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7 Attorneys for Plaintiffs

8 **SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA**

9 **COUNTY OF ORANGE**

10 SAMAR ABDELGHANY; SEDIGHEH
ALAMOTI; OMMID BAVARIAN; IKRAM
11 BITAR; JOHANNA BITAR; ANDREW
BLANTON; CORY BRANTLEY;
12 MARGARET BURGARDT; CRYSTAL
CANNON; RENYI CAO; QI CHEN; STEVEN
13 CHEN; JESIKA CLEMENT; VARUN DENDI;
LAN DENG; DEHZAD DERAKHSHANI;
14 ASHOK EDA; MOHAMED ELHENDI;
ALICIA GARCIA; CINDY GARCIA;
15 MAZANIN GHOTBRAZMJO; LINDA JOYCE
GUY; TRACY HUMPHREY; MARYAM
16 KAMALZADEH; BABAK KAZEMI SHIRAZI;
MANIA KAZEMI SHIRAZI; KYOUNG KIM;
17 JOSEPH LEAVITT; MEGAN LEAVITT;
JENNIFER LEE; JONG LEE; JERI LINNERT;
18 ANDREA LOPEZ; LINDA LUO; SEYED
HANIF MAHBOOBI; CHANEL MAHBOUBI;
19 MAZIAR MAHBOUBI; MONA MARASHIL;
NAZANIN MARASHI; PEYDA MARASHI;
20 BRENDA MARTINEZ; CIRO NACAR;
MARIA DOLORES NACAR; DIVYA
21 NARALA; HARIPRIYA NARALA; SESHU
NARALA; JENNIFER NGUYEN; SEAN
22 NGUYEN; NATHANIEL CARL ONG;
EAMON PHELAN; EMMA A. PHELAN;
23 ROSS E. PHELAN; AARON PULS; ARYAN
RABBANI; JEFFREY RIEGER; PENELOPE
24 RIEGER; ELAHEH SALEHIMEHR; JESS
SALSMAN; AUDREY E. SILVA; JUDI
25 SUZUKI; AMY TAYLOR; STEVEN TUCK;
MAURICIO VALENCIA; KOBRA VAZIRI;
26 KEVIN VUU; PATRICIA WU; TOMMY YAO;

27 Plaintiffs,

28 v.

No. **30-2021-01195715-CU-MT-CXC**

COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

Assigned for all Purposes
Judge Randall J. Sherman

CX-105

1 SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON, a
2 California Corporation; EDISON
3 INTERNATIONAL, a California Corporation;
4 T-MOBILE, USA INC., a Washington
5 Corporation, and DOES 1-200, inclusive,
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7 Defendants.

8 INTRODUCTION

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1. This Complaint arises from a fire caused by Southern California Edison’s powerlines in Orange County on October 26, 2020, a wildfire now called the “Silverado Fire.”



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1 telecommunication lines in vegetated areas; (2) Southern California Edison negligently, recklessly, and
2 willfully failed to properly, safely, and prudently inspect, repair, maintain and operate the electrical
3 equipment in its utility infrastructure and/or T-Mobile negligently, recklessly, and willfully failed to
4 properly, safely, and prudently inspect, repair, maintain and operate its telecommunication lines; and/or
5 (3) Southern California Edison and/or T-Mobile negligently, recklessly, and willfully failed to maintain
6 an appropriate clearance area between the electrical equipment and telecommunications equipment in
7 their utility infrastructures and surrounding vegetation.

8 3. The Silverado Fire burned more than 13,000 acres, critically injured two firefighters,
9 caused more than 90,000 people to evacuate, destroyed five structures, and catastrophically impacted
10 the local community.



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Thick Smoke-Filled Neighborhood caused by Silverado Fire – Photo by Jae C. Hong of Associated Press

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26 4. Plaintiffs are homeowners, renters, business owners, and other individuals and entities
27 whose property and lives were upended by the Silverado Fire.

28 5. Plaintiffs now sue SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON and EDISON

1 INTERNATIONAL (jointly, “Edison”), T-MOBILE, USA, INC. (“T-Mobile”), and DOES 1-200 for
2 just compensation, damages, and all other available remedies arising from the takings and harms caused
3 by the Silverado Fire.

4 **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

5 6. The Orange County Superior Court, as a court of general jurisdiction, has subject-matter
6 jurisdiction over this unlimited civil case, as well as personal jurisdiction over each of Defendants.

7 7. Venue is proper in Orange County as a substantial part of the events, acts, omissions,
8 and/or transactions complained of herein occurred in Orange County.

9 **PARTIES**

10 **A. PLAINTIFFS**

11 8. Plaintiffs are individuals and other legal entities who were, at all relevant times,
12 homeowners, renters, business owners, residents, occupants, and/or had property located in Orange
13 Counties.

