1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	KEKER & VAN NEST, LLP JON B. STREETER - #101970 ROY L. AUSTIN, JR #211491 ROBERT A. BONTA - #202668 710 Sansome Street San Francisco, CA 94111-1704 Telephone: (415) 391-5400 Facsimile: (415) 397-7188 MICHELLE ALEXANDER - #177089 ALAN L. SCHLOSSER - #49957 KENNETH J. SUGARMAN - #195059 THE AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION FOUNDATION OF NORTHERN CALIFORN 1663 Mission Street, Suite 460 San Francisco, CA 94103 Telephone: (415) 621-2493	
10	Attorneys for Plaintiffs	
11	UNITED STATES	S DISTRICT COURT
12	NORTHERN DISTR	LICT OF CALIFORNIA
13 14	SAN JOSE DIVISION	
15	CURTIS V. RODRIGUEZ, JOSE F. LOPEZ,	Case No. C-99-20895-JF/EAI
16 17	MacARTHUR WASHINGTON, CALIFORNIA BRANCHES of the NAACP and THE CALIFORNIA LEAGUE OF UNITED LATIN AMERICAN CITIZENS,	FIFTH AMENDED CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT FOR DECLARATORY RELIEF, INJUNCTIVE RELIEF AND
18	INDIVIDUALLY AND ON BEHALF OF ALL OTHERS SIMILARLY SITUATED,	DAMAGES DEMAND FOR HIDWEDLAY
19	Plaintiffs,	DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL
20	v.	
21	CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL, CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL	
22	CALIFORNIA HIGHWAT FATROL COMMISSIONER D. O. HELMICK, CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL	
23	OFFICER JOSEPH NARDIL, CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL OFFICER MICHAEL	
24	ARPAIA, CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL OFFICER STEVE C. WOISIN,	
25	CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL OFFICER ROBERT J. WOODS and Does 7 –	
26	100, inclusive,	
27	Defendants.	
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pattern and practice of race-based stops, detentions and searches of African-American and Latino

Plaintiffs in this case, Curtis V. Rodriguez ("Rodriguez"), Jose F. Lopez

against the California Highway Patrol ("CHP") for engaging in and condoning a continuing

motorists traveling on the public streets and highways of the State of California. The specific

abuses giving rise to this action occurred on or in CHP's Central and Coastal Divisions.

("Lopez"), MacArthur Washington ("Washington"), California Branches of the NAACP

("NAACP") and California League of United Latin American Citizens ("LULAC"), represent a

class and subclass of African Americans and Latinos who have been or will be subjected to the

Central and Coastal Divisions due to the defendants' policy and practice of what is commonly

known as "racial profiling." The moment Mr. Rodriguez, Mr. Lopez and Mr. Washington were

stopped by the defendants they became victims of what the United States Court of Appeals for

the Ninth Circuit called "an all too familiar set of circumstances – an intrusive law enforcement

stop and seizure of innocent persons on the basis of suspicions rooted principally in the race of

economic station in life, the insidious problem of racial profiling by law enforcement officers is

all too familiar. It is a continuing reminder that, despite popular notions of progress in race

To any person of color, regardless of ethnic background, level of education, or

humiliation of being targeted, interrogated, detained and searched by defendants in CHP's

This is a class action lawsuit seeking declaratory, injunctive and monetary relief

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relations, racial discrimination remains a day-to-day reality in our society.

4. By the Complaint in this case, plaintiffs seek judicial redress for violations of their civil rights due to racial profiling. But they also seek to confirm what everyone has a right

the 'suspects.'" Washington v. Lambert, 98 F.3d 1181, 1182 (1996).

to expect in the United States: that people of color may use the public streets and highways, just like anybody else, without having to suffer the indignities of racial discrimination at the hands of

government officials.

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5. Plaintiffs' claims are brought pursuant to the Fourth, Fifth and Fourteenth
Amendments to the United States Constitution; Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and its

California and to securing equal protection of the laws for all persons. Upon information and belief, individual members of the California NAACP regularly travel on the Highways of California, including those located within CHP's Central and Coastal Divisions, and at various times have been stopped and detained by members of the CHP on the basis of their race. The California NAACP is representative of the class and subclass of African-American and Latino motorists who have been or are being subjected to race-based discrimination by the CHP. The California NAACP participates as a plaintiff only for the purpose of securing declaratory and injunctive relief.

- 13. Plaintiff California League of United Latin American Citizens ("LULAC") is a non-profit membership organization dedicated to eradicating race-based discrimination throughout California and to securing equal protection of the laws for all persons. Upon information and belief, individual members of the LULAC regularly travel on the Highways of California, including those located within CHP's Central and Coastal Divisions, and at various times have been stopped and detained by members of the CHP on the basis of their race. The California LULAC is representative of the class and subclass of African-American and Latino motorists being subjected to race-based discrimination by the CHP. LULAC participates as a plaintiff only for the purpose of securing declaratory and injunctive relief.
- 14. Defendant California Highway Patrol, headquartered in Sacramento, California is a division of the State of California in charge of patrolling California State highways. Upon information and belief, the CHP receives federal funds through federal grants from the United States Department of Justice or another federal agency. As such, the CHP is legally required to conduct its activities in a racially non-discriminatory manner.
- 15. Upon information and belief, California Highway Patrol Officer Joseph Nardil, sued here in both his individual and official capacities, is a resident of California who is employed by the CHP. Officer Nardil was involved in the stop of plaintiff Curtis Rodriguez. All actions taken by Officer Nardil while working as an officer of the CHP were taken under color of state law.

