

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF ARIZONA

Shawn Valandra v. Sur-Ron USA LLC, et al.

Valandra · No. CV-25-02665-PHX-MTL · Decided December 2, 2025

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the District of Arizona granted Chongqing Qiulong Technology Co.’s motion to dismiss for lack of personal jurisdiction in a products-liability action involving an electric motorcycle. The court held that the plaintiff had not established purposeful availment or that his claims arose out of or related to CQT’s Arizona contacts. The court also denied jurisdictional discovery without prejudice and dismissed CQT without prejudice.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the District of Arizona
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Michael T. Liburdi
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the District of Arizona
DECIDED	December 2, 2025
DOCKET	CV-25-02665-PHX-MTL
DISPOSITION	dismissed
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Plaintiff brought Arizona products-liability, negligence, and consumer-fraud claims in state court. Defendant Chongqing Qiulong Technology Co., Ltd. removed the action and moved to dismiss for lack of personal jurisdiction under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 12(b)(2). Plaintiff separately moved for jurisdictional discovery.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	On a Rule 12(b)(2) motion, the plaintiff bears the burden of establishing that personal jurisdiction is proper. Uncontroverted complaint allegations are accepted as true, but the plaintiff may not rely on bare allegations alone. The district court exercises broad discretion over jurisdictional discovery and may deny it when further discovery would not demonstrate facts sufficient to establish jurisdiction.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	unpublished, nonprecedential district court order

TOPICS

- personal jurisdiction
- motions to dismiss
- discovery dispute
- products liability
- civil procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

civil procedure

personal jurisdiction

products liability

consumer protection

negligence

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the District of Arizona could exercise specific personal jurisdiction over Chinese motorcycle manufacturer Chongqing Qiulong Technology Co., Ltd. based on its alleged website, dealer-map, distributor, and U.S. market contacts.
2. Whether Valandra's claims arose out of or related to CQT's Arizona-related contacts, including whether the contacts involved the model of motorcycle at issue and existed when the injury occurred.
3. Whether Valandra was entitled to jurisdictional discovery concerning CQT's Arizona activities, distributors, dealers, revenue, marketing, or alleged relationship with Fetchlight.
4. Whether Valandra should be granted leave to amend to cure the jurisdictional deficiency.

HOLDINGS

1. CQT did not purposefully avail itself of the privilege of conducting activities in Arizona. A passive website, dealer listings involving unaffiliated third parties, and generalized U.S. market contacts were insufficient on this record to establish the required Arizona contacts.
2. Valandra failed to establish that his claims arose out of or related to CQT's Arizona contacts because he did not show that the Arizona dealers were part of CQT's distribution network for the e-bike model involved in the accident.
3. The court could not consider post-accrual contacts to establish specific jurisdiction, and Valandra failed to show that the alleged Arizona dealer-map contacts existed when his products-liability cause of action accrued.
4. Valandra was not entitled to jurisdictional discovery because he failed to make a prima facie showing of personal jurisdiction and his requests were based on speculation and unsupported hunches.
5. Amendment would be futile because Valandra did not identify additional facts that could establish personal jurisdiction over CQT; leave to amend was therefore unnecessary even though Valandra did not request it.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“A “passive website” alone does not constitute sufficient purposeful availment to confer jurisdiction.” (at 8)

“The Court therefore holds that CQT has not purposefully availed itself of jurisdiction in Arizona.” (at 11)

“Plaintiff has therefore failed to establish both purposeful availment and the “arise out of or relate to” prong.” (at 16)

“In sum, jurisdictional discovery is unnecessary and “would be little more than a fishing expedition.”” (at 19)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

In February 2023, Arizona citizen Shawn Valandra purchased an electric motorcycle through a website operated by California-based Sur-Ron USA LLC. He was injured in Arizona about one month later when he alleged that the motorcycle accelerated uncontrollably. The motorcycle was manufactured by Chinese company Chongqing Qiulong Technology Co., Ltd., which shipped it to Luna Cycles in California; Valandra also sued U.S. distributors Sur-Ron USA and Luna Cycles for strict products liability, statutory products liability, consumer fraud, and negligence.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Valandra filed suit in Arizona Superior Court after being injured while riding an electric motorcycle. CQT removed the action to the District of Arizona, moved to dismiss for lack of personal jurisdiction, and opposed jurisdictional discovery. The court granted CQT's motion to dismiss without prejudice, denied jurisdictional discovery without prejudice, and concluded that amendment would be futile even though Plaintiff had not requested leave to amend.