14 9. Plaintiffs have elected to join their individual lawsuits in a single action under rules of
15 permissive joinder. Plaintiffs do not seek class certification or relief on any class-wide, collective, or
16 other group basis, but instead seek the damages and other remedies identified herein on an individual
17 basis according to proof at trial or through alternative dispute resolution efforts.

18 **B. DEFENDANTS**

19 10. Defendant EDISON INTERNATIONAL was, at all relevant times, a California
20 corporation authorized to do, and doing business, in California, with its headquarters in Rosemead,
21 California. At all relevant times, EDISON INTERNATIONAL acted to provide a utility, including
22 electrical services, to members of the public in California, including those in Orange County. EDISON
23 INTERNATIONAL did so through its agents and subsidiaries, including SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
24 EDISON.

25 11. Defendant SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON was, at all relevant times, a California
26 corporation authorized to do, and doing business, in California, with its headquarters in Rosemead,
27 California. At all relevant times, SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON acted to provide a utility,
28 including electrical services, to members of the public in California, including those in Orange County.

1 SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON is a subsidiary or other entity wholly controlled by EDISON
2 INTERNATIONAL. SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON is one of the largest combination natural
3 gas and electric utilities in the United States.

4 12. EDISON INTERNATIONAL and SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON are jointly and
5 severally liable for each other's wrongful acts and/or omissions as alleged herein. These companies do
6 not compete against one another but instead operate as a single enterprise, integrating their resources to
7 achieve a common business purpose. These companies are so organized and controlled that one is a
8 mere instrumentality, agent, and/or conduit of the other. Officers, managers, and directors are
9 intertwined and not fully independent of one another. These companies share legal counsel, share
10 unified policies and procedures, file consolidated financial statements and regulatory documents. Thus,
11 as used herein, "Edison" refers collectively to defendants EDISON INTERNATIONAL and
12 SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON.

13 13. Edison is in the business of providing electricity to the residents of, among other places,
14 Orange County through a utility infrastructure, including a network of electrical transmission and
15 distribution lines. Edison is a "public utility" under Public Utilities Code sections 216(a)(1) and
16 218(a).

17 14. T-MOBILE, USA, INC. was, at all relevant times, a publicly held company authorized
18 to do, and doing business, in California, with its headquarters in Bellevue, Washington. At all relevant
19 times, T-MOBILE acted to provide a utility, including telecommunication services, to members of the
20 public in California, including those in Orange County. T-MOBILE, INC. did so through its agents and
21 subsidiaries.

22 15. T-MOBILE, USA, INC. is in the business of providing telecommunications services to
23 the residents of, among other places, Orange County through a utility infrastructure, including a
24 network of telecommunication lines. T-MOBILE, USA, INC. is a "public utility" under Public Utilities
25 Code Section 216(a)(1). T-MOBILE, USA, INC. may also qualify as a "Mobile data service," "Mobile
26 paging service," "Mobile satellite telephone service," or "Mobile telephony service," as defined in
27 Section 224.4 and a "Telephone Corporation" as defined in Section 234(a).

28 16. The true names and capacities of defendants DOES 1 through 200 are currently

1 unknown to Plaintiffs who, therefore, sue these defendants under these fictitious names pursuant to
2 Code of Civil Procedure § 474. These defendants are each directly and/or vicariously responsible, in
3 some manner, for the harms alleged herein. If/when Plaintiffs learn these defendants’ true names and
4 capacities, Plaintiffs will seek leave to amend this pleading accordingly.

5 17. “Defendants” refers collectively to Edison, T-MOBILE, USA, INC., and DOES 1
6 through 200.

7 18. At all relevant times, Defendants, and/or each of them, were the agents, servants,
8 employees, partners, aiders and abettors, co-conspirators, and/or joint venturers of each of the other
9 Defendants; and were operating within the purpose and scope of said agency, service, employment,
10 partnership, enterprise, conspiracy, and/or joint venture of each of the other Defendants; and were
11 operating within the purpose and scope of said agency, service, employment, enterprise, conspiracy,
12 and/or joint venture; and each of Defendants has ratified and approved the acts of each of the remaining
13 Defendants. Each of Defendants aided and abetted, encouraged, and rendered substantial assistance to
14 the other Defendants in breaching their obligations and duties to Plaintiffs, as alleged herein. In taking
15 action to aid and abet and substantially assist the commission of these wrongful acts and other
16 wrongdoings alleged herein, each of Defendants acted with an awareness of his/her/its primary
17 wrongdoing and realized that his/her/its conduct would substantially assist the accomplishment of the
18 wrongful conduct, wrongful goals, and wrongdoing.

