

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF
CALIFORNIA

Chancy v. Fossil Group, Inc.

No. 25-cv-1566-AJB-DEB (S.D. Cal. Nov. 21, 2025) · No. 25-cv-1566-AJB-DEB · Decided November 21, 2025

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Southern District of California considers Fossil Group, Inc.'s motion to dismiss a putative class action alleging that Fossil's "Like Style" pricing and discount representations violated California's Unfair Competition Law and False Advertising Law. The court grants in part and denies in part the motion, addressing judicial notice, incorporation by reference, pleading particularity, and the reasonable-consumer standard. The excerpt does not include the complete disposition of each claim.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Southern District of California
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Anthony J. Battaglia
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Southern District of California
DECIDED	November 21, 2025
DOCKET	25-cv-1566-AJB-DEB
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Defendant moved under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 12(b)(6) to dismiss a removed putative class action asserting violations of California's Unfair Competition Law and False Advertising Law and seeking restitution, injunctive relief, and attorney fees.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	On a Rule 12(b)(6) motion, the court accepts well-pleaded factual allegations as true, draws reasonable inferences in the nonmoving party's favor, and determines whether the complaint states a facially plausible claim. Fraud-based allegations must satisfy Rule 9(b)'s particularity requirement. Requests for judicial notice and incorporation by reference were evaluated under Federal Rule of Evidence 201 and Ninth Circuit doctrine.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	unpublished, nonprecedential district court opinion

TOPICS

consumer protection

deceptive trade practices

motions to dismiss

class actions

injunctions

PRACTICE AREAS

consumer protection

commercial litigation

civil procedure

class actions

remedies

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the complaint pleaded the UCL and FAL claims with sufficient factual particularity under Federal Rules of Civil Procedure 8 and 9(b).
2. Whether the alleged Like Style pricing representations could plausibly deceive a reasonable consumer under California's UCL and FAL.
3. Whether plaintiffs had standing to seek prospective injunctive or other equitable relief based on past allegedly misleading advertising.
4. Whether Fossil's exhibits were subject to judicial notice or incorporation by reference at the pleading stage.

HOLDINGS

1. The complaint sufficiently pleaded the UCL and FAL claims under Rules 8 and 9(b), so dismissal of those claims was denied.
2. The complaint plausibly alleged that Fossil's Like Style pricing and discount representations were likely to deceive reasonable consumers; whether the practice was deceptive was not suitable for resolution on a motion to dismiss.
3. Plaintiffs lacked standing to seek injunctive or other prospective equitable relief because they did not allege an actual and imminent threat that they would again be subjected to Fossil's allegedly false advertising.
4. The court denied judicial notice of the contents of Fossil's webpage disclosure, in-store signage, and labels from other cases; granted incorporation by reference of the online Like Style disclosure because the complaint reproduced and relied on it; and denied incorporation by reference of the in-store return policy.

KEY QUOTATIONS

"As such, Plaintiffs provided sufficient and particular information to satisfy Rules 8 and 9(b)." (at 12)

"Accordingly, the Court GRANTS the motion to dismiss Plaintiffs' claims for equitable relief WITH LEAVE TO AMEND." (at 15)

"For the reasons set forth above, the Court GRANTS IN PART AND DENIES IN PART Fossil's Motion to Dismiss Plaintiffs' Complaint" (at 16)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Fossil advertised products online and in outlet stores using a current price, a crossed-out Like Style price, and an apparent percentage discount. Plaintiffs alleged that Fossil's Like Style prices did not represent prices at which the same products had been offered and that the pricing model created artificial discounts. The online disclosure was available through a tooltip on individual product pages but not on the catalog page, while plaintiffs alleged that outlet stores lacked a disclosure defining Like Style pricing. Three named plaintiffs purchased watches after seeing alleged discounts and claimed they would not have made the purchases absent the representations.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Plaintiffs filed the putative class action in San Diego Superior Court on May 14, 2025. Fossil removed the action to the Southern District of California on June 18, 2025, and moved to dismiss the complaint in its entirety. The court denied dismissal of the UCL and FAL claims, dismissed the claims for equitable relief with leave to amend, denied some requests for judicial notice and incorporation by reference, granted incorporation by reference as to the online Like Style disclosure, and allowed plaintiffs to file a first amended complaint.

DISPOSITION

other

CASES CITED

- Navarro v. Block, 250 F.3d 729, 732 (9th Cir. 2001)
- SmileCare Dental Grp. v. Delta Dental Plan of Cal., 88 F.3d 780, 783 (9th Cir. 1996)
- Bell Atl. Corp. v. Twombly, 550 U.S. 544, 570 (2007)
- Ashcroft v. Iqbal, 556 U.S. 662, 678-79 (2009)
- Associated Gen. Contractors of Cal., Inc. v. Cal. State Council of Carpenters, 459 U.S. 519, 526 (1983)
- Thompson v. Davis, 295 F.3d 890, 895 (9th Cir. 2002)
- Kearns v. Ford Motor Co., 567 F.3d 1120, 1124 (9th Cir. 2009)
- Bly-Magee v. California, 236 F.3d 1014, 1019 (9th Cir. 2001)
- Neubronner v. Milken, 6 F.3d 666, 671-72 (9th Cir. 1993)
- United States v. Corinthian Colleges, 655 F.3d 984, 995 (9th Cir. 2011)
- Lopez v. Smith, 203 F.3d 1122, 1127 (9th Cir. 2000)
- Brown v. Google, LLC, 525 F. Supp. 3d 1049, 1061 (N.D. Cal. 2021)
- Threshold Enters. Ltd. v. Pressed Juicery, Inc., 445 F. Supp. 3d 139, 146 (N.D. Cal. 2020)
- EVO Brands, LLC v. Al Khalifa Grp., LLC, 657 F. Supp. 3d 1312, 1323 (C.D. Cal. 2023)
- 2Die4Kourt v. Hillair Cap. Mgmt., LLC, No. 16-cv-1304-JVS-DFM, 2016 WL 4487895, at *1 n.1 (C.D. Cal. Aug. 23, 2016)
- Genasys Inc. v. Vector Acoustics, LLC, 638 F. Supp. 3d 1135, 1144, 1146-47 (S.D. Cal. 2022)
- Matthews v. Apple, Inc., 769 F. Supp. 3d 999, 1006-08 (N.D. Cal. 2024)
- Knievel v. ESPN, 393 F.3d 1068, 1076-77 (9th Cir. 2005)
- United States v. Ritchie, 342 F.3d 903, 908-09 (9th Cir. 2003)

