1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7.	Christine E. Howson, Esq. (SBN 137806) THE WOLF FIRM, A Law Corporation 2955 Main Street, Second Floor Irvine, CA 92614 Telephone: (949) 720-9200 Fax: (949) 608-0129 Email: Christine howson@wolffirm.com Attorneys for Plaintiffs ROBERT CURTHOYS and SUZANNE CURTHOYS	FILED Superior Court of California, Sacramento 02/11/2020 Fgomez5 By Case Number: 34-2020-00275239
8	STATE OF C	ALIFORNIA
9	COUNTY OF S	ACRAMENTO
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1]; 12	ROBERT CURTHOYS and SUZANNE CURTHOYS.	ÇAȘE NO.:
13	Plaintiffs,	COMPLAINT FOR VIOLATION
14	v.	OF CAL BUSINESS & PROFESSIONS CODE §17200, ET
15	DIAMOND RESORTS INTERNATIONAL;	SEQ., AND FINANCIAL ELDER
16	INC., a Delaware corporation; and DOES 1 through 100; inclusive,	ABUSE PURSUANT TO CAL WELFARE & INSTITUTIONS CODE §15610.30
17	Defendants:	
18		Locate Add to Company Materials
19	and the second s	JURY TRIAL DEMANDED
20		
21	Plaintiffs, ROBERT CURTHOYS and SUZANNE CURTHOYS allege as follows:	
22	PARTIES	
23	1. Plaintiffs Robert Curthoys and Suzanne Curthoys (collectively, the "Curthoys" or	
24	"Plaintiffs") are a retired couple living in Folsom, California. At all times relevant to this action,	
25	the Curthoys were over the age of 65.	
26	N _{a, A}	ve and based thereon allege, that Defendant
27	Diamond Resorts International, Inc. ("DRI") is a Delaware corporation with its principal place of	
28	business in Nevada, and doing business in the State of California, County of Sacramento.	
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- 3. Plaintiffs are ignorant of the true names and capacities of the defendants sued herein as Does 1 through 100, and therefore sues these defendants by such fictitious names. Plaintiffs will amend this Complaint to allege their true names and capacities when ascertained.
- 4. Plaintiffs are informed and believe, and based thereon allege, that each of the defendants, including Defendants DRI and Does 1 through 100, inclusive are, and at all times relevant herein were, the agents, servants, alter-egos, employees and representatives of the other defendants sued herein, and that in doing the things hereinafter alleged, were acting within the course and scope of such agency and/or employment. In this complaint, "Diamond" means and includes DRI, and Does 1 through 40, inclusive which include DRI's predecessor companies, successor companies, and direct or indirect wholly and partially owned subsidiaries, and divisions, officers, directors, managers, assigns, employees and agents of them.
- Diamond develops, markets, and manages timeshare interests and provides consumer financing in California and within the above-entitled Court's jurisdiction.
- 6. The defendants listed and described in paragraphs 2 and 3 above shall be collectively referred to herein as "Defendants."

FACTS

Purchase of Timeshare

- 7. Plaintiffs purchased a timeshare from Pacific Monarch Resorts, Inc. in 1999.
- 8. Plaintiffs have tried diligently to use their timeshare but in twenty years, they have never once been able to reserve it for a week that worked with their schedule.
- 9. Plaintiffs have been trying to sell or transfer their timeshare since 2001. They have listed the timeshare online and they have tried to donate the timeshare to charity but none of these approaches was successful.
- 10. In approximately 2011, Pacific Monarch Resorts, Inc. was purchased by Diamond Resorts Corporation ("DRC") or one or more of its affiliated entities.
- 11. Shortly after Pacific Monarch Resorts was purchased by DRC or one or more of its affiliated entities, sales agents identifying themselves as affiliated with Diamond tried to convince

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the Curthoys that they should pay to convert their timeshare to a membership in one of Diamond's collections of resorts. The Curthoys refused.

- 12. In 2013, the Curthoys requested that Diamond take their timeshare back. Diamond refused.
- 13. The Curthoys then paid for the services of an attorney to assist them in transferring their timeshare to a new buyer. The attorney was unsuccessful and no longer represents the Curthoys.

Regulatory Action Against Diamond

- 14. In December 2016, the Arizona Attorney General concluded an investigation into Diamond's violations of the Arizona Consumer Fraud Act with the entry of an Assurance of Discontinuance, a copy of which is attached to this Complaint as Exhibit 1.
- 15. The Assurance of Discontinuance defines "Diamond" as follows: "Diamond' means and includes DRI, its predecessor companies, successor companies, direct or indirect wholly and partially owned subsidiaries, and each of their divisions, employees, officers, directors, managers, assigns, and agents acting or having responsibilities with respect to the subject matter of this Assurance."
- 16. Diamond was required to make extensive changes to its sales and marketing procedures. Diamond was also required to implement new training processes for no less than six years so that these changes might be followed.
- 17. In connection with the Attorney General's investigation, Diamond agreed to implement a "relinquishment program" that would allow customers to free themselves of their timeshare obligations.
- 18. The relinquishment program to which Diamond and the Attorney General agreed provides that a customer may be considered for the program if they meet five specified criteria, including not having a loan balance and being current on the payment of all annual fees (the "Agreed Criteria").

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Transitions Program

- 19. Shortly after the Assurance of Discontinuance was entered, Diamond implemented the relinquishment program on a national basis under the name "Transitions."
- 20. On information and belief, the eligibility criteria for the national Transitions program were originally limited to the Agreed Criteria.
- 21. However, Diamond's website now includes an additional requirement: "Participation with a timeshare exit or resale company or firm may negatively impact your ability to apply for Transitions."
- 22.—This-requirement is vaguely worded, but Diamond's policy is to reject applications from any customers who have sought legal representation in connection with the relinquishment of their timeshares.

The Curthoys' Application for Transitions is Rejected

- 23. The Curthoys accessed their account on the Diamond website on or about July 30, 2019 and saw that they were eligible for the Transitions program. This was no surprise to them as they meet each of the Agreed Criteria.
 - 24. The Curthoys checked the appropriate boxes and applied for the program.
- 25. One day later, the Curthoys received an email from DRI stating that their application was not processed. The email explained "Your application for TransitionsTM for contract XXXX7518 was not processed due to failure to satisfy the following condition(s) for application:"

 No condition was provided.
- 26. That same day, Mr. Curthoys wrote to DRI to ask what condition he had failed to meet.
- 27. The following day, DRI responded that it was "unable to move forward due to your account history reflecting legal representation on your end submitted to relinquish your vacation interest."
- 28. Mr. Curthoys responded that the attorney who had represented him in the past no longer represented him.

- 29. DRI responded, "Since working with a third party company or law firm is a disqualifier for Transitions, I am unable to submit a Transitions Request for you."
- 30. Plaintiffs will be forced to pay thousands of dollars in maintenance fees as a result of Diamond's refusal to permit them to end their timeshare obligations.
- 31. Plaintiffs have already been forced to pay approximately \$88.00 in maintenance fees, thereby suffering injury in fact and losing money as a result of Diamond's refusal to permit them to end their timeshare obligations.