- 16. Upon information and belief, California Highway Patrol Officer Michael J. Arpaia, sued here in both his individual and official capacities, is a resident of California who is employed by the CHP. Officer Arpaia was involved in the stop of plaintiff Jose Lopez. All actions taken by Officer Arpaia while working as an officer of the CHP were taken under color of state law.
- 17. Upon information and belief, California Highway Patrol Officer Steve C. Woisin, sued here in both his individual and official capacities, is a resident of California who is employed by the CHP. Officer Woisin was involved in the stop of plaintiff MacArthur Washington. All actions taken by Officer Woisin while working as an officer of the CHP were taken under color of state law.
- 18. Upon information and belief, California Highway Patrol Officer Robert J. Woods, sued here in both his individual and official capacities, is a resident of California who is employed by the CHP. Officer Woods was involved in the stop of plaintiff MacArthur Washington. All actions taken by Officer Woods while working as an officer of the CHP were taken under color of state law.
- 19. Upon information and belief, defendant D.O. Helmick is Commissioner of the CHP and a resident of California. Upon information and belief, defendant Commissioner Helmick directly or indirectly participated in the authorization, planning and supervision of the actions of the individual CHP officers involved in this case, including Officers Joseph Nardil, Michael Arpaia, Steve Woisin and Robert Woods. Upon information and belief, defendant Commissioner Helmick failed adequately to train CHP personnel and to promulgate appropriate policies to prevent race-based vehicular stops, and has established, implemented and enforced illegal and unconstitutional policies and practices that have caused plaintiffs' injuries.
- 20. Plaintiffs are informed and believe that Doe defendants 7 through 50 are all officers of the CHP and were at all relevant times acting in the course and scope of their employment and acting under color of law. Upon information and belief, each of Doe defendants 7 through 50 participated in some way in the stop of plaintiffs and others on the basis on race, ethnicity, or national origin. Defendants 7 though 50 are all sued in their individual and

official capacities. The true names of these defendants are unknown to plaintiffs. In due course, plaintiffs will amend this Complaint to identify these defendants' true names when they have been ascertained.

- 21. Plaintiffs are informed and believe that Doe defendants 51 through 100 are officials and/or supervisory officers of the CHP and were at all relevant times acting in the course and scope of their employment. Upon information and belief, each of Doe defendants 51 through 100 directly or indirectly participated in the authorization, planning and supervision of the actions of the individual CHP officers involved in this case. Upon information and belief, one or more of these defendants failed adequately to train CHP personnel and to promulgate appropriate policies to prevent race-based vehicular stops, and all of them have established, implemented and enforced illegal and unconstitutional policies and practices that have caused plaintiffs' injuries. Does 51 through 100 are sued in their individual and official capacities. The true names of these defendants are unknown to plaintiffs; plaintiffs will amend this Complaint to identify these defendants' true names when they have been ascertained.
- 22. Upon information and belief, at all relevant times each defendant was the agent and/or employee of each of the remaining defendants, and in doing the things herein alleged was acting within the course and scope of his or her employment and under color of law. Each of the defendants caused, and is responsible for, the unlawful conduct described herein. Each defendant is responsible for plaintiffs' injuries by personally participating in the unlawful conduct; acting jointly and in concert with others who did so; authorizing, acquiescing or failing to take action to prevent the unlawful conduct; promulgating policies and procedures pursuant to which the unlawful conduct occurred; failing and refusing, with deliberate indifference, to implement and maintain adequate training and supervision; and/or by ratifying the unlawful conduct.
- 23. All of the defendants, and each of them, are sued both in their individual and official capacities.

IV. FACTS GIVING RISE TO THIS ACTION

Operation Pipeline and Other California Drug Interdiction Programs

- 24. The CHP have long relied upon race and ethnicity in conducting stops, detentions, interrogations and searches of motorists. They have engaged in an unabated, continuing pattern and practice of discrimination.
- 25. In recent years, the law enforcement practice of targeting motorists on the basis of race or ethnicity has increased dramatically nationwide, largely due to federally funded drug interdiction programs operated by state and local law enforcement agencies.
- 26. Today, the defendants, like many law enforcement agencies across the country, participate in a federally funded drug interdiction program sponsored by the United States Drug Enforcement Agency ("DEA") known as Operation Pipeline. The stated purpose and mission of Operation Pipeline is to remove drugs and weapons from the nation's highways. The DEA, as the sponsoring agency, provides training and instructors for state and local law enforcement agencies, teaching them how to identify highway travelers as potential drug couriers based on a profile. In addition, plaintiffs believe that the CHP is allowing and encouraging Operation Pipeline-like stops throughout California, such that these abuses are not limited to only those officers technically participating in the Operation Pipeline program.
- 27. Operation Pipeline is a roving program of discrimination that, depending on the area in which it is implemented and has its effects, can and does injure motorists of color throughout the state of California. Pipeline and Pipeline-like programs encourage officers to rely upon minor or fictional traffic code violations that can be used as an excuse or "pretext" to stop motorists that somehow seem "suspicious." Pipeline and Pipeline-like programs also encourage officers to look for "indicators" of drug trafficking activity, including many common, pedestrian characteristics, thus giving officers virtually unbridled discretion in determining who to stop.
- 28. Officers will also engage in sustained interrogation designed to uncover further "indicators" of criminal drug activity in the form of "suspicious" answers or may engage in roadside testing for drugs or alcohol use pursuant to CHP's Drug Recognition Expert ("DRE") program. As yet another technique available to them, officers are trained to seek consent to

search – which most unwary motorists readily give – so that there is no need to point to any probable cause should questions about the legality of the search arise later.