DISPOSITION

dismissed

CASES CITED

- Herbal Brands, Inc. v. Photoplaza, Inc., 72 F.4th 1085 (9th Cir. 2023)
- Mavrix Photo, Inc. v. Brand Techs., Inc., 647 F.3d 1218 (9th Cir. 2011)
- Schwarzenegger v. Fred Martin Motor Co., 374 F.3d 797 (9th Cir. 2004)
- Briskin v. Shopify, Inc., 135 F.4th 739 (9th Cir. 2025) (en banc)
- International Shoe Co. v. State of Washington, Int'l Shoe Co. v. Washington, 326 U.S. 310 (1945)
- Walden v. Fiore, Walden v. Fiore, 571 U.S. 277 (2014)
- Lake v. Lake, 817 F.2d 1416 (9th Cir. 1987)
- LNS Enters. LLC v. Cont'l Motors, Inc., 22 F.4th 852 (9th Cir. 2022)
- Davis v. Cranfield Aerospace Sols., Ltd., 71 F.4th 1154 (9th Cir. 2023)
- J. McIntyre Mach., Ltd. v. Nicastro, 564 U.S. 873 (2011)
- Gray & Co. v. Firstenberg Mach. Co., 913 F.2d 758 (9th Cir. 1990)
- Asahi Metal Indus. Co. v. Superior Ct. of Cal., Solano Cnty., 480 U.S. 102 (1987)
- World-Wide Volkswagen Corp. v. Woodson, 444 U.S. 286 (1980)
- Ford Motor Co. v. Montana Eighth Jud. Dist. Ct., 592 U.S. 351 (2021)
- Pebble Beach Co. v. Caddy, 453 F.3d 1151 (9th Cir. 2006)
- Underwood v. O'Reilly Auto Parts, Inc., 2023 WL 1869310 (D. Nev. Feb. 8, 2023)
- Bristol-Myers Squibb Co. v. Superior Ct., 582 U.S. 255 (2017)
- Yamashita v. LG Chem, Ltd., 62 F.4th 496 (9th Cir. 2023)
- Steel v. United States, 813 F.2d 1545 (9th Cir. 1987)
- XMission, L.C. v. Fluent LLC, 955 F.3d 833 (10th Cir. 2020)

- Mack v. A.H. Robins Co., 573 F. Supp. 149 (D. Ariz. 1983), aff'd, 759 F.2d 1482 (9th Cir. 1985)
- Henrietta Mine LLC v. A.M. King Indus. Inc., 2021 WL 1561505 (D. Ariz. Apr. 21, 2021)
- Laub v. U.S. Dep't of Interior, 342 F.3d 1080 (9th Cir. 2003)
- Butcher's Union Local No. 498 v. SDC Inv., Inc., 788 F.2d 535 (9th Cir. 1986)
- Wells Fargo & Co. v. Wells Fargo Express Co., 556 F.2d 406 (9th Cir. 1977)
- Hernandez v. Mimi's Rock Corp., 632 F. Supp. 3d 1052 (N.D. Cal. 2022)
- SmartHealth Inc. v. Chemotechnique MB Diagnostics AB, 2025 WL 1697425 (D. Ariz. June 17, 2025)
- Terracom v. Valley Nat. Bank, 49 F.3d 555 (9th Cir. 1995)
- Rich v. KIS Cal., Inc., 121 F.R.D. 254 (M.D.N.C. 1988)
- Ascon Props., Inc. v. Mobil Oil Co., 866 F.2d 1149 (9th Cir. 1989)
- Foman v. Davis, 371 U.S. 178 (1962)

OPINION

1 WO 2 3 4 5 6 IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT 7 FOR THE DISTRICT OF ARIZONA 8 9 Shawn Valandra, No. CV-25-02665-PHX-MTL 10 Plaintiff, ORDER 11 v. 12 Sur-Ron USA LLC, et al., 13 Defendants. 14 15 This case tells the classic tale of a products liability dispute involving a distant 16 defendant.

Before the Court are Defendant Chongqing Qiulong Technology Co.'s Motion 17 to Dismiss for Lack of Personal Jurisdiction (Doc. 15) and Plaintiff Valandra's Motion for 18 Jurisdictional Discovery (Doc. 22). The Court will grant Defendant's Motion (Doc. 15) 19 and deny Plaintiff's Motion (Doc. 22). 20 I. BACKGROUND 21 In February 2023, Plaintiff Shawn Valandra, an Arizona citizen, bought an electric 22 motorcycle from a website operated by Defendant Sur-Ron USA LLC, a California-based 23 company.