19 **FACTS**

20 19. Edison has reported to the California Public Utilities Commission (“Utilities
21 Commission”) that, “On Monday, October 26, 2020 at 6:47 a.m., during a Santa Ana wind event, a
22 wildland fire named ‘Silverado Fire’ ignited in the unincorporated area of Silverado, Orange County,
23 California.” Edison reported that Orange County Fire Authority (OCFA) “is investigating whether a
24 broken lashing wire we understand belongs to T-Mobile contacted an SCE overhead primary conductor
25 causing the ignition of the Silverado Fire.”

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1 On Monday, October 26, 2020, at approximately 6:47 a.m., during a Santa Ana wind event, a
 2 wildland fire named the "Silverado Fire" ignited in the unincorporated area of Silverado, Orange
 3 County, California. Orange County Fire Authority (OCFA), Cal Fire, and United States Forest
 4 Service (USFS) personnel responded, and were involved in fire suppression activities. OCFA
 took the lead in the fire investigation.

5 Although OCFA has not shared the details of its investigation with SCE, it appears that OCFA is
 6 investigating whether a broken lashing wire we understand belongs to T-Mobile contacted an
 7 SCE overhead primary conductor causing the ignition of the Silverado Fire. The investigation is
 8 ongoing and SCE is also investigating and evaluating other potential causes of the ignition such
 as human activity in the area as well as the construction, maintenance, and/or design of the
 subject span.

9 20. The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection ("Cal Fire") and OCFA
 10 reported that the Silverado Fire ignited at 6:52 a.m. in Orange County, California.





SILVERADO FIRE INCIDENT UPDATE

Date: 11/02/20 Time: 7:00 a.m.

 @CALFIREBDU
@OCFA_PIO

Information Line: 714-628-7085
 Media Line: 949-396-3998 & 949-573-5703
 Incident Website: www.fire.ca.gov/current_incidents
 Email Updates (sign up): <http://www.tinyurl.com/CALFIREMEDIA>

INCIDENT FACTS		
Incident Start Date: October 26, 2020	Incident Start Time: 6:52 AM	
Incident Type: Wildland Fire	Cause: Under Investigation	
Incident Locations: Orange County (Santiago Canyon, Irvine, Foothill Ranch and Tustin, Lake Forest)		
Unified Command Agencies: CAL FIRE, Orange County Fire Authority		
Size: 12,466 acres	Containment: 93%	Expected Full Containment: 11/10/2020
First Responder Fatalities: 0	First Responder Injuries: 2	Civilian Injuries: 0
Civilian Fatalities: 0		Structures Threatened: 0
Structures Damaged: 9	Structures Destroyed: 3	Minor Structures Destroyed: 2

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1 21. Edison has reported to the California Public Utilities Commission its equipment was
2 involved in the ignition of the Silverado Fire.

The Following information regarding this incident has been reported:

Reporting Date: 10/26/2020 10:32:55 AM

Incident Date: 10/26/2020 @ 6:45 a.m.

Reported By: Paul C. Pimentel, Senior Manager

Utility Name: Southern California Edison Company

Phone Number: (626)695-4705

Email Address: paul.pimentel@sce.com

Incident Location: Santiago Canyon Road Santiago Canyon, Orange County

Reasons For Reporting:

- Fatalities? No (Utility: , Others:)

- Names of Fatalities:

- Injuries? (Utility: , Others:)

- Names of Injured:

- Damage? No (Utility: , Others:)

- Interruption? (Total Customers: , Total Hours:)

- Operator Judgement? Yes

- Media Coverage? Yes

Summary: SCE submits this report as it may involve an event that meets the subject of significant public attention or media coverage reporting requirement. Preliminary information reflects SCE overhead electrical facilities are located in the origin area of the Silverado Fire. We have no indication of any circuit activity prior to the report time of the fire, nor downed overhead primary conductors in the origin area. However, it appears that a lashing wire that was attached to an underbuilt telecommunication line may have contact SCE's overhead primary conductor which may have resulted in the ignition of the fire. The investigation is ongoing.

19 22. Plaintiffs are informed and believe that the Silverado Fire occurred because: (1)
20 Edison's utility infrastructure was intended, designed, and constructed to pass electricity through
21 exposed powerlines in vegetated areas and T-Mobile's infrastructure was intended, designed, and
22 constructed to pass telecommunication lines through exposed powerlines in vegetated areas; (2) Edison
23 negligently, recklessly, and willfully failed to properly, safely, and prudently inspect, repair, maintain
24 and operate the electrical equipment in its utility infrastructure and/or T-Mobile negligently, recklessly,
25 and willfully failed to properly, safely, and prudently inspect, repair, maintain and operate its
26 telecommunication lines; and/or (3) Southern California Edison and/or T-Mobile negligently,
27 recklessly, and willfully failed to maintain an appropriate clearance area between the electrical
28 equipment and telecommunications equipment in their utility infrastructure and surrounding vegetation.