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

Violation of California Unfair Competition Law

- Business & Professions Code § 17200, et seq. -

(Against Defendants DRI and DOES 1 through 50, inclusive)

- 32. The Curthoys re-allege and incorporate by reference paragraphs 1 through 31 of the Complaint, and incorporate them by reference into this cause of action as though set forth in full below.
- 33. California Business & Professions Code §17200, et seq. prohibits unfair competition that constitutes an unfair, unlawful or fraudulent business act or practice.
- 34. Defendants state that it is their policy to deny relief to consumers if they consult with an attorney regarding their legal rights. California public policy expressly recognizes the necessity of insuring the right of every person to freely and fully confer and confide in one having knowledge of the law in order that its citizens may have adequate advice and a proper defense.
- Defendants' conduct is unfair and harms consumers, including Plaintiffs, because Defendants denied Plaintiffs' application to relinquish their timeshare obligations based on Plaintiffs' having had legal representation, and based on that denial, wrongfully sought to induce Plaintiffs to continuing paying Defendants and to believe that they were unable to be released from their timeshare obligations due to such prior legal representation.
- 36. Defendant's conduct further constitutes a violation of the fraud prong of the unfair competition statute because members of the public are likely to be deceived by Defendants' conduct. Defendants' website states that "Participation with a timeshare exit or resale company or

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firm may negatively impact your ability to apply for Transitions," and due to denials of applications received based on such representation, members of the public, including Plaintiffs, are paying and will continue to pay Defendants, and to be deceived as to their ability to relinquish their time shares in connection with properties owned by Defendants.

- Defendants' acts alleged are acts of unfair competition within the meaning of Business and Professions Code § 17203. Plaintiffs are informed and believe that Defendants will continue to do those acts unless the court orders Defendants to cease and desist from engaging in such unfair competition.
- 38. Further, Plaintiffs are and will continue to be deprived of money due to the maintenance fees and other amounts demanded and collected by Defendants as a result of the refusal by Defendants to permit them to end their timeshare obligations, and therefore, Plaintiffs have sustained injury in fact and are entitled to restitution. Plaintiffs seek restitution and disgorgement of all earnings, profits, compensation and benefits Defendants obtained as a result of such unfair and unlawful business practices at the expense of Plaintiffs. Defendants have been unjustly enriched by receiving monies and profits from payments made by Plaintiffs to Defendants while Defendants continue to engage in unfair competition in violation of Business & Professions Code § 17200.
- 39. These violations serve as predicate acts for purposes of Business and Professions Code §17200, and remedies are provided therein under Business & Professions Code §17203.

SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION

Financial Elder Abuse

- Welfare & Institutions Code § 15610.30 -

(Against Defendants DRI and DOES 1 through 100, inclusive)

- 40. Plaintiffs re-allege and incorporate by reference paragraphs 1 through 39 of the Complaint, and incorporate them by reference into this cause of action as though forth in full below.
- Defendants obtained and/or retained property, and/or assisted in obtaining and/or 41. retaining property, of Plaintiffs who are elders as defined by California Welfare and Institutions Code §15610.27 for wrongful use and/or with the intent to defraud, in that Defendants' denied

Plaintiffs' application to relinquish their timeshare obligations. Defendants denied Plaintiff's application based on Plaintiffs' having had legal representation, and based on that denial, wrongfully sought to induce Plaintiffs into believing that they were unable to be released from their timeshare obligations as a result of such prior legal representation.

- 42. Defendants' actions in taking, appropriating and/or obtaining and/or retaining Plaintiffs' funds for a wrongful use or with the intent to defraud as described above constitute elder financial abuse as defined by Welfare and Institutions Code § 15610.30, and Plaintiff is entitled to the remedies provided by Welfare and Institutions Code § 15657.5.
- 43. Among other things, Plaintiffs are entitled to compensatory damages consisting of the return of their funds from Defendants with interest.
- 44. Plaintiffs have incurred, and will continue to incur, attorney's fees and costs in this litigation. Plaintiffs, if successful in this action, are entitled to recover such fees and costs from Defendants under the provisions of Welfare and Institutions Code Section 15657.5(a).
- 45. In committing the actions and conduct described above, Defendants, and each of them, acted with recklessness, oppression, fraud, and malice, and Plaintiffs are entitled to an award of exemplary or punitive damages pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code § 15657.5 and Civil Code § 3294.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs respectfully request that this Court:

On the First Cause of Action:

- 1. For a judicial declaration that Defendants' acts complaint of herein are unfair and fraudulent in violation of Cal. Business & Professions Code § 17200, et seq.
- 2. For a permanent injunction enjoining Defendants, and each of them, and their respective agents, servants and employees and all persons acting under or in concert with them, to cease and desist from:
 - a. Prejudicing customers, including Plaintiffs, who seek legal advice; and
 - b. Denying customers, including Plaintiffs, the ability to relinquish their time share memberships when they have attempted to do so with the assistance of legal

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1	counsel.	
·2	3. For restitution to Plaintiffs of all sums unfairly and improperly collected by	
3	Defendants from Plaintiffs.	
4	4. For interest on those sums at the legal rate of 10% per annum, or the highest amount	
5	allowed by law, whichever is less; and	
~ 6	5. For costs of suit incurred herein.	
7	On the Second Cause of Action:	
8	1. For compensatory damages pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code Section	
<u>-9</u>	15657.5(a),-awarded based on Plaintiffs' elder-financial abuse claim as defined by Welfare and	
10	Institutions Code § 15610.30, plus interest thereon at the legal rate of 10% per annum, or the	
11.	highest amount allowed by law whichever is less, and other damages in an amount to be determined	
12	by the Court;	
13	2. For punitive damages pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code § 15657.5 and Civil	
14	Code § 3294;	
15	3. For reasonable attorney's fees pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code	
16	§ 15657.5(a) in an amount to be determined by the Court;	
17	4. For costs of suit incurred herein pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code	
18	§ 15657.5(a) in an amount to be determined by the Court.	
19	On All Causes of Action:	
20	1. For such other and further relief as the court deems just and proper.	
21-	Date: February 10, 2020 THE WOLF FIRM, A Law Corporation	
22		
23	By: Christine E. Howson, Esq.	
24	Attorneys for Plaintiffs ROBERT GURTHOYS and SUZANNE CURTHOYS	
25	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
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COMPLAINT

9700-2001

Exhibit 1

1	MARK BRNOVICH
_	ATTORNEY GENERAL
2	(Firm Bar No. 14000)
3	ALYSE MEISLIK
_	ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL
4	STATE Bar No. 024052
5	1275 West Washington Street
١	Phoenix, Arizona 85007-2997
6	Telephone: (602) 542-8327
_	Facsimile: (602) 542-4377
7	Consumer@azag.gov
8	Attorneys for State of Arizona
_	

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IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF ARIZONA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF MARICOPA

In the Matter of
DIAMOND RESORTS CORPORATION,
Respondents.

Case No:

ASSURANCE OF DISCONTINUANCE

The Attorney General of the State of Arizona ("State" or "Attorney General") and Respondent Diamond Resorts Corporation, agree to the entry of the following Assurance of Discontinuance ("Assurance" or "Agreement") pursuant to Arizona Revised Statutes ("A.R.S.") § 44-1530 of the Arizona Consumer Fraud Act, i.e., A.R.S. §§ 44-1521 to 44-1534 ("ACFA").

References in this Assurance made to any act of Diamond shall be deemed to include the acts of Diamond's corporate members, managers, employees, agents, or other representatives, acting within the scope of their employment or authority. The Attorney General, acting on behalf of the State of Arizona, has the authority to enforce the ACFA. The Attorney General conducted an investigation pursuant to the ACFA into the acts and practices of Diamond relating to its Business. This Assurance is entered into without adjudication on the merits of the assertions or allegations made by the State below. Diamond denies that it has violated the

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ACFA and enters into this Assurance solely for purposes of efficient resolution of the matter. The State and Diamond have agreed to execute this Assurance solely for the purposes of settlement.