(Docs. 29 at 4; 23-1 at 2 ¶ 1.) One month later, he was injured while riding that 24 motorcycle. (Doc. 1-1 at 196 ¶ 13.) He claims that the bike "accelerated uncontrollably" 25 from underneath him and sues the bike's Chinese manufacturer, Chongqing Qiulong 26 Technology Co., Ltd. ("CQT"), along with U.S. distributors Sur-Ron USA LLC and Luna 27 Cycles LLC (collectively, the "Luna Defendants").* (Id. at 195-96 ¶¶ 2-5, 13.)

Plaintiff 28 * The Third Amended Complaint also named Fetchlight, Inc. (Doc. 1-1 at 195 ¶ 4), which is no longer part of this action (Doc. 40). 1 asserts claims for (1) strict products liability, (2) Arizona products liability under A.R.S. 2 § 12-681, (3) consumer fraud under A.R.S. § 44-1522, and (4) negligence. (Id. at 198-203 3 ¶¶ 25-47.) 4 Plaintiff originally filed in Arizona Superior Court, and CQT removed the case to 5 this Court.

(Doc. 1.) CQT then moved to dismiss for lack of personal jurisdiction under 6 Federal Rule of Civil Procedure ("Rule") 12(b)(2). (Doc. 15.) Plaintiff and the Luna 7 Defendants opposed (Docs. 21, 23) and CQT replied (Doc. 29).

As a fallback, Plaintiff 8 moved for jurisdictional discovery (Doc. 22). That motion is now fully briefed (Docs. 30, 9 37). 10 II. DEFENDANT CQT’S MOTION TO DISMISS FOR LACK OF PERSONAL 11 JURISDICTION 12 The parties do not dispute that (1) CQT manufactured the e-bike, (2) CQT shipped 13 the bike to Luna Cycles in California, and (3) Plaintiff purchased the e-bike from 14 California-based Sur-Ron USA via its website.

(Docs. 15 at 1, 4; 21 at 1; 23 at 2-3; 23-1 15 at 2 ¶ 1; 29 at 2, 4.) They dispute, however, the nature and extent of CQT’s Arizona related 16 activities during the relevant period. Plaintiff contends that CQT has a network of U.S. 17 distributors and vendors selling the type of e-bike at issue and that CQT’s website contains 18 a “Dealer Map” showing at least three authorized dealers in Arizona.

(Doc. 21 at 5.) The 19 Luna Defendants similarly argue that CQT’s website directs U.S. customers to local 20 dealers—including those in Arizona—for support, service, and product inquiries. (Doc. 23 21 at 4, 10.) CQT responds that it “did not have any direct dealings with Arizona retailers, nor 22 did it ship its product to an Arizona-based distributor.” (Doc.

29 at 4.) 23 A. Legal Standard 24 When a defendant moves to dismiss under Rule 12(b)(2), the plaintiff “bears the 25 burden of establishing that jurisdiction is proper.” *Herbal Brands, Inc. v. Photoplaza, Inc.*, 26 72 F.4th 1085, 1090 (9th Cir. 2023) (quoting *Mavrix Photo, Inc. v. Brand Techs., Inc.*, 647 27 F.3d 1218, 1223 (9th Cir. 2011)). “The plaintiff cannot ‘simply rest on the bare allegations 28 of its complaint,’ but uncontroverted allegations in the complaint must be taken as true.” 1 *Mavrix Photo*, 647 F.3d at 1223 (quoting *Schwarzenegger v. Fred Martin Motor Co.*, 374 2 F.3d 797, 800 (9th Cir.

2004)). 3 When no federal statute supplies a rule for personal jurisdiction, the Court applies 4 the law of the state in which it sits. *Herbal Brands*, 72 F.4th at 1089. Arizona’s long-arm 5 rule permits jurisdiction to the full extent allowed by the Arizona and United States 6 Constitutions. *Ariz. R. Civ. P. 4.2(a)*. Arizona’s constitutional requirements for personal 7 jurisdiction are coextensive with federal due process.