- Allen v. City of Los Angeles, 92 F.3d 842, 850 (9th Cir. 1996)
- Holder v. Holder, 305 F.3d 854, 866 (9th Cir. 2002)
- Calderon v. Kate Spade & Co., LLC, 2020 WL 1062930, at *2-*3 (S.D. Cal. Mar. 5, 2020)
- Dawson v. Better Booch, LLC, 716 F. Supp. 3d 949, 956 (S.D. Cal. 2024)
- In re Sony Gaming Networks & Customer Data Sec. Breach Litig., 996 F. Supp. 2d 942, 985 (S.D. Cal. 2014)
- Paduano v. Am. Honda Motor Co., 169 Cal. App. 4th 1453, 1468-86 (2009)
- Arevalo v. Bank of Am. Corp., 850 F. Supp. 2d 1008, 1023-24 (N.D. Cal. 2011)
- Ariz. Cartridge Remanufacturers Ass'n, Inc. v. Lexmark Int'l, Inc., 421 F.3d 981, 985 (9th Cir. 2005)
- Ebner v. Fresh, Inc., 838 F.3d 958, 965 (9th Cir. 2016)
- Williams v. Gerber Prods. Co., 552 F.3d 934, 938-39 (9th Cir. 2008)
- Freeman v. Time, Inc., 68 F.3d 285, 289 (9th Cir. 1995)
- Lavie v. Procter & Gamble Co., 105 Cal. App. 4th 496, 508 (2003)
- Azimpour v. Sears, Roebuck & Co., No. 15-CV-2798 JLS (WVG), 2016 WL 7626188, at *7 (S.D. Cal. Oct. 17, 2016)
- Haley v. Macy's Inc., 263 F. Supp. 3d 819, 823-24 (N.D. Cal. 2017)
- Rael v. New York & Co., Inc., No. 16-CV-369-BAS(JMA), 2016 WL 7655247, at *3 (S.D. Cal. Dec. 28, 2016)
- Stathakos v. Columbia Sportswear Co., No. 15-cv-04543-YGR, 2016 WL 1730001, at *1, *3-*4 (N.D. Cal. May 2, 2016)
- Chester v. TJX Companies, Inc., No. 5-15-CV-01437-ODW-DTB, 2016 WL 4414768, at *1-*2, *8, *12-*13 (C.D. Cal. Aug. 18, 2016)
- Davidson v. Kimberly-Clark Corp., 889 F.3d 956, 967, 970, 972 (9th Cir. 2018)
- Summers v. Earth Island Inst., 555 U.S. 488
- City of Los Angeles v. Lyons, 461 U.S. 95, 102, 111 (1983)
- O'Shea v. Littleton, 414 U.S. 488, 502 (1974)

OPINION

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT 9 SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF
 CALIFORNIA 10 11 ALEXANDER CHANCY, JOSHUA Case No.: 25-cv-1566-AJB-DEB
 HYUN, and TYLER CURINGTON, on 12 ORDER GRANTING IN PART AND behalf of
 themselves and all others DENYING IN PART FOSSIL GROUP, 13 similarly situated, INC.'S
 MOTION TO DISMISS Plaintiffs, 14 v. (Doc. No. 7) 15 FOSSIL GROUP, INC., 16 Defendant.

17 18 Before the Court is Defendant Fossil Group, Inc.'s ("Fossil") Motion to Dismiss 19
 Plaintiffs' Class Action Complaint. (Doc. No. 7.) Plaintiffs opposed the motion (Doc. No. 20 12)
 and Fossil replied. (Doc. No. 13).

For the reasons set forth below, the Court GRANTS 21 IN PART AND DENIES IN PART Fossil's
 Motion to Dismiss. (Doc. No. 7.) 22 I. BACKGROUND 23 A. Procedural History 24 Plaintiffs

Alexander Chancy, Joshua Hyun, and Tyler Curington (“Plaintiffs”) bring this class action lawsuit against Fossil for alleged violations of California’s Unfair Competition Law (“UCL”) and California’s False Advertising Law (“FAL”).

(Doc. No. 1-2 ¶¶ 54–90.) Plaintiffs seek restitution, injunctive relief, and attorneys’ fees. (Id. ¶ 91.) On May 14, 2025, Plaintiffs filed this class action complaint in San Diego Superior Court. (Doc. No. 1-2.)

On June 18, 2025, Fossil removed the case to federal court. (Doc. 3 No. 1.) On July 25, 2025, Fossil filed the instant motion moving to dismiss Plaintiff’s Complaint in its entirety. (Doc. No. 7.)

B. Factual History

Fossil is an American design and manufacture company that sells fashion accessories online, in store, and to third-party retailers. (Doc.

No. 1-2 ¶ 16.) On Fossil’s website, product prices are compared to a “Like Style” price. (Id. ¶ 18.) Fossil’s merchandise catalog page lists each product with bold, red, current product prices, next to the struck-through Like Style price and apparent discount. (Id. ¶¶ 25–27.)

On each product’s details page, next to the Like Style pricing is a light grey “i.” (Id. ¶ 27.) When hovered over, the following message appears: “Our ‘like style’ pricing reflects what similar items have originally sold for at department stores or boutiques.

