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6 Department of Fair Employment and Housing

(Fee Exempt, Gov. Code, § 6103)

7
8 **IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**
9 **IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF ALAMEDA**

10
11 **DEPARTMENT OF FAIR EMPLOYMENT**)
AND HOUSING, an agency of the State of)
12 California,)

13 Plaintiff,)

14 vs.)

15 **TESLA, INC.**, doing business in California as)
TESLA MOTORS, INC., and DOES ONE)
16 **through FIFTY, inclusive,**)

17 Defendants.)

Case No. **22CV006830**

Dept:
Hon.

CIVIL RIGHTS COMPLAINT FOR
INJUNCTIVE AND MONETARY
RELIEF AND DAMAGES

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

18
19 Plaintiff, DEPARTMENT OF FAIR EMPLOYMENT AND HOUSING (“DFEH”), an
20 agency of the State of California, brings this action in its own name to remedy violations of the
21 California Fair Employment and Housing Act, Government Code section 12900 *et seq.* (“FEHA”)
22 and other laws by Defendants TESLA, INC. doing business in California as TESLA MOTORS,
23 INC. (“Tesla”) and DOES ONE through FIFTY (collectively “Defendants”).

24 **INTRODUCTION**

25 1. Founded in 2003 and formerly headquartered in Palo Alto, CA, Tesla, Inc. designs,
26 develops, manufactures, and sells electric powered vehicles, and energy generation and storage
27 programs in the United States, China, Norway, and across the world. The company operates in two
28 segments – Automotive, and Energy Generation and Storage. Tesla is one of the world’s most

1 valuable automakers with a market value of around \$911 billion (as of February 4, 2022).¹
2 Employing over 80,000 direct workers worldwide² and over 36,200 workers just in California, Tesla
3 is the largest and highest-profile electric car company in the world.³ In 2020, Tesla boasted an
4 annual revenue of \$31.5 billion dollars. Its annual assets in 2020 was \$52.2 billion dollars.⁴

5 2. As of this filing, Tesla operates out of four manufacturing facilities. Three are in the
6 United States, and one is in China. The Fremont factory sits outside of San Francisco, California,
7 where the nation’s strongest anti-harassment, anti-discrimination, and other equal employment
8 opportunity protections exist.⁵ The Fremont factory is the original site of Tesla’s electric vehicle
9 production. Another Tesla factory is located in Lathrop, California.

10 3. Tesla’s Fremont factory is the only nonunion major American automotive plant in the
11 country.⁶ Prior to Tesla, the Fremont facility was home to General Motors from 1962 to 1982, then
12 home to GM and Toyota’s New United Motor Manufacturing, Inc. (NUMMI) from 1984 to 2009.
13 Tesla purchased the facility in 2010 and extensively remodeled it before the first Model S rolled off
14 the line in June 2012.⁷

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16 ¹ <https://finance.yahoo.com/quote/TSLA?p=TSLA&.tsrc=fin-srch>; Malathi Nayak & Dana Hull, *Tesla Ordered to Pay*
17 *\$137 Million Over Racism in Rare Verdict*, Bloomberg (Oct. 4, 2021, 4:59 PM PDT),
<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2021-10-04/tesla-ordered-to-pay-137-million-for-harboring-workplace-racism> [as of Dec. 15, 2021].

18 ² *Ibid.*

19 ³ U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, Telsa, Inc. TSLA on Nasdaq, Forms 10-K and Forms 10-Q,
20 <https://www.sec.gov/ix?doc=/Archives/edgar/data/1318605/000095017021002253/tsla-20210930.htm> [as of Dec. 15, 2021].

21 ⁴ *Ibid.*

22 ⁵ See, e.g., *State Dept. of Health Services v. Sup.Ct.* (2003) 31 Cal.4th 1026, 1040 [FEHA provides broader protection
23 than Title VII]; Introduction, Cal. Prac. Guide Civ. Pro. Trial Claims and Def. Ch. 13(I.1)-A [“Title VII presents serious
24 limitations on plaintiff’s recovery, including a cap on emotional distress and punitive damages. In addition, FEHA
25 provides broader protections in a number of important respects... For these reasons, it is generally advantageous to sue
under FEHA, rather than Title VII.”]; Li Zhou, *Can California Prevent Wage Discrimination Against Women? The*
Atlantic (Oct. 7, 2015) <https://www.theatlantic.com/business/archive/2015/10/california-gender-wage-gap-fair-pay-act/409549/> [as of July 19, 2021].

26 ⁶ Sahid Fawaz, *Tesla is the Only Non-Union Major American Car Company. The UAW Hopes to Change That*, Labor
411 (May 27, 2016) <https://labor411.org/411-blog/tesla-is-the-only-non-union-major-american-car-company-the-uaw-hopes-to-change-that/> [as of Dec. 15, 2021].

27 ⁷ Scooter Doll, *Tesla Factory Locations: Where They Are and Could Soon Be*, Electrek (Jul. 14, 2021, 1:44 AM PDT),
28 <https://electrek.co/2021/07/14/tesla-factory-locations-where-they-are-and-could-soon-be/> [as of Dec. 15, 2021].

1 4. Built on the message of innovation, eco-futuristic ambitions, and social good, Tesla’s
2 Fremont factory has stenciled over the entrance the words: “*Our mission: to accelerate the world’s*
3 *transition to sustainable energy.*”⁸ Tesla’s Chief Executive Officer Elon Musk has been celebrated
4 as a visionary with his relentless pursuit of green energy, space travel, and self-driving cars.⁹ Mr.
5 Musk is infamous for taking positions that run counter to those of other car companies, technology
6 companies, billionaires and workers.¹⁰

7 5. Tesla’s cars, the Model 3, Model S, Model X, and Model Y, retail for about \$47,690
8 to \$126,690.¹¹ Tesla markets its vehicles to the environmentally-conscious, socially responsible
9 consumer.

10 6. In the San Francisco Bay Area and elsewhere, a job at Tesla is often seen as a golden
11 ticket. It is seen as a way for those without a technical background or a college degree to secure a
12 job in tech, and a path to a career and a living wage.

13 7. Yet Tesla’s brand, purportedly highlighting a socially conscious future,¹² masks the
14 reality of a company that profits from an army of production workers, many of whom are people of
15 color, working under egregious conditions.¹³

16 8. The Fremont factory offers 5.3 million square feet of space on 370 acres of land and
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19 ⁸ Caroline O’Donovan, *At Tesla’s Factory, Building the Car of the Future Has Painful and Permanent Consequences for*
20 *Some Workers*, BuzzFeed News (Feb. 4. 2018, 1:27 PM ET),
<https://www.buzzfeednews.com/article/carolineodonovan/tesla-fremont-factory-injuries> [as of Dec. 15, 2021].

21 ⁹ Cade Metz & Neal E. Boudette, *Inside Tesla as Elon Musk Pushed an Unflinching Vision for Self-Driving Cars*, New
22 York Times (Dec. 6, 2021), <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/12/06/technology/tesla-autopilot-elon-musk.html> [as of Dec.
15, 2021]

23 ¹⁰ Nicholas Kulish, *Elon Musk’s Latest Innovation: Troll Philanthropy*, New York Times (Dec. 10, 2021),
<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/12/10/business/elon-musk-philanthropy.html> [as of Dec. 15, 2021]; Metz & Boudette,
24 *supra*, <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/12/06/technology/tesla-autopilot-elon-musk.html> [as of Dec. 15, 2021]; Maureen
25 Dowd, *Elon Musk, Blasting Off in Domestic Bliss*, New York Times (Jul. 25, 2020),
<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/07/25/style/elon-musk-maureen-dowd.html> [as of Dec. 15, 2021].

26 ¹¹ Kelly Lin, *How Much is a Tesla? Here’s a Price Breakdown*, MotorTrend (Nov. 15, 2021),
<https://www.motortrend.com/features/how-much-is-a-tesla/> [as of Dec. 15, 2021].

27 ¹² O’Donovan, *supra*, <https://www.buzzfeednews.com/article/carolineodonovan/tesla-fremont-factory-injuries>

28 ¹³ *Ibid.* Since Tesla opened its Fremont factory in 2010, the factory has been inspected by California’s Division of
Occupational Safety and Health (Cal/OSHA) seventeen (17) times.

1 accommodates over 15,000 Tesla workers alone.¹⁴ With contractors included, thousands more work
2 at the Fremont factory.¹⁵ And, Black and/or African American workers are segregated to the lowest
3 levels. While Black and/or African American workers make up 0% of executives and about 3% of
4 professionals at the Fremont plant, about 20% of the factory operatives, such as engine and other
5 machine assemblers, are Black and/or African American.¹⁶ Black and/or African American workers
6 were also over-represented in Tesla’s contract workforce. However, Black and/or African
7 Americans are severely under-represented as officials and managers, executives/senior officials and
8 managers, first/mid-officials and managers, and professionals.¹⁷

9 9. Segregation at the Fremont factory, along with the absence of Black and/or African
10 Americans in leadership roles, has left many complaints of rampant racism unchecked for years. As
11 early as 2012, Black and/or African American Tesla workers have complained that Tesla production
12 leads, supervisors, and managers constantly use the n-word and other racial slurs to refer to Black
13 workers. They have complained that swastikas, “KKK,” the n-word, and other racist writing are
14 etched onto walls of restrooms, restroom stalls, lunch tables, and even factory machinery. They have
15 complained that Black and/or African American workers are assigned to more physically demanding
16 posts and the lowest-level contract roles, paid less, and more often terminated from employment
17 than other workers. They have also complained that Black and/or African American workers are
18 often denied advancement opportunities, and more often and more severely disciplined than non-

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23 ¹⁴ Tesla, Inc., “Tesla Factory,” <https://www.tesla.com/factory> [as of Dec. 14, 2021]; Tesla Inc. Pay Data Report 2021.

24 ¹⁵ Lauren Hepler, *Menial Tasks, Slurs, and Swastikas: Many Black Workers at Tesla Say They Faced Racism*, New York
Times (Nov. 30, 2018), <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/11/30/business/tesla-factory-racism.html> [as of Dec. 15, 2021].

