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14 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
15 NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

16 TONY MATA, individually and on  
17 behalf of others similarly situated,

18 Plaintiff,

19 vs.

20 TESLA, INC., doing business in  
21 California as TESLA MOTORS, INC.;  
22 and DOES 1 through 10, Inclusive,

23 Defendants.

Case No.

**CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT**

**DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL**

24  
25 **NOTICE TO DEFENDANTS OF DUTIES TO RETAIN EVIDENCE:**

26 **TO ALL DEFENDANTS:** Note and adhere to your duties to retain, and  
27 not delete or destroy, all documents, emails, databases, electronic records,  
28

1 electronically stored information, and all other evidence that may be pertinent  
2 to this lawsuit, and to cease any destruction or deletion of such evidence that  
3 might otherwise take place in the ordinary course of your business or affairs.  
4

5  
6 Plaintiff TONY MATA (“Plaintiff”) brings this action against  
7 Defendants TESLA, INC., doing business in California as TESLA MOTORS,  
8 INC. and Does 1 through 10 (“Defendants”), individually and behalf of all  
9 others similarly situated, and alleges upon personal knowledge as to his own  
10 actions and his counsel’s investigations, and upon information and belief as to  
11 all other matters, as follows:  
12  
13  
14

15 **NATURE OF THE ACTION**

16 1. Plaintiff was employed by Defendants. Plaintiff brings this class  
17 action as a nationwide and California class action on behalf of current and  
18 former employees of one or more of the Defendants (collectively, the “Class”  
19 or “Class Members,” inclusive of Plaintiff), against Defendants for various  
20 claims under statutory and common law arising from a data breach that  
21 resulted in the unauthorized disclosure, exfiltration and theft of Class  
22 Members’ full name, date of birth, Social Security number and other  
23 personally identifiable information (collectively, “PII” or “personal  
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information”), including class claims for negligence, invasion of privacy and violations of California’s Consumer Records Act (“CRA”).

### **PARTIES**

2. Plaintiff is and was at all times mentioned herein a citizen and resident of the State of California, and at all relevant times was employed by Defendant TESLA, INC., doing business in California as TESLA MOTORS, INC., at its factory located in Fremont, California.

3. Defendant TESLA, INC. doing business in California as TESLA MOTORS, INC. is now and was at all times relevant to this complaint, a Delaware corporation operating in and under the laws of the State of California and conducting business throughout California.

### **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

4. The jurisdiction of this Court over the subject matter of this action is predicated on 28 USC § 1332. The amount in controversy exceeds \$75,000.00, exclusive of interest and costs. This Court also has original jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1332(d) as amended by the Class Action Fairness Act of 2005. Venue is proper in this district because Plaintiff resides in the County of Contra Costa and Defendants engage and perform business activities in and throughout this judicial district. and many of the acts

1 committed by Defendants complained of herein occurred in this judicial  
2 district.

3  
4 **DIVISIONAL ASSIGNMENT**

5 5. Assignment to the San Francisco or Oakland Division is proper under  
6 Civil Local Rules 3-2(c) and 3-2(d) because a substantial part of the events or  
7 omissions giving rise to Plaintiff's claims occurred in Alameda County.  
8

9 **FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS**

10  
11 6. At all times relevant, Defendants collected Class members' PII.

12 7. In approximately May 2023, the PII of the Class that Defendants  
13 collected was misappropriated by an unauthorized third party ("Data Breach").  
14

15 8. On information and belief, Defendants, and each of them, failed to  
16 maintain proper industry-standard security measures for the protection of  
17 Plaintiff's and the rest of the Class Members' PII, failed to implement and  
18 maintain reasonable security measures to protect their Plaintiff's and the rest  
19 of the Class Members' personal information, failed to comply with common  
20 law and statutory duties regarding data protection including the California  
21 Consumer Privacy Act of 2018 (hereinafter, "CCPA"), California's Consumer  
22 Records Act, Cal. Civ. Code §§ 1798.81.5 (requiring reasonable data security  
23 measures) and 1798.82 (requiring timely breach notification), the FTC Act, 15  
24 U.S.C. § 45, and California common law.  
25  
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1           9. Defendants waited until August 18, 2023, to mail a letter to the  
2 Class to notify them of the Data Breach.

3  
4           10. DOES 1 through 100, inclusive, are unknown to Plaintiff who sue  
5 such Defendants by use of such fictitious names. Plaintiff will amend this  
6 complaint to add the true names when they are ascertained. Plaintiff are  
7 informed and believe and thereon allege that each of the fictitiously named  
8 Defendants is legally responsible for the occurrences herein alleged, and that  
9 Plaintiff's damages as herein alleged were proximately caused by their  
10 conduct. At all relevant times, all Defendants were and are legally responsible  
11 for the unlawful conduct, policies, practices, acts, and omissions as described  
12 in each and all of the foregoing paragraphs, unless otherwise indicated.  
13  
14  
15

16                                   **CLASS ALLEGATIONS**

17  
18           11. Plaintiff brings this class action pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil  
19 Procedure 23, on behalf of himself and all members of the proposed Classes  
20 defined below.  
21

22           12. **Class Definitions.** Pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure  
23 23(a) and (b)(3), Plaintiff seeks to represent the following classes (collectively  
24 "Class" or "Classes") defined as:  
25

- 26                   a. **Nationwide Class:** Each current and former employee of any  
27 of the Defendants.  
28

b. **Nationwide Class:** Each current and former employee of any of the Defendants, who resides in California.