The percentage off is a comparison between our price and the original price of similar items. Like style prices may vary, but we know you’ll love ours.” (Id.) This disclosure is not displayed on the merchandise catalog webpage. (Id.) Rather, consumers may only see the disclosure when hovering over the “i” symbol on a particular product’s webpage.

(Id.) In Fossil’s outlet stores, Plaintiffs allege that the product price tags also list the true product price, Like Style price, and supposed discount. (Id. ¶ 18.) Plaintiffs maintain that Fossil stores completely omit any disclosure of Like Style’s definition. (Id. ¶ 27.)

Although in-store sales receipts reflect the alleged discounts, the receipts do not define Like Style. (Id. ¶ 29.) On or around May 23, 2023, Plaintiff Chancy purchased a watch on the Fossil website for approximately \$52.08. (Id. ¶ 11.)

The watch Like Style price was \$180.00. (Id.) Plaintiff Chancy asserts he made this purchase because Fossil’s website advertised the watch as 60% off. (Id.) However, Plaintiff Chancy contends that the watch was never listed at \$180.00 on Fossil’s website. (Id.) Likewise, on or around April 3, 2024, Plaintiff Curington purchased a watch from Fossil’s website.

(Id. ¶ 12.) Plaintiff Curington bought the watch for \$88.00, approximately 67% off the estimated \$270.00 Like Style price. (Id.) Plaintiff Curington asserts that the watch was never offered for sale at \$270.00. (Id.) On December 11, 2024, Plaintiff Hyun purchased a watch for \$79.00 at a Fossil Outlet Store in Commerce, California. (Id. ¶ 13.) According to the watch’s price tag,

related 7 signage, and receipt, Plaintiff Hyun perceived the original price to be \$180.00, creating a 8 \$101.00 discount.

(Id.) However, Plaintiff Hyun contends that the watch was never offered 9 for sale at \$180.00. (Id.) 10 Plaintiffs allege that the Like Style pricing model creates the impression of 11 substantial savings, prompting consumer purchases. (Id. ¶¶ 33–37.) But Plaintiffs contend 12 that the Like Style pricing is not indicative of the price of the advertised item, which 13 presents an artificial discount.

(Id. ¶ 24.) As such, Plaintiffs claim that Fossil inflated the 14 Like Style price to reflect a higher discount. (Id. ¶¶ 41–42.) Plaintiffs maintain that Fossil 15 does not, nor does it intend to, sell the items for the Like Style price. (Id. ¶¶ 38–39.) 16 II. LEGAL STANDARDS 17 A. Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 12(b)(6) 18 A motion to dismiss under Rule 12(b)(6) tests the legal sufficiency of the pleadings 19 and allows a court to dismiss a complaint upon a finding that the plaintiff has failed to state 20 a claim upon which relief may be granted.

See *Navarro v. Block*, 250 F.3d 729, 732 (9th Cir. 2001). The court may dismiss a complaint as a matter of law for: “(1) lack of a 22 cognizable legal theory or (2) insufficient facts under a cognizable legal claim.” *SmileCare 23 Dental Grp. v. Delta Dental Plan of Cal.*, 88 F.3d 780, 783 (9th Cir. 1996) (citation 24 omitted).

However, a complaint survives a motion to dismiss if it contains “enough facts 25 to state a claim to relief that is plausible on its face.” *Bell Atl. Corp. v. Twombly*, 550 U.S. 26 544, 570 (2007). 27 Notwithstanding this deference, the reviewing court need not accept legal 28 conclusions as true. *Ashcroft v. Iqbal*, 556 U.S. 662, 678 (2009). It is also improper for the 1 court to assume “the [plaintiff] can prove facts that [he or she] has not alleged....” 2 *Associated Gen.*

Contractors of Cal., Inc. v. Cal. State Council of Carpenters, 459 U.S. 3 519, 526 (1983). On the other hand, “[w]hen there are well-pleaded factual allegations, a 4 court should assume their veracity and then determine whether they plausibly give rise to 5 an entitlement to relief.” *Iqbal*, 556 U.S. at 679.

The court only reviews the contents of the 6 complaint, accepting all factual allegations as true, and drawing all reasonable inferences 7 in favor of the nonmoving party. *Thompson v. Davis*, 295 F.3d 890, 895 (9th Cir. 2002). 8 B. Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 9(b) 9 A party alleging fraud must “state with particularity the circumstances constituting 10 fraud[.]” Fed.

R. Civ. P. 9(b). Rule 9(b) requires a plaintiff to make more specific 11 allegations so a defendant “can defend against the charge and not just deny that they have 12 done anything wrong.” *Kearns v. Ford Motor Co.*, 567 F.3d 1120, 1124 (9th Cir. 2009) 13 (quoting *Bly-Magee v. California*, 236 F.3d 1014, 1019 (9th Cir. 2001) (internal quotation 14 omitted)); see also *Neubronner v. Milken*, 6 F.3d 666, 671–72 (9th Cir.

1993). 15 C. Leave to Amend 16 Where a motion to dismiss is granted, a district court must decide whether to grant 17 leave to amend. Generally, the Ninth Circuit has a liberal policy favoring amendments. 18 *United States v. Corinthian Colleges*, 655 F.3d 984, 995 (9th Cir. 2011).

Thus, leave to 19 amend should be granted unless the pleading could not possibly be cured by the allegation 20 of other facts. *Lopez v. Smith*, 203 F.3d 1122, 1127 (9th Cir. 2000). 21 III. JUDICIAL NOTICE AND INCORPORATION BY REFERENCE 22 Along with Fossil's motion to dismiss (Doc. No. 7-1), Fossil submitted requests for 23 judicial notice and incorporation by reference.

