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8 IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
 9 FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
 10 SACRAMENTO DIVISION

12 **WILLIAM WIESE, et al.,**  
 13  
 14 Plaintiffs,  
 15  
 16 **XAVIER BECERRA, et al.,**  
 17 Defendants.

2:17-cv-00903-WBS-KJN

**DEFENDANTS' ANSWER TO THIRD  
 AMENDED COMPLAINT FOR  
 DECLARATORY AND INJUNCTIVE  
 RELIEF**

Judge: Hon. William B. Shubb  
 Courtroom: 5, 14th Floor  
 Trial Date: None Set  
 Action Filed: April 28, 2017

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1 Defendants Attorney General Xavier Becerra and Bureau of Firearms Director Martin  
2 Horan<sup>1</sup> (together, “Defendants”) submit their answer in response to Plaintiffs’ Third Amended  
3 Complaint for Declaratory and Injunctive Relief (the “Complaint”). Defendants answer, in  
4 paragraphs that correspond to the Complaint’s paragraphs, as follows:<sup>2</sup>

5 **INTRODUCTION<sup>3</sup>**

6 1. The allegations contained in paragraph 1 characterize Plaintiffs’ claims and are not  
7 averments of fact to which Defendants are required to respond. To the extent a response is  
8 required, Defendants deny the allegations in paragraph 1.

9 2. The allegations contained in paragraph 2 characterize Plaintiffs’ claims and are not  
10 averments of fact to which Defendants are required to respond. To the extent a response is  
11 required, Defendants deny the allegations in paragraph 2.

12 3. The allegations contained in paragraph 3 characterize Plaintiffs’ claims and are not  
13 averments of fact to which Defendants are required to respond. In addition, Plaintiffs’ vagueness  
14 claims (Counts III and IV) have been dismissed with prejudice in accordance with the Court’s  
15 order, dated February 25, 2019. To the extent a response is required, Defendants deny the  
16 allegations in paragraph 3.

17 4. The allegations contained in paragraph 4 characterize Plaintiffs’ claims and are not  
18 averments of fact to which Defendants are required to respond. In addition, Plaintiffs’  
19 overbreadth claim (Count IV) has been dismissed with prejudice in accordance with the Court’s  
20 order, dated February 25, 2019. To the extent a response is required, Defendants deny the  
21 allegations in paragraph 4.

22 5. Defendants admit the allegations contained in the second and third sentences of  
23 paragraph 5. The remaining allegations contained in paragraph 5 characterize Plaintiffs’ claims

24 \_\_\_\_\_  
25 <sup>1</sup> Pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 25(d), Bureau of Firearms Director Martin  
Horan, in his official capacity, is substituted for Chief Stephen Lindley, who had been previously  
substituted for Acting Chief Martha Supenor.

26 <sup>2</sup> The following responses to each paragraph include responses to any footnotes that may  
be contained in the relevant paragraph.

27 <sup>3</sup> For the convenience of the Court and the parties, Defendants utilize certain headings as  
28 set forth in the Complaint. In doing so, Defendants neither admit nor deny any allegations that  
may be suggested by the Complaint’s headings.

1 and are not averments of fact to which Defendants are required to respond. To the extent a  
2 response is required, Defendants deny the remaining allegations in paragraph 5.

3 6. The allegations contained in paragraph 6 characterize Plaintiffs' claims and are not  
4 averments of fact to which Defendants are required to respond. To the extent a response is  
5 required, Defendants deny the allegations in paragraph 6.

6 7. The allegations contained in paragraph 7 characterize Plaintiffs' claims and are not  
7 averments of fact to which Defendants are required to respond. To the extent a response is  
8 required, Defendants deny the allegations in paragraph 7.

9 **PARTIES**

10 8. Defendants lack sufficient knowledge or information to form a belief as to the truth of  
11 the allegations in paragraph 8 and, on that basis, deny the allegations in paragraph 8.

12 9. Defendants lack sufficient knowledge or information to form a belief as to the truth of  
13 the allegations in paragraph 9 and, on that basis, deny the allegations in paragraph 9.