1 23. The conditions and circumstances surrounding the ignition of the Silverado Fire,
2 including the nature and condition of Edison’s electrical infrastructure and T-Mobile’s
3 telecommunications infrastructure, low humidity, strong winds, and tinder-like dry vegetation were
4 foreseeable by any reasonably prudent person and, therefore, were foreseeable to Defendants—those
5 with special knowledge and expertise as electrical services providers, telecommunication providers, and
6 their employees and agents.

7 24. The Silverado Fire caused Plaintiffs to suffer substantial harms, including: damage to
8 and/or destruction of real property; damage to and/or loss of personal property, including cherished
9 possessions; out-of-pocket expenses directly and proximately incurred as a result of the fire; alternative
10 living expenses; evacuation expenses; personal injuries; wrongful death; medical bills; lost wages; loss
11 of earning capacity; loss of business income and/or goodwill; and various types of emotional distress,
12 annoyance, inconvenience, disturbance, mental anguish, and loss of quiet enjoyment of property. The
13 harms caused by Defendants are extensive and ongoing.

14 25. At the time the Silverado Fire ignited in October 2020, Defendants were aware that the
15 nature and condition of its electrical equipment, along with geographic, weather, ecological, and other
16 conditions, gave rise to a high risk that Edison’s electrical equipment and/or T-Mobile’s
17 telecommunication equipment would ignite a wildfire like the Silverado Fire.

18 26. These wildfires are not the result of an “act of God” or other *force majeure*. These
19 wildfires were started by sparks from high-voltage transmission lines, distribution lines, appurtenances,
20 and other electrical equipment within Edison’s utility infrastructure and/or T-Mobile’s
21 telecommunication infrastructure that ignited surrounding vegetation. Despite these previous wildfires,
22 Defendants have deliberately, and repeatedly, prioritized profits over safety. That is, Defendants have a
23 history of acting recklessly and with conscious disregard to human life and safety, and this history of
24 recklessness and conscious disregard was a substantial factor in bringing about the Silverado Fire.

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1 **CAUSES OF ACTION**

2 **FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION**

3 **Inverse Condemnation**

4 **(Against Southern California Edison, Edison International, and Does 1-200, inclusive)**

5 27. All previous paragraphs are incorporated into this cause of action.

6 28. On October 26, 2020, Plaintiffs were the owners of real property located within Orange
7 County that was affected by the Silverado Fire.

8 29. Prior to and on October 26, 2020, Edison and Does 1-200 had each designed,
9 constructed, installed, operated, controlled, used, and/or maintained the facilities, lines, wires, and/or
10 other electrical equipment within Edison’s utility infrastructure, including the transmission and
11 distribution lines in and around the location of the Silverado Fire, for the purpose of providing
12 electrical services to large swaths of the public.

13 30. On October 26, 2020, Edison and Does 1-200 were actually aware of the inherent
14 dangers and risks that the electrical equipment within Edison’s electrical-utility infrastructure (as
15 deliberately designed and constructed) would ignite a wildfire like the Silverado Fire.

16 31. This inherent risk was realized on October 26, 2020, when electrical equipment within
17 Edison’s utility infrastructure ignited the Silverado Fire, which resulted in the taking of Plaintiffs’ real
18 property and/or private property.

19 32. This taking was legally and substantially caused by Edison’s and Does 1-200’s actions
20 and inactions in designing, constructing, installing, operating, controlling, using, and/or maintaining the
21 facilities, lines, wires, and/or other electrical equipment within Edison’s utility infrastructure.

22 33. Plaintiffs have not been adequately compensated, if at all, for this taking.

23 34. Pursuant to the Fifth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution and Article I, Section 19, of
24 the California Constitution, Plaintiffs seek just compensation for this taking, according to individual
25 proof at trial.

26 35. Plaintiffs further seek, pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure §1036, to recover all
27 reasonable costs, disbursements, and expenses, including reasonable attorney, appraisal, and
28 engineering fees, actually incurred because of this proceeding in the trial court and/or in any appellate

1 proceeding in which Plaintiffs prevails on any issue.

2 **SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION**

3 **Inverse Condemnation**

4 **(Against T-Mobile and Does 1-200, inclusive)**

5 36. All previous paragraphs are incorporated into this cause of action.

6 37. On October 26, 2020, Plaintiffs were the owners of real property located within Orange
7 County that was affected by the Silverado Fire.

8 38. Prior to and on October 26, 2020, T-Mobile and Does 1-200 had each designed,
9 constructed, installed, operated, controlled, used, and/or maintained the facilities, lines, wires, and/or
10 other telecommunications equipment within T-Mobile's utility infrastructure, including the
11 transmission and distribution lines in and around the location of the Silverado Fire, for the purpose of
12 providing telecommunications services to large swaths of the public.

13 39. On October 26, 2020, T-Mobile and Does 1-200 were aware of the inherent dangers and
14 risks that the telecommunications equipment within T-Mobile's electrical-utility infrastructure (as
15 deliberately designed and constructed) would ignite a wildfire like the Silverado Fire.