(Doc. Nos. 7-2, 7-3, 7-4, 7-5). The Court 24 will assess each of Fossil's requests in turn. 25 A. Judicial Notice 26 Fossil requests that the Court take judicial notice of Fossil's Like Style disclosure, 27 in-store signage, and images of the disputed labels from other cases that Fossil cites in its 28 1 motion to dismiss. (Doc. No. 7-2 at 2.) Plaintiffs did not oppose Fossil's requests.

(See 2 Doc. No. 12.) 3 According to Federal Rule of Evidence 201(b), "The court may judicially notice a 4 fact that is not subject to reasonable dispute because it: (1) is generally known within the 5 trial court's territorial jurisdiction; or (2) can be accurately and readily determined from 6 sources whose accuracy cannot reasonably be questioned." Fed. R. Evid.

201(b). Courts 7 may take judicial notice at any stage of a proceeding. Fed. R. Evid. 201(d). Judicial notice 8 is uncommon during the pleading phase, as "district courts may not consider material 9 outside the pleadings when assessing the sufficiency of a complaint" under Federal Rule 10 of Civil Procedure 12(b)(6). *Khoja v. Orexigen Therapeutics, Inc.*, 899 F.3d 988, 998 (9th 11 Cir.

2018) (citing *Lee v. City of Los Angeles*, 250 F.3d 668, 288 (9th Cir. 2001)). 12 Considering information outside the pleading typically converts the Rule 12(b)(6) motion 13 to dismiss for failure to state a claim into a Rule 56 motion for summary judgment, but 14 judicial notice can serve as an exception. *Id.* at 998; *United States v. Ritchie*, 342 F.3d 903, 15 908 (9th Cir.

2003). 16 1. Exhibit A: Like Style Disclosure 17 Fossil seeks judicial notice of "[t]he fact that, when present on a Fossil website 18 product, the tooltip icon adjacent to a Like Style label reveals a pop-up that states: 'Our 19 "like style" pricing reflects what similar items have originally sold for at department stores 20 or boutiques.

The percentage off is a comparison between our price and the original price 21 of the similar items. Like style prices may vary, but we know you'll love ours." (Doc. No. 22 7-2 at 2.) Exhibit A is a screenshot of this pop-up. (Doc. No. 7-3.)

The exact language is 23 included in Plaintiff's Complaint. (Doc. No. 1-2 ¶ 27.) 24 Relying on the court's reasoning in *Brown v. Google, LLC*, 525 F. Supp. 3d 1049, 25 1061 (N.D. Cal. 2021),

Fossil argues that the Court may take judicial notice of a webpage 26 and its associated privacy policy. (Doc. No. 7-2 at 3.)

In *Brown*, Google requested that the 27 court take judicial notice of their terms of service, privacy policy, privacy notice, and 28 several of its webpages. *Brown*, 525 F. Supp. 3d at 1061. *Brown* responded and requested 1 judicial notice of the dates that the webpages were last accessed, rather than the actual 2 webpages. *Id.* The court granted both requests reasoning that the webpages and documents 3 were on publicly available websites.

Id. 4 Generally, “websites and their contents may be judicially noticed.” *Threshold 5 Enters. Ltd. v. Pressed Juicery, Inc.*, 445 F. Supp. 3d 139, 146 (N.D. Cal. 2020) (citations 6 omitted); see also *EVO Brands, LLC v. Al Khalifa Grp., LLC*, 657 F. Supp. 3d 1312, 1323 7 (C.D. Cal. 2023); *2Die4Kourt v. Hillair Cap. Mgmt., LLC*, No. 16-cv-1304-JVS-DFM, 8 2016 WL 4487895, at *1 n.1 (C.D.

Cal. Aug. 23, 2016). However, courts in this circuit 9 frequently find it improper to judicially notice websites. In *Genasys Inc. v. Vector 10 Acoustics, LLC*, the defendant brought a Rule 12(b) (6) motion to dismiss all claims. 638 F. 11 Supp. 3d 1135, 1144 (S.D. Cal. 2022). Defendant sought judicial notice for the information 12 contained in webpage screenshots as true.

Id. at 1146. The court denied all requests 13 regarding the website screenshots reasoning that the court may judicially notice the 14 existence of a website but cannot accept the website’s contents as true. *Id.* at 1146–47. 15 Likewise, in *Matthews v. Apple, Inc.*, 769 F. Supp. 3d 999, 1006–08 (N.D. Cal. 2024) the 16 court declined to take judicial notice of webpages reasoning that a public webpage does 17 not automatically favor judicial notice, especially when it is the seeking party’s website.

18 Fossil is seeking judicial notice of the text on its webpage. (Doc. 7-2 at 2.) Fossil 19 does not provide the Court authentication of the screenshot or a timestamp. Further, Fossil 20 did not verify whether this language was on the website when the Plaintiffs viewed it during 21 their respective purchases. While this language is relevant to the case, that does not 22 outweigh the accuracy concerns.

Moreover, it would be improper to judicially notice the 23 contents of the webpages as true. See *Genasys*, 638 F. Supp. 3d at 1146–47. Accordingly, 24 the Court DENIES Fossil’s judicial notice for Exhibit A. 25 2. Exhibit B: In-Store Return Policy 26 Exhibit B is an image of Fossil’s return policy. (Doc. No. 7-4 at 2.) Fossil seeks 27 judicial notice of “the fact that Fossil stores contain signage that state: “This store carries 28 Fossil’s favorite styles – specially made just for our outlets.” (Doc.

No. 7-2 at 2.) Fossil 1 alleges that a copy of this “signage [is] posted at all Fossil outlet stores.” (*Id.* at 3.) Fossil 2 contends that the Court can grant this request for judicial notice request because

the 3 Complaint refers to in-store signage. (Doc. No. 7-2 at 3.)