- 29. When consent is refused, troopers often detain the motorist until a canine unit performs a sniff test around the exterior of the vehicle. If the dog alerts to something, the detention continues, as the officer will then use the drug dog's reaction as probable cause. If no canine unit is used, troopers sometimes simply ignore motorists when they refuse consent to search, knowing that if drugs are found a court will be unlikely to conclude that a drug courier is more credible than a CHP officer.
- 30. In addition, CHP officers and supervisors know that, if no drugs are found, motorists are unlikely to complain about their illegal tactics. Studies indicate that most motorists do not even know they have the right to refuse consent to search. Those who do know their rights have been violated are often so relieved that their frightening encounter with police has ended without violence or arrest that they simply go on their way without complaint. Some motorists believe that complaining to law enforcement agencies about their illegal and discriminatory practices is futile. Others fear retaliation.
- 31. CHP officers use the aforementioned set of techniques in one flowing sequence that is designed to end in a search. Officers select and deploy the techniques as they deem appropriate in order to maximize the chances for a search.
- 32. CHP promotes the use of these techniques by encouraging a high volume of traffic stops and rewarding officers for highway drug seizures. As a result of the high volume of stops, CHP ensures that the number of motorists suffering from their escalating battery of investigative techniques is maximized.
- 33. The CHP first became involved in Operation Pipeline in the late 1980's, but has since become one of the agencies most actively involved in the program, conducting joint operations with local law enforcement agencies. Upon information and belief, the CHP now has Pipeline teams running formal operations on all of California's major highways, including those located within CHP's Central and Coastal Divisions, and has more than 40 canine units at its disposal.

- 34. A report regarding Operation Pipeline and the CHP's racial profiling practices was issued by the Joint Legislative Task Force on Government Oversight on September 29, 1999. The report, which was based on a review of thousands of CHP records and testimony from numerous CHP officers and officials, concluded that Operation Pipeline discriminates against motorists of color in general, and Latino motorists in particular.
- 35. According to the report, the goal of Operation Pipeline is to use "intensified enforcement" of traffic laws to generate a very high volume of traffic stops to screen for drug couriers. Pipeline officers are not expected to write many traffic tickets and are often discouraged from doing so. Instead, troopers are trained to stop and search thousands of motorists for insignificant vehicle code infractions, the vast majority of which result in no more than a verbal warning.
- 36. As a matter of policy, officers are encouraged to use vehicle code violations such as weaving, improper lane changes, burned out license plate lights, tinted windows, following too closely or seat belt violations, as excuses to stop drivers and attempt to search their cars for drugs. Once the officers have an excuse for the stop, they are trained to begin questioning and searching the occupants of the vehicle.
- 37. The Task Force report shows that stops conducted with the goal of drug interdiction frequently result in travelers spending lengthy periods of time standing on the side of the road while being interrogated, fielding repeated questions about their family members, their occupations, their marital status, their immigration status, their criminal histories and their recreational use of drugs or alcohol. Many of these motorists have their pulses taken to detect signs of nervousness, a trait which is then cited as grounds for requesting "consent" to search their car. Other motorists are subjected to field sobriety tests even though there is no evidence that the motorist was under the influence of alcohol or a controlled substance.
- 38. CHP policy permits officers to detain a motorist during any traffic stop for the purpose of conducting a search. Pursuant to this policy, CHP officers routinely detain motorists for the purpose of searching their vehicles, even though the officers have no probable cause, or even reasonable suspicion, that the motorists are carrying illegal drugs or engaged in any

criminal activity. These searches involve significant intrusion, humiliation, embarrassment and great inconvenience for thousands of innocent motorists, but the practice is condoned and encouraged by CHP supervisors and management.

- 39. The practice of stopping and searching innocent motorists would be alarming no matter who was subjected to this kind of treatment by government officials. The reality, however, is that motorists of color, particularly African-American and Latino motorists, are targeted and subjected to these practices at grossly disproportionate rates. CHP troopers, consistent with their Operation Pipeline training, are determining who to stop, detain, interrogate and/or search in a racially discriminatory manner.
- 40. As set forth in the Task Force report, the CHP's own figures show that between 80% to 90% of all motorists arrested by Pipeline units since 1997 have been members of minority groups, and only 10% have been white. More recent data produced by the defendants in this action corroborates a finding of disparate impact on African-American and Latino motorists with respect to both stops and searches. This data strongly suggests that motorists are targeted, stopped and searched on the basis of race by the CHP. Studies of Operation Pipeline programs in other states reveal that, contrary to popular perception, people of color are *not* more likely than whites to be carrying drugs or other contraband in their cars. People of color are arrested at grossly disproportionate rates because they are targeted and searched at grossly disproportionate rates, not because they are more likely to be guilty of carrying drugs in the vehicles. Ironically, the arrest statistics which are the product of racial profiling are often used by law enforcement to justify the continued targeting of motorists of color. The New Jersey Attorney General dubbed this phenomenon: "the perverse illogic of racial profiling."
- 41. The discriminatory impact of the CHP's drug interdiction efforts on minority motorists cannot be justified by law enforcement necessity. Operation Pipeline and Pipeline-like tactics have proven to be extremely costly and largely ineffective, taking a tremendous toll on thousands of innocent motorists every year. According to the CHP's own data, nine out of ten vehicle searches turn up nothing incriminating. Statistical analyses performed in other states show that it is common for between 70% and 95% of all Pipeline stops to produce no arrests or

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contraband seizures. As a result, thousands of innocent motorists are stopped, searched and treated like criminals by the defendants every year based on nothing more than a police officer's mistaken hunch.