16 40. This inherent risk was realized on October 26, 2020, when telecommunications
17 equipment within T-Mobile's utility infrastructure ignited the Silverado Fire, which resulted in the
18 taking of Plaintiffs' real property and/or private property.

19 41. This taking was legally and substantially caused by T-Mobile's and Does 1-200's
20 actions and inactions in designing, constructing, installing, operating, controlling, using, and/or
21 maintaining the facilities, lines, wires, and/or other electrical equipment within T-Mobile's utility
22 infrastructure.

23 42. Plaintiffs have not been adequately compensated, if at all, for this taking.

24 43. Pursuant to the Fifth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution and Article I, Section 19, of
25 the California Constitution, Plaintiffs seek just compensation for this taking, according to individual
26 proof at trial.

27 44. Plaintiffs further seek, pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure §1036, to recover all
28 reasonable costs, disbursements, and expenses, including reasonable attorney, appraisal, and

1 engineering fees, actually incurred because of this proceeding in the trial court and/or in any appellate
2 proceeding in which Plaintiffs prevails on any issue.

3 **THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION**

4 **Trespass**

5 **(Against All Defendants)**

6 45. All previous paragraphs are incorporated into this cause of action.

7 46. On October 26, 2020, Plaintiffs were the owners, tenants, and/or lawful occupiers of real
8 properties in the area of the Silverado Fire.

9 47. Defendants negligently and/or recklessly allowed the Silverado Fire to ignite and/or
10 spread out of control, which caused damage to Plaintiffs' property.

11 48. Plaintiffs did not grant permission for any fire to enter their property.

12 49. This trespass was a substantial factor in causing Plaintiffs to suffer damages including,
13 but not limited to, destruction of and/or damage to real property, destruction of and/or damage to
14 structures, destruction of and/or damage to personal property, discomfort, annoyance, inconvenience,
15 mental anguish, loss of quiet enjoyment, and emotional distress. Plaintiffs each seek damages to be
16 determined, on an individual basis, according to proof at trial.

17 50. Those of Plaintiffs whose real property was under cultivation or used for the raising of
18 livestock have hired and retained counsel to recover compensation for their losses and damages caused
19 by the Silverado Fire. Thus, they also seek to recover all reasonable attorneys' fees, expert fees,
20 consultant fees, and litigation costs and expense, as allowed under Code of Civil Procedure §1021.9.

21 51. Those of Plaintiffs who suffered damage to timber, trees, or underwood as a result of the
22 Silverado Fire also seek treble or double damages for wrongful injuries to their property inclusive of
23 timber, trees, or underwood, as permitted by Civil Code §3346.

24 52. Defendants, including one or more Edison officers, directors, and/or managers, have
25 deliberately, and repeatedly, prioritized profits over safety. That is, Defendants have a history of acting
26 recklessly and with conscious disregard to human life and safety, and this history of recklessness and
27 conscious disregard was a substantial factor in bringing about the Silverado Fire. This is despicable
28 and oppressive conduct. Plaintiffs thus seek punitive damages in an amount sufficient to punish

1 Defendants' long history of prioritizing profits over safety and to deter such conduct in the future.

2 **FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

3 **Nuisance**

4 **(Against All Defendants)**

5 53. All previous paragraphs are incorporated into this cause of action.

6 54. On October 26, 2020, Plaintiffs were the owners, tenants, and/or lawful occupiers of real
7 properties in the area of the Silverado Fire.

8 55. Defendants' actions and inactions created a condition and/or permitted a condition to
9 exist that was harmful to health; offensive to the senses; an obstruction to the free use of property, so as
10 to interfere with the comfortable enjoyment of life and property; unlawfully obstructed the free passage
11 or use, in the customary manner, of public streets and highways; and a completely predictable fire
12 hazard.

13 56. These conditions interfered with Plaintiffs' quiet enjoyment of their properties.

14 57. These conditions also affected a substantial number of people at the same time.

15 58. At no time did Plaintiffs consent to Defendants' actions and inactions in creating these
16 conditions.

17 59. An ordinary person would be reasonably annoyed and disturbed by Defendants' actions
18 and inactions in creating these conditions.

19 60. Defendants' actions and inactions in creating these conditions were a substantial factor
20 in causing Plaintiffs to suffer damages unique to each Plaintiff—and different from damages suffered
21 by other Plaintiffs—including, but not limited to, destruction of and damage to real property,
22 destruction of and damage to structures, destruction of and damage to personal property and cherished
23 possessions, discomfort, annoyance, inconvenience, mental anguish, loss of quiet enjoyment, and
24 emotional distress. Plaintiffs each seek damages to be determined, on an individual basis, according to
25 proof at trial.

26 61. The seriousness of the harm Defendants have caused Plaintiffs outweighs any public
27 benefit that Defendants may provide.