14 10. Defendants lack sufficient knowledge or information to form a belief as to the truth of  
15 the allegations in paragraph 10 and, on that basis, deny the allegations in paragraph 10.

16 11. Defendants lack sufficient knowledge or information to form a belief as to the truth of  
17 the allegations in paragraph 11 and, on that basis, deny the allegations in paragraph 11.

18 12. Defendants lack sufficient knowledge or information to form a belief as to the truth of  
19 the allegations in paragraph 12 and, on that basis, deny the allegations in paragraph 12.

20 13. Defendants lack sufficient knowledge or information to form a belief as to the truth of  
21 the allegations in paragraph 13 and, on that basis, deny the allegations in paragraph 13.

22 14. Defendants lack sufficient knowledge or information to form a belief as to the truth of  
23 the allegations in paragraph 14 and, on that basis, deny the allegations in paragraph 14.

24 15. Defendants lack sufficient knowledge or information to form a belief as to the truth of  
25 the allegations in paragraph 15 and, on that basis, deny the allegations in paragraph 15.

26 16. Defendants lack sufficient knowledge or information to form a belief as to the truth of  
27 the allegations in paragraph 16 and, on that basis, deny the allegations in paragraph 16.

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1           17. Defendants lack sufficient knowledge or information to form a belief as to the truth of  
2 the allegations in the first two sentences in paragraph 17 and, on that basis, deny those  
3 allegations. The allegations in the final sentence of paragraph 17 characterize Plaintiffs' claims  
4 and are not averments of fact to which Defendants are required to respond. To the extent a  
5 response is required, Defendants deny the allegations in the final sentence of paragraph 17.

6           18. Defendants lack sufficient knowledge or information to form a belief as to the truth of  
7 the allegations in the first three sentences in paragraph 18 and, on that basis, deny those  
8 allegations. The allegations in the final sentence of paragraph 18 characterize Plaintiffs' claims  
9 and are not averments of fact to which Defendants are required to respond. To the extent a  
10 response is required, Defendants deny the allegations in the final sentence of paragraph 18.

11           19. Defendants lack sufficient knowledge or information to form a belief as to the truth of  
12 the allegations in the first two sentences in paragraph 19 and, on that basis, deny those  
13 allegations. The allegations in the final sentence of paragraph 19 characterize Plaintiffs' claims  
14 and are not averments of fact to which Defendants are required to respond. To the extent a  
15 response is required, Defendants deny the allegations in the final sentence of paragraph 19.

16           20. Defendants lack sufficient knowledge or information to form a belief as to the truth of  
17 the allegations in the first two sentences in paragraph 20 and, on that basis, deny those  
18 allegations. The allegations in the final sentence of paragraph 20 characterize Plaintiffs' claims  
19 and are not averments of fact to which Defendants are required to respond. To the extent a  
20 response is required, Defendants deny the allegations in the final sentence of paragraph 20.

21           21. The allegations in paragraph 21 characterize Plaintiffs' claims and are not averments  
22 of fact to which Defendants are required to respond. To the extent a response is required,  
23 Defendants deny the allegations in paragraph 21.

24           22. Defendants lack sufficient knowledge or information to form a belief as to the truth of  
25 the allegations in paragraph 22 and, on that basis, deny the allegations in paragraph 22.

26           23. Defendants lack sufficient knowledge or information to form a belief as to the truth of  
27 the allegations in paragraph 23 and, on that basis, deny the allegations in paragraph 23.

28           24. Defendants admit the allegations in paragraph 24.



1           32. Defendants lack sufficient knowledge or information to form a belief as to the truth of  
2 the allegations in paragraph 32 and, on that basis, deny the allegations in paragraph 32.

3           33. Defendants lack sufficient knowledge or information to form a belief as to the truth of  
4 the allegations in paragraph 33 and, on that basis, deny the allegations in paragraph 33.

