through its Board, owes this fiduciary duty to Plaintiffs, individually,
10 and not just to the homeowners as a whole. By the actions and omissions of the Association, by
11 and through its Board and other defendants, described in the General Allegations, and First,
12 Second, Third and Fourth Causes of Action of this Complaint, incorporated herein, the
13 Association and other defendants have breached their respective fiduciary duty to Plaintiffs,
14 damaging Plaintiffs in an amount and of a nature according to proof at trial.

15 44. Plaintiffs are informed and believe and on that basis allege that the Board acted
16 with advance knowledge and conscious disregard, authorization, ratification or act of oppression,
17 fraud or malice, and specifically authorized, directed and/or participated in the above-described
18 tortious conduct of the Association. Plaintiffs are further informed and believe and on that basis
19 allege that the acts and conduct of defendants were oppressive, fraudulent, and malicious, and
20 that defendants knew that their conduct was unjust and unreasonable to Plaintiffs, and acted with
21 full knowledge of the consequences and damage being caused to Plaintiffs. Accordingly,
22 Plaintiffs are entitled to punitive damages against defendants, and each of them.

23 **SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

24 **(Permanent Injunction against all Defendants -**
25 **Removal of Association Trees)**

26 45. Plaintiffs restate the allegations of paragraphs 1 through 16 of the General
27 Allegations of this Complaint, paragraphs 18 through 23 of the First Cause of Action, paragraphs
28 25 through 26 of the Second Cause of Action, paragraphs 28 through 33 of the Third Cause of

1 Action, paragraphs 35 through 41 of the Fourth Cause of Action, and paragraphs 43 through 44
2 of the Fifth Cause of Action and incorporate them into this Sixth Cause of Action.

3 46. The acts and omissions of defendants including, but not limited to the foregoing
4 allegations; specifically (a) failing to properly water and maintain the Association Trees, Strip
5 and the surrounding Property, causing the Association Trees to become weak, non-viable and/or
6 in need of drastic rehabilitation, and exposing Plaintiffs to liability on and off the Property; (b)
7 unilaterally removing the Association's irrigation pipes/system from the Property in January 2010
8 without prior notice to SULLIVAN; (c) unilaterally, and wrongly, declaring that, upon removal
9 of the Association's irrigation pipes/system from the Property in January 2010, SULLIVAN
10 owned all of the Association Trees, and demanding that SULLIVAN maintain the Association
11 Trees at SULLIVAN's sole cost and expense; and (d) unreasonably refusing to permit
12 SULLIVAN to remove the Association Trees from the Property, notwithstanding their non-viable
13 condition, confirmed by professional arborists, were undertaken by defendants negligently and
14 carelessly and in breach of their fiduciary duty owed to Plaintiffs, and proximately caused
15 damage to Plaintiffs as alleged in this Complaint.

16 47. Defendants' failures to properly maintain the Association Trees, coupled with the
17 "secret" removal of the irrigation pipes/system from the Property, evidences the fact that
18 defendants lacked the ability, intention and desire to comply with their obligations under the
19 1999 Agreement and Governing Documents. Having caused the Association Trees to become
20 weak, non-viable and/or in need of drastic rehabilitation, defendants have attempted to "wash
21 their hands" of their ownership and maintenance obligations, and have wrongly attempted to
22 thrust those obligations onto Plaintiffs while, at the same time, unreasonably refusing to allow
23 Plaintiffs to remove the Association Trees from the Property.

24 48. Plaintiffs are informed and believe and on that basis allege that Section 7.3 of the
25 CC&Rs, requiring the express written consent of the Architectural Review Board to destroy or
26 remove any living tree having a height of six feet or more, does not apply to SULLIVAN,
27 because (i) it was the Association, via the Developer and/or the Board, which planted the
28 Association Trees, which continue to belong to the Association; (ii) the Association, via the

1 Board, is solely responsible for maintaining the Association Trees, and causing the Association
2 Trees to become weak, non-viable and/or in need of drastic rehabilitation; (iii) Section 7.3 of the
3 CC&Rs, when drafted, was intended to apply to individual homeowners who planted trees on
4 their property, or whose predecessor homeowners had done so, with continuing maintenance
5 obligations for them, unlike the situation with SULLIVAN; and (iv); the CC&Rs did not
6 contemplate the current situation where the Association/Board is unreasonably forcing
7 SULLIVAN to continue to live with hazardous, weak and non-viable Association Trees which, in
8 the professional opinion of arborists, should be removed, and unreasonably refusing to consent to
9 their removal, while simultaneously attempting to shift all responsibility for the Association
10 Trees, and all liability for them, to SULLIVAN.

11 49. The wrongful conduct of defendants, unless and until enjoined and restrained by
12 order of this court, will cause great and irreparable injury to Plaintiffs in that they will be forced
13 to own and maintain the Association Trees at their sole cost and expense, in violation of the 1999
14 Agreement and Governing Documents, and Easement Corporation Grant Deed, Assessment
15 District and Rights of Way, and will be forced to do so notwithstanding the opinion of
16 professional arborists that the Association Trees should be removed from the Property.

17 50. Money damages alone for the wrongful conduct of defendants cannot adequately
18 compensate Plaintiffs for the damages currently being suffered and which are threatened because
19 the Association has demanded that Plaintiffs permanently take on the ownership and maintenance
20 responsibilities for the Association Trees without having the ability to remove them.