28 62. Defendants, including one or more Edison officers, directors, and/or managers, have

1 deliberately, and repeatedly, prioritized profits over safety. That is, Defendants have a history of acting
2 recklessly and with conscious disregard to human life and safety, and this history of recklessness and
3 conscious disregard was a substantial factor in bringing about the Silverado Fire. This is despicable
4 and oppressive conduct. Plaintiffs thus seek punitive damages in an amount sufficient to punish
5 Defendants' long history of prioritizing profits over safety and to deter such conduct in the future.

6 **FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

7 **Public Utilities Code §2106**

8 **(Against All Defendants)**

9 63. All previous paragraphs are incorporated into this cause of action.

10 64. Edison was on October 26, 2020, and is, a “public utility” for purposes of the Public
11 Utilities Code. Edison was, therefore, required to comply with the Public Utilities Act.

12 65. T-Mobile was on October 26, 2020, and is, also a “public utility” for purposes of the
13 Public Utilities Code. T-Mobile was, therefore, also required to comply with the Public Utilities Act.

14 66. Prior to and on October 26, 2020, Edison and T-Mobile were also required to obey and
15 comply with every order, decision, direction, or rule made or prescribed by the Public Utilities
16 Commission in the matters specified under the Public Utilities Act, and any other matter in any way
17 relating to or affecting its business as a public utility, and was required to do everything necessary or
18 proper to secure compliance therewith by all of its officers, agents, and employees.

19 67. Defendants failed to furnish and maintain such adequate, efficient, just, and reasonable
20 service, instrumentalities, equipment, and facilities as are necessary to promote the safety, health,
21 comfort, and convenience of Edison and/or T-Mobile patrons and the public, as required by Public
22 Utilities Code §451.

23 68. Defendants failed to comply with the requirements for overhead line design,
24 construction, and maintenance, the application of which will ensure adequate service and secure safety
25 to persons engaged in the construction, maintenance, operation or use of overhead lines and to the
26 public in general, as required by Public Utilities Commission General Order 95, including Rules 31.2,
27 35, and 38, which set forth inspection, vegetation-management, and minimum-clearance requirements.

28 69. Defendants failed to comply with the requirements for electric distribution and

1 transmission facilities regarding inspections in order to ensure safe and high-quality electrical service,
2 as required by Public Utilities Commission General Order 165.

3 70. Defendants' failure to comply with applicable provisions of the Public Utilities Act and
4 with applicable Public Utilities Commission orders and rules, was a substantial factor in causing
5 Plaintiffs to suffer damages including, but not limited to, destruction of and damage to real property,
6 destruction of and damage to structures, destruction of and damage to personal property and cherished
7 possessions, discomfort, annoyance, inconvenience, mental anguish, loss of quiet enjoyment, and
8 emotional distress. Plaintiffs each seek damages to be determined, on an individual basis, according to
9 proof at trial.

10 71. Defendants, including one or more Edison officers, directors, and/or managers, have
11 deliberately, and repeatedly, prioritized profits over safety. That is, Defendants have a history of acting
12 recklessly and with conscious disregard to human life and safety, and this history of recklessness and
13 conscious disregard was a substantial factor in bringing about the Silverado Fire. This is despicable
14 and oppressive conduct. Plaintiffs thus seek punitive damages in an amount sufficient to punish
15 Defendants' long history of prioritizing profits over safety and to deter such conduct in the future.

16 **SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

17 **Health & Safety Code §13007**

18 **(Against all Defendants)**

19 72. All previous paragraphs are incorporated into this cause of action.

20 73. Defendants negligently, recklessly, and/or in violation of law, allowed the Silverado Fire
21 to be set and allowed the Silverado Fire to escape to Plaintiffs' properties.

22 74. Defendants' negligent, reckless, and/or illegal actions and inactions in allowing the
23 Silverado Fire to be set and escape to Plaintiffs' properties was a substantial factor in causing Plaintiffs
24 to suffer damages including, but not limited to, destruction of and damage to real property, destruction
25 of and damage to structures, destruction of and damage to personal property and cherished possessions,
26 discomfort, annoyance, inconvenience, mental anguish, loss of quiet enjoyment, and emotional distress.
27 Plaintiffs each seek damages to be determined, on an individual basis, according to proof at trial.

28 75. Those of Plaintiffs whose real property was under cultivation or used for the raising of

1 livestock have hired and retained counsel to recover compensation for their losses and damages caused
2 by the Silverado Fire. Thus, they also seek to recover all reasonable attorneys' fees, expert fees,
3 consultant fees, and litigation costs and expense, as allowed under Code of Civil Procedure §1021.9.