However, Plaintiffs' position is 4 that there is no in-store signage defining the Like Style pricing model. (Doc. No. 1-2 ¶ 27.) 5 Although Plaintiffs acknowledged that there was some sort of signage at the 100 Citadel 6 Drive outlet store, they do not elaborate on what the signage was. (Id. ¶ 13.) 7 At the motion to dismiss stage, a court may take into account documents not included 8 in the complaint when "the plaintiff's claim depends on the contents of a document, the 9 defendant attaches the document to its motion to dismiss, and the parties do not dispute the 10 authenticity of the document[.]" *Kniesel v. ESPN*, 393 F.3d 1068, 1076 (9th Cir.

2005). 11 But here, Plaintiffs do dispute what signage was posted at Fossil's outlet store and what 12 information was displayed on any such signage. (Doc. No. 1-2 ¶ 27.) Accordingly, the 13 Court DENIES Fossil's request to judicially notice the fact that Fossil stores contain 14 signage and any related verbiage. (Doc. Nos. 7-2 at 2; 7-3, Ex. B.) 15 3. Exhibit C: Labels At Issue in Similar Cases 16 Lastly, Fossil seeks judicial notice of Exhibit C which contains images of product 17 labels at issue in cases which Fossil cites to in its motion to dismiss.

(Doc. Nos. 7-2 at 2; 18 7-5 at 2–29; see Doc. No. 7-1 at 24–26.) Fossil asserts the Court may take judicial notice 19 of case documents from other courts. (Doc. No. 7-2 at 3 (citing *Allen v. City of Los Angeles*, 20 92 F.3d 842, 850 (9th Cir. 1992) (overruled on other grounds); *Holder v. Holder*, 305 F.3d 21 854, 866 (9th Cir. 2002)). That is correct "if those proceedings have a direct relation to 22 matters at issue." *Allen*, 92 F.3d at 850; see, e.g., *Holder*, 305 F.3d at 866 (taking judicial 23 notice of related trial court and Court of Appeal opinions and briefs to assess issue 24 preclusion).

25 Fossil also contends that judicial notice can extend to court opinions. (Doc. No. 7-2 26 at 3–4.) While court filings are public records, they must be relied upon by the court or 27 relevant to the claim. See *Caldwell v. Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.*, No. 13-CV-01344-LHK, 28 2014 WL 789083, at *2 n.2 (N.D. Cal. Feb. 26, 2014); *Flower Sisters LLC v. Great Am. 1 Ins.*

Co., No. EDCV201294DMGSPX, 2021 WL 4472904, at *1 (C.D. Cal. May 20, 2021) 2 (hearing transcripts were denied as moot; "The Court need not take judicial notice of court 3 orders or opinions in order to consider them to the extent they are authoritative or 4 persuasive[.]"); *W. Coast Hotel Mgmt., LLC v. Berkshire Hathaway Guard Ins. Companies*, 5 498 F. Supp. 3d 1233, 1237–38 (C.D.

Cal. 2020) (documents not relied upon were denied 6 judicial notice). 7 Here, the labels which Fossil seeks to judicially notice do not have a direct relation 8 to the matters at issue. The images are public record but fail to be persuasive and directly 9 relate to the present claims.

The Court DENIES Fossil's request for judicial notice of 10 Exhibit C. 11 B. Incorporation by Reference 12 As an alternative to judicial notice, Fossil argues that the Court can incorporate 13 Exhibits A and B by reference. (Doc. No. 7-2 at 2.) Plaintiffs do not acknowledge Fossil's 14

request in their response. (See Doc. No. 12.) 15 Incorporation by reference is a “judicially created doctrine that treats certain 16 documents as though they are part of the complaint itself.” Khoja, 899 F.3d at 1002.

This 17 doctrine allows the court to incorporate documents and other instruments into a complaint 18 “if the plaintiff refers extensively to the document or the document forms the basis of the 19 plaintiff’s claim.” Ritchie, 342 F.3d at 908. Merely mentioning a document does not 20 constitute extensive reference. *Id.* at 908–09. Incorporation by reference does not convert 21 a Rule 12(b)(6) motion into a motion for summary judgment.

Id. 22 1. Exhibit A: Like Style Disclosure 23 As an alternative to its request for judicial notice, Fossil requests that the Court 24 consider Like Style disclosure language via the incorporation by reference doctrine. (Doc. 25 No. 7-2 at 2.) 26 Fossil relies on *Knieval v. ESPN*. (Doc. No. 7-2 at 2.)

In *Knieval*, motorcycle 27 stuntman Evel Knieval and Krystal Knieval brought a defamation suit against ESPN. 28 *Knieval*, 393 F.3d at 1070. The Knievels attended an award show, where a photographer 1 captured a photo of Mr. Knieval in between his wife and a younger, unidentified woman. 2 *Id.* at 1071. ESPN published the photo to its website, captioned, “Evel Knieval proves that 3 you’re never too old to be a pimp.” *Id.* ESPN filed a motion to dismiss for failure to state 4 a claim and requested incorporation by reference.

Id. at 1071, 1076. The Knievels attached 5 the image and caption to their complaint. *Id.* at 1076. ESPN requested the court review the 6 home page and the nine photographs preceding the Knievels’ photo. *Id.* at 1076–77.

The 7 Knievels did not dispute the content or authenticity of these pages. *Id.* at 1076. The court 8 thereby considered the webpages under the incorporation by reference doctrine. *Id.* at 1077. 9 Additionally, Fossil relies on *Davis v. HSBC Bank Nevada, N.A.*, 691 F.3d 1152, 10 1158 (9th Cir. 2012). (Doc. No 7-2 at 2–3.)

In *Davis*, the plaintiff submitted a credit card 11 application with the expectation that there was no annual fee. *Davis*, 691 F.3d at 1158. The 12 plaintiff filed a class action complaint, alleging the defendants failed to adequately disclose 13 the annual fee. *Id.* at 1158–59.