- 42. The CHP's participation in Operation Pipeline, and the proliferation of Pipelinelike training, has occurred with the strong support of CHP management. The Task Force report found that individual officers involved in these operations and training programs have been carrying out what they perceive to be the policy of the CHP, the Department of Justice and the Administration of the State of California in targeting drivers through profiling. In fact, the officers involved in these operations have been repeatedly commended by their supervisors for the jobs they are doing, and encouraged to continue with the Operation Pipeline stops despite the fact that the vast majority of the stops are unsuccessful and involve motorists of color. Officers are under considerable pressure by their supervisors to pull over as many motorists as possible and to conduct as many searches as possible, and therefore spend thousands of hours conducting unwarranted and intimidating stops of innocent motorists, most of whom are people of color. Because these drug interdiction programs can occasionally find drugs and cash, CHP supervisors and management have continued to encourage Operation Pipeline tactics, despite evidence showing that minority drivers are being targeted and subjected to unwarranted stops, searches, detention and interrogation.
- 43. Plaintiffs allege that CHP supervisors have been aware that troopers are engaging in racial profiling, yet have failed and refused to stop it, thereby showing deliberate indifference to the rights of motorists of color. The supervisory defendants have failed to take effective action to prevent continuation of the egregious pattern of discrimination against motorists of color, despite their rhetoric to the contrary. Due to the supervisory defendants' inaction, plaintiffs, and the class and subclass they seek to represent, have suffered and continue to suffer systematic violations of their civil rights.
- 44. The racially discriminatory impact of Operation Pipeline has been challenged in numerous cases nationwide. New Jersey judges have dismissed more than 600 criminal cases in recent years because of concerns over racial stereotyping by officers in the Operation Pipeline

program; the Maryland State Police has settled litigation challenging racial profiling in connection with their drug interdiction efforts; and a federal judge ruled that the Sheriffs Department in Eagle County, Colorado was making "racist assumptions" about drivers who were being pulled over and searched for drugs in connection with their Pipeline program.

45. Defendants have turned a deaf ear to the racially imbalanced result of these drug interdiction programs, the complaints of victims, and the trauma these baseless stops and searches have on motorists of color in California. What happened to the plaintiffs, as described below, is not unusual. Their stories are consistent with the defendants' policy, pattern and practice of discriminating on the basis of race when determining whom to target, stop, interrogate, detain and/or search in their drug interdiction efforts. The clear discriminatory effect of these practices, and the discriminatory purpose hidden behind the defendants' practice and policy of willful ignorance, is immoral and illegal. These practices must be stopped.

The Illegal Traffic Stops and Searches In This Case

Curtis V. Rodriguez

- 46. On June 6, 1998, the CHP acting in concert with agents from the California Department of Justice and BNE carried out a "special narcotics interdiction" operation in the Pacheco Pass area of State Highway 152, south of San Jose. Mr. Rodriguez, accompanied by his associate Arturo Hernandez, happened to drive through the stretch of highway where this operation was taking place on that day. Mr. Rodriguez was at the wheel of his burgundy-colored 1995 Mazda Millenia, and Mr. Hernandez was in the passenger seat. Mr. Rodriguez is an attorney.
- 47. Mr. Rodriguez and Mr. Hernandez were traveling from San Jose to Merced to take some photographs as part of an investigation of an ongoing case. While driving eastbound on Highway 152, they noticed two traffic stops being executed by the CHP, and both stops were of Latinos. One of the stops involved two CHP vehicles. On the way back from Merced, Mr. Rodriguez and Mr. Hernandez were driving westbound on Highway 152, again in the Pacheco Pass area. They both noticed five traffic stops and at least ten CHP and BNE vehicles within a ten-mile stretch of highway. All of the detained drivers were of Latinos, and most or all of the

drivers were standing outside of their cars by the side of the road. Distressed by what they were witnessing, Mr. Rodriguez and Mr. Hernandez decided to document these race-based police stops to prove to others what they had seen. Mr. Hernandez took photographs of the fourth and fifth stops of Latino drivers, while Mr. Rodriguez concentrated on obeying the speed limit and all traffic laws in order to avoid giving the police any excuse to pull them over. Nonetheless, the officers stopped Mr. Rodriguez and searched his vehicle without consent or probable cause.