4 76. Defendants, including one or more Edison officers, directors, and/or managers, have
5 deliberately and repeatedly, prioritized profits over safety. That is, Defendants have a history of acting
6 recklessly and with conscious disregard to human life and safety, and this history of recklessness and
7 conscious disregard was a substantial factor in bringing about the Silverado Fire. This is despicable
8 and oppressive conduct. Plaintiffs thus seek punitive damages in an amount sufficient to punish
9 Defendants' long history of prioritizing profits over safety and to deter such conduct in the future.

10 SEVENTH CAUSE OF ACTION

11 Negligence

12 (Against Southern California Edison, Edison International, and Does 1-200, inclusive)

13 77. All previous paragraphs, except those falling under Plaintiffs' cause of action for inverse
14 condemnation, are incorporated into this cause of action.

15 78. Defendants each have special knowledge and expertise far beyond that of a layperson
16 with regard to the safe design, engineering, construction, use, operation, inspection, repair, and
17 maintenance of Edison's electrical lines, infrastructure, equipment, and vegetation management efforts.
18 The provision of electrical services involves a peculiar and inherent danger and risk of wildfires.

19 79. Prior to and on October 26, 2020, Defendants had a non-delegable duty to apply a level
20 of care commensurate with, and proportionate to, the inherent dangers in designing, engineering,
21 constructing, operating, and maintaining electrical transmission and distribution systems. This duty
22 also required Defendants to maintain appropriate vegetation management programs, for the control of
23 vegetation surrounding Edison's exposed powerlines. This duty also required Defendants to consider
24 the changing conditions Edison's electrical transmission and distribution systems, as well as changing
25 geographic, weather, and ecological conditions. This duty also required Defendants to take special
26 precautions to protect adjoining properties from wildfires caused by Edison's electrical equipment.

27 80. Defendants each breached these duties by, among other things:

- 28 a. Failing to design, construct, operate, and maintain Edison's high-voltage
transmission and distribution lines and associated equipment, in a way that

1 would withstand the foreseeable risk of wildfires in the area of the Silverado
2 Fire;

- 3 b. Failing to prevent electrical transmission and distribution lines from
4 improperly sagging or making contact with other metal;
- 5 c. Failing to properly inspect and maintain vegetation within proximity to
6 energized transmission and distribution lines to mitigate the risk of fire;
- 7 d. Failing to conduct reasonably prompt, proper, and frequent inspections of
8 Edison's powerlines and associated equipment;
- 9 e. Failing to promptly de-energize exposed powerlines during fire-prone
10 conditions and reasonably inspect powerlines before re-energizing them;
- 11 f. Failing to properly train and supervise employees and agents responsible for
12 maintenance and inspection of powerlines; and/or
- 13 g. Failing to implement and follow regulations and reasonably prudent practices
14 to avoid fire ignition.

15 81. Defendants' failure to comply with applicable provisions of the Public Utilities Act and
16 Public Utilities Commission General Orders and Rules, as alleged herein, is negligence per se because
17 these statutes, orders, and rules are aimed at preventing the exact type of harm that Plaintiffs suffered
18 because of Defendants' failure to comply with these statutes, orders, and rules. That is, Plaintiffs are
19 within the class of individuals these statutes, orders, and rules were implemented to protect.

20 82. Defendants' negligence, including Defendants' negligence per se, was a substantial
21 factor in causing Plaintiffs to suffer damages including, but not limited to, destruction of and damage to
22 real property, destruction of and damage to structures, destruction of and damage to personal property
23 and cherished possessions, discomfort, annoyance, inconvenience, mental anguish, loss of quiet
24 enjoyment, and emotional distress. Plaintiffs each seek damages to be determined, on an individual
25 basis, according to proof at trial.

26 83. Defendants, including one or more Edison officers, directors, and/or managers, have
27 deliberately, and repeatedly, prioritized profits over safety. That is, Defendants have a history of acting
28 recklessly and with conscious disregard to human life and safety, and this history of recklessness and
conscious disregard was a substantial factor in bringing about the Silverado Fire. This is despicable
and oppressive conduct. Plaintiffs thus seek punitive damages in an amount sufficient to punish

1 Defendants' long history of prioritizing profits over safety and to deter such conduct in the future.

2 **EIGHTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

3 **Negligence**

4 **(Against T-Mobile and Does 1-200, inclusive)**

5 84. All previous paragraphs, except those falling under Plaintiffs' cause of action for inverse
6 condemnation, are incorporated into this cause of action.

7 85. Defendants each have special knowledge and expertise far beyond that of a layperson
8 with regard to the safe design, engineering, construction, use, operation, inspection, repair, and
9 maintenance of T-Mobile's electrical lines, infrastructure, equipment, and vegetation management
10 efforts. The provision of telecommunications services involves a peculiar and inherent danger and risk
11 of wildfires.