I. <u>DEFINITIONS</u>

- 1. "Association" means a member owner association for a Collection.
- 2. "Assurance" means this Assurance of Discontinuance.
- 3. "Business" means the marketing and sale of Points at Sales Centers.
- 4. "Consumer" means a person who both: (i) attends a Sales Presentation in Arizona or, alternatively, is domiciled in Arizona and attends a Sales Presentation outside of Arizona; and (ii) purchases or has purchased Points, THE Sampler, or has purchased a Diamond predecessor's timeshare product.
 - 5. "Court" means a court of competent jurisdiction.
- 6. "Diamond" means and includes DRI, its predecessor companies, successor companies, direct or indirect wholly and partially owned subsidiaries, and each of their divisions, employees, officers, directors, managers, assigns, and agents acting or having responsibilities with respect to the subject matter of this Assurance.
- 7. "Diamond Collections" means, collectively, Diamond Resorts U.S. Collection, Premiere-Vacation Collection, Diamond-Resorts California Collection, Diamond Resorts Hawaii Collection and Monarch Grand Vacations timeshare plans, each constituting an individual "Collection."
 - 8. "DRCC" means and includes the Diamond Resorts California Collection.
 - 9. "DRHC" means and includes the Diamond Resorts Hawaii Collection.
- 10. "DRI" means and includes Diamond Resorts International, Inc., a company incorporated in Delaware and headquartered in Las Vegas, Nevada, which is the parent company of Diamond Resorts Corporation.
- 11. "DRUSC" means and includes the Diamond Resorts U.S. Collection.
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- 12. "DRUSC Association" means the Diamond Resorts U.S. Collection Members Association, Inc., a non-stock; non-profit Delaware corporation
- 13. "Effective Date" means the later of: (a) the date on which a Court approves this Assurance; or (b) 30 calendar days after the execution date, which means the date this Assurance is fully executed by both Parties. In the event that the Parties execute this Assurance on different dates, the later execution date shall be the "execution date."
- 14. "Eligible Complaint" means a complaint filed by an Eligible Consumer that qualifies for Relief (as defined in paragraph 83) under the Relinquishment Remedy Program set forth in Article IV(A) of this Assurance.
- 15. "Eligible Consumer" means a Consumer who files a written complaint against Diamond with the Attorney General, another law enforcement agency, the Better Business Bureau, or the Arizona Department of Real Estate after January 1, 2009 that is received by the Attorney General's Office either prior to the Effective Date or during the Filing Period.
- 16. "Filing Period" means the period commencing on the Effective Date and ending 120 calendar days after the Effective Date.
- 17. "ILX" means ILX Resorts Incorporated, an Arizona corporation that sold timeshare ownership interests throughout the United States from around 1986 until its dissolution in 2010.
- 18. "Maintenance Fees" means regular assessments and special assessments charged pursuant to the applicable declaration for one or more Diamond Collections.
- 19. "Membership" means membership in an Association related to owning Points in a Collection.
 - 20. "MGV" means and includes Monarch Grand Vacations.
 - 21. "Parties" means and includes the State and Diamond.
- 22. "PMR" means Pacific Monarch Resorts, Inc., a California corporation not affiliated with Diamond, which was the original developer of MGV and filed for bankruptcy in #5522176

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- DRHC, MGV, and PVC, through which members reserve the use and occupancy of Collection accommodations in accordance with the Project Documents.
- 24. "Project Documents" means the relevant Collection Declaration, the Articles of Incorporation, the Bylaws, the Trust Agreement, the Regulations, the Register of Members and any other document or instrument which defines or governs such Collection, together with each Member's Purchase Documents and Points Certificate(s), as each may lawfully be amended or supplemented from time to time.
- 25. "Purchase Documents" means the Purchase and Security Agreement and Purchaser Understanding and Acknowledgement used for the purchase of Points by a Consumer.
 - 26. "PVC" means and includes the Premiere Vacation Collection.
- 27. "PVC Association" means and includes the Premiere Vacation Collection Owners Association, Inc.
- 28. "Quality Assurance Officer" means a Diamond employee who is responsible for reviewing Purchase Documents with Consumers to facilitate their understanding of the purchase and ownership responsibilities concerning the Points.
- 29. "Quality Assurance Program" has the meaning set forth in Article IV of this Assurance.
- 30. "Relinquishment Program" means Diamond's relinquishment program, currently known as Transitions, publicly announced by Diamond on May 4, 2016, or other materially similar program as described in Article VI of this Assurance. The Relinquishment Program is separate from the Relinquishment Remedy Program set forth in Article IV(A) of this Assurance. Moreover, the Relinquishment Program is a program offered, on a case-by-case basis, at Diamond's discretion and it does not constitute an obligation under this Assurance #5522176

aside from the election resulting in the RP Monetary Payment in paragraph 113.

- 31. "Relinquishment Remedy Program" means the procedures for resolving Eligible Complaints as set forth in Article IV(A) of this Assurance.
- 32. "Sales Center" means (i) a Diamond sales center or other sales location located in the State of Arizona and (ii) a Diamond sales center or other sales location located outside of the State of Arizona which makes Sales Presentations to Consumers who are domiciled in Arizona.
- 33. "Sales Manager" means a Diamond employee who is responsible for direct supervision of Vacation Counselors at Sales Centers.
- 34. "Sales Materials" means, and shall include, all scripts, booklets, brochures, presentations, and all other documents used by Vacation Counselors when conducting a Sales Presentation.
- 35. "Sales Presentation" means a formal sales presentation for the purchase of Points made at a Sales Center.
- 36. "Sampler Agent" means a Diamond employee who conducts sales presentations for the purchase of THE Sampler.
- 37. "Secret-Shopper Program" means that part of the Quality Assurance Program under which Diamond will send a "secret-shopper" at least two (2) times per year to each Sales Center to monitor implementation of and compliance with the Quality Assurance Program.
 - 38. "State's Allegations" has the meaning set forth in paragraph 67.
- 39. "Stipulated Eligible Complaints List" means the list of complaints on file with the Attorney General's Office that the Parties have stipulated constitute Eligible Complaints qualifying for Relief regardless of when the relevant Complaint was filed.
- 40. "Sunterra" means Sunterra Corporation, a Maryland corporation formed in 1996 to market and sell timeshare ownership interests, which it did until 2007. Sunterra was a predecessor-in-interest to Diamond.

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- 41. "THE Club" means THE Club®, which is a points-based, international exchange program operated by Diamond Resorts International Club, Inc., a Florida corporation, that is affiliated with the Diamond Collections. Through THE Club, Consumers have the option to temporarily exchange, from time-to-time, their occupancy rights within a Diamond Collection with owners of timeshares in other timeshare resorts or exchange networks participating in THE Club.
- 42. "THE Sampler" or "Sampler" means Diamond's non-timeshare, limited use package, under which Consumers pay a reduced rate to experience short-term, limited-use membership privileges.
- 43. "Vacation Counselor" means a Diamond employee who acts as a sales agent for the sale of Points to a Consumer at a Sales Center.