- 48. The officer who made the stop, Officer Nardil, told Mr. Rodriguez that he had been stopped because he had his lights on and that he had crossed the line of the lane he was driving in. Both reasons were false and pretextual. Drivers in the area are advised to have their lights on, and Mr. Rodriguez had taken great care to stay perfectly within the middle of his lane in order to avoid accusations of an infraction. When Mr. Rodriguez' counsel inquired of the CHP about the stop as part of the investigation of this lawsuit, the CHP changed even this pretextual basis for the stop; the official version now is that Mr. Rodriguez, while engaged in "random driving," failed to comply with the "requirement that motorists drive with illuminated headlights."
- 49. After stopping Mr. Rodriguez, Officer Nardil asked whether Mr. Rodriguez would consent to a search of the vehicle. Mr. Rodriguez refused. At that point, Officer Nardil stated in a monotone voice, with a flat affect that he was in fear for his personal safety, and that he was going to search the car for weapons. He then undertook a search that turned up nothing but the camera that Mr. Hernandez had used to photograph the illegal stops. After a detention that lasted the better part of half an hour, Mr. Rodriguez was released without a ticket or citation. His only "crime," it turned out, was being a Latino male.
- 50. Mr. Rodriguez travels on Highway 152 and Interstate Highway 5, within CHP's Central and Coastal Divisions, for work-related reasons approximately once a month. Mr. Rodriguez has no intention of changing his job or his residence, and therefore has a reasonable expectation that he will travel these highways in the future. Therefore, based on his stop, his observations of other stops, and his need to use the highways for business and personal reasons, and especially in light of the CHP drug interdiction program's policy and practice as described

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above, Mr. Rodriguez has a valid and reasonable fear that he will be stopped by the CHP again in the future solely on the basis of his race.

Jose F. Lopez

- 51. On April 6, 1999, Jose Lopez, a Latino, was traveling with Stephanie Gevorkian in their 1989 Ford Aerostar minivan north on Interstate Highway 5. Mr. Lopez is a service technician and repairman for Sears. Ms. Gevorkian, who is white, is Mr. Lopez' companion and the mother of his son. Although they are not formally married, Mr. Lopez and Ms. Gevorkian call each other "husband" and "wife." Mr. Lopez and Ms. Gevorkian were traveling from their home in El Monte, California to Ms. Gevorkian's parents' home in Fremont, California. Their son had been visiting his grandparents in Fremont, and his baptism was to take place the next day in Fremont. Mr. Lopez and Ms. Gevorkian were driving to pick up their son, spend time with her family, and celebrate their son's baptism in Fremont before returning home, with their son, to El Monte.
- 52. Near the intersection of Highway 152 and Interstate 5, Mr. Lopez and Ms. Gevorkian noticed a CHP vehicle traveling south on Interstate 5. They looked at the officers (Officer Arpaia and another officer). As they looked at the officers, the CHP vehicle made a Uturn across the median and merged into the northbound lane. The officers immediately pulled up alongside Mr. Lopez' minivan. Mr. Lopez kept the minivan in cruise control at the speed limit. The officers looked inside the van, and stared closely at Mr. Lopez' and Ms. Gevorkian's faces. After following Mr. Lopez alongside and behind the van for a few minutes the CHP officers activated the emergency lights and pulled their vehicle over.
- 53. The officers told Mr. Lopez and Ms. Gevorkian that they had been stopped because a small crystal was hanging from the rearview mirror. Ms. Gevorkian immediately apologized, took the crystal down and put it in the glove compartment. Instead of ticketing Mr. Lopez or allowing the couple to go on their way, however, the officers ordered Mr. Lopez out of the car. Mr. Lopez was taken back to the patrol car by one of the officers, while the other officer stood with Ms. Gevorkian on the passenger side of the minivan.

- 54. The officers then interrogated Mr. Lopez and Ms. Gevorkian separately for approximately 30 minutes. The officer with Ms. Gevorkian repeatedly called her by the wrong name. He asked her many times why there were baby clothes but no baby in the car, and what she and Mr. Lopez did for a living. Several times he asked "what are you doing with that man?" His tone was angry and accusing, and she understood him to be asking why she was with a Latino. He asked her repeatedly if she was nervous, and she replied that she was. He then asked her why, telling her that she wouldn't be if she hadn't done anything wrong. He asked to search the car. Ms. Gevorkian reluctantly gave her consent, fearing the officers' anger if she did not. The search turned up nothing.
- 55. Meanwhile, the other officer repeatedly asked Mr. Lopez where he was born, where he was going, what he did for a living, how he got his driver's license, and what he was doing with Ms. Gevorkian. He focused in particular on Mr. Lopez' driver's license, which Mr. Lopez assumed was because the officer thought that Mr. Lopez was not a legal resident of this country. After asking the same questions over and over again, the officers spoke together for a few minutes, ordering Mr. Lopez to continue standing on the side of the highway by the patrol car. They then returned to interrogate Ms. Gevorkian and Mr. Lopez separately, again asking the same questions they had previously asked. After approximately five to ten more minutes of questioning the officers told Mr. Lopez he could go. No citations were issued and no arrests were made.
- 56. Ms. Gevorkian and Mr. Lopez were detained and searched without any legal basis, and have been shamed and demeaned by being forced to endure the humiliating questions and treatment from the officers who stopped them. After the stop, Ms. Gevorkian cried and expressed her fear that she would not be able to visit her parents because she and Mr. Lopez cannot travel on Interstate 5 without being stopped. Mr. Lopez is afraid to put anything on his car that would identify him as a Mexican-American because he believes he will be stopped again, especially since this is not the first time Mr. Lopez has been stopped by a CHP officer without any basis. Because they have family and friends in Northern California, but live in Southern California, Mr. Lopez and Ms. Gevorkian have been, and will in the future, travel on

Interstate 5 near Highway 152, within CHP's Central and Coastal Divisions, at least once a month. However, this normal expectation of family visits has been compromised by their stop, and their real and legitimate fear of future stops. In light of this unjustified stop and the policy and practice of CHP drug interdiction programs as set forth above, Mr. Lopez and Ms. Gevorkian have a reasonable belief and fear that they will be stopped again in the future.