12 86. Prior to and on October 26, 2020, Defendants had a non-delegable duty to apply a level
13 of care commensurate with, and proportionate to, the inherent dangers in designing, engineering,
14 constructing, operating, and maintaining telecommunications systems. This duty also required
15 Defendants to maintain appropriate vegetation management programs, for the control of vegetation
16 surrounding T-Mobile's exposed telecommunications lines. This duty also required Defendants to
17 consider the changing conditions of T-Mobile's telecommunications systems, as well as changing
18 geographic, weather, and ecological conditions. This duty also required Defendants to take special
19 precautions to protect adjoining properties from wildfires caused by T-Mobile's telecommunications
20 equipment.

21 87. Defendants each breached these duties by, among other things:

- 22 a. Failing to design, construct, operate, and maintain T-Mobile's
23 telecommunications lines and associated equipment, in a way that would
24 withstand the foreseeable risk of wildfires in the area of the Silverado Fire;
- 25 b. Failing to prevent telecommunications lines from improperly sagging or making
26 contact with other metal;
- 27 c. Failing to properly inspect and maintain vegetation within proximity to
28 telecommunications lines to mitigate the risk of fire;
- d. Failing to conduct reasonably prompt, proper, and frequent inspections of T-
Mobile's telecommunications lines and associated equipment;

- 1 e. Failing to promptly and reasonably inspect telecommunications lines;
- 2 f. Failing to properly train and supervise employees and agents responsible for
- 3 maintenance and inspection of telecommunications lines; and/or
- 4 g. Failing to implement and follow regulations and reasonably prudent practices to
- 5 avoid fire ignition.

6 88. Defendants' failure to comply with applicable provisions of the Public Utilities Act and

7 Public Utilities Commission General Orders and Rules, as alleged herein, is negligence per se because

8 these statutes, orders, and rules are aimed at preventing the exact type of harm that Plaintiffs suffered

9 because of Defendants' failure to comply with these statutes, orders, and rules. That is, Plaintiffs are

10 within the class of individuals these statutes, orders, and rules were implemented to protect.

11 89. Defendants' negligence, including Defendants' negligence per se, was a substantial

12 factor in causing Plaintiffs to suffer damages including, but not limited to, destruction of and damage to

13 real property, destruction of and damage to structures, destruction of and damage to personal property

14 and cherished possessions, discomfort, annoyance, inconvenience, mental anguish, loss of quiet

15 enjoyment, and emotional distress. Plaintiffs each seek damages to be determined, on an individual

16 basis, according to proof at trial.

17 **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

18 Plaintiffs seek the following damages in an amount according to proof at the time of trial:

19 **Inverse Condemnation**

- 20 (1) Repair, depreciation, and/or the replacement of damaged, destroyed, and/or lost
- 21 personal and/or real property;
- 22 (2) Loss of the use, benefit, goodwill, and enjoyment of Plaintiffs' real and/or
- 23 personal property;
- 24 (3) Loss of wages, earning capacity and/or business profits and/or any related
- 25 displacement expenses;
- 26 (4) Prejudgment interest from October 26, 2020;
- 27 (5) Pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure §1036 and all other applicable law, all
- 28 reasonable costs, disbursements, and expenses, including reasonable attorney,
- appraisal, and engineering fees, actually incurred because of this proceeding in
- the trial court and/or in any appellate proceeding in which Plaintiffs prevails on

1 any issue; and

2 (6) Such other and further relief as the Court shall deem proper, all according to
3 proof.

4 **All Other Claims**

5 (1) General and/or special damages determined on an individual basis according to
6 proof;

7 (2) Loss of the use, benefit, goodwill, and enjoyment of Plaintiffs’ real and/or
8 personal property;

9 (3) Loss of wages, earning capacity, goodwill, and/or business profits or proceeds
10 and/or any related displacement expenses;

11 (4) Evacuation expenses and alternate living expenses;

12 (5) Erosion damage to real property;

13 (6) Past and future medical expenses and incidental expenses;

14 (7) General damages for personal injury, emotional distress, fear, annoyance,
15 disturbance, inconvenience, mental anguish, and loss of quiet enjoyment of
16 property;

17 (8) Attorneys’ fees, expert fees, consultant fees, and litigation costs and expense, as
18 allowed under Code of Civil Procedure §1021.9 and all other applicable law;

19 (9) Prejudgment interest from October 26, 2020;

20 (10) For punitive and exemplary damages against Edison and/or T-Mobile in an
21 amount sufficient to punish Defendants’ conduct and deter similar conduct in the
22 future, as allowed under Public Utilities Code §2106 and all other applicable law;
23 and

24 (11) Any and all other and further such relief as the Court shall deem proper, all
25 according to proof.

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JURY TRIAL DEMAND

Plaintiffs respectfully demand a jury trial on all causes of action for which a jury trial is available under the law.

SINGLETON SCHREIBER McKENZIE & SCOTT, LLP

Dated: April 14, 2021

By: Gerald Singleton
Gerald Singleton
J. Ross Peabody
Kimberly S. Trimble
Attorneys for Plaintiffs

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