II. BACKGROUND

- 44. At all times material to this Assurance, other than with respect to operations of predecessors to Diamond, Diamond sold Points-based vacation membership products to Consumers.
- 45. In 2007, following the purchase of all shares of common stock of Sunterra delivered in a tender offer, DRS Acquisition Corp., an affiliate of Diamond, merged with and into Sunterra. This merger was consummated as a "short form" merger pursuant to the Maryland General Corporations Law, under which Sunterra was the surviving corporation.
- 46. After the merger, Sunterra changed its name to "Diamond Resorts Corporation," a Maryland corporation, which, through its subsidiaries, markets and sells Points-based vacation memberships throughout the United States and internationally and manages certain timeshare resorts in which Diamond holds ownership interests. Diamond's principal office is located at 10600 West Charleston Boulevard in Las Vegas, Nevada.
- 47. Under the merger, all the debts, liabilities, and duties of Sunterra became the debts, liabilities, and duties of Diamond.

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- 48. In 2010, a Diamond subsidiary acquired management of PVC when it purchased certain assets from ILX in a sale under section 363 of the Bankruptcy Code. Diamond did not assume PVC's or ILX's liabilities when it acquired ILX's assets.
- 49. Similarly, in 2012, a Diamond subsidiary acquired management of MGV when it purchased certain assets from PMR in a sale under section 363 of the Bankruptcy Code. Diamond did not assume MGV's or PMR's liabilities when it acquired PMR's assets.
- 50. As of December 31, 2015, Diamond managed a total of five (5) U.S.-based vacation ownership Collections: DRUSC, PVC, DRCC, DRHC, and MGV. As of this same date, Diamond's resort network included 93 resort properties with approximately 11,000 Diamond-managed units. Additionally, as of December 31, 2015, Diamond contracts for use rights with 206 additional resorts and four (4) cruise itineraries. All real estate in the Diamond Collections is held in trust for the benefit of the members of the applicable Collection.
- Department of Real Estate for the marketing of all Diamond Collections, but the Arizona-based sales of Points for DRHC, DRCC, PVC and MGV are negligible. All Diamond Collections are affiliated with THE Club. Diamond has four loyalty levels in THE Club: Valued, 2,500 to 14,999 Points; Silver, 15,000 to 29,999 Points; Gold, 30,000 to 49,999 Points; and Platinum, over 50,000 Points (collectively-referred to as "Loyalty Levels" or individually as a "Loyalty Level"). Points purchased in different Diamond Collections affiliated with Diamond may be combined to determine Loyalty Level.
- 52. As of December 31, 2015, DRUSC was comprised of 56 resorts across the continental United States and St. Maarten. DRUSC is actively sold and marketed in Arizona and accounted for over 83% of Diamond's Arizona sales from January 1, 2011 to July 24, 2014. PVC comprises 11 total resorts in Arizona, Colorado, Indiana, Nevada, and Mexico. Most of Diamond's remaining sales in Arizona during the same time period were PVC memberships sold at the resort known as Los Abrigados Resort and Spa in Sedona, Arizona. #5522176

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 Diamond does not currently sell PVC memberships.

- 53. Diamond sells Points in the Diamond Collections to Consumers for a purchase price ranging from approximately \$11,500 to over \$100,000 depending on the number of Points purchased.
- 54. Points are used like currency to reserve nights at a resort that is part of a Collection.
- 55. With each annual (or, as in some cases with MGV, biennial) allotment of Points, Consumers pay annual Maintenance Fees, which are allocated to pay for resort operations, capital reserves, property taxes, insurance, and management.
- 56. The Points required for a night of accommodation at each resort location can vary by type of accommodation (e.g., number of bedrooms), location, and time of year. A night of accommodation at a more desirable vacation destination during a high volume vacation season will "cost" comparatively more Points than a night of accommodation at a less desirable destination in a low volume vacation season.
- 57. Points are initially sold to new members during Sales Presentations by a sales team that consists of Vacation Counselors and Sales Managers. Quality Assurance Officers are independent from Diamond's sales and marketing department, and are responsible for providing Purchase—Documents to Consumers to facilitate and confirm Consumers' understanding of purchase and ownership responsibilities concerning the Points.
- 58. A member's Points are replenished annually or biennially, subject to the member being current on Maintenance Fees and otherwise in good standing. For example, a member in good standing who purchases 10,000 Points will automatically receive a new allotment of 10,000 Points annually or biennially.
- 59. Diamond created various Sales Materials to train and assist the Vacation Counselors and Sales Managers with respect to conducting Sales Presentations. Diamond gives such Sales Materials to the Vacation Counselors and Sales Managers, who are directed to #5522176

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follow such materials. Diamond provides training to Vacation Counselors and Sales Managers in effective sales techniques, compliance and ethics at a week-long training seminar, as well as through ongoing training.

- 60. It is contrary to Diamond's corporate policies for Vacation Counselors to make material alterations to, or materially deviate from, the Sales Materials in the course of conducting a Sales Presentation.
- 61. Each Collection has an Association, operated similarly to a homeowner association, for the purpose of managing the Collection and assessing Maintenance Fees.
- 62. The board of directors of each Association sets yearly Maintenance Fees based on the Collection's costs of operating and maintaining the timeshare programs and resort infrastructure in accordance with the Project Documents. Members of the Association must pay Maintenance Fees annually to maintain their rights and privileges under the Project Documents.
- 63. In 2010, the board of the PVC Association amended the document entitled PVC Membership Plan, which is recorded in Maricopa County, to enable Maintenance Fees to increase to a maximum of inflation plus 25% per year from the original maximum of inflation plus 10% per year.
- After the 2010 amendment, PVC owners have experienced annual increases in Maintenance Fees. For example, a PVC member with 6,000 Points paid Maintenance Fees of \$635 in 2010, \$789.80 in 2011, \$891.20 in 2012, and \$1,106.12 in 2013.
- 65. According to Diamond, these increases were required to address years of prior mismanagement. It is Diamond's position that before Diamond's acquisition, the PVC Association had kept Maintenance Fees artificially and unsustainably below the amount necessary to pay for the resorts' basic operations and upkeep. Diamond submits that after these short-term spikes in 2011-2013 to repair, refurbish, and update the PVC resorts, the increases to Maintenance Fees have been less extreme, with the PVC Association raising them so that a #5522176

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PVC member with 6,000 Points paid Maintenance Fees of approximately \$1,210.83 in 2014 and \$1,281.06 in 2015.

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- 66. DRUSC owners have also experienced annual increases in Maintenance Fees. In accordance with applicable Florida law and industry standards, the DRUSC Association has capped increases to Maintenance Fees at 25% per year. For example, a DRUSC member who owns 15,000 Points would have paid \$1,214 in Maintenance Fees in 2007, \$1,348.50 in 2008, \$1,686 in 2009, \$1,850 in 2010, \$1,923.50 in 2011, \$2,018.50 in 2012, \$2,045.50 in 2013, \$2,330 in 2014, and \$2,404.70 in 2015. The Attorney General received Consumer complaints that involved alleged acts or practices of certain companies (each a "Prior Developer") that occurred prior to Diamond's acquisition of certain of their assets. Except for Sunterra, Diamond did not assume the liabilities of these Prior Developers and some of the prior complaints resulted from actions taken by these Prior Developers before Diamond acquired such assets.
- 67. Based upon allegations made by Consumers in their complaints, the State believes, and therefore alleges, the following (collectively, the "State's Allegations"):
- a. At times, some Vacation Counselors deviated from the Sales Materials and made unauthorized representations or misrepresentations in connection with sales.
- b. At times, some Quality Assurance Officers did not adequately explain to certain Consumers all of the benefits and responsibilities associated with their Points-based vacation membership product.
- c. Although certain Vacation Counselors, at times, represented to Consumers that Points could be used to book other travel needs such as cruises, hotels, airline tickets, and rental cars at a lower rate, some Consumers allege that using Points to book such travel resulted in a higher overall cost than booking through a travel website and paying cash.
- d. During Sales Presentations, certain Vacation Counselors represented to some Consumers that their Points may be rolled over to the following year if they did not use #5522176

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them in any given year, but did not explain that to do so they needed to submit a request within a pre-designated period of time. Some Consumers who did not submit a request later discovered that their Points expired because they did not roll over to the subsequent year automatically.