MacArthur Washington

- 57. MacArthur Washington is a California resident of African-American descent. On May 26, 1999, at approximately 2:00 a.m., Mr. Washington was driving near Highway 152 in Los Banos, California. He was in the vicinity of the intersection of Highway 152 and Interstate 5. Mr. Washington was on his way to pick up a co-worker and go to work. Mr. Washington lives in an agricultural area, and has worked for about four years for a firm called Smith Hay. As part of his job, Mr. Washington assists with the cutting, raking and baling of hay, a task that must be performed early in the morning. On the date and at the time in question, Mr. Washington was going to pick up Bobby Smith, another employee of Smith Hay, to begin raking and baling. Mr. Washington was driving a Smith Hay company truck, a late model Sierra 4-wheel drive pick up.
- When Mr. Washington arrived at Bobby Smith's residence, Mr. Smith was not waiting outside. Mr. Washington did not knock or call out, because he wanted to avoid waking an elderly member of Mr. Smith's family who lived in the same house. Instead, after waiting for a few minutes, Mr. Washington drove to a pay phone at a nearby Circle K market to call Ron Smith, Smith Hay's owner and Bobby Smith's uncle, and ask what to do. Ron Smith agreed to meet Mr. Washington at Bobby Smith's house. As Mr. Washington drove out of the Circle K parking lot, he saw a CHP vehicle parked in the oncoming lane with its lights off. The car was facing the front of Mr. Washington's car. When he passed the CHP vehicle, the officers made a U-turn, activated their lights and pulled Mr. Washington over. Mr. Washington was informed that he had been pulled over because the light illuminating his rear license plate was broken.
- 59. There were two CHP officers (Officers Woisin and Woods) in the CHP vehicle. The officers asked for his license, registration and insurance. They looked inside the truck. They then asked him to get out of the car, and they searched the trunk. At no time did they seek

Mr. Washington's consent. The search turned up nothing.

- 60. Although the search had turned up nothing, and although Mr. Washington had not committed any traffic violation, the officers did not allow Mr. Washington to leave. Instead, Officer Woods began to administer field sobriety tests to Mr. Washington. At about this same time, Ron Smith, the owner of Smith Hay and Mr. Washington's boss, came by. Officer Woisin informed Ron Smith that they believed Mr. Washington was driving under the influence. Smith explained that there was no basis for the officers' belief, that he knew Mr. Washington very well, that he was Mr. Washington's AA sponsor, and that Mr. Washington had been sober for over seven years and was on his way to pick up someone for work. Nevertheless, the officers persisted in their search and examination of Mr. Washington.
- 61. Notwithstanding the lack of probable cause to believe that any crime had been committed, the officers then took Mr. Washington to the CHP office on Highway 152 and towed the Smith Hay truck. At the CHP office, Officer Woods and Officer Woisin performed the same field sobriety tests again, and checked his pulse many more times. The officers ordered him to blow into a breathalyzer. When the breathalyzer came back zero, the officers continued to insist that Mr. Washington must be intoxicated or under the influence of an illegal substance. Mr. Washington agreed to submit to a blood test, and was taken to the Merced County Satellite Jail in Los Banos. He was kept there until approximately 5:30 that morning.
- 62. Although Mr. Washington was arrested that night for violating Health & Safety Code § 11550 (under the influence of a controlled substance) and Vehicle Code § 23152(a) (driving under the influence), he has never been charged. Mr. Washington has since learned that the blood test taken that night came out negative, proving that Mr. Washington had not been under the influence of any controlled substance or alcohol.
- 63. Mr. Washington was pulled over because of his race. He was not driving erratically, and had not committed any traffic violations. The rear license plate light was not even broken. The sole "offense" Mr. Washington committed was driving while black at two o'clock in the morning.

- 64. Mr. Washington has been very upset since his unjustified stop. As a sober and religious man, it is difficult for him to accept that he was stopped, subjected to unwarranted search and examination, and jailed on the basis of his race.
- 65. Mr. Washington still works for Smith Hay, and still lives near Los Banos, California. He must continue driving on and around Highway 152, within CHP's Central and Coastal Divisions, on a daily basis, yet his normal expectation to be free from unwarranted stops has been compromised by his real and legitimate fear that he will be stopped and searched without cause in the future. Based on his experience and the policy and practice of the CHP drug interdiction programs as described above, Mr. Washington has a reasonable and justified fear that he will again be subject to race based traffic stops and searches at the hands of the CHP when driving on or around Highway 152 in the future.

V. CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS

- Washington bring this action pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23 on behalf of themselves and all others persons similarly situated. Each of these individual class representatives is an African American or Latino who has been stopped, detained, interrogated and searched by CHP officers while traveling within CHP's Central and Coastal Divisions. The class which plaintiffs seek to represent consists of all Latinos and African Americans who, since June of 1998, have been or will be stopped while driving by the California Highway Patrol (CHP) and then detained, interrogated, or subjected to a search (either of person or vehicle) on any public thoroughfare within the jurisdiction of CHP's Central and Coastal Divisions. The subclass which plaintiffs seek to represent consists of all Latinos and African Americans, since June of 1998, who have been or will be stopped by CHP while driving and then subjected to a search (either of person or vehicle) on any public thoroughfare within the jurisdiction of its Central and Coastal Divisions. These class members are victims of the racially motivated and illegal pattern and practice of discrimination in the enforcement of traffic laws by the CHP.
- 67. The class and subclass of persons defined in paragraph 66 is so numerous that joinder of all members in one action is impracticable.

- 68. There are questions of law and fact common to all members of the class and subclass, because all class and subclass members have been, or will be, adversely affected by the challenged actions of the defendants. Common questions of fact and law include, but are not limited to: whether CHP officers target, stop, detain and/or search individual drivers in a racially discriminatory manner; and whether CHP officers are knowingly trained to employ methods that result in racial profiling and have an unjustified disparate impact on putative class and subclass members in violation of federal and state civil rights laws.
- 69. The claims of the representative plaintiffs are typical of the class as a whole who travel within CHP's Central and Coastal Divisions and have been stopped, detained, interrogated, and/or searched by the defendants. They are also representative of the subclass who travel within CHP's Central and Coastal Divisions who, following a stop, have been or will be searched by the CHP. The experiences of the plaintiffs at the hands of the defendants resulted from the defendants' policy and practice of discriminating on the basis of race and ethnicity, making their claims typical of those held by the class and subclass they seek to represent.
- 70. Plaintiffs can and will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the members of the class and subclass. Plaintiffs will be adequate representatives of the class and subclass in that all of the relevant questions of fact and law applicable to the class and subclass also apply to them.
- 71. Plaintiffs have retained counsel who are familiar with the applicable law and experienced in class action litigation, as well as litigation involving criminal law and civil rights. Counsel for plaintiffs have the resources necessary to pursue this litigation.
- 72. This action is properly maintained as a class action. The defendants have acted or refused to act on grounds generally applicable to the class and subclass, thereby making appropriate final injunctive relief or corresponding declaratory relief with respect to the class and subclass as a whole. Plaintiffs know of no difficulty to be encountered in the management of this action that would preclude its maintenance as a class action.
- 73. The prosecution of separate actions by individual class and subclass members would create a risk of inconsistent and varying adjudication concerning the subject of this action,

and such adjudication could establish incompatible standards of conduct for defendants under the laws alleged herein.

VI. REQUISITES FOR RELIEF

- 74. As a direct and proximate result of the conduct of defendants described above, plaintiffs have been denied their constitutional and statutory rights as stated below and have suffered and continue to suffer mental and emotional distress, humiliation, embarrassment, discomfort, anxiety and pain.
- 75. Defendants' acts were willful, wanton, malicious, oppressive and done with conscious disregard and deliberate indifference for plaintiffs' rights. Therefore, defendants' actions justify an award to plaintiffs of punitive damages in an amount to be determined at trial.
- 76. Defendants' policies, practices, conduct and acts alleged herein have resulted and will continue to result in irreparable injury to plaintiffs, including but not limited to further violations of their statutory and constitutional rights. Plaintiffs have no plain, adequate or complete remedy at law to address the wrongs described herein. Plaintiffs therefore seek injunctive relief restraining defendants from continuing to engage in and enforce the unconstitutional and illegal policies, practices, conduct and acts described herein.
- 77. Defendants acted with discriminatory intent in violation of plaintiffs' legal and constitutional rights, and have directly and proximately caused plaintiffs' humiliation, mental pain and suffering. As a direct, legal and proximate result of defendants' violations of plaintiffs' statutory, constitutional and common law rights, plaintiffs have been damaged in an amount which is not yet known. Plaintiffs will seek leave of Court to amend this Complaint when ascertained, or will amend to conform to proof at time of trial.
- 78. At all times herein mentioned, defendants had an obligation to comply with federal and state laws regarding racial discrimination. Defendants failed to meet these obligations with respect to plaintiffs.

involve intentional race discrimination in the provision of law enforcement services.

91. The defendants' acts were done in knowing violation of plaintiffs' legal and constitutional rights, and have directly and proximately caused plaintiffs' humiliation, mental pain and suffering.

X. FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION

Violation of the Fourth and Fourteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution 42 U.S.C. § 1983.

(Against all defendants in their official and individual capacities except CHP)

- 92. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference and reallege paragraphs 1-91 of this Complaint.
- 93. Defendants, acting under color of law and in concert with one another, have violated plaintiffs' rights to be free from unreasonable searches and seizures under the Fourth and Fourteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution. Defendants have subjected plaintiffs, and the class and subclass they seek to represent, to lengthy detentions, interrogations and searches, without probable cause or reasonable suspicion to believe that any crime had been committed or that plaintiffs were carrying drugs of any kind, in violation of the Fourth Amendment guarantee against unreasonable searches and seizures, and giving rise to plaintiffs claims pursuant to the Fourteenth Amendment and 42 U.S.C. § 1983.
- 94. Defendants, acting under color of law, institute, authorize, tolerate, ratify permit and acquiesce in policies, practices and customs of detentions, interrogations, searches and seizures without probable cause or reasonable, articulable suspicion of crime, in their provision of law enforcement services.
- 95. Defendants' acts were done in knowing violation of plaintiffs' legal and constitutional rights, without good faith, and have directly and proximately caused plaintiffs' humiliation, mental pain and suffering.