The defendants sought to incorporate documentation 14 reflecting the fee. *Id.* at 1160. The trial court incorporated three disclosure documents: the 15 Important Terms & Disclosures Statement, Privacy Statement, and Cardmember 16 Agreement and Disclosure Statement. *Id.* *Davis* made references to these documents in 17 detail, explaining what contents were visible to him and describing how the statements 18 provided conflicting information about the annual fee.

Id. The Ninth Circuit held that the 19 trial court properly applied the incorporation by reference doctrine. Id. at 1161. 20 Here, similar to *Knievel* and *Davis*, Plaintiffs' Complaint includes the language at 21 issue. (Doc. No. 1-2 ¶ 27.) Fossil is seeking incorporation by reference of the "Like Style" 22 disclosure. (Doc. Nos. 7-2 at 2; 7-3 at 2.)

The full disclosure is in the Complaint (id.), 23 providing the definition of "Like Style pricing," which is the basis of Plaintiffs' claims and 24 referenced throughout. (See Doc. No 1-2). And the crux of Plaintiffs' allegations is that 25 Fossil had false and misleading advertising with inadequate disclosures. (See Doc. No 1-2.) 26 Plaintiffs include the disclosure in the Complaint and base their claim on what "Like Style" 27 means to the reasonable consumer.

(Doc. No. 1-2 ¶¶ 18–28.) Plaintiffs' Complaint includes 28 the exact language that Fossil seeks to incorporate by reference. (Doc. No. 1-2 ¶ 27.) 1 Plaintiffs' case depends on the interpretation of this language. (See Doc. Nos. 1-2 ¶ 38; 7-2 2 at 2–3.) Plaintiffs did not oppose Fossil's incorporation by reference request, nor did 3 Plaintiffs challenge the accuracy of the exhibit.

(See Doc. No. 12.) Accordingly, the Court 4 GRANTS Fossil's incorporation by reference request of Exhibit A. 5 2. Exhibit B: In-Store Return Policy 6 Regarding Exhibit B, Fossil argues incorporation by reference is justified because 7 the Complaint mentioned Plaintiff Hyun relied on price tags and related signage at the 8 100 Citadel Drive outlet store. (Doc.

No. 7-2 at 3; see Doc. No. 1-2 ¶ 13.) Exhibit B is a 9 copy of Fossil's Return Policy. (Doc. No. 7-4 at 2.) 10 Here, Fossil has not demonstrated that the incorporation by reference doctrine 11 applies. First, the existence of the in-store signage is disputed. (Doc. No. 1-2 ¶ 27.)

Second, 12 there is no reference in the Complaint to the return policy Fossil seeks to incorporate. (See 13 Doc. No. 1-2.) See *Calderon v. Kate Spade & Co., LLC*, 2020 WL 1062930, at *2–3 (S.D. 14 Cal. Mar. 5, 2020) (denying incorporation by reference of an in-store sign and its language 15 because defendant failed to demonstrate plaintiff extensively referred to the sign).

Thus, 16 the Court DENIES Fossil's request for incorporation by reference for Exhibit B. 17 IV. DISCUSSION 18 Fossil's Motion seeks to dismiss Plaintiffs' UCL claims, FAL claims, and the claims 19 for equitable relief. (Doc. No. 7-1 at 26.)

The Court will address each argument in turn. 20 A. Plaintiffs' UCL and FAL Claims 21 Plaintiffs contend that Fossil violated the unlawful, unfair, and fraudulent prongs of 22 the UCL by representing false former product prices and corresponding price discounts. 23 (Doc. No. 1-2 ¶ 7.) Plaintiffs further asserted that Fossil's Like Style price comparison 24 model was "untrue and misleading," violating the FAL.

(Id.) Fossil counters that Plaintiffs 25 fail to state their claims with sufficient particularity and reasonable consumers would 26 review the Like Style disclosure and understand the pricing

model. (Doc. No. 7-1 at 20.) 27 The Court disagrees. 28 1 “Courts often analyze [CLRA, FAL, and UCL] statutes together because they share 2 similar attributes.” *Dawson v. Better Booch, LLC*, 716 F. Supp. 3d 949, 956 (S.D.

Cal. 3 2024) (quoting *In re Sony Gaming Networks & Customer Data Sec. Breach Litig.*, 996 4 F. Supp. 2d 942, 985 (S.D. Cal. 2014)); see, e.g., *Paduano v. Am. Honda Motor Co.*, 169 5 Cal. App. 4th 1453, 1468–86 (2009). 6 Under the UCL, businesses participate in unfair competition by committing “any 7 unlawful, unfair or fraudulent business act or practice and unfair, deceptive, untrue or 8 misleading advertising[.]” Cal. Bus. & Prof.

Code § 17200. And under California’s False 9 Advertising Law: 10 It is unlawful for any person, firm, corporation or association, or any employee thereof with intent directly or indirectly... to make or disseminate 11 or cause to be made or disseminated from this state before the public in any 12 state, in any newspaper or other publication, or any advertising device... or in any other manner or means whatever, including over the Internet, any 13 statement... which is untrue or misleading, and which is known, or which by 14 the exercise of reasonable care should be known, to be untrue or misleading[.]

15 Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17500. 16 California’s FAL further provides: 17 No price shall be advertised as a former price of any advertised thing, unless the alleged former price was the prevailing market price as above defined 18 within three months next immediately preceding the publication of the 19 advertisement or unless the date when the alleged former price did prevail is clearly, exactly and conspicuously stated in the advertisement.

20 21 Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17501. “This statute ‘makes it unlawful for a business to 22 disseminate any statement which is untrue or misleading, and which is known, or which by 23 the exercise of reasonable care should be known, to be untrue or misleading....’” *Arevalo 24 v. Bank of Am. Corp.*, 850 F. Supp. 2d 1008, 1023–24 (N.D. Cal. 2011) (quoting *Ariz. 25 Cartridge Remanufacturers Ass’n, Inc. v. Lexmark Intern., Inc.*, 421 F.3d 981, 985 (9th 26 Cir.