5           34. Defendants lack sufficient knowledge or information to form a belief as to the truth of  
6 the allegations in paragraph 34 and, on that basis, deny the allegations in paragraph 34.

7           35. Defendants admit that Senate Bill 23 and California Penal Code section 15740 speak  
8 for themselves. Except as specifically admitted, Defendants deny the allegations in the first two  
9 sentences of paragraph 35. Defendants lack sufficient knowledge or information to form a belief  
10 as to the truth of the allegations in the final sentence of paragraph 35 and, on that basis, deny the  
11 allegations in the final sentence of paragraph 35.

12           36. Defendants lack sufficient knowledge or information to form a belief as to the truth of  
13 the allegations in paragraph 36 and, on that basis, deny the allegations in paragraph 36.

14           37. Defendants admit that the Finding of Emergency, attached as Exhibit A to the  
15 Complaint, speaks for itself and was later withdrawn. Except as specifically admitted,  
16 Defendants deny the allegations in paragraph 37.

17           38. Defendants lack sufficient knowledge or information to form a belief as to the truth of  
18 the allegations in paragraph 38 and, on that basis, deny the allegations in paragraph 38.

19           39. Defendants admit that Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr. approved Senate Bill 1446 on  
20 July 1, 2016 and that Senate Bill 1446 speaks for itself. Except as specifically admitted,  
21 Defendants deny the allegations in paragraph 39.

22           40. Defendants admit that California voters approved Proposition 63, “The Safety for All  
23 Act of 2016,” on November 8, 2016, and that Proposition 63 took effect on November 9, 2016.  
24 Defendants also admit that Senate Bill 1446 and Proposition 63 speak for themselves. Except as  
25 specifically admitted, Defendants deny the allegations in paragraph 40.

26           41. Defendants admit that Proposition 63 speaks for itself. Except as specifically  
27 admitted, Defendants deny the allegations in paragraph 41.

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1           42. The allegations in paragraph 42 characterize Plaintiffs' claims and are not averments  
2 of fact to which Defendants are required to respond. To the extent a response is required,  
3 Defendants deny the allegations in paragraph 42.

4           43. Defendants lack sufficient knowledge or information to form a belief as to the truth of  
5 the allegations in paragraph 43 and, on that basis, deny the allegations in paragraph 43.

6           44. Defendants admit that Exhibit B to the Complaint speaks for itself. Defendants lack  
7 sufficient knowledge or information to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in the first  
8 sentence of paragraph 44 and, on that basis, deny the allegations in the first sentence of  
9 paragraph 44. The allegations in the final sentence of paragraph 44 are not averments of fact to  
10 which Defendants are required to respond. To the extent a response is required, Defendants deny  
11 the allegations in the final sentence of paragraph 44. Except as specifically admitted, Defendants  
12 deny the remaining allegations in paragraph 44.

13           45. The allegations in paragraph 45 characterize Plaintiffs' claims and are not averments  
14 of fact to which Defendants are required to respond. To the extent a response is required,  
15 Defendants deny the allegations in paragraph 45.

16           46. The allegations in paragraph 46 characterize Plaintiffs' claims and are not averments  
17 of fact to which Defendants are required to respond. To the extent a response is required,  
18 Defendants deny the allegations in paragraph 46.

19           47. The allegations in paragraph 47 characterize Plaintiffs' claims and are not averments  
20 of fact to which Defendants are required to respond. To the extent a response is required,  
21 Defendants deny the allegations in paragraph 47.

22           48. Defendants admit that the legal authorities quoted in paragraph 48 speak for  
23 themselves. Otherwise, the allegations in paragraph 48 characterize Plaintiffs claims and are not  
24 averments of fact to which Defendants are required to respond. To the extent a response is  
25 required, and except as specifically admitted, Defendants deny the allegations in paragraph 48.

26           49. Defendants admit that the legal authorities quoted in paragraph 49 speak for  
27 themselves. Otherwise, the allegations in paragraph 49 characterize Plaintiffs claims and are not  
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1 averments of fact to which Defendants are required to respond. To the extent a response is  
2 required, and except as specifically admitted, Defendants deny the allegations in paragraph 49.