Herbal Brands, 72 F.4th at 1089. 8 For a court to have personal jurisdiction over a non-resident defendant, federal due 9 process requires that the defendant has “certain minimum contacts” with the forum state 10 so that the lawsuit “does not offend traditional notions of fair play and substantial justice.” 11 *Briskin v. Shopify, Inc.*, 135 F.4th 739, 750 (9th Cir.

2025) (en banc) (citation modified); 12 *Int’l Shoe Co. v. Washington*, 326 U.S. 310, 316 (1945). Personal jurisdiction may be 13 general or specific. *Briskin*, 135 F.4th at 750. Plaintiff concedes that this Court lacks 14 general jurisdiction over CQT. (Doc. 21 at 9.)

The question, therefore, is whether the Court 15 may exercise specific jurisdiction. 16 Specific jurisdiction exists where the defendant’s suit-related conduct creates a 17 “substantial connection” to the forum state. *Walden v. Fiore*, 571 U.S. 277, 284 (2014). 18 The Ninth Circuit analyzes

specific jurisdiction under a three-prong test: 19 (1) The non-resident defendant must purposefully direct his 20 activities or consummate some transaction with the forum or resident thereof; or perform some act by which he purposefully 21 avails himself of the privilege of conducting activities in the 22 forum, thereby invoking the benefits and protections of its laws; 23 (2) the claim must be one which arises out of or relates to the 24 defendant's forum-related activities; and 25 (3) the exercise of jurisdiction must comport with fair play and 26 substantial justice, i.e. it must be reasonable.

27 Schwarzenegger, 374 F.3d at 802 (quoting *Lake v. Lake*, 817 F.2d 1416, 1421 (9th 28 Cir.1987)). "The plaintiff bears the burden of satisfying the first two prongs of the test." 1 Id. If Plaintiff establishes the first two prongs, the burden shifts to CQT to show that the 2 third is not met. See id. "All three prongs must be satisfied to assert personal jurisdiction, 3 but the first two prongs have a unique relationship to one another." *LNS Enters.*

LLC v. 4 Cont'l Motors, Inc., 22 F.4th 852, 859 (9th Cir. 2022). "This court has stated that in its 5 consideration of the first two prongs, a strong showing on one axis will permit a lesser 6 showing on the other." Id. (citation modified). 7 B. Purposeful Availment 8 CQT argues that the Court should apply the Ninth Circuit's "purposeful direction" 9 test to analyze the first Schwarzenegger prong.

The Ninth Circuit has clarified that there is 10 no "hard-and-fast rule" governing which test applies and that "the first prong may be 11 satisfied by purposeful availment, by purposeful direction, or by some combination 12 thereof." *Davis v. Cranfield Aerospace Sols., Ltd.*, 71 F.4th 1154, 1162 (9th Cir. 2023) 13 (citation modified).

The Court observes that the Supreme Court and Ninth Circuit have 14 applied the purposeful availment analysis in products liability cases. See *Ford Motor Co. 15 v. Montana Eighth Jud. Dist. Ct.*, 592 U.S. 351, 359 (2021); *J. McIntyre Mach., Ltd. v. 16 Nicastro*, 564 U.S. 873, 880 (2011); *LNS Enters.*, 22 F.4th at 859-60.

Because Plaintiff 17 relies on that test, the Court will use it here. (Doc. 21 at 8-14.) 18 A defendant purposefully avails itself of a forum if it has "deliberately engaged in 19 significant activities within a State or has created continuing obligations between himself 20 and the residents of the forum." *Gray & Co. v. Firstenberg Mach. Co.*, 913 F.2d 758, 760 21 (9th Cir.

1990) (citation modified). Placing a product into the stream of commerce, 22 standing alone, is not enough. *Asahi Metal Indus. Co. v. Superior Ct. of Cal., Solano Cnty.*, 23 480 U.S. 102, 112 (1987). There must be "something more," such as "designing the product 24 for the market in the forum State, advertising in the forum State, establishing channels for 25 providing regular advice to customers in the forum State, or marketing the product through 26 a distributor who has agreed to

serve as the sales agent in the forum State.” Id. 27 The Supreme Court’s “something more” jurisprudence sets out a spectrum.

At one 28 end sits World-Wide Volkswagen, where the regional distributor and retail dealer conducted 1 “no activity whatsoever in Oklahoma,” had no advertising or distribution channels reaching 2 the forum, and therefore lacked the requisite “affiliating circumstances” to establish 3 jurisdiction. *World-Wide Volkswagen Corp. v. Woodson*, 444 U.S. 286, 295 (1980).