21 SEVENTH CAUSE OF ACTION

22 (Declaratory Relief against all Defendants)

23 51. Plaintiffs restate the allegations of paragraphs 1 through 16 of the General
24 Allegations of this Complaint, paragraphs 18 through 23 of the First Cause of Action, paragraphs
25 25 through 26 of the Second Cause of Action, paragraphs 28 through 33 of the Third Cause of
26 Action, paragraphs 35 through 41 of the Fourth Cause of Action, paragraphs 43 through 44 of the
27 Fifth Cause of Action, and paragraphs 46 through 50 of the Sixth Cause of Action and
28 incorporate them into this Seventh Cause of Action.

1 52. An actual controversy has arisen and now exists between Plaintiffs and defendants
2 concerning their respective rights and duties in that Plaintiffs contend that the Association was,
3 and is, obligated to properly water and maintain the Association Trees, and Strip, and perform
4 other maintenance obligations on/at the Property at its sole cost and expense, in perpetuity, in
5 accordance with the 1999 Agreement, the Governing Documents, Easement Corporation Grant
6 Deed, and in connection with the Assessment District and Rights of Way and, having failed to do
7 so, that Plaintiffs should be permitted to remove the Association Trees from the Property, at the
8 Association's sole cost and expense, because the Association caused most of them to become
9 weak, non-viable and/or in drastic need of rehabilitation, whereas the Association disputes these
10 contentions and contends that the Association has no further obligation to maintain the
11 Association Trees, or perform other maintenance obligations on/at the Property, and that the
12 Plaintiffs now own and must permanently maintain the Association Trees, and Strip, and perform
13 other maintenance obligations including, but not limited to those, described in the Easement
14 Corporation Grant Deed, at Plaintiffs' sole cost and expense.

15 53. Plaintiffs desire a judicial determination of their rights and duties, and a
16 declaration as to whether the Association is still obligated to maintain the Association Trees and
17 Strip, and perform other maintenance obligations on/at the Property, and having failed to comply
18 with its obligations under the 1999 Agreement, Governing Documents, Easement Corporation
19 Grant Deed, and in connection with the Assessment District and Rights of Way, that the
20 Association must pay for the removal of all of the Association Trees from the Property and
21 continue to perform other maintenance obligations on/at the Property.

22 54. A judicial declaration is necessary and appropriate at this time under the
23 circumstances in order that Plaintiffs may ascertain their rights and duties regarding the
24 responsibility for the Association Trees and Strip, and other maintenance obligations on/at the
25 Property, and the Association's obligation to remove the Association Trees at its sole cost and
26 expense.

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1 Plaintiffs therefore pray for judgment against defendants, and each of them, as follows:

2 **ON THE FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION:**

3 1. For compensatory damages according to proof at trial;

4 **ON THE SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION:**

5 2. For compensatory damages according to proof at trial;

6 **ON THE THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION:**

7 3. For general damages according to proof at trial;

8 **ON THE FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION:**

9 4. For a permanent injunction enjoining defendants, and each of them, and their
10 agents, servants, contractors, and employees, from dumping debris on the Property, and
11 permitting the Association's agents and contractors from urinating and defecating on the
12 Property; and compelling defendants to permit Plaintiffs to remove all of the Association Trees
13 from the Property, at the Association's sole cost and expense, including all overgrowth from the
14 Association Trees on the Property and off the Property that protrudes onto the Pedestrian
15 Walkway or overhangs the Pedestrian Walkway;

16 5. For general damages according to proof;

17 6. For exemplary and punitive damages;

18 **ON THE FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION:**

19 7. For general damages according to proof;

20 8. For exemplary and punitive damages;

21 **ON THE SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION:**

22 9. For a permanent injunction compelling defendants to permit Plaintiffs to remove
23 all of the Association Trees from the Property, at the Association's sole cost and expense,
24 including all overgrowth from the Association Trees on the Property and off the Property that
25 protrudes onto the Pedestrian Walkway or overhangs the Pedestrian Walkway;

26 **ON THE SEVENTH CAUSE OF ACTION:**

27 10. For a declaration that the Association was, and is, required to properly maintain all
28 of the Association Trees, and the Strip, in perpetuity, and perform other maintenance obligations

1 on/at the Property, and having failed to comply with its obligations under the 1999 Agreement
2 and Governing Documents, as well as the Easement Corporation Grant Deed, Assessment
3 District and Rights of Way, that the Association must permit Plaintiffs to remove all of the
4 Association Trees from the Property at the Association's sole cost and expense, including all
5 overgrowth from the Association Trees on the Property and off the Property that protrudes onto
6 the Pedestrian Walkway or overhangs the Pedestrian Walkway, and the Association must
7 perform all of its other maintenance obligations on/at the Property;

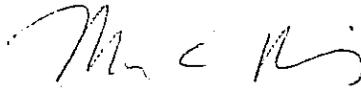
8 **ON ALL CAUSES OF ACTION:**

9 11. For reasonable attorneys' fees and costs of suit herein pursuant to Civil Code
10 section 1354(c) and Section 12.11 of the CC&Rs;

11 12. For such other and further relief as the Court deems just and proper.

12
13 Dated: June 29, 2011 SILVER & ARSHT

14
15 By:



16 SAMUEL J. ARSHT, ESQ.
17 MARSHA C. BRILLIANT, ESQ.
Attorneys for Plaintiffs THEODORE M.
18 SULLIVAN and PAULA C. SULLIVAN

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