25 ¹⁶ 2017 EEO-1 Report for Tesla, Inc. at 45500 Fremont Blvd. in Fremont, California. Because Tesla is a federal
26 contractor and employs 50 or more employees in California and the United States, Tesla is required to file an Employer
Information Report EEO-1, also known as the EEO-1 Report. The EEO-1 Report requires employers to report
27 employment data for all employees categorized by sex, race/ethnicity, and job category. EEOC, EEO-1 Data Collection,
<https://www.eeoc.gov/employers/eo-1-data-collection> [as of Dec. 14, 2021]; Tesla Inc. Pay Data Report 2021.

28 ¹⁷ 2016 EEO-1 Comparison Report for Tesla, Inc. at 3500 Deer Creek Road, Palo Alto, CA 94304.

1 Black workers.¹⁸

2 10. More significantly, these numerous complaints by Black and/or African American
3 workers about racial harassment, racial discrimination, and retaliation lodged over a span of almost a
4 decade have been futile. For example, Defendants turned, and continue to turn, a blind eye to years
5 of complaints from Black workers who protest the commonplace use of racial slurs on the assembly
6 line. Tesla was, and continues to be, slow to clean up racist graffiti with swastikas and other hate
7 symbols scrawled in common areas.¹⁹

8 11. Even after years of complaints, Tesla has continued to deflect and evade
9 responsibility. While it claims to not tolerate racial harassment or discrimination at its factories,
10 Tesla's investigations of complaints are not compliant with law. It limits investigations of incidents
11 in its workplace to direct employees. Tesla also argued that staffing agencies that it contracts with
12 are expected to train contractors on Tesla's anti-harassment and anti-discrimination policies and to
13 investigate allegations of racial harassment when staffing agency workers were involved.²⁰ Tesla's
14 CEO, Mr. Musk, has advised that Tesla workers should be "thick-skinned"²¹ about race harassment.

15 12. Under California law, Defendants failed to take effective remedial measures in
16 response to complaints of discrimination and harassment. Workers were further discouraged from
17 complaining as they were warned that complaints would be ignored, or perfunctorily acknowledged
18 and then dismissed. Black and/or African American workers also were warned that complaints led to

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20 ¹⁸ Malathi Nayak & Dana Hull, *Ex-Tesla Employee Called Racial Slurs Wins Rare \$1 Million Award*, Bloomberg (Aug.
21 5, 2021); Ricky Riley, *Black Tesla Employees Ban Together, Exposing Company's Alleged Culture of Racism*, Blavity
22 (Dec. 3, 2018, 9:25 AM), [http://35.185.66.110/black-tesla-employees-expose-companys-alleged-culture-of-](http://35.185.66.110/black-tesla-employees-expose-companys-alleged-culture-of-racism?category1=news)
23 [racism?category1=news](http://35.185.66.110/black-tesla-employees-expose-companys-alleged-culture-of-racism?category1=news) [as of Dec. 15, 2021]; Timothy B. Lee, *Tesla Has a Problem with Racism – So Do Many of Its*
24 *Rivals*, Ars Technica (Nov. 30, 2018), [https://arstechnica.com/cars/2018/11/tesla-has-a-problem-with-racism-in-its-](https://arstechnica.com/cars/2018/11/tesla-has-a-problem-with-racism-in-its-factory-so-do-many-of-its-rivals/)
25 [factory-so-do-many-of-its-rivals/](https://arstechnica.com/cars/2018/11/tesla-has-a-problem-with-racism-in-its-factory-so-do-many-of-its-rivals/) [as of Dec. 15, 2021]; Justin Westbrook, *Tesla Workers Allegedly Faced Racial*
26 *Discrimination and Harassment by Coworkers and Superiors: Lawsuit*, Jalopnik (Oct. 17, 2017, 8:05 PM),
27 <https://jalopnik.com/tesla-workers-allegedly-faced-racial-discrimination-and-1819633991> [as of Dec. 15, 2021].

28 ¹⁹ Nayak & Hull, *supra*, [https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2021-10-04/tesla-ordered-to-pay-137-million-for-](https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2021-10-04/tesla-ordered-to-pay-137-million-for-harboring-workplace-racism)
[harboring-workplace-racism](https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2021-10-04/tesla-ordered-to-pay-137-million-for-harboring-workplace-racism)

²⁰ Hannah Albarazi, *Tesla Hit with \$137M Verdict in Race Harassment Trial*, Law360 (Oct. 4, 2021, 8:53 PM EDT).

²¹ In an email to workers in 2017, Elon Musk, Tesla's Chief Executive Officer, warned against "being a huge jerk" to members of "a historically less represented group." At the same time, he wrote, "if someone is a jerk to you, but sincerely apologizes, it is important to be thick-skinned and accept that apology." Hepler, *supra*, <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/11/30/business/tesla-factory-racism.html>

1 retaliatory harassment, undesirable assignments, and/or termination, especially since Defendants’
2 human resource personnel charged with addressing the complaints were allegedly close to the
3 harassers. In another move to avoid accountability, Tesla, during its annual shareholder’s meeting in
4 October 2021, announced plans to move its headquarters from Palo Alto, California to Austin,
5 Texas.²²

6 13. Defendants failed to maintain and provide employment records. Defendants are “. . .
7 required to maintain certain relevant records of personnel actions” and “make them available upon
8 request” to DFEH. (See, e.g., Gov. Code, § 12946; Cal. Code Regs., tit. 2, § 11013; see also, Lab.
9 Code, § 1197.5, subd. (e).)²³ Such recordkeeping laws require Defendants to maintain
10 discrimination and harassment complaints, and records and files relevant to those complaints.
11 Defendants did not do so.

12 14. Plaintiff DFEH, an agency of the State of California, brings this enforcement action
13 against Defendants Tesla and DOES ONE through FIFTY in its prosecutorial role, seeking relief in
14 the public interest for the state and for Defendants’ Black and/or African American workers (“the
15 Group”). Pursuant to the authority vested in DFEH under FEHA,²⁴ Government Code section 12900
16 *et seq.* and related laws, DFEH’s enforcement action seeks to remedy, prevent, and deter unlawful
17 harassment, discrimination, and retaliation. Specifically, the violations pled herein include claims for
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19 ²² Kierra Frazier, *Tesla to Move Headquarters from California to Texas*, Axios (Oct. 7, 2021),
20 <https://www.axios.com/tesla-move-headquarters-california-texas-7e4edde0-c747-4859-9cb9-366c7dcb7e05.html> [as of
21 Dec. 15, 2021].

22 ²³ See, e.g., Gov. Code, § 12946 [“It shall be an unlawful practice for employers . . . to fail to maintain and preserve . . .
23 records . . .”]; Cal. Code Regs., tit. 2, § 11013 [“Employers . . . shall make [records] available upon request to . . . [the]
24 Department. . . . [E]very employer or other covered entity shall maintain data regarding the race, sex, and national origin
25 of each applicant and for the job for which he or she applied. . . . Any personnel or other employment records made or
26 kept by any employer or other covered entity dealing with any employment practice and affecting any employment
benefit of any applicant or employee (including all applications, personnel, membership or employment referral records
or files) shall be preserved by the employer or other covered entity for a period of two years from the date of the making
of the record or the date of the personnel action involved, whichever occurs later.”]; Lab. Code, § 1197.5, subd. (e)
[“Every employer shall maintain records of the wages and wage rates, job classifications, and other terms and conditions
of employment of the persons employed by the employer. All of the records shall be kept on file for a period of three
years.”].

27 ²⁴ FEHA prohibits employment discrimination and harassment based on race, religious creed, color, national origin,
28 ancestry, physical disability, mental disability, medical condition, genetic information, marital status, sex, gender,
gender identity, gender expression, age, sexual orientation, or military and veteran status. (Gov. Code, § 12940, subds.
(a) and (j), emphasis added; Cal. Code Regs., tit. 2, § 11027.1).

1 unlawful race harassment; race discrimination in terms and condition of employment (including
2 assignment, compensation, discipline, promotion, termination, constructive discharge); retaliation;
3 failure to prevent discrimination, harassment, and retaliation; unequal pay; waiver of rights, forums,
4 or procedures and release of claims; and recordkeeping violations.

5 PARTIES

6 15. Plaintiff Department of Fair Employment and Housing (“DFEH”) is a state agency
7 tasked with investigating and prosecuting civil rights actions. (Gov. Code, § 12930, subd. (f)(1)-
8 (5).) California’s legislature exercised its police power in enacting the FEHA and investing authority
9 in DFEH “to protect and safeguard the right and opportunity of all persons to seek, obtain, and hold
10 employment without discrimination...” (Gov. Code, § 12920; *Dept. Fair Empl. & Hous. v. Cathy’s*
11 *Creations, Inc.* (2020) 54 Cal.App.5th 404, 410 [“the DFEH’s task is to represent the interests of the
12 state and to effectuate the declared public policy of the state to protect and safeguard the rights and
13 opportunities of all persons from unlawful discrimination.”].) As set forth in Government Code
14 section 12900 *et seq.*, DFEH is charged with enforcing the FEHA, including initiating and
15 investigating complaints on behalf of itself and persons alleged to be aggrieved by discriminatory
16 employment practices. (Gov. Code, §§ 12930, 12961.) At DFEH’s discretion, DFEH may bring a
17 civil action in the name of the department on behalf of a group or class of persons adversely
18 affected, in a similar manner, by an unlawful practice. (Gov. Code, §12965.) ““The DFEH acts as a
19 public prosecutor when it pursues civil litigation under the FEHA (*State Personnel Bd. v. Fair Empl.*
20 *& Hous. Com.* (1985) 39 Cal.3d 422, 444), and it may seek remedies to “‘vindicate’ what it
21 considers to be in ‘the public interest in preventing ... discrimination.’” (*Dept. Fair Empl. & Hous. v.*
22 *Law Sch. Admission Council, Inc.* (2013) 941 F.Supp.2d 1159, 1172).

23 16. Defendant Tesla, Inc., (“Tesla”) is now and was, at all times relevant to this
24 complaint, a Delaware corporation operating in and under the laws of the State of California and
25 conducting business throughout California. Up until December 1, 2021, Tesla’s corporate
26 headquarters were located at 3500 Deer Creek Rd, Palo Alto, California 94304.²⁵ Its Fremont
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28 ²⁵ Fred Lambert, *Tesla Announces It Has Officially Moved Its Headquarters Next to Gigafactory Texas*, Electrek (Dec. 1,
2021), <https://electrek.co/2021/12/01/tesla-officially-moved-headquarters-gigafactory-texas/> [as of Dec. 15, 2021].