4 *Nicastro* falls close to that end of the range: the manufacturer sold through a nationwide 5 distributor, but there was no evidence it singled out New Jersey or otherwise directed 6 activity there, and the product’s arrival in the forum did not establish purposeful availment. 7 564 U.S. at 878, 886-87. At the opposite end is *Ford*, where Ford Motor Company 8 blanketed the forum states with advertising, maintained several dealerships, serviced and 9 repaired vehicles locally, and distributed replacement parts for the same models involved 10 in the accidents—conduct that satisfied purposeful availment.

592 U.S. at 364-67, 371. 11 Plaintiff argues this case resembles *Ford*, asserting that “CQT’s conduct 12 demonstrates an intentional effort to cultivate and profit from the Arizona market.” 13 (Doc. 21 at 11.) The complaint, however, merely alleges that CQT is “authorized to do 14 business in the United States.” (Doc. 1-1 at 195 ¶ 3.)

In his opposition to CQT’s motion, 15 Plaintiff argues that CQT’s website contains a “Dealer Map” listing three authorized 16 retailers located in Arizona. (Doc. 21 at 5.) The Luna Defendants assert that the website 17 directs U.S. customers—including Arizona residents—to those local dealers for service, 18 support, and product inquiries. (Doc. 23 at 4, 10.)

Plaintiff also notes that CQT instructs 19 U.S. customers, through its website and manuals, to bring Sur-Ron motorcycles to “any 20 authorized Sur-Ron dealer,” including those in Arizona. (Doc. 22 at 3.) An April 2023 21 Instagram post similarly directed U.S. customers to CQT’s “authorized dealers” on its 22 website. (Docs. 23-1 at 5 ¶ 17; 23 at 3.) And CQT’s General Counsel confirms that CQT’s 23 website “lists a ‘Dealer Map’ to reflect the dealer/retailers with whom CQT’s distributors 24 contract.” (Doc.

29-1 at 4 ¶ 12.) 25 The question is whether these allegations of CQT’s website and dealer listings 26 constitute “something more.” A “passive website” alone does not constitute sufficient 27 purposeful availment to confer jurisdiction. *Pebble Beach Co. v. Caddy*, 453 F.3d 1151, 28 1158 (9th Cir. 2006). *LNS Enterprises* is instructive here. There, the plaintiffs argued that 1 a defendant established jurisdiction because its website listed four Arizona repair and 2 installation shops.

LNS Enters., 22 F.4th at 863. The Ninth Circuit disagreed, holding that 3 the website’s existence was insufficient to establish personal jurisdiction. Id.; see also 4 *Underwood v. O’Reilly Auto Parts, Inc.*, No. 2:21-CV-01766-GMN-NJK, 2023 WL 5 1869310, at *6 (D. Nev. Feb. 8, 2023)

(finding a website insufficient to establish personal 6 jurisdiction because it had “minimal interactivity” and no evidence of “a specific focus on 7 the Nevada market”).

8 Although a website alone does not suffice, Asahi recognizes that designing a product 9 for a forum, advertising there, establishing advice channels, or marketing through a 10 distributor serving as a forum sales agent can satisfy the purposeful availment standard. 11 480 U.S. at 112. Plaintiff attempts to rely on CQT’s relationship with its dealers to satisfy 12 this standard.

(Docs. 21 at 13-14; 23 at 10-11.) In LNS Enterprises, the plaintiffs made the 13 same argument, contending that the operation of repair shops supplied the necessary 14 contacts. 22 F.4th at 863. The Ninth Circuit rejected that argument because the defendant 15 was not authorized to do business in Arizona, had no employees or offices there, and owned 16 no property in the State.

Id. 17 According to CQT’s General Counsel’s declaration, the same is true here: it is “not 18 registered to do business in Arizona, and has neither employees nor direct business 19 operations there.” (Doc. 16-1 at 4 ¶ 9.) It also “does not have an office in the United 20 States.” (Id. ¶ 10.) Plaintiff does not refute this, nor does he submit a declaration 21 contradicting CQT’s position.

(See generally Doc. 21.) Instead, he argues that CQT availed 22 itself of the forum by directing consumers to local dealers and relying on those dealers’ 23 “market presence.” (Id. at 7.) 24 The Luna Defendants submit a declaration from Sur-Ron USA LLC’s manager, Eric 25 Hicks. (Doc. 23-1 at 2-6.) Hicks recounts that CQT’s principal believed it was important 26 to “sell directly into the USA.” (Id. at 2 ¶ 5.)