- At times, certain Vacation Counselors told some Consumers that increases to Maintenance Fees are minimal, when the DRUSC Association is permitted to increase Maintenance Fees up to 25% per year.
- f. At times, certain Vacation Counselors stated that Points could be used to pay Maintenance Fees and did not explain that only members of certain Loyalty Levels could use Points to pay/offset Maintenance Fees. At times, certain Vacation Counselors did not explain to some Consumers the exchange rate of Points to Maintenance Fees dollars. Some Consumers who believed they could use their Points to pay or offset Maintenance Fees were not able to do so because they were not part of a Loyalty Level that offered this benefit. Certain Consumers who attempted to allocate their entire balance of Points in a given year received a comparatively small credit against their Maintenance Fees. At times, certain Vacation Counselors stated to some Consumers that their Maintenance Fees would be reduced by the purchase of more Points notwithstanding that Maintenance Fees are based on the number of Points that a Consumer owns:
- In some instances, certain Quality Assurance Officers did not specifically g. discuss with some Consumers the portion of the Arizona Time-Share Public Report and Purchase Documents which disclosed the Consumer's right to cancel a purchase and security agreement within seven (7) calendar days following its execution, pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-2197.03.
- h. Some Consumers alleged that Diamond failed to honor their requests to cancel the purchase and security agreement within seven (7) calendar days following its execution, pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-2197.03.

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- i. Certain Vacation Counselors induced some Consumers to buy Points at the Sales Presentation by representing to them that the deal offered would not be available after they left the Sales Center.
- j. Certain Vacation Counselors represented to some Consumers that Sales Presentations typically last approximately 90 to 120 minutes. In some instances, however, Sales Presentations lasted for several hours, and at times, certain Vacation Counselors led some Consumers to believe they were obligated to stay for the entire presentation. Some Consumers claimed they felt rushed to sign the Purchase Documents before carefully reviewing them, and that they signed Purchase Documents with Diamond because they felt it was the only way to extricate themselves from what they perceived as a high-pressure sales situation.
- k. Consumers who agreed to buy Points were presented Purchase Documents to sign which obligated them to pay yearly Maintenance Fees imposed by the Association boards. At times, certain Quality Assurance Officers did not adequately explain to some Consumers their rights and obligations under the Purchase Documents.
- l. While Diamond provided Consumers with physical, paper copies of the documents required to be provided in that form (e.g., the Purchase Documents), Diamond provided other Project Documents in electronic form when permitted under applicable Arizona law: As most of the Consumers were on vacation, some were unable to review all of the Project Documents provided in electronic form until they returned home.
- m. At times, certain Vacation Counselors represented to some Consumers, directly or indirectly, that Points ownership constitutes an investment or deeded real property interest that can appreciate in value. However, Points-based vacation membership does not constitute a deeded real property interest and Consumers are not likely to experience an appreciation in financial value.
- n. Certain Vacation Counselors represented to some Consumers, directly or indirectly, that Consumers could sell their Membership if, at any time, they decided that they #5522176

no longer wanted their Membership. However, some Consumers have been unable to sell their Membership on the secondary market. Certain other Consumers have been unable to give their Membership away because some potential acquirers did not want to assume the obligation of paying yearly Maintenance Fees and also could not acquire through a resale the Consumers' membership in THE Club.

- o. At times, certain Vacation Counselors failed to adequately inform Consumers that they could not transfer Membership interests without approval from Diamond and the DRUSC or PVC Association, which can refuse to allow the transfer of Membership interests. At times, certain Vacation Counselors failed to disclose that if a Membership interest transfer or sale is allowed, the purchasing Consumer does not receive a Membership in THE Club.
- p. At times, certain Vacation Counselors represented to some Consumers that they could "rent" Points to other persons. According to the Purchase Documents, Consumers are allowed to rent to friends and family, but are expressly prohibited from renting out vacation intervals for cash through online or print advertising to the general public.
- q. At times, certain Vacation Counselors represented to some Consumers that purchases financed through Diamond could be refinanced at lower interest rates through the Consumers' personal banking institutions; when Consumers were unable to acquire such refinancing.
- r. At times, certain Vacation Counselors represented to some Consumers that interest paid on Diamond purchase money loans is tax-deductible as mortgage interest paid, when such tax benefits only applied to deeded timeshare interests. Interest paid by Consumers for their Membership is not deductible as home mortgage interest paid because Points-based vacation membership products are not considered "qualified homes" according to IRS Publication 936.
- s. At times, certain Vacation Counselors represented to some Consumers that #5522176

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Diamond would buy back their Membership within the first two years after purchase if the Consumer became dissatisfied, but the Purchase Documents disclosed that Diamond does not offer a buy-back program. Some Consumers expressed dissatisfaction to Diamond within two years of their purchase. Despite these Consumers requesting that Diamond repurchase the Membership as verbally represented, Diamond declined many of the requests.

- t. At times, certain Vacation Counselors represented to some Consumers that Diamond would assist them with selling their Membership. However, the Purchase Documents disclosed that Diamond does not offer a resale program.
- u. At times, certain Vacation Counselors represented to some Consumers that they could save money on future vacations by purchasing Points, but did not factor in the cost of Maintenance Fees and other costs.
- v. At times, certain Sampler Agents represented to some Consumers that THE Sampler package allows Consumers to experience membership in THE Club without risking the initial cash outlay. Certain Sampler Agents did not verbally disclose that both the Sampler agreement and checklist provided to Consumers explained that purchasers had to maintain their Sampler account in good standing at the time of booking, were required to pay either \$1,000 or six (6) monthly payments towards their purchase money loan before vacationing, stay a minimum of three (3) nights, and attend a Sales Presentation during their stay.
- w. After the acquisition of Sunterra in 2007 and PVC in 2010, Diamond contacted Sunterra and PVC timeshare owners to invite them to attend what were purportedly "informational meetings" to learn about changes to the resorts. These meetings included Sales Presentations for upgrades to a Points-based vacation Membership.
- x. At these meetings, certain Vacation Counselors represented to some former Sunterra and PVC owners that their Maintenance Fees would be lowered or reduced if they upgraded to a Points-based vacation Membership. Instead, some former Sunterra and #5522176

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PVC owners who upgraded to Points-based vacation Memberships saw an increase in their Maintenance Fees.

- y. At times, Vacation Counselors represented to some former PVC owners that they would be able to take more vacations at a wider variety of resort locations if they upgraded to a Points-based vacation Membership. While these former deeded PVC owners were able to vacation at a wider variety of resort locations if they upgraded to a Points-based vacation Membership, some former PVC owners who converted to Diamond Memberships claim they were not able to occupy the same number of accommodation nights with their Points-based vacation Memberships as with their original Memberships.
- 68. The State believes, and therefore alleges, that some of the actions and statements by certain Diamond employees, including Vacation Counselors, Sales Managers, and Quality Assurance Officers, as detailed in the State's Allegations, constitute deception, deceptive or unfair acts or practices, fraud, false pretenses, false promises, misrepresentations, or concealment, suppression, or omission of material facts in violation of the ACFA.
- 69. The State's Allegations are based on allegations made in specific individual complaints received by the State.
- 70. Without admitting any liability or wrongdoing, Diamond emphasizes that it takes Consumer complaints-seriously and-acknowledges the areas of concern identified by the State. While Diamond already has policies and procedures in place, Diamond is prepared to further enhance its policies and procedures in accordance with the terms of this Assurance in order to resolve this dispute.