1 factory is located at 45500 Fremont Blvd, Fremont, CA 94538. Its Lathrop factory is located at
2 18280 S Harlan Rd, Lathrop, CA 95330. At all times relevant to this complaint, Tesla was an
3 “employer” subject to FEHA and all other applicable statutes.

4 17. Defendants DOES ONE through FIFTY, inclusive, are sued herein pursuant to Code
5 of Civil Procedure section 474. DFEH is ignorant of the true names or capacities of the defendants
6 sued herein under the fictitious names DOES ONE through FIFTY, inclusive. DFEH will amend this
7 complaint to allege their true names and capacities when the same are ascertained. DFEH is
8 informed, believes, and alleges, that each of the fictitiously named defendants is legally responsible
9 for the occurrences, injuries, and damages alleged herein.

10 18. DFEH is informed, believes, and alleges that at all relevant times, each defendant is
11 and was, the director, agent, employee, and/or representative of every other defendant and acted
12 within the course and scope of their agency, service, employment, and/or representation, and that
13 each defendant herein is jointly and severally responsible and liable to the Group for the damages
14 hereinafter alleged. At all relevant times, there existed a unity of ownership and interest between or
15 among two or more of the Defendants such that any individuality and separateness between or
16 among those Defendants has ceased, and Defendants are the alter egos of one another. Defendants
17 exercised domination and control over one another to such an extent that any individuality or
18 separateness of Defendants does not, and at all times herein mentioned did not, exist. All of the acts
19 and failures to act alleged herein were duly performed by and attributed to all Defendants, each
20 acting as the joint employer as Defendants jointly supervised and controlled workers’ conditions of
21 employment, determined assignments, rate of pay or method of payment, had authority to hire or fire
22 workers, and maintained employment records. All actions of all Defendants were taken by workers,
23 supervisors, executives, officers, and directors during employment with all Defendants, were taken
24 on behalf of all Defendants, and were engaged in, authorized, ratified, and approved of by all other
25 Defendants.

26 **PROCEDURAL HISTORY, JURISDICTION, AND VENUE**

27 19. DFEH incorporates and realleges all previous allegations as if fully set forth herein.

28 20. Venue is proper in the County of Alameda under Government Code section 12965,

1 subdivision (a) as unlawful practices complained of in this complaint occurred in, and relevant
2 records are maintained and administered in, the County of Alameda.

3 21. DFEH's director, in their discretion, may file a complaint on behalf of a group or
4 class. (Gov. Code, § 12961; Cal. Code Regs., tit. 2, §§ 10012 and 10013.) Pursuant to this authority,
5 the DFEH Director filed and served a Notice of Group or Systemic Investigation and Director's
6 Complaint for Group/Class Relief against Tesla, Inc. in 2019 (DFEH Case No. 201906-06540918)
7 ("DFEH Director's Complaint"). The DFEH Director's Complaint alleged that Defendant Tesla
8 engaged in discrimination and harassment against its workers on the basis of race. The DFEH
9 Director's Complaint further alleged that Tesla retaliated against its workers for reporting or
10 opposing race harassment. In addition, the DFEH Director's Complaint alleged that Tesla failed to
11 take all reasonable steps necessary to prevent harassment from occurring.

12 22. After approximately three years of investigation, receiving hundreds of complaints
13 from workers and serving many to Tesla, DFEH issued a cause finding on January 3, 2022. In the
14 course of DFEH's investigation, DFEH found evidence that Defendants subjected its Black and/or
15 African American workers to racial harassment and discriminated against them in the terms and
16 conditions of employment, including assignment, discipline, promotion, termination, and
17 constructive discharge. DFEH's investigation also found that Defendants retaliated against its Black
18 and/or African American workers when they complained or reported the harassment or
19 discrimination. Further, DFEH's investigation found that Defendants failed to take all reasonable
20 steps necessary to prevent unlawful discrimination, harassment, or retaliation. DFEH's investigation
21 also found that Defendants paid Black and/or African American workers less than workers of
22 another race or ethnicity for substantially similar work. DFEH's investigation also found that
23 Defendants required Black and/or African American workers to waive rights, forums, and/or
24 procedures as a condition of employment, continued employment, or the receipt of any employment-
25 related benefit. Lastly, DFEH's investigation uncovered record-keeping violations. These claims are
26 alleged and/or reasonably related to and like the claims originally alleged in the Director's
27 Complaint.

28 23. DFEH attempted to resolve this matter without litigation. Prior to filing this civil

1 action, the DFEH required all parties to participate in mandatory dispute resolution in the
2 department’s internal dispute resolution division free of charge to the parties in an effort to resolve
3 the dispute without litigation. Specifically, DFEH invited Tesla to participate in a mediation session
4 with the department’s internal dispute resolution division on January 12 and 20, 2022, but Tesla
5 refused to attend until February 8, 2022. One day before the mediation, on February 7, 2022, Tesla
6 announced the DFEH investigation for the first time during the three-year investigation in its
7 Securities and Exchange Commission Form 10-K. The parties were unable to resolve the
8 administrative complaints at the mediation. Then in the morning of February 9, 2021, Tesla issued a
9 post entitled “The DFEH’s Misguided Lawsuit” on its public blog.²⁶

10 24. In the case of failure to eliminate an unlawful practice through conference,
11 conciliation, mediation, or persuasion, or in advance thereof if circumstances warrant, DFEH may
12 bring a civil action in the name of the department in state and federal courts. (Gov. Code, §§ 12930,
13 subd. (h) and 12965, subd. (a).)

14 25. All administrative procedures precedent to the institution of this lawsuit have been
15 fulfilled.

16 26. By operation of a signed agreement between the parties, DFEH has timely filed its
17 complaint.

18 27. The amount of damages sought by this complaint exceeds the minimum jurisdictional
19 limits of this Court.

20 **GOVERNMENT ENFORCEMENT ACTION ALLEGATIONS**

21 28. DFEH brings this government enforcement action for group relief on behalf of the
22 state in the public interest and all Black and/or African American workers (the “Group”) pursuant to
23 Government Code sections 12961 and 12965.

24 29. DFEH’s authority to seek relief on behalf of the state in the public interest and the
25 Group is a delegation of power by the Legislature. (*See, e.g.*, Gov. Code, §§ 12920, 12920.5, 12930,

26 _____
27 ²⁶ Tesla, *The DFEH’s Misguided Lawsuit*, Tesla Blog (Feb. 9, 2022), [https://www.tesla.com/blog/dfehs-misguided-](https://www.tesla.com/blog/dfehs-misguided-lawsuit)
28 [lawsuit](https://www.tesla.com/blog/dfehs-misguided-lawsuit) [as of Feb. 9, 2022]. In the blog post, Tesla disingenuously stated that on “almost 50 occasions . . . DFEH closed
its investigation without a finding of misconduct against Tesla.” It is unclear which administrative complaints Tesla
refers to, but many resulted in an immediate request for a right to sue.

1 12961, and 12965.) Section 12961 expressly authorizes the DFEH Director to file a complaint on
2 behalf of the department seeking relief for a group of persons adversely affected, in a similar
3 manner, by an alleged unlawful practice. “Any complaint so filed may be investigated as a group *or*
4 class complaint, and, if in the judgment of the director circumstances warrant, *shall* be treated as
5 such for purposes of conciliation, dispute resolution, and *civil action*.” (Gov. Code, §§ 12961 and
6 12965, subd. (a), italics added.)

7 30. Pursuant to such statutory authorities, the DFEH filed and gave notice to Tesla of
8 group or class complaints for purposes of investigation, mediation, and civil action. DFEH
9 investigated the complaints, attempted to mediate the DFEH group or class complaint with Tesla
10 and, after a failure to eliminate the unlawful practices through mediation, or in advance thereof if
11 circumstances warrant, DFEH filed this civil action seeking to remedy the group or class violations
12 in this Court. (Gov. Code, §§ 12930, subd. (h), 12961, 12965, subd. (a).)

13 31. DFEH brought this government enforcement action in its own name pursuant to
14 express statutory authority from the Legislature. (Gov. Code, § 12900 *et seq.*; Cal Const., Art III, §
15 3.) The Legislature authorized DFEH to proceed on a group or class basis in a civil action. (Gov.
16 Code, §§ 12961 and 12965, subd. (a).)

17 32. DFEH’s government enforcement action seeks to remedy, prevent, and deter the
18 pattern or practice of unlawful racial harassment, racial discrimination and other violations,
19 disparate impact violations, continuing violations and other unlawful practices that Defendants
20 engaged in against aggrieved Black and/or African American workers. (*See, e.g.*, Gov. Code, §§
21 12920, 12920.5, 12930, 12961, and 12965.)

22 33. DFEH brings this representative enforcement action in its capacity as a state agency
23 and the authority vested in DFEH by the FEHA, which does not require class certification under
24 Code of Civil Procedure sections 378 and 382. (Gov. Code, § 12961; *People v. Pacific Land Res.*
25 *Co.* (1977) 20 Cal.3d 10, 17 [“[a]n action filed by the People seeking injunctive relief and civil
26 penalties is fundamentally a law enforcement action designed to protect the public and not to benefit
27 private parties”]; *Dept. Fair Empl. & Hous. v. Law School Admission Council, Inc.*, *supra*, 941
28 F.Supp.2d at 1168-1170 [holding that DFEH action is not subject to class certification requirements

1 under Rule 23 of Federal Rules of Civil Procedure as “nothing in § 12961 requires that the
2 complaint be filed as a class action.”]; *Washington v. Chimei Innolux Corp.* (9th Cir. 2011) 659 F.3d
3 842, 848 [“class actions are always representative actions, but representative actions are not
4 necessarily class actions.”].) Thus, DFEH brings this government enforcement action on behalf of
5 the state and a group of Black and/or African American workers.

6 **FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS**

7 34. DFEH incorporates and realleges all previous allegations as if fully set forth herein.