He also describes a CQT employee, Koki 27 Wang, who attended U.S. trade shows and served as the “sole USA national sales 28 representative for Surron e-bikes.” (Id. at 3-4, 6 ¶¶ 8-9, 18.) These allegations do not 1 contradict CQT’s declaration that it lacks operations in Arizona. They at most suggest a 2 potential U.S. office in Colorado. (See id. at 5 ¶ 15.)

And CQT responds that while Wang 3 liaised with U.S. distributors, none were based in Arizona. (Doc. 29-1 at 3 ¶ 8.) 4 Taken together, these facts evidence two points. First, the dealers are unaffiliated 5 third parties. See LNS Enters., 22 F.4th at 863; see also Bristol-Myers Squibb Co. v. 6 Superior Ct., 582 U.S. 255, 265 (2017) (holding that “a defendant’s relationship with a 7 third party, standing alone, is an insufficient basis for jurisdiction” (citation modified)).

8 Second, CQT’s contacts do not resemble the “extensive[] market[ing]” that justified 9 jurisdiction in Ford. See 592 U.S. at 368; LNS Enters., 22 F.4th at 863 (“There is no 10 indication that Continental advertised, sold, or serviced the type of Continental engine at 11 issue here in Arizona, much less to the extreme degree that Ford advertised, sold, and 12 serviced its vehicles in [the forum states].”).

13 Accepting these contacts as sufficient would mean that “most international firms 14 selling into the U.S. market would be at home in most U.S. states, despite being neither 15 incorporated nor headquartered in any of them.” *Yamashita v. LG Chem, Ltd.*, 62 F.4th 16 496, 503 (9th Cir. 2023).

The Court therefore holds that CQT has not purposefully availed 17 itself of jurisdiction in Arizona. 18 C. Arise Out of Or Relate To 19 Even if the defects discussed above did not exist, another problem remains: the 20 “arise out of or relate to” prong.

In *LNS Enterprises*, the Ninth Circuit held that this prong 21 was not satisfied even assuming the plaintiffs operated the repair centers themselves. 22 22 F.4th at 863. The court reasoned that the plaintiffs had not established that their injuries 23 arose out of or related to the defendant’s contacts with the forum because they did “not 24 allege that any of these repair shops worked on the engine in Plaintiffs’ aircraft or the type 25 of engine at issue.” *Id.* The presence of four repair shops, without more, was therefore 26 insufficient to show that the defendant “continuously and deliberately exploited” the 27 Arizona market for the specific product involved.

Id. (quoting *Ford*, 592 U.S. at 364). 28 The same analysis applies here. Plaintiff identifies Arizona dealers but does not 1 argue that these dealers were part of CQT’s distribution network for the e-bike model 2 involved in the accident. (See Doc. 21 at 14-16.) Instead, he argues that “CQT’s purposeful 3 activities directed at Arizona need not involve the electric bicycle or its component parts” 4 for the contacts to be sufficiently related.

(*Id.* at 15-16.) 5 The Supreme Court in *Ford* grounded specific jurisdiction in the fact that *Ford* 6 Motor Company sold the relevant vehicle models to consumers in the forum states. See 7 592 U.S. at 367-68. In *Yamashita*, the plaintiff asserted products liability claims related to 8 the design, manufacture, and distribution of a specific type of battery. 62 F.4th at 501.

The 9 Ninth Circuit held that the “arise out of or relate to” requirement was not satisfied because 10 the plaintiff did not show that the defendant’s forum contacts involved the batteries at issue. 11 *Id.* at 506-07. 12 Plaintiff’s failure to allege that the Arizona dealers were part of CQT’s distribution 13 network for the e-bike model at issue is fatal to the “arise out of or relate to” prong.

But 14 even if that were not the case, CQT points to another flaw with jurisdiction: timing. CQT 15 argues that even assuming its limited contacts were sufficient, Plaintiff has not shown that 16 his claims arise out of CQT’s Arizona contacts at the time the cause of action accrued. 17 (Doc. 29 at 4.) 18 Due process looks to the defendant’s contacts “when the events that gave rise to the 19 suit occurred,” not at the time of the lawsuit.