III. APPLICATION

- 71. The provisions of this Assurance shall be limited to Diamond's Business with Consumers at Sales Centers in Arizona and with Arizona-domiciled Consumers who attend Sales Presentations with Diamond outside of Arizona.
- 72. This Assurance shall apply to Diamond, any successor entity or entities, whether

by acquisition, merger, or otherwise, Diamond's current or future officers, directors, managerial or supervisory employees, and to any other employees or agents having responsibilities with respect to the subject matter of this Assurance.

IV. ASSURANCES

NOW, THEREFORE, Diamond and its officers, agents, servants, employees, successors, assignees, and all other persons in active concert or participation with it, pursuant to A.R.S. § 44-1530, agree, undertake and assure:

- 73. Diamond shall comply with the ACFA as it is now written and as it is amended in the future.
- 74. Diamond shall adopt and implement a set of enhanced policies and procedures (collectively, the "Quality Assurance Program") to govern the following:
- a. Diamond shall continue to maintain its independent Quality Assurance Program under which Quality Assurance Officers shall remain independent from Diamond's sales and marketing department.
- b. Diamond shall enhance its programs, policies, and training and continue to instruct and train its Vacation Counselors and Sales Managers to comply with the ACFA. Diamond shall advise all Vacation Counselors and Sales Managers that they may not:
 - i. deviate from Diamond Sales Materials;
 - ii. make oral representations at the point of sale that are inconsistent with Diamond's Purchase Documents;
 - iii. use documents or other materials in Sales Presentations unless such materials have been approved by the appropriate corporate departments;
 - iv. provide any information that may be construed as tax advice; and
 - v. make oral representations referred to in subsection (c) of this paragraph.
- c. Diamond, its officers, agents, servants, employees, successors, assigns, and those persons in active concert or participation with them are prohibited from, and #5522176

Diamond shall instruct its Vacation Counselors, Sales Managers, and Quality Assurance Officers that they are prohibited from, making any oral representations at the point of sale that are inconsistent with Diamond's Purchase Documents or any misrepresentations, including, but not limited to the following:

- i. the use of Points to book travel arrangements such as flights, rental cars, or cruises is comparatively lower in cost than if the Consumer would spend cash for the same travel arrangements, unless such representations are accurate;
- ii. a non-deeded timeshare interest such as Points is a deeded property interest or may be considered an investment in real property;
- iii. Points appreciate in value;
- iv. Points automatically roll over to the following year, unless such representations are accurate;
- v. Points may be used to pay Maintenance Fees unless the particular plan being sold offers this benefit;
- vi. the Consumer's Maintenance Fees will be reduced by the purchase of additional Points, unless such representations are accurate;
- vii. —Consumers may rent out Points for cash through online or print advertising to the general public unless such representations are true;
- viii. Diamond will buy back Consumers' Memberships unless Diamond offers a buy-back program;
- ix. there is a secondary market for the sale of Points, that such secondary market has a certain level of sales volume, or provides Consumers with the ability to re-sell their Points, unless such representations are accurate;
- x. Consumers will be able to obtain a loan from a private lender to

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investigate all claims by any Quality Assurance Officer that a Vacation Counselor or Sales Manager has engaged in conduct that is not consistent with subsections (b) and (c) of this paragraph within thirty (30) calendar days of receiving such information and shall take appropriate action as described below.

- f. Should Diamond receive a complaint directly from a Consumer that alleges that a Vacation Counselor or Sales Manager has engaged in conduct that is not consistent with subsections (b) and (c) of this paragraph, Diamond shall appropriately investigate such allegations within thirty (30) calendar days of receiving the Consumer complaint.
- g. Diamond shall take appropriate disciplinary action, including termination of employment, suspension and/or re-training of a Vacation Counselor or Sales Manager in the event Diamond determines that such Vacation Counselor has engaged in conduct that is not consistent with subsections (b) and (c) of this paragraph.
- h. Diamond shall maintain policies for disclosure of all material information regarding THE Sampler, including the requirement that the Consumer maintains his or her Sampler account in good standing at the time of booking, having paid either \$1,000, or six (6) monthly payments toward his or her purchase money loan; the three-night minimum stay requirement; the existence of any other applicable fees and costs; and that the Consumer must attend a timeshare presentation of approximately sixty (60) minutes during each Sampler stay.
- i. Diamond shall maintain a Secret-Shopper Program to monitor Vacation Counselors and Sales Managers' compliance with this Assurance.
- j. The Quality Assurance Program shall include practices designed to (a) monitor Vacation Counselor and Sales Manager activities for consistency with this Assurance; (b) utilize information received from any complaints or misunderstandings from Consumers to improve the Quality Assurance Program training; and (c) utilize information received through the Quality Assurance Program to improve disclosures in the Purchase Documents.

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- 75. At each Sales Presentation, Diamond shall provide each attending Consumer with the following:
- a. a summary containing the cost of Maintenance Fees and other applicable fees charged to members of the Association for each Loyalty Level for at least the five (5) years preceding the year of the sale applicable only to the Diamond Collection associated with the Points being presented for sale; and
- b. a written explanation of the process by which Maintenance Fees are established by the applicable Association, which shall include disclosure of maximum yearly increases to Maintenance Fees.
- 76. Diamond shall make available to each attending Consumer paper copies or, if the Consumer requests, copies that are viewable in real time on a Diamond tablet or other device, of the form Purchase Documents (i.e., without blanks filled-in), the Arizona Time-Share Public Report (or other disclosure document, as applicable), and the governing documents for their review prior to signing.
- 77. Diamond shall give each attending Consumer sufficient time to review the Purchase Documents before requiring the Consumers to sign them.
- 78. Diamond shall provide each attending Consumer an opportunity to ask a Quality Assurance Officer any questions they may have about the rights and obligations set forth in the completed but unexecuted Purchase Documents (i.e., with blanks filled-in) prior to requesting the Consumer to sign any Purchase Documents.
- 79. After each Consumer who attends a Sales Presentation signs the Purchase Documents, Diamond shall provide each attending Consumer a copy of the Purchase Documents executed by the Consumer, the Arizona Time-Share Public Report (or other disclosure document, as applicable), and the Project Documents for the Consumer to keep. If the Consumer consents to receive documents in electronic format in accordance with applicable law, Diamond shall provide Consumers a tablet or other device through which the Consumer #5522176

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 may view such documents in the future. If the Consumer does not provide such consent, the copies of the Purchase Documents and the Arizona Time-Share Public Report (or other disclosure document, as applicable) provided to the Consumer shall be paper copies.

- 80. To the extent applicable, Diamond shall clearly and conspicuously disclose to Consumers in its Arizona Time-Share Public Report that a majority of the Board of Directors of the Association are employees of Diamond or are otherwise affiliated with Diamond.
- 81. For six (6) years after the Effective Date, Diamond shall conduct a training program with relevant personnel, at least annually, to administer the requirements of this Assurance. For three (3) years after the Effective Date, Diamond shall provide a copy of the training materials provided to relevant personnel to the Attorney General's Office, within forty-five (45) calendar days after conducting the training program. All training materials Diamond provides to the Attorney General's Office under this paragraph will be confidential in accordance with A.R.S. § 44-1525.
- 82. The Attorney General may conduct undercover investigations of Diamond's practices as the State deems fit to monitor compliance with the ACFA and this Assurance.