8 **Racial Harassment**

9 35. Throughout the day, every day, Black and/or African American workers heard
10 Defendants’ workers, leads, supervisors, and managers make racial slurs and comments about Black
11 workers.²⁷ Examples of the racist language include the n-word, “porch monkey,” “monkey toes,”
12 “boy,” “hood rats,” and “horse hair.” Defendants’ workers, including production leads and
13 supervisors, made references to Black and/or African Americans in racist comments and racist jokes
14 such as “N[] word out of the hood,” “from the ghetto,” “Tesla [was] hiring lazy coons,” and “go
15 back to Africa.”

16 36. Because the factory was racially segregated, Defendants’ workers referred to the
17 areas where many Black and/or African Americans worked as the “porch monkey station.”
18 Defendants’ workers with tattoos of the Confederate flag made their racially incendiary tattoos
19 visible to intimidate Black and/or African American workers. Racial slurs were also dispensed in
20 Spanish and included “mayate” and “negrita.” Additionally, Defendants’ workers referred to the
21 Tesla factory as the “slaveship” or “the plantation,” where Defendants’ production leads “crack[ed]
22 the whip.” Many Black and/or African American workers understood these terms to be references to
23 how Defendants treated its Black and/or African American workers. One Black worker heard these
24 racial slurs as often as 50-100 times a day.

25 37. These Black and/or African American workers also had racial slurs directed at them.

26 _____
27 ²⁷ Contrary to claims made in Tesla’s public blog one day after the mediation that DFEH “has never once raised any
28 concern about current workplace practices at Tesla,” DFEH and Tesla’s own workers throughout the state – not just
production associates from the Fremont factory from 2015-2019 – have raised concerns about race harassment,
discrimination, and retaliation for years. They still do, as complaints were filed as recently as 2022.

1 These workers were subjected to Defendants’ production associates, leads, and supervisors directly
2 calling them the n-word throughout the day. One worker heard Defendants’ production associates
3 and leads tell her to “Shut the fuck up, N[redacted],” and “All blacks look alike.” Another Black worker
4 reported that at least twice Defendants’ workers mocked him for eating watermelon during lunch.
5 They accused him of being lazy, saying, “You’re eating watermelon, that’s why you’re lazy.” These
6 co-workers also speculated about his genitals and referred to him as “Mandingo” or “big black guy.”
7 Another worker heard Defendants’ production lead and production associate crack racist jokes loud
8 enough for others to hear. When he raised the jokes with them, the production associate slapped his
9 shoulder and said it was just a joke. When another Black worker protested to being called a racial
10 slur and asked Defendants’ production associates, leads, and supervisor to refer to him by his name,
11 they retorted, “This N[redacted] is crazy” or “This N[redacted] is tripping.” They called him a snitch for
12 complaining.

13 38. Notably, Defendants’ leads, supervisors, and managers were active participants
14 and/or witnesses to these racist comments. Black and/or African American workers reported that
15 Defendants’ leads and supervisors on the production line often said, “That stupid N[redacted] over there”
16 or “That fucking N[redacted], I can’t stand them.” Regarding a group of Black production associates,
17 Defendants’ supervisor said that “there [was] too many of them in there. They are not Tesla
18 material.” Defendants’ supervisors complained about where Black and/or African American workers
19 were assigned, saying, “Monkeys work outside,” and “Monkeys need a coat in cold weather.” A
20 supervisor pointedly asked one African American worker, “Do most Africans have bones through
21 their noses?” Another African American worker reported that a group of Defendants’ production
22 leads often laughed at her whenever she walked by them. These leads muttered “N[redacted]” or “Shut
23 up, N[redacted]” to her at first. When she started getting awards for her work performance, these leads
24 openly called her these racial slurs.

25 39. On a daily basis, Black and/or African American workers were confronted with racist
26 writing while working at Tesla. They saw racist graffiti – including “N[redacted],” “KKK,” swastikas, the
27 Confederate flag, a white supremacist skull, “go back to Africa,” and “mayate” – written on the
28 restroom walls, restroom stalls, lockers, workplace benches, workstations, lunch tables, and the

1 break room. These slurs were even etched onto Defendants’ machinery. One Black worker observed
2 “hang N[]” penned next to a drawing of a noose in the breakroom restroom. This worker also saw
3 “all monkeys work outside” and “fuck N[]” on the breakroom walls. These racial slurs and racial
4 comments, apparent to all who walked by, were left up for months, without Defendants bothering to
5 remove them.

6 40. A common narrative was Black and/or African American workers being taunted by
7 racial slurs and then baited into verbal and physical confrontations, where they, in turn, were the
8 ones disciplined for being purportedly “aggressive” or “threatening.” These written warnings in their
9 personnel files had consequences for later promotional and professional opportunities. Some Black
10 and/or African American workers even resigned during investigations because they did not have
11 confidence that Defendants’ human resources department would be fair and unbiased.

12 **Racial Discrimination - Assignment, Compensation, Discipline, Promotion,**
13 **Termination, and Constructive Discharge**

14 41. The hostility against Black and/or African American workers bled into Defendants’
15 employment actions, where Black and/or African American workers were subjected to
16 discriminatory terms and conditions of employment. Black and/or African American workers
17 reported being assigned to the most physically demanding posts in the Tesla factories, compared to
18 non-Black workers who were given more technical, less physical jobs. One worker witnessed **only**
19 Black and/or African American workers cleaning the factory floor on their hands and knees. No
20 other groups of workers had to do the same. Another worker heard Defendants’ workers complain
21 about the heavy workload and how they “need[ed] to get some [B]lacks on this line,” suggesting that
22 Black and/or African American workers can and should be doing the difficult menial jobs. One
23 Black worker started as a production lead when he came through a staffing agency, but after he
24 introduced himself to his white manager, he was demoted on the same day to a production associate.
25 His supervisor told him that Defendants’ manager thought he was “better suited” in the more labor-
26 intensive position. This worker also applied for a transfer to Tesla’s Lathrop factory, only to be told
27 by his manager not to “get [his] hopes up.” However, a white co-worker was granted the same
28 transfer. Many Black and/or African American workers reported that the Fremont factory was

1 racially segregated where areas of the factory staffed by Black workers were referred to as “the dark
2 side.”

3 42. Defendants also more frequently subjected Black and/or African American workers
4 to more severe treatment and discipline than non-Black workers. Black and/or African American
5 workers were more quickly written up or fired for minor infractions. One Black worker was fired for
6 allegedly being late, while non-Black workers were not similarly terminated for the same infraction.
7 Another Black worker stated that his supervisor constantly tried to intimidate him, staring him down
8 and using an aggressive tone with him. When this worker reported safety issues to his supervisor,
9 Defendants’ supervisor either ignored him or did not believe him. Although this supervisor had only
10 started managing the Black worker, Defendants’ supervisor gave the worker an unjustified negative
11 performance review without consulting the worker’s prior supervisor. Another Black worker missed
12 several opportunities to “level up” and obtain a salary increase because she was written up for using
13 profanity or purportedly “being aggressive.” Non-Black workers were not similarly disciplined for
14 the same.

15 43. Similarly, Defendants denied promotions to Black and/or African American workers
16 much more frequently than other workers. Defendants relied on informal and opaque decision-
17 making processes to promote and level up their workers. As a result of this and other practices and
18 policies, Black and/or African American workers were rarely promoted to lead or supervisor, much
19 less managers. Based on the general population and the workforce at Tesla’s competitors, Black
20 and/or African American workers were overrepresented as “operatives,” which include engine and
21 other machine assemblers. However, they were severely under-represented as officials and
22 managers, executives/senior officials and managers, first/ mid-officials and managers, professionals,
23 and administrative support staff.²⁸ Black and/or African American workers reported that they were
24 passed over for professional opportunities, denied the same bonuses, equity, and raises as non-Black
25 workers, and were even demoted. One Black worker attested that when he asked his supervisor
26 about a promotional position, the supervisor never responded to his email and later falsely claimed
27

28 _____
²⁸ 2016 EEO-1 Comparison Report for Tesla, Inc., *supra*.

1 to not have gotten the job posting. By the time the worker learned about the job application process,
2 the position was already filled.

3 44. For many Black and/or African American workers, the stress from the severe and
4 pervasive racial harassment, the risk of a physical altercation and escalation with harassers, the
5 blatant discrimination, the disproportionately severe discipline, and the futility of complaining, made
6 the working conditions so intolerable that they resigned.

7 **Retaliation and Defendants' Failure to Prevent**

8 **Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation**

9 45. The problems of race harassment and discrimination were widely known by
10 Defendants' management, representatives, and human resources department because workers
11 complained. As early as 2012, Black and/or African American workers frequently complained to the
12 alleged harassers, Defendants' leads, supervisors, managers, staffing agency representatives, and
13 Defendants' human resources department. They complained about the daily pervasive use of the n-
14 word and other racial slurs, the racist graffiti in the shared spaces, the racially segregated work areas,
15 the more physically strenuous assignments, the dangerous work conditions, and the refusal of
16 management to rotate them off these physically demanding posts as required. They also spoke about
17 how they have been taunted with racist comments and baited into verbal and physical
18 confrontations, where they were the only ones subjected to discipline or were more harshly
19 disciplined. They also complained about the unjustified negative reviews, the over-scrutiny, the
20 disproportionately severe discipline, the denial of promotions and other professional opportunities,
21 and even the futility of complaining.

22 46. Worse, Defendants' management retaliated against Black and/or African American
23 workers for complaining. Complainants were denied bonuses, promotions, and other professional
24 opportunities. They were falsely accused of being late, unjustifiably written up, denied transfers,
25 assigned to physically strenuous posts or undesirable locations, constructively discharged, or
26 terminated. For those who needed a reasonable accommodation, their requests for a reasonable
27 accommodation were denied in retaliation. As a consequence, many Black and/or African American
28 workers aggravated their injuries or disabilities. Co-workers who were associated with the

1 complainants were similarly targeted.

2 47. In some cases, Defendants’ human resources staff gave advance notice of the race
3 complaints to the alleged harassers before the investigation began. One Black worker stated that
4 immediately after she complained about race harassment, Defendants’ human resources official
5 texted her harasser, who was also her supervisor, about her complaint against him. The supervisor
6 then retaliated against the Black worker, accosting her, writing her up, and then calling security on
7 her for being purportedly “belligerent.” Even after Black and/or African American workers were
8 transferred to a different area, retaliation by Defendants’ management still persisted because
9 management had the ability to simply walk over to the new post and harass the complainants.