13. **Numerosity.** The members of the Class are so numerous, counting over 1 million, that joinder of all members would be impracticable.

14. **Commonality and Predominance.** There are well-defined common questions of fact and law that exist as to all members of the Classes and that predominate over any questions affecting only individual members of the Classes. These include, but are not limited to, the following:

c. Whether Defendants were negligent in safeguarding the personal information of the Class;

d. Whether Defendants' conduct violated the CRA and/or right to privacy; and,

e. Whether, as a result of Defendants' conduct, Plaintiff and the Class were injured or damaged.

15. **Typicality.** Plaintiff's claims are typical of the claims of the Classes whose members sustained similar types of injuries arising out of the conduct challenged in this action.

16. **Adequacy of Representation.** Plaintiff will fairly and adequately protect the interests of all Class members and has retained counsel competent and experienced in class and employment litigation and who have been

1 repeatedly found to be adequate to represent the interests of class members in  
2 other complex class actions.

3  
4 17. **Superiority.** A class action is superior to other available methods  
5 for the fair and efficient adjudication of this controversy because joinder of all  
6 Class members is impracticable. Furthermore, the expense and burden of  
7 individual litigation make it impossible for the Class members to individually  
8 redress the wrongs done to them. The claims in this action are manageable on a  
9 class-wide basis and can be the subject of a class-wide plan for litigating and  
10 resolving these issues.  
11  
12

### 13 **COUNT I**

#### 14 **NEGLIGENCE**

15  
16 Against All Defendants

17  
18 18. Plaintiff incorporates by reference all preceding paragraphs of this  
19 Complaint as if fully set forth here.

20  
21 19. Defendants had a duty to Plaintiff and the rest of the Class, or an  
22 obligation to conform to a certain standard of conduct to prevent, protect  
23 against and/or safeguard the PII from the Class Members, from being  
24 downloaded by an unauthorized third party. Defendants breached that duty,  
25 and that breach proximately caused the Plaintiff and the rest of the Class  
26 injuries and damages. Defendants further breached said duty by negligently,  
27  
28

1 carelessly, and recklessly collecting, maintaining, and controlling their  
2 customers' sensitive personal information and engineering, designing,  
3 maintaining, and controlling systems that exposed Plaintiff and the rest of the  
4 Class members' personal information of which Defendants had control and  
5 possession to the risk of exposure to unauthorized persons.  
6  
7

8 20. Defendants were negligent per se based on their violation of  
9 California Civil Code sections 1798.82, et seq., and 1798.100, et seq., and the  
10 provisions of the California Constitution enshrining the right to privacy, by  
11 failing to inform Plaintiff and the Class of the access to their sensitive personal  
12 information by unauthorized persons expeditiously and without delay and  
13 failing to adequately safeguard this information from unauthorized access. The  
14 provisions of the California Civil Code and the California Constitution that  
15 Defendants violated were enacted to protect the class of Plaintiffs here  
16 involved from the type of injury here incurred, namely their right to privacy  
17 and the protection of their personal data, for which Plaintiff and the rest of the  
18 Class were within the class of persons and consumers who were intended to be  
19 protected by California Civil Code sections 1798.82, et seq.; 1798.100, et seq.;  
20 and the California Constitution.  
21  
22  
23  
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25

26 21. As a direct consequence of the actions as identified above, and the  
27 breaches of duties indicated thereby, unauthorized users gained access to,  
28



1 exfiltrated, stole, and gained disclosure of the sensitive personal information of  
2 Plaintiff and the Class, causing them harms and losses including but not  
3 limited to the loss of control over the use of their identity, harm to their  
4 constitutional right to privacy, lost time dedicated to the investigation of and  
5 attempt to recover the loss of funds and cure harm to their privacy, the need for  
6 future expenses and time dedicated to the recovery and protection of further  
7 loss, privacy injuries associated with having their sensitive personal  
8 information disclosed, stress, anger, anxiety, and other special and general  
9 damages.  
10

11  
12  
13  
14 22. If the economic loss doctrine applies, Plaintiffs fall within one or  
15 more of the exceptions. Specifically, Plaintiffs have pled non-economic harm,  
16 that Defendants owed them an independent duty to safeguard their personal  
17 information, and/or that a special relationship existed between the parties.  
18

19  
20 **COUNT II**

21 **VIOLATION OF THE CUSTOMER RECORDS ACT (CRA)**

22 **[Cal. Civ. Code § 1798.82]**

23 **Against All Defendants**  
24

25 23. Plaintiff incorporates by reference all preceding paragraphs of this  
26 Complaint as if fully set forth here.  
27  
28