A. Relinquishment Remedy Program

- 83. The Relinquishment Remedy Program may include any complaints filed by Eligible Consumers and received by the Attorney General either (1) prior to the Effective Date or (2) during the Filing Period. The form of relief available through the Relinquishment Remedy Program is limited to the relinquishment relief described in paragraphs 100 and 101 below (the "Relief"). An Eligible Consumer's receipt of a monetary disbursement pursuant to paragraph 105 does not automatically entitle the Eligible Consumer to Relief under the Relinquishment Remedy Program.
- 84. Only Eligible Complaints will be entitled to Relief. An Eligible Consumer complaint may qualify as an Eligible Complaint only if: (1) the complaint alleges a problem or dissatisfaction that can be identified with specificity about a matter that is the subject of the #5522176

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State's Allegations; (2) the Consumer has not already been released from the Memberships at issue; (3) the conduct alleged in the complaint occurred prior to the Effective Date; (4) the Eligible Consumer wants to receive the Relief; and (5) the complaint was filed in good faith. Eligible Consumer complaints filed during the Filing Period may qualify as an Eligible Complaint only if the conduct alleged in the complaint occurred between January 1, 2011 and on or before the Effective Date. Notwithstanding the foregoing criteria, the Parties stipulate that all Consumers listed on the Stipulated Eligible Complaints List are eligible for Relief.

- The Attorney General will evaluate whether Eligible Consumers, whose 85. complaints were not previously stipulated to on the Stipulated Eligible Complaints List, have filed Eligible Complaints. Within thirty (30) calendar days after the expiration of the Filing Period, the Attorney General will send Diamond a list of these Eligible Consumer complaints that he believes should qualify as Eligible Complaints that are entitled to Relief (each a "Relief List"). With respect to each such complaint, the Attorney General will identify the specific State Allegation(s) in paragraph 67 that are the subject matter of the complaint based upon the alleged conduct described therein. The Attorney General may provide Relief Lists on a rolling basis during the Filing Period, but no more frequently than once per month.
- 86. Upon Diamond's receipt of a Relief List, Diamond will cease all collection activities, including instructing third parties acting on its behalf to cease any applicable collection activities, with respect to each of the Eligible Consumers who filed a complaint included on the Relief List, until the relevant complaint has been investigated and a final determination has been made regarding whether it qualifies as an Eligible Complaint. Diamond will copy the Attorney General on all correspondence it sends to Eligible Consumers with respect to the Relinquishment Remedy Program.
- **87**. Within forty-five (45) calendar days after the expiration of the Filing Period, Diamond will notify the Attorney General in writing if it has objections to the inclusion of any complaints on the Relief List ("Relief Objections"). Diamond's Relief Objections will describe #5522176

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the basis for its objections. Diamond will also notify the Attorney General in writing if there are Consumers to which Diamond will stipulate to provide Relief ("Undisputed Complaint List" and each such complaint an "Undisputed Complaint").

- 88. Within forty-five (45) calendar days after receipt of the Relief Objections, the Attorney General will provide Diamond with written notice of any Eligible Consumer complaint subject to the Relief Objections which he believes should qualify for Relief ("Disputed Complaint List" and each such complaint a "Disputed Complaint"). With respect to each Disputed Complaint, the Attorney General will provide Diamond with any additional information provided by the Eligible Consumer.
- 89. Disputed Complaints will be subject to the resolution procedures set forth in paragraphs 90 through 99 below. Within forty-five (45) calendar days after receipt of the Disputed Complaint List and additional information from the Attorney General, Diamond will re-evaluate the Disputed Complaints prior to initiation of the dispute resolution procedures. Diamond will notify the Attorney General in writing during such forty-five (45)-day period with a revised Undisputed Complaint List if Diamond determines to stipulate to provide Relief to a previously Disputed Complaint ("Second Stipulated Eligible Complaints List"). Diamond will also deliver to the Attorney General a final Disputed Complaint list ("Final Disputed Complaint List").
- 90. On or before March 31, 2017, Diamond will retain a neutral third-party dispute resolution facilitator (the "Facilitator"), who is mutually agreed upon by both Parties. All fees and out-of-pocket expenses of the Facilitator will be paid by Diamond. The Facilitator will be responsible for the coordination of resolution procedures to resolve Disputed Complaints and will determine whether Disputed Complaints are Eligible Complaints that qualify for Relief. On or before expiration of the Filing Period, the Facilitator will meet with the Attorney General and Diamond, or confer by telephone or video conference, regarding the Relinquishment Remedy Program process and procedures. The Facilitator may not engage in any ex parte #5522176

 communications with the Attorney General or Diamond without prior consent of the Parties. All information and evidence submitted to the Facilitator, and all written decisions or reports issued by the Facilitator, will be confidential in accordance with A.R.S. § 44-1525.

- 91. The Facilitator may be removed for Cause by either the Attorney General or by Diamond. For the purpose of this paragraph, "Cause" will mean: (a) a breach by the Facilitator of the terms of this Assurance; (b) any act of dishonesty, intentional fraud or similar conduct by the Facilitator; (c) any intentional act of bias or prejudice in favor or against either Diamond or Eligible Consumers by the Facilitator; or (d) conduct by the Facilitator that demonstrates unfitness to serve in any administrative capacity. "Cause" will not include disagreements with the decisions of the Facilitator pursuant to this Assurance, unless there is a clear pattern in the Facilitator's decisions that demonstrates that the Facilitator has not been acting as a neutral third-party in rendering decisions. Should the Facilitator be removed for Cause, Diamond will retain a new Facilitator who is mutually agreed upon by both Parties within thirty (30) calendar days of the removal of the prior Facilitator.
- 92. Within twenty (20) calendar days after delivering the Final Disputed Complaint List to the Attorney General's Office, the Attorney General and Diamond may provide a joint statement to the Facilitator to assist him/her in the resolution process, which may include, but is not limited-to, information about the-timeshare industry and the ACFA ("Joint Statement"). The Joint Statement will be exchanged between the Parties prior to submission to the Facilitator. Each Party's position set forth on the Joint Statement will be limited to ten pages that are double spaced, using 12 point, Times New Roman font.
- 93. Within forty-five (45) calendar days after delivering the Final Disputed Complaint List to the Attorney General's Office, Diamond will deliver the following: (1) to the Facilitator, the applicable records related to the Disputed Complaint, including: (a) the Disputed Complaint, (b) any written communications from the Eligible Consumer in the context of the Disputed Complaint, (c) any information provided by the Attorney General to #5522176

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Diamond in the context of the Disputed Complaint, and (d) any information provided by Diamond to the Attorney General in the context of the Disputed Complaint (collectively, the "Disputed Complaint Materials"); (2) to Eligible Consumers listed on the final Disputed Complaint List, a notice that their complaint has been sent to the Facilitator with copies of all Disputed Complaint Materials that Diamond sent to the Facilitator ("Facilitator Notice"); and (3) to the Attorney General, a copy of each Facilitator Notice.