10 48. With their under-staffed and inadequately trained human resources department,²⁹
11 Defendants failed to take reasonable action in response to these complaints. DFEH’s investigation
12 revealed that in 2016, before Tesla established its employee relations department, Tesla had only 33
13 human resources professionals and managers to serve 19,916 workers in California. That is a ratio of
14 about one human resources officer to 604 workers. In 2020, that ratio rose to about one human
15 resource member to 740 workers.

16 49. Not surprisingly, Defendants ignored, immediately dismissed, or perfunctorily
17 investigated and then dismissed workers’ complaints. Investigations were inconsistently completed,
18 with different investigators asking vastly varying questions, with different levels of detail and
19 analysis, and sometimes coming to opposite conclusions. Investigations took months to complete.
20 For example, an investigation of a race complaint, where only one witness was interviewed, took
21 close to six (6) months to complete. Defendants’ human resources staff were also not well-trained in
22 analyzing race complaints. For example, one human resources investigator concluded that “banana
23 boy” was simply a “nickname,” not a racial slur, even though the Black complainant perceived it to

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25 ²⁹ Over recent weeks, Tesla has had two deaths occur at its Fremont factory, which have raised further concerns by its
26 workers about workplace safety and protections. One was a murder committed by a Tesla worker after an employment
27 altercation. Another was a death on the Tesla production line. Melissa Colorado, *Man Accused of Killing Co-Worker at
28 Fremont Tesla Factory Charged with Murder*, NBC Bay Area (Dec. 16, 2021),
[https://www.nbcbayarea.com/news/local/man-accused-of-killing-co-worker-at-fremont-tesla-factory-charged-with-
murder/2757939/](https://www.nbcbayarea.com/news/local/man-accused-of-killing-co-worker-at-fremont-tesla-factory-charged-with-murder/2757939/); Joseph Geha, *Tesla Fremont Factory Employee Dies While Working on Production Line*, *The
Mercury News* (Jan. 20, 2022, 1:23 PM), [https://www.mercurynews.com/2022/01/20/tesla-fremont-factory-employee-
dies-working-production-line/](https://www.mercurynews.com/2022/01/20/tesla-fremont-factory-employee-dies-working-production-line/) [as of Feb. 9, 2022].

1 be racist and the harasser had been coached previously on his condescending communication style.
2 In another case, Defendants’ human resources investigators determined that a claim of harassment
3 was unsubstantiated because there was no witness corroboration, even though the harasser had
4 admitted to saying a racial slur. Workers, whom Defendants concluded had indeed harassed Black
5 workers and were previously disciplined for similar offenses, remained employed and even were
6 promoted because they were “good performers.”

7 50. As early as 2012, Tesla began employing workers through numerous staffing
8 agencies. Tesla progressively reduced the number of employees it hired directly and increased the
9 number of workers it hired through staffing agencies. Tesla also mandated the staffing agencies it
10 contracted with to require all workers to sign arbitration agreements before being assigned to Tesla.
11 In 2021, Tesla contracted with at least fourteen staffing agencies, some of which subcontracted out
12 with other staffing firms. Tesla did this to avoid responsibility over its workers. If the complainant
13 and/or alleged harasser were from a staffing agency, then the staffing agency itself had to investigate
14 the complaint. Tesla human resources administrator Annalisa Heisen, testifying as the person most
15 knowledgeable about the internal complaints and investigation procedures at the Fremont factory,
16 affirmed that Tesla expected staffing agencies to train subcontractors – the term Tesla used for
17 workers who were assigned from a staffing agency – on Tesla’s anti-harassment policies and to
18 investigate allegations of racial harassment when subcontractors were involved.³⁰ Tesla had no
19 written procedures for coordinating investigations into racial harassment involving workers from
20 staffing agencies and did not provide standardized training to supervisors on how to conduct
21 investigations into racial harassment.³¹

22 51. Defendants’ under-staffed human resources department and their flawed complaint
23 and investigation policies and procedures with regard to staffing agencies allowed and continue to
24 allow race harassment, discrimination, and retaliation to occur at Tesla. Black and/or African
25 American workers have suffered and will continue to suffer harm from Defendants’ ongoing

27 ³⁰ Albarazi, *supra*.

28 ³¹ *Ibid*.

1 unlawful policies and practices unless they are enjoined by this Court.

2 **Recordkeeping Violations and**
3 **Failure to Maintain and Produce Relevant Records**

4 52. During its 32-month investigation, DFEH requested employment records from
5 Defendants relevant to its determination of whether Defendants had violated FEHA and related
6 authorities.

7 53. California law and regulations require employers like Defendants to maintain
8 applicant, personnel, and employment records and supply such records to DFEH upon request.³²
9 (See Gov. Code, §§ 12946, 12976; Cal. Code Regs., tit. 2, § 11013; see also Lab. Code, § 1197.5,
10 subd. (e).) These obligations include records and files related to complaints. Despite their
11 obligations, Defendants failed to maintain or produce required records. Specifically, Defendants
12 refused to produce complete and accurate records such as: applicant and hiring records; personnel
13 records related to compensation, assignment, and promotion decisions; and complaints and
14 investigation information. Tesla also failed to produce complete and accurate records related to
15 complaints and complaint investigation information.

16 54. Defendants' failure to maintain and produce the records, despite being required to
17 preserve and produce this information, constitutes a violation of Government Code section 12946
18 and related authorities.

19 **FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION**

20 **Employment Discrimination Because of Race - Harassment**

21 **(Gov. Code, § 12940, subd. (a) and (j))**

22 55. DFEH incorporates and realleges all previous allegations as if fully set forth herein.

23 56. Government Code section 12940 subdivision (j) states that it is an unlawful
24

25 ³² Effective January 1, 2022, Government Code section 12946 now requires that employers preserve employment
26 records for at least four years. Specifically, it provides: "(a) It shall be an unlawful practice for employers, labor
27 organizations, and employment agencies subject to the provisions of this part to fail to maintain and preserve any and all
28 applications, personnel, membership, or employment referral records and files for a minimum period of four years after
the records and files are initially created or received, or for employers to fail to retain personnel files of applicants or
terminated employees for a minimum period of four years after the date of the employment action taken." However,
DFEH references Government Code section 12946 as it existed at the time of the DFEH investigation, which required
employers maintain employment records for a minimum of two years.

1 employment practice for an employer “or any other person” “to harass an employee, an applicant, an
2 unpaid intern or volunteer, or a person providing services pursuant to a contract,” because of that
3 person’s race.

4 57. Defendants’ Black and/or African American workers were routinely subjected to
5 offensive racial harassing conduct so severe and/or pervasive that it created a hostile work
6 environment.

7 58. The harassment was perpetrated by Defendants’ production associates, leads,
8 supervisors, managers, representatives, and human resources departments, and in the cases of non-
9 supervisors, Defendants knew or should have known of the conduct and failed to take immediate
10 and appropriate corrective action.

11 59. As a result of Defendants’ unlawful employment practices, Black and/or African
12 American workers suffered and continue to suffer harm, including but not limited to emotional pain,
13 humiliation, embarrassment, belittlement, frustration, and mental anguish, as well as economic
14 damages, in an amount to be determined at trial.

15 60. Defendants’ actions were willful, malicious, fraudulent, and oppressive, and were
16 committed with the wrongful intent to injure Black and/or African American workers and in
17 conscious disregard of their rights. By engaging in the conduct set forth above, Defendants acted in
18 violation of California Civil Code section 3294.

19 61. Defendants engaged in and, by their refusal to comply with the law, continue to
20 engage in, unlawful employment harassment based on race, including a pattern or practice of
21 unlawful conduct and unlawful disparate impact discrimination, unless they are enjoined pursuant to
22 the police power granted by Government Code sections 12920 and 12920.5, from failing or refusing
23 to comply with the mandates of the FEHA, Government Code section 12900 *et seq.*

24 62. Unless Defendants are enjoined, pursuant to Government Code section 12965(c),
25 from failing or refusing to comply with the mandates of the FEHA, Black and/or African American
26 workers’ right to seek or hold employment free of unlawful harassment, discrimination, and
27 retaliation will continue to be violated.

28 63. By reason of the continuous nature of all Defendants’ unlawful conduct, the

1 continuing violations doctrine is applicable to all violations alleged herein.

2 64. Plaintiff DFEH requests relief as described herein.

3 **SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION**

4 **Employment Discrimination Because of Race - Assignment**

5 **(Gov. Code, § 12940, subd. (a))**

6 65. DFEH incorporates and realleges all previous allegations as if fully set forth herein.

7 66. Government Code section 12940 subdivision (a) states that it is an unlawful
8 employment practice for an employer “to discriminate against the person in compensation or in
9 terms, conditions, or privileges of employment,” because of that person’s race.

10 67. Defendants discriminated against Black and/or African American workers by
11 segregating them to undesirable work areas and/or locations, assigning them to more physically
12 demanding jobs, lower level roles, or contract positions with lower pay and more limited growth
13 opportunities, and affording them fewer advancement and other professional opportunities than their
14 non-Black counterparts because of race in violation of Government Code section 12940, subdivision
15 (a).

16 68. Defendants intentionally discriminated against Black and/or African Americans in
17 assignment. For example, Defendants segregated Black and/or African American workers to
18 undesirable work areas and/or locations, assigned them to more physically demanding jobs, lower
19 level roles, or contract positions with lower pay and more limited growth opportunities, and afforded
20 them fewer advancement and other professional opportunities than their non-Black counterparts.

21 69. Defendants’ policies, practices, and/or procedures have resulted in unlawful disparate
22 impact discrimination against African American workers with respect to assignments. For example,
23 Defendants segregated Black and/or African American workers to undesirable work areas and/or
24 locations, assigned Black and/or African American workers to contract or other positions with lower
25 pay and limited growth opportunities, and afforded them fewer advancement and other professional
26 opportunities than their non-Black counterparts.

27 70. As a result of Defendants’ unlawful employment practices, Black and/or African
28 American workers suffered and continue to suffer harm, including but not limited to increased risk

1 of injury, actual work injuries, lost earnings, lost benefits, lost future employment opportunities, and
2 other financial loss.