2005)). “The statute has been interpreted broadly to encompass not only advertising 27 which is false, but also advertising which, although true, is either actually misleading or 28 which has a capacity, likelihood or tendency to deceive or confuse the public.” *Davis*, 691 1 F.3d at 1162 (citation and alterations omitted). “Consequently, even a perfectly true 2 statement couched in such a manner that it is likely to mislead or deceive the consumer, 3 such as by failure to disclose other relevant information, is actionable under this section.” 4 *Id.* (citation and alterations omitted).

5 UCL and FAL claims are governed by the “reasonable consumer” standard. *Ebner 6 v. Fresh, Inc.*, 838 F.3d 958, 965 (9th Cir. 2016). Under the reasonable consumer test, a 7 plaintiff must “show that ‘members of the public are likely to be deceived.’” *Williams v. 8 Gerber Prods. Co.*,

552 F.3d 934, 938 (9th Cir. 2008) (citation omitted); *Freeman v. Time, 9 Inc.*, 68 F.3d 285, 289 (9th Cir.

1995). “‘Likely to deceive’ implies more than a mere 10 possibility that the advertisement might conceivably be misunderstood by some few 11 consumers[.]” *Lavie v. Procter & Gamble Co.*, 105 Cal. App. 4th 496, 508 (2003). Instead, 12 “likely to deceive” means that “it is probable that a significant portion of the general 13 consuming public or of targeted consumers, acting reasonably in the circumstances, could 14 be misled.” *Id.* Moreover, “a representation does not become ‘false and deceptive’ merely 15 because it will be unreasonably misunderstood by an insignificant and unrepresentative 16 segment of the class of persons to whom the representation is addressed.” *Id.* Finally, courts 17 have recognized that “whether a business practice is deceptive will usually be a question 18 of fact not appropriate for decision on [a motion to dismiss].” *Davis*, 691 F.3d at 1162 19 (brackets in original).

20 Fossil alleges that Plaintiffs “claim generally that Fossil tricked them into believing 21 that the watches they purchased were previously sold for higher prices, but the Complaint 22 never identifies what specific words any Plaintiff saw or relied on.” (Doc. No. 7-1 at 15 23 (emphasis omitted).) 24 The cases which Fossil relies upon demonstrate clear examples of plaintiffs failing 25 to meet the pleading requirement set forth in Rules 8 and 9(b).

In *Azimpour v. Sears*, 26 *Roebuck & Co.*, No. 15-CV-2798 JLS (WVG), 2016 WL 7626188, at *7 (S.D. Cal. Oct. 27 17, 2016), the plaintiff failed to describe what misled his purchase. (Doc. No. 7-1 at 16.) 28 In *Haley v. Macy’s Inc.*, 263 F. Supp. 3d 819, 823–24 (N.D. Cal. 2017), the plaintiffs 1 merely stated that “advertising” misled their purchase and lacked product descriptions.

2 (Doc. No. 7-1 at 16.) Lastly, in *Rael v. New York & Co., Inc.*, No. 16-CV-369-BAS(JMA), 3 2016 WL 7655247, at *3 (S.D. Cal. Dec. 28, 2016), the plaintiffs alleged misrepresentation 4 of a product that the defendant did not sell. (Doc. No. 7-1 at 16.) Each of these cases are 5 distinguishable from the instant case. 6 Plaintiffs argue it is uncommon for courts to uphold dismissed UCL claims, unless 7 “it [is] impossible for the plaintiff to prove that a reasonable consumer was likely to be 8 deceived.” (Doc.

No. 12 at 11 n.2 (quoting *Williams*, 552 F.3d at 939).) Plaintiffs cite 9 *Stathakos v. Columbia Sportswear Co.*, No. 15-cv-04543-YGR, 2016 WL 1730001, at *4 10 (N.D. Cal. May 2, 2016) to support this assertion. (Doc. No. 12 at 11.)

In *Stathakos*, 11 Columbia sold and advertised items with ‘Reference Prices’ and ‘Sales Prices.’ *Id.* at *1. 12 The plaintiffs perceived the Reference Prices as the former price and Sales Prices as the 13 discounted value. *Id.* In their complaint, plaintiffs gave the purchase dates, store locations, 14 and the sale and references prices of one purchased item. *Id.* at *3.

The plaintiffs also 15 alleged that such products were manufactured for Columbia’s exclusive sale. Id. The court 16 held that plaintiffs sufficiently described the “‘who, what, when, where, and how’ of the 17 alleged fraud” and “need not allege more.” Id. at *3. 18 For additional support, Plaintiffs rely on *Chester v. TJX Companies, Inc.*, No. 5-15- 19 CV-01437-ODW-DTB, 2016 WL 4414768 (C.D.

Cal. Aug. 18, 2016). TJX Companies’ 20 in-store products possess price tags listing the sell price and “Compare At” price. Id. at *1. 21 The “Compare At” pricing definition can be found on the TJ Maxx website or in-store, 22 near the customer service and returns counter. Id. The disclosure states: 23 What do we mean by “compare at”?

The “compare at” price is our buying staff’s estimate of the regular, retail price at which a comparable item in finer 24 catalogs, specialty or department stores may have been sold. We buy products 25 from thousands of vendors worldwide, so the item may not be offered by other retailers at the “compare at” price at any particular time or location.

We 26 encourage you to do your own comparison shopping as another way to see 27 what great value we offer. 28 1 Id. The plaintiffs believed that the Compare At prices were reflective of the products’ prices 2 in other stores. Id. at *8.

As such, the plaintiffs alleged the Compare At pricing model was 3 misleading and deceptive, thereby violating the UCL, FAL, and CLRA. Id. at *1. Each 4 plaintiff sufficiently and particularly described their harm; they outlined product 5 descriptions, estimated prices, and estimated dates of purchase. Id. at *2, 12–13.