1           24. At all relevant times, Defendants were “businesses” under the  
2 terms of the CRA as sole proprietorships, partnerships, corporations,  
3 associations, financial institutions, or other groups, operating in the State of  
4 California that owned or licensed computerized data that included the  
5 personal information of Plaintiff and the Class.  
6

7  
8           25. At all relevant times, Plaintiff and the Class were “customers”  
9 under the terms of the CRA as natural persons who provided personal  
10 information to Defendants for the purpose of purchasing or leasing a product  
11 or obtaining a service.  
12

13  
14           26. By the acts described above, Defendants violated the CRA and  
15 California Civil Code section 1798.82 by allowing unauthorized access to  
16 customers’ personal information and then failing to inform them when the  
17 unauthorized use occurred for weeks or months, thereby failing in their duty to  
18 inform their customers of unauthorized access expeditiously and without delay.  
19

20  
21           27. As a direct consequence of the actions as identified above,  
22 Plaintiff and the Class have suffered incremental harm as a result of and arise  
23 from Defendants’ delayed notification, and have incurred additional losses and  
24 suffered further harm to their privacy, including but not limited to the loss of  
25 control over the use of their identity, harm to their constitutional right to  
26 privacy, lost time dedicated to the investigation of and attempt to recover the  
27  
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1 loss of funds and cure harm to their privacy, the need for future expenses and  
 2 time dedicated to the recovery and protection of further loss, and privacy  
 3 injuries associated with having their sensitive personal information disclosed,  
 4 that they would not have otherwise lost had Defendants immediately informed  
 5 them of the unauthorized use.  
 6

7  
 8 28. As a result of Defendants' violations, Plaintiff and the Class are  
 9 entitled to all actual and compensatory damages according to proof, to non-  
 10 economic injunctive relief allowable under the CRA, and to such other and  
 11 further relief as this Court may deem just and proper.  
 12

### 13 **COUNT III**

## 14 **VIOLATION OF THE CALIFORNIA CONSTITUTION'S RIGHT TO** 15 **PRIVACY**

16 **[Cal. Const., art I, § 1]**

17 **Against All Defendants**

18  
 19 29. Plaintiff incorporates by reference all preceding paragraphs of this  
 20 Complaint as if fully set forth here.  
 21

22 30. The California Constitution provides:

23 "All people are by nature free and independent and have inalienable  
 24 rights. Among these are enjoying and defending life and liberty, acquiring,  
 25  
 26  
 27  
 28

1 possessing, and protecting property, and pursuing and obtaining safety,  
2 happiness, and privacy.” (Cal. Const., art. I, § 1.)  
3

4 31. Plaintiff and the Class had a legally recognized and protected  
5 privacy interest in the personal information provided to and obtained by  
6 Defendants, including but not limited to an interest in precluding the  
7 dissemination or misuse of this sensitive and confidential information and the  
8 misuse of this information for malicious purposes such as the theft of funds  
9 and property.  
10

11 32. Plaintiff and the Class reasonably expected Defendants would  
12 prevent the unauthorized viewing, use, manipulation, exfiltration, theft, and  
13 disclosure of their personal information and the unauthorized use of their  
14 accounts.  
15

16 33. Defendants’ conduct described herein resulted in a serious  
17 invasion of the privacy of Plaintiff and the Class, as the release of personal  
18 information, including but not limited to names, social security numbers, dates  
19 of birth, and other information could highly offend a reasonable individual.  
20 As a direct consequence of the actions as identified above, Plaintiff and the  
21 Class suffered harms and losses including but not limited to the loss of control  
22 over the use of their identity, harm to their constitutional right to privacy, lost  
23 time dedicated to the investigation of and attempt to recover the loss of funds  
24  
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1 and cure harm to their privacy, the need for future expenses and time dedicated  
2 to the recovery and protection of further loss, and privacy injuries associated  
3 with having their sensitive personal information disclosed.  
4

5 **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

6  
7 WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays for judgment on behalf of himself and the  
8 rest of the Class, against Defendants, and each of them, jointly and severally,  
9 as follows:  
10

11 34. For general, special, actual and compensatory damages in an  
12 amount according to proof;

13 35. For punitive damages pursuant to California Civil Code section  
14 3294(c)(3);  
15

16 36. For pre-judgment and post-judgment interest;  
17

18 37. For an award of attorneys' fees, costs, and expenses as authorized  
19 by applicable law; and,  
20

21 38. For such other and further relief as this Court may deem just and  
22 proper.  
23

24  
25 //

26 //

27 //  
28

**DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL**

Plaintiff, on behalf of themselves and the Class, demand a trial by jury on all issues so triable.

Dated: September 8, 2023

**ARIAS SANGUINETTI WANG  
& TORRIJOS LLP**

By: /s/ Mike Arias  
MIKE ARIAS  
CRAIG S. MOMITA  
M. ANTHONY JENKINS

Attorneys for Plaintiff