3 71. As a result of Defendants' unlawful employment practices, Black and/or African
4 American workers suffered and continue to suffer non-economic harm, including but not limited to
5 emotional pain, humiliation, embarrassment, belittlement, frustration, and mental anguish, in an
6 amount to be determined at trial.

7 72. Defendants' actions demonstrate that they will continue to engage in the pattern or
8 practice of unlawful employment discrimination and unlawful disparate impact discrimination
9 prohibited by FEHA unless they are enjoined pursuant to the police power granted by Government
10 Code sections 12920 and 12920.5 from failing or refusing to comply with the mandates of FEHA,
11 Government Code section 12900 *et seq.*

12 73. Defendants' actions were willful, malicious, fraudulent, and oppressive, and were
13 committed with the wrongful intent to injure Black and/or African American workers in conscious
14 disregard of their rights. By engaging in the conduct set forth above, Defendants acted in violation
15 of California Civil Code section 3294.

16 74. Unless Defendants are enjoined, pursuant to Government Code section 12965(c),
17 from failing or refusing to comply with the mandates of the FEHA, Black and/or African American
18 workers' right to seek or hold employment free of unlawful discrimination will continue to be
19 violated.

20 75. By reason of the continuous nature of Defendants' unlawful conduct, the continuing
21 violations doctrine is applicable to all violations alleged herein.

22 76. Plaintiff DFEH requests relief as described herein.

23 **THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION**

24 **Employment Discrimination Because of Race - Compensation**

25 **(Gov. Code, § 12940, subd. (a))**

26 77. DFEH incorporates and realleges all previous allegations as if fully set forth herein.

27 78. Government Code section 12940 subdivision (a) states that it is an unlawful
28 employment practice for an employer "to discriminate against the person in compensation or in

1 terms, conditions, or privileges of employment,” because of that person’s race.

2 79. Defendants discriminated against Black and/or African American workers by paying
3 them less than non-Black workers because of race in violation of Government Code section 12940,
4 subdivision (a).

5 80. Defendants intentionally discriminate against Black and/or African American
6 workers in compensation. For example, Defendants assigned them to contract or other positions with
7 lower pay and limited growth opportunities, awarded them lower or no bonuses or equity, more
8 frequently denied them promotions and levelling opportunities, and afforded them fewer
9 advancement and other professional opportunities than their non-Black counterparts.

10 81. Defendants’ policies, practices, and/or procedures have resulted in unlawful
11 employment discrimination and unlawful disparate impact discrimination against Black and/or
12 African American workers with respect to compensation opportunities. For example, Defendants
13 assigned African Americans to contract or other positions with lower pay and limited growth
14 opportunities, awarded them lower or no bonuses or equity, denied them promotions and levelling
15 opportunities more frequently, and afforded them fewer advancement and other professional
16 opportunities than their non-Black counterparts.

17 82. As a result of Defendants’ unlawful employment practices, Black and/or African
18 American workers suffered and continue to suffer harm, including but not limited to lost earnings,
19 lost benefits, lost future employment opportunities, and other financial loss.

20 83. As a result of Defendants’ unlawful employment practices, Black and/or African
21 American workers suffered and continue to suffer non-economic harm, including but not limited to
22 emotional pain, humiliation, embarrassment, belittlement, frustration, and mental anguish, in an
23 amount to be determined at trial.

24 84. Defendants’ actions demonstrate that they will continue to engage in the pattern or
25 practice of unlawful employment discrimination and unlawful disparate impact discrimination
26 prohibited by FEHA unless they are enjoined pursuant to the police power granted by Government
27 Code sections 12920 and 12920.5 from failing or refusing to comply with the mandates of FEHA,
28 Government Code section 12900 *et seq.*

1 85. Defendants' actions were willful, malicious, fraudulent, and oppressive, and were
2 committed with the wrongful intent to injure Black and/or African American workers in conscious
3 disregard of their rights. By engaging in the conduct set forth above, Defendants acted in violation
4 of California Civil Code section 3294.

5 86. Unless Defendants are enjoined, pursuant to Government Code section 12965(c),
6 from failing or refusing to comply with the mandates of the FEHA, Black and/or African American
7 workers' right to seek or hold employment free of unlawful discrimination will continue to be
8 violated.

9 87. By reason of the continuous nature of Defendants' unlawful conduct, the continuing
10 violations doctrine is applicable to all violations alleged herein.

11 88. Plaintiff DFEH requests relief as described herein.

12 **FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

13 **Employment Discrimination Because of Race - Discipline**

14 **(Gov. Code, § 12940, subd. (a))**

15 89. DFEH incorporates and realleges all previous allegations as if fully set forth herein.

16 90. Government Code section 12940 subdivision (a) states that it is an unlawful
17 employment practice for an employer "to discriminate against the person in compensation or in
18 terms, conditions, or privileges of employment," because of that person's race.

19 91. Defendants discriminated against Black and/or African American workers by
20 disciplining them, including but not limited to issuing written warnings and reprimands, denying
21 levelling opportunities, and terminating the employment of Black and/or African American workers,
22 more frequently and more severely than non-Black workers because of race in violation of
23 Government Code section 12940, subdivision (a).

24 92. Defendants intentionally discriminated against Black and/or African Americans in
25 issuing discipline. For example, Defendants more frequently and more severely disciplined Black
26 and/or African American workers than non-Black workers, including but not limited to more
27 frequently issuing written warnings and reprimands, denying levelling opportunities, and
28 terminating the employment of Black and/or African American workers.

1 93. Defendants' policies, practices, and/or procedures have resulted in unlawful disparate
2 impact discrimination against Black and/or African American workers with respect to discipline.
3 For example, Defendants more frequently and more severely disciplined Black and/or African
4 American workers than non-Black workers, including but not limited to more frequently issuing
5 written warnings and reprimands, denying levelling opportunities, and terminating the employment
6 of Black and/or African American workers.

7 94. As a result of Defendants' unlawful employment practices, Black and/or African
8 American workers suffered and continue to suffer harm, including but not limited to lost earnings,
9 lost benefits, lost future employment opportunities, and other financial loss.

10 95. As a result of Defendants' unlawful employment practices, Black and/or African
11 American workers suffered and continue to suffer non-economic harm, including but not limited to
12 emotional pain, humiliation, embarrassment, belittlement, frustration, and mental anguish, in an
13 amount to be determined at trial.

14 96. Defendants' actions demonstrate that they will continue to engage in the pattern or
15 practice of unlawful employment discrimination and unlawful disparate impact discrimination
16 prohibited by FEHA unless they are enjoined pursuant to the police power granted by Government
17 Code sections 12920 and 12920.5 from failing or refusing to comply with the mandates of FEHA,
18 Government Code section 12900 *et seq.*

19 97. Defendants' actions were willful, malicious, fraudulent, and oppressive, and were
20 committed with the wrongful intent to injure Black and/or African American workers in conscious
21 disregard of their rights. By engaging in the conduct set forth above, Defendants acted in violation
22 of California Civil Code section 3294.

23 98. Unless Defendants are enjoined, pursuant to Government Code section 12965(c),
24 from failing or refusing to comply with the mandates of the FEHA, Black and/or African American
25 workers' right to seek or hold employment free of unlawful discrimination will continue to be
26 violated.

27 99. By reason of the continuous nature of Defendants' unlawful conduct, the continuing
28 violations doctrine is applicable to all violations alleged herein.

1 100. Plaintiff DFEH requests relief as described herein.

2 **FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

3 **Employment Discrimination Because of Race - Promotion**

4 **(Gov. Code, § 12940, subd. (a))**

5 101. DFEH incorporates and realleges all previous allegations as if fully set forth herein.

6 102. Government Code section 12940 subdivision (a) states that it is an unlawful
7 employment practice for an employer “to discriminate against the person in compensation or in
8 terms, conditions, or privileges of employment,” because of that person’s race.

9 103. Defendants discriminated against Black and/or African American workers by denying
10 them promotional opportunities because of race in violation of Government Code section 12940,
11 subdivision (a).

12 104. Defendants intentionally discriminated against Black and/or African American
13 workers in promotion and advancement opportunities. For example, Defendants assigned them to
14 contract or other positions with lower pay and limited growth opportunities, delayed their career
15 development, more frequently denied them promotions and levelling opportunities, and afforded
16 them fewer advancement and other professional opportunities than their non-Black counterparts.

17 105. Defendants’ policies, practices, and/or procedures have resulted in unlawful
18 employment discrimination and unlawful disparate impact discrimination against Black and/or
19 African American workers with respect to promotion opportunities. Among other practices,
20 Defendants’ lack of an application process for promotional and levelling opportunities, reliance on
21 Tesla’s management to recommend promotional and levelling opportunities, Defendants’ policy that
22 prohibits levelling up when an employee has a write-up in the last six months, and their informal and
23 opaque decision-making process resulted in Black and/or African American workers being promoted
24 at lower rates than their non-Black counterparts.

25 106. As a result of Defendants’ unlawful employment practices, Black and/or African
26 American workers suffered and continue to suffer harm, including but not limited to lost earnings,
27 lost benefits, lost future employment opportunities, and other financial loss.

28 107. As a result of Defendants’ unlawful employment practices, Black and/or African

1 American workers suffered and continue to suffer non-economic harm, including but not limited to
2 emotional pain, humiliation, embarrassment, belittlement, frustration, and mental anguish, in an
3 amount to be determined at trial.

4 108. Defendants' actions demonstrate that they will continue to engage in the pattern or
5 practice of unlawful employment discrimination and unlawful disparate impact discrimination
6 prohibited by FEHA unless they are enjoined pursuant to the police power granted by Government
7 Code sections 12920 and 12920.5 from failing or refusing to comply with the mandates of FEHA,
8 Government Code section 12900 *et seq.*

9 109. Defendants' actions were willful, malicious, fraudulent, and oppressive, and were
10 committed with the wrongful intent to injure Black and/or African American workers in conscious
11 disregard of their rights. By engaging in the conduct set forth above, Defendants acted in violation
12 of California Civil Code section 3294.

13 110. Unless Defendants are enjoined, pursuant to Government Code section 12965(c),
14 from failing or refusing to comply with the mandates of the FEHA, Black and/or African American
15 workers' right to seek or hold employment free of unlawful discrimination will continue to be
16 violated.

17 111. By reason of the continuous nature of Defendants' unlawful conduct, the continuing
18 violations doctrine is applicable to all violations alleged herein.