3 50. The allegations in paragraph 50 characterize Plaintiffs claims and are not averments  
4 of fact to which Defendants are required to respond. To the extent a response is required,  
5 Defendants lack sufficient knowledge or information to form a belief as to the truth of the  
6 allegations in paragraph 50 and, on that basis, deny the allegations in paragraph 50.

7 51. Defendants lack sufficient knowledge or information to form a belief as to the truth of  
8 the allegations in paragraph 51 and, on that basis, deny the allegations in paragraph 51.

9 52. Defendants lack sufficient knowledge or information to form a belief as to the truth of  
10 the allegations in paragraph 52 and, on that basis, deny the allegations in paragraph 52.

11 53. Defendants admit that the Roster of Handguns Certified for Sale speaks for itself.  
12 Otherwise, Defendants lack sufficient knowledge or information to form a belief as to the truth of  
13 the allegations in paragraph 53 and, on that basis, except as specifically admitted, deny the  
14 allegations in paragraph 53.

15 54. Defendants lack sufficient knowledge or information to form a belief as to the truth of  
16 the allegations in paragraph 54 and, on that basis, deny the allegations in paragraph 54.

17 55. The allegations in paragraph 55 characterize Plaintiffs claims and are not averments  
18 of fact to which Defendants are required to respond. To the extent a response is required,  
19 Defendants deny the allegations in paragraph 55.

20 56. The allegations in paragraph 56 characterize Plaintiffs claims and are not averments  
21 of fact to which Defendants are required to respond. To the extent a response is required,  
22 Defendants deny the allegations in paragraph 56.

23 57. The allegations in paragraph 57 characterize Plaintiffs claims and are not averments  
24 of fact to which Defendants are required to respond. To the extent a response is required,  
25 Defendants deny the allegations in paragraph 57.

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**CLAIMS FOR RELIEF**

**COUNT I: VIOLATION OF U.S. CONST. AMEND. II**

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3 58. Defendants incorporate by reference herein the responses contained in paragraphs 1  
4 through 57, inclusive.

5 59. The allegations in paragraph 59 characterize Plaintiffs claims and are not averments  
6 of fact to which Defendants are required to respond. To the extent a response is required,  
7 Defendants deny the allegations in paragraph 59.

8 60. The allegations in paragraph 60 characterize Plaintiffs claims and are not averments  
9 of fact to which Defendants are required to respond. To the extent a response is required,  
10 Defendants deny the allegations in paragraph 60.

11 61. The allegations in paragraph 61 characterize Plaintiffs claims and are not averments  
12 of fact to which Defendants are required to respond. To the extent a response is required,  
13 Defendants deny the allegations in paragraph 61.

14 62. Defendants admit that California Penal Code section 32310(b) speaks for itself.  
15 Except as specifically admitted, Defendants deny the allegations in paragraph 62.

16 63. Defendants admit that California Penal Code section 32310(d) speaks for itself.  
17 Otherwise, the allegations in paragraph 63 characterize Plaintiffs' claims and are not averments of  
18 fact to which Defendants are required to respond. To the extent a response is required, and except  
19 as specifically admitted, Defendants deny the allegations in paragraph 63.

20 64. Defendants admit that California Penal Code section 32390 speaks for itself.  
21 Otherwise, the allegations in paragraph 64 characterize Plaintiffs' claims and are not averments of  
22 fact to which Defendants are required to respond. To the extent a response is required, and except  
23 as specifically admitted, Defendants deny the allegations in paragraph 64.

24 65. The allegations in paragraph 65 characterize Plaintiffs claims and are not averments  
25 of fact to which Defendants are required to respond. To the extent a response is required,  
26 Defendants deny the allegations in paragraph 65.

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1           66. The allegations in paragraph 66 characterize Plaintiffs claims and are not averments  
2 of fact to which Defendants are required to respond. To the extent a response is required,  
3 Defendants deny the allegations in paragraph 66.