Steel v. United States, 813 F.2d 1545, 1549 20 (9th Cir. 1987). Courts evaluating specific jurisdiction focus on “those contacts leading up 21 to and surrounding the accrual of the cause of action. Later events are not considered.” 22 *XMission, L.C. v. Fluent LLC*, 955 F.3d 833, 849

(10th Cir. 2020) (quoting 16 James Wm. 23 Moore et al., Moore’s Federal Practice § 108.42[2][a] at 55-56 (3d ed.

2011)). In a 24 personal-injury products-liability case, the cause of action accrues at the time of injury. See 25 Mack v. A.H. Robins Co., 573 F. Supp. 149, 154 (D. Ariz. 1983), aff’d, 759 F.2d 1482 (9th 26 Cir. 1985) (“In other words, in Arizona a cause of action accrues once the plaintiff knows 27 of the injury and the causal connection between the defendant’s product and that injury.”).

28 Here, the timeline is as follows: CQT shipped the bike to Luna Cycles in August 1 2022 (Doc. 29 at 4); Plaintiff purchased the bike from the Luna Defendants in February 2 2023 (Id.; Doc. 23-1 at 2 ¶ 1); and Plaintiff was injured while riding the bike in March 2023 3 (Doc. 1-1 at 196 ¶ 13).

Thus, the relevant period extends at least through March 2023, 4 when Plaintiff claims he was injured in Arizona. 5 At oral argument, CQT argued that both the April 2023 Instagram post and the 6 current version of CQT’s website postdate accrual of the cause of action.

The Court agrees. 7 On this record, the Court cannot determine whether the dealer map listing Arizona retailers 8 existed before Plaintiff’s accident. Plaintiff has therefore not met his burden. Herbal 9 Brands, 72 F.4th at 1090; see also Henrietta Mine LLC v. A.M. King Indus. Inc., 10 No. CV-20-01106-PHX-SMB, 2021 WL 1561505, at *3-4 (D. Ariz. Apr. 21, 2021) 11 (holding that the court would not consider forum contacts that did not occur “at the time 12 the cause of action arose” (quoting Steel, 813 F.2d at 1549)).

13 Allowing postdated evidence would “give ‘relate to’ too broad a scope” and risk 14 “collaps[ing] the core distinction between general and specific personal jurisdiction.” 15 Yamashita, 62 F.4th at 506 (alteration in original) (quoting Bernhardt v. Islamic Republic 16 of Iran, 47 F.4th 856, 866 (D.C. Cir. 2022)). Plaintiff has therefore failed to establish both 17 purposeful availment and the “arise out of or relate to” prong.

The burden need not shift to 18 CQT to prove the third Schwarzenegger prong. See 374 F.3d at 802. Accordingly, the Court 19 finds that it lacks personal jurisdiction over CQT and will grant its Motion to Dismiss 20 (Doc. 15). 21 III. PLAINTIFF’S MOTION FOR JURISDICTIONAL DISCOVERY 22 Plaintiff moves for jurisdictional discovery to investigate CQT’s Arizona-directed 23 activities.

(Doc. 22.) He argues this discovery is necessary to develop controverted 24 jurisdictional facts. (Id. at 4-7.) CQT responds that Plaintiff has not made a prima facie 25 showing of jurisdiction and that the requested discovery rests on speculation and 26 “hunches.” (Doc. 30 at 2-4.)

The Court agrees with CQT and will deny Plaintiff’s Motion 27 (Doc. 22). 28.... 1 A. Legal Standard 2 District courts are “vested with broad discretion to permit or deny discovery,” and 3

“discovery should ordinarily be granted where pertinent facts bearing on the question of 4 jurisdiction are controverted or where a more satisfactory showing of the facts is 5 necessary.” Laub v. U.S. Dep’t of Interior, 342 F.3d 1080, 1093 (9th Cir.

2003) (quoting 6 Butcher’s Union Local No. 498 v. SDC Inv., Inc., 788 F.2d 535, 540 (9th Cir.1986)). But 7 discovery may be denied when “it is clear that further discovery would not demonstrate 8 facts sufficient to constitute a basis for jurisdiction.” Id. (quoting Wells Fargo & Co. v. 9 Wells Fargo Express Co., 556 F.2d 406, 430 n.24 (9th Cir.1977)). 10 The central question is whether the requesting party provides “an explanation of 11 how discovery might change the outcome of the Court’s jurisdictional findings.” 12 Hernandez v. Mimi’s Rock Corp., 632 F. Supp. 3d 1052, 1062 (N.D.