1	XIII. SEVENTH CAUSE OF ACTION		
2	Conspiracy to Violate Civil Rights		
3	(42 U.S.C. § 1986) (All defendants except CHP)		
4	103. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference and reallege paragraphs 1-102 of this		
5	Complaint.		
6	104. Defendants, acting under color of law and in concert with one another, and by		
7	way of a conspiracy among them, have caused plaintiffs, and the class and subclass they		
8	represent, to be denied equal protection of the laws and to be deprived of equal privileges and		
9	immunities under the laws, on account of plaintiffs' race and/or national origin, by subjecting		
10	them to legally unjustified and racially discriminatory detentions and searches. The supervisory		
11	defendants had knowledge of the conspiracy to violate plaintiffs' civil rights and of the violations		
12	committed, and had power to prevent these wrongs, but neglected or refused to do so in violation		
13	of 42 U.S.C. § 1986.		
14	105. Defendants' acts were done in knowing violation of plaintiffs' legal and		
15	constitutional rights, and have directly and proximately caused plaintiffs' humiliation, mental		
16	pain and suffering.		
17	XIV. EIGHTH CAUSE OF ACTION		
18	Violation of Government Code §§ 11135 and 11139		
19	106. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference and reallege paragraphs 1-105 of this		
20	Complaint.		
21	107. Government Code § 11135(a) prohibits race discrimination in any program or		
22	activity that is funded directly by the state or receives any financial assistance from the state.		
23	108. State regulations implementing § 11135 provide that no program receiving		
24	financial assistance from the State of California shall have an unjustified discriminatory impact		
25	or effect on the basis of race.		
26	109. Defendants CHP receive financial assistance from the State of California, and		
27	thus is bound to abide by the terms of Government Code §11135 and its implementing		
28	regulations.		
	25		

- 124. Defendants' above-described conduct restrained plaintiffs against their will and without legal justification.
- 125. Defendants' acts were intentional and done in violation of plaintiffs' rights, and have directly and proximately caused plaintiffs humiliation, mental pain and suffering.

XXI. FIFTEENTH CAUSE OF ACTION

Declaratory Relief

- 126. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference and reallege paragraphs 1-125 of this Complaint.
- 127. There is a real and actual controversy between plaintiffs and defendants regarding whether defendants may undertake to act as described herein. Plaintiffs contend that defendants violated the United States and California Constitutions and the laws of the United States and of California. On information and belief, defendants deny that their conduct violated the United States and California Constitutions and the laws of the United States and of California. Plaintiffs fear that they will again be subjected to such unlawful and unconstitutional actions, and seeks a judicial declaration that defendants' conduct deprived plaintiffs of their rights under the United States and California Constitutions and the laws of the United States and California.

XXII. PRAYER

WHEREFORE, plaintiffs pray that the Court, as to all the defendants and each of them jointly and severally:

- 1. Issue a declaratory judgment that defendants' conduct as complained herein was a violation of plaintiffs' rights under the United States and California Constitutions and the laws of the United States and California;
- 2. Issue an injunction (a) prohibiting defendants from engaging in vehicular stops or searches based on race or ethnicity; (b) ordering defendants to establish effective preventative mechanisms to ensure that discriminatory traffic stops and vehicular searches do not continue in the future, including, but not limited to the following:
 - (i) to cease and desist from all pretextual stops;

1	(ii)	to cease and desist from all searches without probable cause of criminal
2		activity;
3	(iii)	to collect and maintain comprehensive records of all traffic stops in the
4		State of California, including those stops that do not result in the issuance
5		of a citation; and
6	(iv)	to establish a procedure to enable each person involved in a traffic stop the
7		right to file a grievance to contest illegal acts and acts motivated by bias;
8	(v)	to establish clear and consistent discipline in the event a grievance is
9		sustained;
10	(vi)	to establish a Civilian Complaint Review Board;
11	(vii)	to appoint an independent auditor who will review the records of officers
12		quarterly to determine that there is compliance with these reforms;
13	(viii)	to establish an early warning system which will collect information such
14		as citizen complaints against an officer and other information regarding
15		misconduct and will alert the officer's supervisor when a set number of
16		incidents are recorded;
17	(ix)	to establish a mechanism for internal discipline of officers who are found
18		to have engaged in racial profiling and pretextual stops; and
19	(x)	to require that all officers participate in regular and recurring training to
20		assure that the officers do not act due to bias based on race or ethnicity.
21	3. Awar	d compensatory and general damages against defendants and each of them,
22	for plaintiffs in an amount to be determined according to proof;	
23	4. Award exemplary and punitive damages against all defendants sued in their	
24	individual capacities in an amount to be proven at trial;	
25	5. Awar	d statutory damages and penalties pursuant to California Civil Codes §
26	52(b);	
27	6. Awar	d plaintiffs their costs, expenses and reasonable attorneys' fees pursuant to
28	42 U.S.C. § 1988, Ca	alifornia Civil Codes §§ 52(b) and 52.1(h) and California Code of Civil
		29