4           67. Defendants admit that the judicial opinion quoted in paragraph 67 speaks for itself.  
5 Otherwise, the allegations in paragraph 67 characterize Plaintiffs claims and are not averments of  
6 fact to which Defendants are required to respond. To the extent a response is required,  
7 Defendants deny the allegations in paragraph 67.

8           68. The allegations in paragraph 68 characterize Plaintiffs claims and are not averments  
9 of fact to which Defendants are required to respond. To the extent a response is required,  
10 Defendants deny the allegations in paragraph 68.

11           69. The allegations in paragraph 69 characterize Plaintiffs claims and are not averments  
12 of fact to which Defendants are required to respond. To the extent a response is required,  
13 Defendants deny the allegations in paragraph 69.

14           70. The allegations in paragraph 70 characterize Plaintiffs claims and are not averments  
15 of fact to which Defendants are required to respond. To the extent a response is required,  
16 Defendants deny the allegations in paragraph 70.

17           71. The allegations in paragraph 71 characterize Plaintiffs claims and are not averments  
18 of fact to which Defendants are required to respond. To the extent a response is required,  
19 Defendants deny the allegations in paragraph 71.

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21                   **COUNT II: VIOLATION OF U.S. CONST. AMENDS. V AND XIV;  
                          CAL. CONST. ART. I, § 19**

22                           **(Due Process and Takings)**

23           72. Defendants incorporate by reference herein the responses contained in paragraphs 1  
24 through 71, inclusive.

25           73. Defendants admit that the Fifth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution speaks for itself.  
26 Except as specifically admitted, Defendants deny the allegations in paragraph 73.

27           74. Defendants admit that the Fourteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution speaks for  
28 itself. Except as specifically admitted, Defendants deny the allegations in paragraph 74.

1           75. Defendants admit that Article I, section 19, of the California Constitution speaks for  
2 itself. Except as specifically admitted, Defendants deny the allegations in paragraph 75.

3           76. The allegations in paragraph 76 characterize Plaintiffs claims and are not averments  
4 of fact to which Defendants are required to respond. To the extent a response is required,  
5 Defendants deny the allegations in paragraph 76.

6           77. Defendants admit that California Penal Code section 32310(d) and Senate Bill 1446  
7 speak for themselves. Otherwise, the allegations in the first four sentences of paragraph 77  
8 characterize Plaintiffs claims and are not averments of fact to which Defendants are required to  
9 respond. To the extent a response is required, and except as specifically admitted, Defendants  
10 deny the allegations in the first four sentences of paragraph 77. Defendants lack sufficient  
11 knowledge or information to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in the final two  
12 sentences of paragraph 77 and, on that basis, and except as specifically admitted, deny the  
13 allegations in paragraph 77.

14           78. Defendants admit that California Penal Code section 32390, former California Penal  
15 Code section 12029, and California Penal Code section 18010(b) speak for themselves. Except as  
16 specifically admitted, Defendants deny the allegations in paragraph 78.

17           79. Defendants admit that the legal authorities cited in paragraph 79 speak for  
18 themselves. Otherwise, the allegations in paragraph 79 characterize Plaintiffs' claims and are not  
19 averments of fact to which Defendants are required to respond. To the extent a response is  
20 required, and except as specifically admitted, Defendants deny the allegations in paragraph 79.

21           80. Defendants lack sufficient knowledge or information to form a belief as to the truth of  
22 the allegations in the first sentence of paragraph 80 and, on that basis, deny the allegations in the  
23 first sentence of paragraph 80. The allegations in the second sentence of paragraph 80  
24 characterize Plaintiffs' claims and are not averments of fact to which Defendants are required to  
25 respond. To the extent a response is required, Defendants deny the allegations in the second  
26 sentence of paragraph 80.

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1           81. The allegations in paragraph 81 characterize Plaintiffs claims and are not averments  
2 of fact to which Defendants are required to respond. To the extent a response is required,  
3 Defendants deny the allegations in paragraph 81.