19 112. Plaintiff DFEH requests relief as described herein.

20 SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION

21 Employment Discrimination Because of Race - Termination

22 (Gov. Code, § 12940, subd. (a))

23 113. DFEH incorporates and realleges all previous allegations as if fully set forth herein.

24 114. Government Code section 12940 subdivision (a) states that it is an unlawful
25 employment practice for an employer "to discriminate against the person in compensation or in
26 terms, conditions, or privileges of employment," because of that person's race.

27 115. Defendants discriminated against Black and/or African American workers by
28 terminating their employment because of race in violation of Government Code section 12940,

1 subdivision (a).

2 116. Defendants intentionally discriminated against Black and/or African American
3 workers in terminations.

4 117. Defendants' policies, practices, and/or procedures have resulted in unlawful disparate
5 impact discrimination against Black and/or African Americans with regards to termination.

6 118. As a result of Defendants' unlawful employment practices, Black and/or African
7 American workers suffered and continue to suffer harm, including but not limited to lost earnings,
8 lost benefits, lost future employment opportunities, and other financial loss.

9 119. As a result of Defendants' unlawful employment practices, Black and/or African
10 American workers suffered and continue to suffer non-economic harm, including but not limited to
11 emotional pain, humiliation, embarrassment, belittlement, frustration, and mental anguish, in an
12 amount to be determined at trial.

13 120. Defendants' actions demonstrate that they will continue to engage in the pattern or
14 practice of unlawful employment discrimination and unlawful disparate impact discrimination
15 prohibited by FEHA unless they are enjoined pursuant to the police power granted by Government
16 Code sections 12920 and 12920.5 from failing or refusing to comply with the mandates of FEHA,
17 Government Code section 12900 *et seq.*

18 121. Defendants' actions were willful, malicious, fraudulent, and oppressive, and were
19 committed with the wrongful intent to injure Black and/or African American workers in conscious
20 disregard of their rights. By engaging in the conduct set forth above, Defendants acted in violation
21 of California Civil Code section 3294.

22 122. Unless Defendants are enjoined, pursuant to Government Code section 12965(c),
23 from failing or refusing to comply with the mandates of the FEHA, Black and/or African American
24 workers' right to seek or hold employment free of unlawful discrimination will continue to be
25 violated.

26 123. By reason of the continuous nature of Defendants' unlawful conduct, the continuing
27 violations doctrine is applicable to all violations alleged herein.

28 124. Plaintiff DFEH requests relief as described herein.

1 **SEVENTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

2 **Employment Discrimination Because of Race - Constructive Discharge**

3 **(Gov. Code, § 12940, subd. (a))**

4 125. DFEH incorporates and realleges all previous allegations as if fully set forth herein.

5 126. Government Code section 12940 subdivision (a) states that it is an unlawful
6 employment practice for an employer “to discriminate against the person in compensation or in
7 terms, conditions, or privileges of employment,” because of that person’s race.

8 127. Defendants constructively discharged Black and/or African American workers in
9 violation of Government Code section 12940, subdivision (a). Defendants intentionally created or
10 knowingly permitted working conditions to exist that were so intolerable that a reasonable person in
11 their position would have had no reasonable alternative, except to resign. Black and/or African
12 American workers resigned as a result of these conditions. For example, the stress, fear, and
13 frustration from the severe and pervasive racial harassment, the risk of a physical or verbal
14 altercation and escalation with harassers, the blatant discrimination of the workplace, the
15 disproportionately severe discipline doled out by Defendants’ management, and the futility of
16 complaining to Defendants’ management, representatives, and human resources department, all of
17 which were known to Defendants, made the working conditions so intolerable that many Black
18 and/or African American workers resigned.

19 128. Defendants intentionally discriminated against Black and/or African Americans with
20 regard to constructive discharge.

21 129. Defendants’ policies, practices, and/or procedures have resulted in unlawful disparate
22 impact discrimination against Black and/or African Americans with regard to constructive
23 discharge.

24 130. As a result of Defendants’ unlawful employment practices, Black and/or African
25 American workers suffered and continue to suffer harm, including but not limited to lost earnings,
26 lost benefits, lost future employment opportunities, and other financial loss.

27 131. As a result of Defendants’ unlawful employment practices, Black and/or African
28 American workers suffered and continue to suffer non-economic harm, including but not limited to

1 emotional pain, humiliation, embarrassment, belittlement, frustration, and mental anguish, in an
2 amount to be determined at trial.

3 132. Defendants' actions demonstrate that they will continue to engage in the pattern or
4 practice of unlawful employment discrimination and unlawful disparate impact discrimination
5 prohibited by FEHA unless they are enjoined pursuant to the police power granted by Government
6 Code sections 12920 and 12920.5 from failing or refusing to comply with the mandates of FEHA,
7 Government Code section 12900 *et seq.*

8 133. Defendants' actions were willful, malicious, fraudulent, and oppressive, and were
9 committed with the wrongful intent to injure Black and/or African American workers in conscious
10 disregard of their rights. By engaging in the conduct set forth above, Defendants acted in violation
11 of California Civil Code section 3294.

12 134. Unless Defendants are enjoined, pursuant to Government Code section 12965(c),
13 from failing or refusing to comply with the mandates of the FEHA, Black and/or African American
14 workers' right to seek or hold employment free of unlawful discrimination will continue to be
15 violated.

16 135. By reason of the continuous nature of Defendants' unlawful conduct, the continuing
17 violations doctrine is applicable to all violations alleged herein.

18 136. Plaintiff DFEH requests relief as described herein.

19 **EIGHTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

20 **Retaliation**

21 **(Gov. Code, § 12940, subd. (h))**

22 137. DFEH incorporates and realleges all previous allegations as if fully set forth herein.

23 138. Government Code section 12940 (h) states that it is an unlawful employment practice
24 for "any employer, labor organization, employment agency, or person to discharge, expel, or
25 otherwise discriminate against any person because the person has opposed any practices forbidden
26 under this part or because the person has filed a complaint, testified, or assisted in any proceeding
27 under this part."

28 139. After Black and/or African American workers engaged in protected activities, such as

1 complaining to Defendants' production associates, leads, supervisors, managers, staffing agency
2 representatives, and human resources department, Defendants took adverse employment actions
3 against these workers. Such adverse employment actions included but were not limited to denial of
4 bonuses, promotions, and other professional opportunities; denial of a reasonable accommodation;
5 negative performance reviews; disciplinary write-ups; forced transfers to less desirable assignments
6 or locations; constructive discharge; and termination.

7 140. As a result of Defendants' unlawful employment practices, aggrieved Black and/or
8 African American workers suffered and continue to suffer increased risk of injury, actual work
9 injuries, lost earnings, lost benefits, lost future employment opportunities, and other financial loss as
10 well as non-economic damages, including but not limited to, emotional pain, humiliation,
11 embarrassment, belittlement, frustration, and mental anguish, in an amount to be determined at trial.

12 141. Defendants' actions were willful, malicious, fraudulent, and oppressive, and were
13 committed with the wrongful intent to injure Black and/or African Americans and in conscious
14 disregard of their rights. By engaging in the conduct set forth above, Defendants acted in violation
15 of California Civil Code section 3294.

16 142. Defendants engaged in, and by their refusal to comply with the law, continue to
17 engage in, unlawful retaliation, including a pattern or practice of unlawful conduct and disparate
18 impact of the same, unless they are enjoined pursuant to the police power granted by Government
19 Code sections 12920 and 12920.5, from failing or refusing to comply with the mandates of the
20 FEHA, Government Code section 12900 *et seq.*

21 143. Unless Defendants are enjoined, pursuant to Government Code section 12965(c),
22 from failing or refusing to comply with the mandates of the FEHA, African American workers' right
23 to seek or hold employment free of unlawful discrimination, harassment, and retaliation will
24 continue to be violated.

25 144. By reason of the continuous nature of Defendants' unlawful conduct, the continuing
26 violations doctrine is applicable to all violations alleged herein.

27 145. Plaintiff DFEH requests relief as described herein.

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1 **NINTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

2 **Failure to Prevent Discrimination and Harassment (On Behalf of the Group)**

3 **(Gov. Code, § 12940, subd. (k))**

4 146. DFEH incorporates and realleges all previous allegations as if fully set forth herein.

5 147. Government Code section 12940 subsection (k) states that it is an unlawful
6 employment practice for employers to “fail to take all reasonable steps necessary to prevent
7 discrimination and harassment from occurring.”

8 148. Defendants violated Government Code section 12940 subsection (k), by failing to
9 take all reasonable steps necessary to prevent discrimination and harassment of workers.
10 Defendants’ failure to have and/or enforce adequate and consistent anti-discrimination and anti-
11 harassment policies caused harm to the Group. Defendants failed to have an effective racial
12 harassment policy, failed to adequately train all leads, supervisors, managers, staffing agency
13 representatives, and human resources staff on the prevention of discrimination and harassment based
14 on race, and/or failed to timely discipline or stop discriminatory or harassing behavior from
15 occurring in the workplace.

16 149. By engaging in the conduct set forth above, Defendants acted in conscious disregard
17 of the rights or safety of others and acted in an oppressive, fraudulent, or malicious manner in
18 violation of California Civil Code section 3294.

19 150. As a further result of the unlawful employment practices of Defendants, the Group
20 suffered lost earnings, lost benefits, lost future employment opportunities, and other financial loss as
21 well as non-economic damages, including but not limited to, emotional pain, humiliation,
22 embarrassment, belittlement, frustration, and mental anguish, in an amount to be determined at trial.

23 151. Unless Defendants are enjoined, pursuant to Government Code section 12965(c),
24 from failing or refusing to comply with the mandates of the FEHA, Black and/or African American
25 workers’ right to seek or hold employment free of unlawful discrimination, harassment, and
26 retaliation will continue to be violated.

27 152. By reason of the continuous nature of Defendants’ unlawful conduct, the continuing
28 violations doctrine is applicable to all violations alleged herein.

1 153. Plaintiff DFEH requests relief as herein described.

2 **TENTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

3 **Failure to Prevent Discrimination and Harassment (On Behalf of DFEH)**

4 **(Gov. Code, § 12940, subd. (k); Cal. Code Regs., tit. 2, § 11023, subd. (a)(3))**

5 154. DFEH incorporates and realleges all previous allegations as if fully set forth herein.

