JAMES D. CROSBY (SBN 110383) ELECTRONICALLY FILED 1 Attorney at Law Superior Court of California, 550 West C Street, Suite 620 San Diego, CA 92101 County of San Diego 2 07/22/2022 at 01:35:00 PM Telephone: (619) 450-4149 3 Clerk of the Superior Court crosby@crosbyattorney.com By Regina Chanez, Deputy Clerk 4 FERRIS & BRITTON A Professional Corporation 5 Scott H. Toothacre (SBN 146530) Michael R. Weinstein (SBN 106464) 6 501 West Broadway, Suite 1450 San Diego, California 92101 Telephone: (619) 233-3131 7 stoothacre@ferrisbritton.com 8 mweinstein@ferrisbritton.com 9 Attorneys for Defendants LARRY GERACI and REBECCA BERRY 10 SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA 11 COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO, HALL OF JUSTICE 12 Case No. 37-2021-00050889-CU-AT-CTL 13 AMY SHERLOCK, an individual and on behalf of her minor children, T.S. and S.S., ANDREW Judge: Hon. James A. Mangione 14 FLORES, an individual, 15 Plaintiffs, DEFENDANTS LARRY GERACI'S AND REBECCA BERRY'S NOTICE OF MOTION AND SPECIAL MOTION TO 16 VS. STRIKE PLAINTIFFS' FIRST AMENDED 17 GINA M. AUSTIN, an individual; AUSTIN COMPLAINT PURSUANT TO CODE OF LEGAL GROUP, a professional corporation, **CIVIL PROCEDURE SECTION 425.16** 18 LARRY GERACI, an individual, REBECCA (ANTI-SLAPP STATUTE) BERRY, an individual; JESSICA MCELFRESH, 19 an individual; SALAM RAZUKI, an individual; (Related to ROA #11) NINUS MALAN, an individual; FINCH, 20 THORTON, AND BARID, a limited liability DATE: October 21, 2022 9:00 am partnership; ABHAY SCHWEITZER, an TIME: 21 individual and dba TECHNE; JAMES (AKA JIM) DEPT: C-75BARTELL, an individual; NATALIE TRANG-MY NGUÝEN, an individual, AARON 22 [IMAGED FILE] MAGAGNA, an individual; BRADFORD 23 HARCOURT, an individual; SHAWN MILLER, an individual; LOGAN STELLMACHER, an individual; EULENTHIAS DUANE 24 ALEXANDER, an individual; STEPHEN 25 LAKE, an individual, ALLIED SPECTRUM, INC., a California corporation, PRODIGIOUS COLLECTIVES, LLC, a limited liability 26 Action Filed: December 3, 2021 company, and DOES 1 through 50, inclusive, Trial Date: Not Yet Set 27 Defendants. 28 1

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## TO THE COURT, ALL PARTIES AND THEIR COUNSEL:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT on October 21, 2022, at 9:00 am., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, before the Honorable James A. Mangione in Department C-75 of the San Diego County Superior Court, Hall of Justice Branch, located at 330 W. Broadway, San Diego, California 92101, defendants, Larry Geraci ("Geraci") and Rebecca Berry ("Berry"), will and hereby do move this Court for an order striking the plaintiffs' First Amended Complaint filed 12/22/21 (the "FAC").

This special motion to strike is made pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure section 425.16 and on the grounds that: a) the plaintiffs' claims asserted against defendants Geraci and Berry in the FAC arise from constitutionally protected activity; and b) plaintiffs cannot establish a probability of prevailing on their claims. As to the former, plaintiff's claims are based upon protected activity, namely, factual allegations of wrongful conduct in connection with seeking a conditional use permit and in connection with litigation activity in prior lawsuits. As to the latter, plaintiffs' cannot claim the requisite minimal merit as they are barred by the litigation privilege set forth Civil Code section 47(b) and the *Noerr-Pennington* doctrine. Even if not so barred, plaintiffs cannot establish the essential elements of their claims.

Pursuant to section 425.16(c)(1), defendants Geraci and Berry also seek the attorneys' fees and costs incurred in connection with the bringing of this motion.

This special motion to strike is based on this Notice of Motion, the accompanying Memorandum of Points and Authorities, Declaration of Michael R. Weinstein, Request for Judicial Notice, and Notice of Lodgment with supporting exhibits, the entire court file in this matter, and on such further evidence as will be presented at the hearing of this motion.

Dated: July 22, 2022

FERRIS & BRITTON A Professional Corporation

By:

Michael R. Weinstein

Scott H. Toothacre Attorney for Defendants

LARRY GERACI and REBECCA BERRY