4           82. The allegations in paragraph 82 characterize Plaintiffs claims and are not averments  
5 of fact to which Defendants are required to respond. To the extent a response is required,  
6 Defendants deny the allegations in paragraph 82.

7           83. The allegations in paragraph 83 characterize Plaintiffs claims and are not averments  
8 of fact to which Defendants are required to respond. To the extent a response is required,  
9 Defendants deny the allegations in paragraph 83.

10           84. The allegations in paragraph 84 characterize Plaintiffs claims and are not averments  
11 of fact to which Defendants are required to respond. To the extent a response is required,  
12 Defendants deny the allegations in paragraph 84.

13                           **COUNT III: VIOLATION OF U.S. CONST. AMENDS. V & XIV**

14   **(Vagueness)**

15           85. Defendants incorporate by reference herein the responses contained in paragraphs 1  
16 through 84, inclusive.

17           86. Count III has been dismissed with prejudice in accordance with the Court's order,  
18 dated February 25, 2019. Therefore, Defendants are not required to respond to the allegations  
19 made in paragraph 86.

20           87. Count III has been dismissed with prejudice in accordance with the Court's order,  
21 dated February 25, 2019. Therefore, Defendants are not required to respond to the allegations  
22 made in paragraph 87.

23           88. Count III has been dismissed with prejudice in accordance with the Court's order,  
24 dated February 25, 2019. Therefore, Defendants are not required to respond to the allegations  
25 made in paragraph 88.

26           89. Count III has been dismissed with prejudice in accordance with the Court's order,  
27 dated February 25, 2019. Therefore, Defendants are not required to respond to the allegations  
28 made in paragraph 89.

1           90. Count III has been dismissed with prejudice in accordance with the Court's order,  
2 dated February 25, 2019. Therefore, Defendants are not required to respond to the allegations  
3 made in paragraph 90.

4           91. Count III has been dismissed with prejudice in accordance with the Court's order,  
5 dated February 25, 2019. Therefore, Defendants are not required to respond to the allegations  
6 made in paragraph 91.

7           92. Count III has been dismissed with prejudice in accordance with the Court's order,  
8 dated February 25, 2019. Therefore, Defendants are not required to respond to the allegations  
9 made in paragraph 92.

10           93. Count III has been dismissed with prejudice in accordance with the Court's order,  
11 dated February 25, 2019. Therefore, Defendants are not required to respond to the allegations  
12 made in paragraph 93.

13           94. Count III has been dismissed with prejudice in accordance with the Court's order,  
14 dated February 25, 2019. Therefore, Defendants are not required to respond to the allegations  
15 made in paragraph 94.

16           95. Count III has been dismissed with prejudice in accordance with the Court's order,  
17 dated February 25, 2019. Therefore, Defendants are not required to respond to the allegations  
18 made in paragraph 95.

19           96. Count III has been dismissed with prejudice in accordance with the Court's order,  
20 dated February 25, 2019. Therefore, Defendants are not required to respond to the allegations  
21 made in paragraph 96.

22                           **COUNT IV: VIOLATION OF U.S. CONST. AMENDS. V & XIV**

23   **(Vagueness and Overbreadth)**

24           97. Defendants incorporate by reference herein the responses contained in paragraphs 1  
25 through 96, inclusive.

26           98. Count IV has been dismissed with prejudice in accordance with the Court's order,  
27 dated February 25, 2019. Therefore, Defendants are not required to respond to the allegations  
28 made in paragraph 98.

1           99. Count IV has been dismissed with prejudice in accordance with the Court's order,  
2 dated February 25, 2019. Therefore, Defendants are not required to respond to the allegations  
3 made in paragraph 99.

4           100. Count IV has been dismissed with prejudice in accordance with the Court's order,  
5 dated February 25, 2019. Therefore, Defendants are not required to respond to the allegations  
6 made in paragraph 100.