Cal. 2022). Without 13 that showing, the request “is tantamount to a fishing expedition.” SmartHealth Inc. v. 14 Chemotechnique MB Diagnostics AB, No. CV-25-00115-PHX-JJT, 2025 WL 1697425, 15 at *2 (D. Ariz. June 17, 2025). 16 B. Analysis 17 The Court notes at the outset that there is nothing “limited” about Plaintiff’s 18 jurisdictional requests. Plaintiff seeks ten requests for production, four Rule 30(b)(6) 19 depositions—including one of a dismissed defendant and two non-party dealers—and two 20 fact depositions.

(Doc. 22 at 8.) Even limited discovery is unwarranted here. Plaintiff’s 21 broader requests concerning CQT’s revenue from Arizona sales, contacts, and marketing 22 rest on hunches. They are not tied to factual allegations beyond the website-identified 23 dealers, a theory that fails for the reasons explained above. (See id. at 4-6.) 24 Plaintiff also seeks discovery regarding Fetchlight Inc. to determine whether it was 25 “operating as CQT’s agent or alter ego during the relevant period.” (Id. at 6-8.)

That 26 argument requires several unsupported leaps, including reliance on a forum post from an 27 unidentified customer. (See id. at 15-16.) Fetchlight is also no longer part of the action 28 (Doc. 40), and CQT specifically rebutted Plaintiff’s arguments about Fetchlight. (Docs. 29 1 at 7-11; 29-1 at 4 ¶ 14); see Terracom v. Valley Nat. Bank, 49 F.3d 555, 562 (9th Cir.

1995) 2 (“[W]here a plaintiff’s claim of personal jurisdiction appears to be both attenuated and 3 based on bare allegations in the face of specific denials made by the defendants, the Court 4 need not permit even limited discovery” (alteration in original) (quoting Rich v. KIS Cal., 5 Inc., 121 F.R.D. 254, 259 (M.D.N.C.1988))).

Accordingly, Plaintiff’s arguments fail. See 6 LNS Enters., 22 F.4th at 865 (rejecting jurisdictional discovery where plaintiffs sought to 7 confirm defendants’ ties to service shops because the request rested on a “hunch”). 8 The Luna Defendants’ arguments fare no better. At oral argument, they noted that 9 only one month separated the April 2023 post from the March 2023 incident.

They 10 suggested there was a “serious question” about how CQT could have “signed up 60
dealers 11 within 30 days.” They conceded, however, that “we’re not saying that it’s not possible.”
12 That argument is speculative and is the kind of hunch that cannot support jurisdictional 13
discovery. See *Yamashita*, 62 F.4th at 508 (rejecting a motion for jurisdictional discovery 14
because “*Yamashita* has given no reason to think that the battery came from such a 15 device—he
only says that it cannot be ruled out”).

16 In sum, jurisdictional discovery is unnecessary and “would be little more than a 17 fishing
expedition.” *Id.* The Court therefore denies Plaintiff’s Motion (Doc. 22). 18 IV. LEAVE TO
AMEND 19 Under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 15(a)(2), leave to amend should be given 20
freely “when justice so requires.” But it is not required when amendment “would cause the 21
opposing party undue prejudice, is sought in bad faith, constitutes an exercise in futility, or 22
creates undue delay.” *Ascon Props., Inc. v. Mobil Oil Co.*, 866 F.2d 1149, 1160 (9th Cir.

23 1989). A district court has discretion whether to grant or deny leave to amend. *Foman v.* 24
Davis, 371 U.S. 178, 182 (1962). 25 Plaintiff did not request leave to amend. (See Docs. 21, 22.)
His request for 26 jurisdictional discovery confirms that he lacks additional facts to establish
jurisdiction over 27 CQT, and amendment cannot cure that deficiency. Amendment would
therefore be futile.

28 See *Ascon Props.*, 866 F.2d at 1160. 1 IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED granting Defendant
CQT’s Motion to Dismiss 2|| (Doc. 15). Defendant CQT is dismissed without prejudice. 3 IT IS
FURTHER ORDERED denying Plaintiff Valandra’s Motion for 4|| Jurisdictional Discovery (Doc.
22) without prejudice. 5 Dated this 2nd day of December, 2025. 6 8 Michael T. Liburdi 9 United
States District Judge 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 -12-