The 6 plaintiffs maintained they would not have purchased the items but for the perceived 7 discount. Id. at *2. To satisfy Rules 8 and 9(b), the court explained that plaintiffs must 8 plead how they were deceived, instead of a definitive showing of fraudulent conduct. Id. 9 at *12 (“[t]he focus is on whether enough facts support a reasonable consumer’s reaction 10 to an allegedly deceptive advertisement”).

The plaintiffs pled the Compare At prices 11 “would deceive a reasonable consumer,” satisfying Rule 9(b). Id. at *13. 12 Here, the facts are distinguishable from *Azimpour*, *Haley*, and *Rael*. The present case 13 aligns more with *Stathakos* and *Chester*. Plaintiffs contest they were deceived by Fossil’s 14 Like Style pricing model. (Doc. No. 1-2 ¶¶ 11–13.) Plaintiffs allege the Fossil website 15 omits the Like Style disclosure from the merchandise catalog page.

(Id. ¶¶ 11–12.) Instead, 16 the catalog page presents each piece of merchandise with bold, red “Now” prices, next to 17 strikethrough “Like Style” prices, along with the appropriate percentage off. (Id.) The “i” 18 symbol containing the Like Style disclosure appears when a customer clicks on the 19 merchandise, landing on the specific product page. (Id.) 20 Like the online merchandise

catalog, in store products contain price tags displaying 21 crossed out Like Style price next to the product price, with the corresponding percentage 22 discount.

(Id. at 8.) However, Fossil stores lack Like Style disclosures. (Id. ¶ 11.) Upon a 23 consumer's in-store purchase, the receipt reflects price reductions but does not reference 24 Like Style pricing. (Id. ¶¶ 13–14.) 25 Plaintiffs allege that both online and in-store products are not sold at the Like Style 26 price. (Id. ¶ 15.) Additionally, Plaintiffs state such products were designed and 27 manufactured for Fossil, in which the Like Style comparison is unnecessary, thereby 28 deceiving reasonable consumers.

(Id. ¶ 10.) Similar to the plaintiffs in *Stathakos*, Plaintiffs 1 here described who, what, when, where, and how in their Complaint. (Doc. No. 1-2). 2 Plaintiffs also provided sufficient facts to show that a reasonable consumer may be misled 3 by an allegedly deceptive advertisement. See *Chester*, 2016 WL 4414768, at *12.

As such, 4 Plaintiffs provided sufficient and particular information to satisfy Rules 8 and 9(b). 5 Accordingly, the motion to dismiss as to Plaintiffs' UCL and FAL claims is DENIED. 6 B. Plaintiffs' Prayer for Equitable Relief 7 Fossil argues that Plaintiffs lack standing for equitable relief because Plaintiffs fail 8 to demonstrate their intent to purchase Fossil products in the future.

(Doc. No. 7-1 at 26.) 9 Plaintiffs assert that they can recover equitable remedies under the UCL as a result of being 10 harmed by Fossil's allegedly false advertising. (Doc. 1-2 ¶ 91.) The Court disagrees. 11 For injunctive relief, "the threat of injury must be 'actual and imminent, not 12 conjectural or hypothetical.'" *Davidson v. Kimberly-Clark Corp.*, 889 F.3d 956, 967 (9th 13 Cir.

2018) (citing *Summers v. Earth Island Inst.*, 555 U.S. 488, 293 (2009)). An equitable 14 remedy is unavailable unless plaintiffs make "a showing of irreparable injury, a 15 requirement that cannot be met where there is no showing of any real or immediate threat 16 that the plaintiff will be wronged again—a 'likelihood of substantial and immediate 17 irreparable injury.'" *City of Los Angeles v. Lyons*, 461 U.S. 95, 111 (1983) (citing *O'Shea 18 v. Littleton*, 414 U.S. 488, 502 (1974)). "Past wrongs, though insufficient by themselves to 19 grant standing, are evidence" of actual and imminent injury.

Davidson, 889 F.3d at 967 20 (internal quotation marks omitted); see *Lyons*, 461 U.S. at 102. Actual and imminent injury 21 may include the "consumer's plausible allegations that she will be unable to rely on the 22 product's advertising or labeling in the future, and so will not purchase the product 23 although she would like to." Id. at 970. 24 Here, Plaintiffs seek injunctive relief.

(Doc. No. 1-2 ¶ 91.) Throughout their 25 Complaint, Plaintiffs allege Fossil "improperly obtained money from Plaintiffs and the 26 Class." (Id. ¶¶ 62, 70, 81, 90.) However, Plaintiffs fail to identify an "impending risk of 27 [them] being subjected to [Fossil's] allegedly false advertising[]" in the

future. See 28 Davidson, 889 F.3d at 972. While Plaintiffs sufficiently allege economic harm, the future 1 || threat of actual and imminent injury is omitted.

(Doc. No. 1-2 §§] 61-62, 68-70, 79-81, 89- 2 ||90.) Accordingly, the Court GRANTS the motion to dismiss Plaintiffs' claims for 3 || equitable relief WITH LEAVE TO AMEND. CONCLUSION 5 For the reasons set forth above, the Court GRANTS IN PART AND DENIES IN 6 || PART Fossil's Motion to Dismiss Plaintiffs' Complaint (Doc. No. 7-1) and Fossil's 7 ||request for judicial notice and incorporation by reference.

(Doc. No. 7-2). On or before 8 ||December 1, 2025, Plaintiffs may file a First Amended Complaint. Fossil must file an 9 ||answer or otherwise respond to the operative complaint by no later than 10 || December 22, 2025. 11 IT IS SO ORDERED. 12 ||Dated: November 21, 2025 © 13 Hon, Anthony J.Battaglia 14 United States District Judge 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 16