7           101. Count IV has been dismissed with prejudice in accordance with the Court's order,  
8 dated February 25, 2019. Therefore, Defendants are not required to respond to the allegations  
9 made in paragraph 101.

10           102. Count IV has been dismissed with prejudice in accordance with the Court's order,  
11 dated February 25, 2019. Therefore, Defendants are not required to respond to the allegations  
12 made in paragraph 102.

13           103. Count IV has been dismissed with prejudice in accordance with the Court's order,  
14 dated February 25, 2019. Therefore, Defendants are not required to respond to the allegations  
15 made in paragraph 103.

16           104. Count IV has been dismissed with prejudice in accordance with the Court's order,  
17 dated February 25, 2019. Therefore, Defendants are not required to respond to the allegations  
18 made in paragraph 104.

19           105. Count IV has been dismissed with prejudice in accordance with the Court's order,  
20 dated February 25, 2019. Therefore, Defendants are not required to respond to the allegations  
21 made in paragraph 105.

22           106. Count IV has been dismissed with prejudice in accordance with the Court's order,  
23 dated February 25, 2019. Therefore, Defendants are not required to respond to the allegations  
24 made in paragraph 106.

25           107. Count IV has been dismissed with prejudice in accordance with the Court's order,  
26 dated February 25, 2019. Therefore, Defendants are not required to respond to the allegations  
27 made in paragraph 107.

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1 108. Count IV has been dismissed with prejudice in accordance with the Court's order,  
2 dated February 25, 2019. Therefore, Defendants are not required to respond to the allegations  
3 made in paragraph 108.

4 **COUNT V: VIOLATION OF U.S. CONST. AMEND. XIV; CAL. CONST. ART. I, § 7**  
5 **(Equal Protection)**

6 109. Defendants incorporate by reference herein the responses contained in paragraphs 1  
7 through 108, inclusive.

8 110. Defendants admit that the Fourteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution speaks for  
9 itself. Except as specifically admitted, Defendants deny the allegations in paragraph 110.

10 111. Defendants admit that the Article I, section 7, of the California Constitution speaks  
11 for itself. Except as specifically admitted, Defendants deny the allegations in paragraph 111.

12 112. Defendants admit that the Article I, section 24, of the California Constitution speaks  
13 for itself. Except as specifically admitted, Defendants deny the allegations in paragraph 112.

14 113. Defendants admit that California Penal Code sections 32445 and 32450(a) speak for  
15 themselves. Except as specifically admitted, Defendants deny the allegations in paragraph 113.

16 114. The allegations in paragraph 114 characterize Plaintiffs claims and are not averments  
17 of fact to which Defendants are required to respond. To the extent a response is required,  
18 Defendants deny the allegations in paragraph 114.

19 115. The allegations in paragraph 115 characterize Plaintiffs claims and are not averments  
20 of fact to which Defendants are required to respond. To the extent a response is required,  
21 Defendants deny the allegations in paragraph 115.

22 116. The allegations in paragraph 116 characterize Plaintiffs claims and are not averments  
23 of fact to which Defendants are required to respond. To the extent a response is required,  
24 Defendants deny the allegations in paragraph 116.

25 117. The allegations in paragraph 117 characterize Plaintiffs claims and are not averments  
26 of fact to which Defendants are required to respond. To the extent a response is required,  
27 Defendants deny the allegations in paragraph 117.

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1 118. The allegations in paragraph 118 characterize Plaintiffs claims and are not averments  
2 of fact to which Defendants are required to respond. To the extent a response is required,  
3 Defendants deny the allegations in paragraph 118.

4 119. The allegations in paragraph 119 characterize Plaintiffs claims and are not averments  
5 of fact to which Defendants are required to respond. To the extent a response is required,  
6 Defendants deny the allegations in paragraph 119.

7 **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

8 120. Defendants deny that Plaintiffs are entitled to any of the relief requested in the Prayer  
9 for Relief immediately following paragraph 119 or any relief whatsoever. To the extent the  
10 Prayer for Relief contains any allegations, Defendants deny them.