6 155. Government Code section 12940 subdivision (k) requires employers to take all
7 reasonable steps necessary to prevent discrimination and racial harassment from occurring.

8 156. Defendants violated Government Code section 12940 subdivision (k), by failing to
9 take all reasonable steps necessary to prevent discrimination and harassment of workers.

10 Defendants' failure to have and/or enforce adequate and consistent anti-discrimination and anti-
11 harassment policies were substantial motivating factors in causing harm to the Group. Defendants
12 failed to have an effective racial harassment policy, failed to adequately train all leads, supervisors,
13 managers, staffing agency representatives, and human resources staff on the prevention of
14 discrimination and harassment based on race, and/or failed to timely discipline or stop
15 discriminatory or harassing behavior from occurring in the workplace.

16 157. Defendants' actions were willful, malicious, fraudulent, and oppressive and were
17 committed with the wrongful intent to injure Black and/or African American workers in conscious
18 disregard of their rights.

19 158. Unless Defendants are enjoined, pursuant to Government Code section 12965(c),
20 from failing or refusing to comply with the mandates of the FEHA, Black and/or African American
21 workers' right to seek or hold employment free of unlawful discrimination, harassment, and
22 retaliation will continue to be violated.

23 159. By reason of the continuous nature of Defendants' unlawful conduct, the continuing
24 violations doctrine is applicable to all violations alleged herein.

25 160. DFEH requests relief as herein described.

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1 **ELEVENTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

2 **Unequal Pay**

3 **(Labor Code, § 1197.5; Gov. Code, § 12930, subd. (f)(5))**

4 161. DFEH incorporates and realleges all previous allegations as if fully set forth herein.

5 162. Labor Code 1197.5 subsection (b) states that “[a]n employer shall not pay any of its
6 employees at wage rates less than the rates paid to employees of another race or ethnicity for
7 substantially similar work, when viewed as a composite of skill, effort, and responsibility, and
8 performed under similar working conditions.”

9 163. Defendants’ Black and/or African American workers received less total
10 compensation than their non-Black counterparts while performing substantially similar work as each
11 other, considering their combination of skill, effort, and responsibilities, as well as their similar
12 working conditions.

13 164. Defendants’ Black and/or African American workers received less hourly pay or less
14 base pay than their non-Black counterparts while performing substantially similar work as each
15 other, considering their combination of skill, effort, and responsibilities, as well as their similar
16 working conditions.

17 165. Defendants’ Black and/or African American workers received less incentive pay,
18 bonuses, equity and/or benefits compared to their non-Black counterparts while performing
19 substantially similar work as each other, considering their combination of skill, effort, and
20 responsibilities, as well as their similar working conditions.

21 166. As a result of Defendants’ conduct, Black and/or African American workers suffered
22 and continue to suffer lost earnings, and DFEH is entitled to recover unpaid wages and liquidated
23 damages in addition to costs of suit.

24 167. Unless Defendants are enjoined, pursuant to Government Code section 12965(c),
25 from failing or refusing to comply with the mandates of the FEHA, Black and/or African American
26 workers’ right to seek or hold employment free of unlawful discrimination, harassment, and
27 retaliation will continue to be violated.

28 168. By reason of the continuous nature of Defendants’ unlawful conduct, the continuing

1 violations doctrine is applicable to all violations alleged herein.

2 169. Plaintiff DFEH requests relief as herein described.

3 **TWELFTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

4 **Waiver of Rights, Forums, or Procedures and Release of Claims**

5 **(Gov. Code, §§ 12953 and 12964.5 and Labor Code § 432.6)**

6 170. DFEH incorporates and realleges all previous allegations as if fully set forth herein.

7 171. Government Code Section 12953 defines an unlawful practice as an employer's
8 violation of Section 432.6 of the Labor Code.

9 172. Section 432.6 of the Labor Code states inter alia that "[a] person shall not, as a
10 condition of employment, continued employment, or the receipt of any employment-related benefit,
11 require any applicant for employment or any employee to waive any right, forum, or procedure for a
12 violation of any provision of the California Fair Employment and Housing Act...or this code,
13 including the right to file and pursue a civil action or a complaint with, or otherwise notify, any state
14 agency, other public prosecutor, law enforcement agency, or any court or other governmental entity
15 of any alleged violation."

16 173. Based on information and belief, DFEH alleges that Defendants required Black
17 and/or African American workers to waive rights, forums, and/or procedures as a condition of
18 employment, continued employment, or the receipt of any employment-related benefit in violation
19 of Labor Code Section 432.6 and Government Code Section 12953.

20 174. Government Code Section 12964.5 subsection (a)(1)(A) prohibits "an employer, in
21 exchange for a raise or bonus, or as a condition of employment or continued employment...to
22 require an employee to sign a release of a claim or right under this part."

23 175. Based on information and belief, DFEH alleges that Defendants' Black and/or
24 African American workers were required to sign a release of claims and/or rights as a mandatory
25 condition of employment. Tesla also required its contracted staffing agencies to waive rights as a
26 mandatory condition of employment for any worker assigned to Tesla. These actions violate
27 Government Code Section 12964.5.

28 176. By engaging in the conduct set forth above, Defendants acted in conscious disregard

1 of the rights or safety of others and acted in an oppressive, fraudulent, or malicious manner in
2 violation of California Civil Code section 3294.

3 177. As a further result of the unlawful employment practices of Defendants, the Group
4 suffered lost earnings, lost benefits, lost future employment opportunities, and other financial loss as
5 well as non-economic damages, including but not limited to, emotional pain, humiliation,
6 embarrassment, belittlement, frustration, and mental anguish, in an amount to be determined at trial.

7 178. Unless Defendants are enjoined, pursuant to Government Code section 12965(c),
8 from failing or refusing to comply with the mandates of the FEHA, Black and/or African American
9 workers' right to seek or hold employment free of unlawful discrimination, harassment, and
10 retaliation will continue to be violated.

11 179. By reason of the continuous nature of Defendants' unlawful conduct, the continuing
12 violations doctrine is applicable to all violations alleged herein.

13 180. Plaintiff DFEH requests relief as herein described.

14 **THIRTEENTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

15 **Failure to Retain and Produce Records (on Behalf of DFEH Only)**

16 **(Gov. Code, § 12946; Cal. Code Regs., tit. 2, § 11013)**

17 181. Plaintiff-Intervenor incorporates the preceding paragraphs as alleged above.

18 182. Government Code section 12946³³ declares it an unlawful employment practice for
19 an employer to "fail to maintain and preserve any and all applications, personnel, membership, or
20 employment referral records and files for a minimum period of two years after the records and files
21 are initially created or received, or for employers to fail to retain personnel files of applicants or
22 terminated employees for a minimum period of two years after the date of the employment action
23 taken." State and federal law, including the California Labor Code, Equal Pay Act, and
24 Unemployment Insurance Code (Lab. Code, §§ 226, 1197.5; Unemp. Ins. Code, § 1085; Cal. Code
25

26 _____
27 ³³ Effective January 1, 2022, Government Code section 12946 now requires that employers preserve employment
28 records for at least four years. As mentioned before, however, DFEH references Government Code section 12946 as it
existed at the time of the DFEH investigation, which required employers maintain employment records for a minimum
of two years.

1 Regs., tit. 22, § 1085-2), the Federal Fair Labor Standards Act and Equal Pay Act (29 C.F.R. § 516
2 et seq.; 29 U.S.C. § 211), and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (29 C.F.R. § 1602 et seq.),
3 require employers to create and maintain various personnel records, including compensation records.

4 183. Upon the filing of the DFEH Director's Complaint against Tesla, DFEH sent a
5 Document Retention Notice to Tesla which gave Tesla notice not to destroy, conceal, or alter any
6 documents or data relevant to the Director's Complaint, including data stored with third-party agents
7 and information related to complaints of discrimination and/or unfair terms and conditions of
8 employment.

9 184. During DFEH's administrative investigation, DFEH requested Defendants' personnel
10 records, including complaints and investigation information. Defendants' investigative discovery
11 production was incomplete. Personnel files were missing for numerous workers throughout the
12 covered time period. Complaints and information about investigations also were not provided for
13 multiple workers. Defendants failed to supplement their production with complete records.

14 185. Defendants failed to maintain employment records that they were required to make
15 and maintain under state and federal law during the relevant time period in violation of Government
16 Code section 12946 and California Code of Regulations, Title 2, section 11013.

17 186. Unless Defendants are enjoined, pursuant to Government Code section 12965(c),
18 from failing or refusing to comply with the mandates of the FEHA, Black and/or African American
19 workers' right to seek or hold employment free of unlawful discrimination, harassment, and
20 retaliation will continue to be violated.

21 187. By reason of the continuous nature of Defendants' unlawful conduct, the continuing
22 violations doctrine is applicable to all violations alleged herein.

23 188. Plaintiff DFEH requests relief as herein described.

24 **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

25 **WHEREFORE**, DFEH prays that this Court issue judgment in favor of DFEH, and against
26 Defendants, ordering:

- 27 1. Compensatory and punitive damages;
- 28 2. Economic damages and equitable relief, including but not limited to reinstatement

1 and/or front pay, pay adjustments, backpay, lost wages and benefits (including base pay, incentive
2 pay, pension benefits and awards), in an amount to be proven at trial;

- 3 3. Liquidated damages and penalties, as required by law;
- 4 4. Injunctive relief;
- 5 5. Declaratory relief;
- 6 6. Prejudgment interest, as required by law;
- 7 7. Attorneys' fees and costs to the Department of Fair Employment and Housing; and
- 8 8. Other relief the Court deems to be just and proper.

9
10 DATED: February 9, 2022

DEPARTMENT OF FAIR EMPLOYMENT
AND HOUSING

11
12 /s/ Siri Thanasombat
13 By: SIRI THANASOMBAT
14 Attorneys for the Department of Fair
15 Employment and Housing
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DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

Plaintiff DFEH hereby demands a trial by jury on all claims.

Dated: February 9, 2022

DEPARTMENT OF FAIR EMPLOYMENT
AND HOUSING

/s/ Siri Thanasombat

By: SIRI THANASOMBAT
Attorneys for the Department of Fair
Employment and Housing