11 **AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSES**

12 In addition to the specific responses to the Complaint, Defendants assert the following  
13 affirmative defenses.

14 **FIRST AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

15 The Complaint, and the claims for relief alleged therein, fails to state facts sufficient to  
16 constitute a cause of action.

17 **SECOND AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

18 Plaintiffs' equal protection claim (Count V) fails as a matter of law because it is "subsumed  
19 by, and coextensive with," their Second Amendment claim (Count I). *See Teixeira v. Cnty. of*  
20 *Alameda*, 822 F.3d 1047, 1052 (9th Cir. 2016) (holding that "because [plaintiff's] equal  
21 protection challenge is 'no more than a [Second] Amendment claim dressed in equal protection  
22 clothing,' it is 'subsumed by, and coextensive with' the former, and therefore is not cognizable  
23 under the Equal Protection Clause." (quoting *Orin v. Barclay*, 272 F.3d 1207, 1213 n.3  
24 (9th Cir. 2001))), *vacated in part*, 854 F.3d 1046 (9th Cir. 2016), *reh'g en banc*, 873 F.3d 670  
25 (9th Cir. 2017) (affirming dismissal of equal protection claim for reasons stated in panel opinion),  
26 *cert. denied*, 138 S. Ct. 1988 (2018); *see also Kwong v. Bloomberg*, 723 F.3d 160, 170 n.19  
27 (2d Cir. 2013) ("Like every Circuit to have addressed this issue, we simply conclude that  
28 plaintiffs should not be allowed to use the Equal Protection Clause 'to obtain review under a more



1 stringent standard' than the standard applicable to their Second Amendment claim.'" (quoting  
2 *Woollard v. Gallagher*, 712 F.3d 865, 873 n.4 (4th Cir. 2013)).

3 **THIRD AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

4 Plaintiffs' claims in this action are barred because they do not have standing to bring suit.

5 **FOURTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

6 The Complaint, and each cause of action therein, is improper because Plaintiffs have an  
7 adequate remedy at law.

8 **FIFTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

9 The Complaint, and each cause of action therein, is barred by the equitable doctrines of  
10 estoppel, laches, unclean hands, and/or waiver.

11 **SIXTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

12 To the extent Defendants have undertaken any conduct with respect to the subjects and  
13 events underlying the Complaint, such conduct was, at all times material thereto, undertaken in  
14 good faith and in reasonable reliance on existing law.

15 **SEVENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

16 Defendants have not knowingly or intentionally waived any applicable affirmative defense.  
17 Defendants reserve the right to assert and rely upon additional affirmative defenses to the extent  
18 they are applicable.

19 WHEREFORE, Defendants pray that:

- 20 1. Plaintiffs take nothing by reason of the Complaint;  
21 2. Judgment be entered in favor of Defendants and adverse to Plaintiffs;  
22 3. Defendants be awarded costs incurred in defending this action; and  
23 4. Defendants be awarded such further relief that the Court may deem just and proper.
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Dated: March 11, 2019

Respectfully Submitted,  
  
XAVIER BECERRA  
Attorney General of California  
MARK R. BECKINGTON  
Supervising Deputy Attorney General

/s/ John D. Echeverria  
JOHN D. ECHEVERRIA  
Deputy Attorney General  
*Attorneys for Defendants*

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

Case Name: **William Wiese, et al. v.  
Xavier Becerra, et al.**

Case No.: **2:17-cv-00903-WBS-KJN**

I hereby certify that on March 11, 2019, I electronically filed the following documents with the Clerk of the Court by using the CM/ECF system:

**DEFENDANTS' ANSWER TO THIRD AMENDED COMPLAINT FOR  
DECLARATORY AND INJUNCTIVE RELIEF**

I certify that **all** participants in the case are registered CM/ECF users and that service will be accomplished by the CM/ECF system.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California the foregoing is true and correct and that this declaration was executed on March 11 2019, at Los Angeles, California.

Gail Agcaoili  
Declarant

/s/ Gail Agcaoili  
Signature