- 94. The Facilitator will review the terms of this Assurance and the Disputed Complaint Materials. The Facilitator's decision regarding each Disputed Complaint will be based solely on the Assurance, the Joint Statement, and the Disputed Complaint Materials unless: (1) the Facilitator deems it necessary to obtain additional information or testimony regarding a specific Disputed Complaint and/or (2) Diamond or the Attorney General specifically request a telephonic conference in writing. The Facilitator will schedule and conduct all proceedings with the objective of resolving the dispute as quickly and efficiently as reasonably possible.
- 95. If the Facilitator deems it necessary to obtain additional information or testimony, he/she may request it from the Attorney General, Diamond, or the Eligible Consumer. Prior to contacting Eligible Consumers, the Facilitator must advise the Parties of the intended contact. Except as specifically requested by the Facilitator, no Party or the Eligible Consumer may present any evidence that was not shared with the other Party in a good faith attempt to resolve the dispute prior to the review by the Facilitator.
- 96. The Facilitator will determine whether the Disputed Complaint qualifies as an Eligible Complaint, which is entitled to Relief. A Disputed Complaint will qualify as an Eligible Complaint if the Facilitator specifically finds by a preponderance of the evidence that: (1) each of the requirements set forth in paragraph 84 are met, (2) Relief is warranted under the totality of the circumstances, and (3) the underlying material allegations are true.
- 97. Upon the Facilitator's determination as to whether the Disputed Complaint will #5522176

be treated as an Eligible Complaint and if Relief is warranted, but no later than sixty (60) calendar days after Diamond delivers the Disputed Complaint Materials to the Facilitator, the Facilitator will send a letter to Diamond, the Eligible Consumer, and the Attorney General explaining his or her determination.

- 98. The use of the Facilitator will be the exclusive remedy for the Parties with respect to the Disputed Complaints and the Parties may not attempt to adjudicate any Disputed Complaints in any other forum. The decision of the Facilitator will be final and binding on the Parties and will not be capable of challenge by the Parties, whether by arbitration, in court or otherwise. This paragraph does not alter Consumers' rights as set forth in paragraph 124.
- 99. No later than thirty (30) days after delivering the last letter pursuant to paragraph 97, the Facilitator will send Diamond and the Office of the Attorney General a written report summarizing the review and determination of the Disputed Complaints (the "Facilitator Report").
- Termination of Purchase and Security Agreement ("Mutual Release") with respect to the Membership(s) which are the subject of the Eligible Complaint and purchased prior to the Effective Date (collectively, the "Released Membership") during the following time periods: (1) for all Eligible-Gonsumers-listed on the Stipulated Eligible Complaints List, Diamond will deliver a Mutual Release within thirty (30) calendar days after the Effective Date; (2) for all Eligible Consumers listed on the Second Stipulated Eligible Complaints List, Diamond will deliver a Mutual Release within thirty (30) calendar days after delivering the Second Stipulated Eligible Complaints List to the Attorney General; (3) for all Disputed Complaints that are determined to be Eligible Consumers who qualify for Relief, Diamond will deliver a Mutual Release with respect to the Released Membership(s) within fifteen (15) calendar days after receipt of the Facilitator Report. Eligible Consumers must return their signed Mutual Release to Diamond within thirty (30) calendar days after receipt of the Mutual Release to obtain the #5522176

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Diamond's Mutual Releases of Eligible Complaints will require the following: (1) the Eligible Consumers will release all right, title, interest, and claim, in and to the Released Membership and the Points allocated to such Released Membership; (2) the Eligible Consumers will authorize the appropriate Association(s) to transfer the Points allocated to the Released Membership to the cumulative register of Diamond; (3) Eligible Consumers will release Diamond of any pre-Effective Date claims under the ACFA and claims relating to Eligible Consumers' Released Membership or any other purchase(s) made through Diamond prior to the Effective Date; (4) Eligible Consumers will release all right, title, or interest in all Diamond Collections, THE Club, or interval exchanges related to the Released Membership; (5) Diamond will release the Eligible Consumers of all outstanding obligations, financial and otherwise, under the purchase and security agreement for the Released Membership and all outstanding notes and obligations associated with the Released Membership will be deemed satisfied and terminated; (6) the applicable Association(s) will release the Eligible Consumers from liability for any unpaid Maintenance Fees for the Released Membership; (7) Diamond will not impose liquidated damages in connection with the Released Membership; (8) Diamond will not prohibit such Eligible Consumers from making statements to government officials; (9) to the extent-that Diamond has reported information regarding such Eligible Consumers to credit reporting agencies, Diamond will contact all credit reporting agencies to which it reports and request removal of all negative credit reporting entries with respect to each such Eligible Consumer—it is understood and agreed that Diamond has no control over information furnished to the credit reporting agencies by entities whose assets (or a portion thereof) Diamond acquired; (10) Diamond will pay the cost of any transfer, documentation, and title fees associated with the Relief; and (11) upon full execution of the Mutual Release, Diamond will send a copy of each to the Attorney General.

102. The Relinquishment Program set forth in Article VI is separate from the #5522176

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Relinquishment Remedy Program. Eligible Complaints entitled to Relief under the Relinquishment Remedy Program are to be considered separate from Diamond's Relinquishment Program and may not be considered as any part of any annual caps on Consumers' eligibility for Diamond's Relinquishment Program. Diamond will have no obligation under this Assurance to make any monetary payment directly to Eligible Consumers in connection with the Relinquishment Remedy Program.

B. CRRR Fund Payments

- 103. Subject to the terms and conditions of this Section, Diamond will pay to the Attorney General a monetary payment of Six Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$650,000), pursuant to A.R.S. § 44-1530 ("CRRR Fund Payment").
- 104. The CRRR Fund Payment will be made by cashier's check, or by wire, payable to the Office of the Attorney General, in a single lump sum, no later than thirty (30) calendar days after the Effective Date.
- 105. The Attorney General will promptly deposit the CRRR Fund Payment into an interest-bearing consumer restitution subaccount of the Consumer Restitution and Remediation Revolving Fund, pursuant to A.R.S. § 44-1531.02, and used for the purposes set forth therein. The Attorney General may distribute such monies to Eligible Consumers who filed complaints, pursuant to A.R.S. § 44-1531.02(B). The amount and timing of disbursement to each Eligible Consumer will be determined at the sole discretion of the Attorney General and need not take into account whether a complaint was deemed an Eligible Complaint under the Relinquishment Remedy Program. The total amount of disbursement by the Attorney General to Eligible Consumers is capped at the amount set forth in paragraph 103 above. In the event that any portion of the monies cannot be distributed to Eligible Consumers, or exceeds the amount of claims, such portion will be deposited by the Attorney General into the Consumer Protection Consumer Fraud Revolving Fund in accordance with A.R.S. § 44-1531.01 and used for the purposes specified therein.

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In the event that Diamond fails to timely make the full CRRR Fund Payment imposed by this Assurance, and in addition to any other relief or remedy elected or pursued by the State, the remaining balance will accrue interest at the rate of ten percent (10%) per annum beginning thirty (30) calendar days after the Effective Date until paid in full.

No portion of the CRRR Fund Payment will be characterized as a fine, penalty, sanction, or forfeiture by Diamond to the State.

V. RELEASE

- By execution of this Assurance and following a full and complete payment of the CRRR Fund Payment due under Article IV(B) of this Assurance and the Additional Payment due under Article VII of this Assurance, the Arizona Attorney General releases and discharges Diamond, as defined herein, from the following: all causes of action that can be brought by the Arizona Attorney General under A.R.S. § 44-1521, et seq., as a result of acts or omissions which occurred prior to the Effective Date of this Assurance, except for any obligations arising under this Assurance.
- 109. Except as described in the Relinquishment Remedy Program set forth in Article IV(A) of this Assurance, nothing contained in this Assurance shall be construed to waive, release, discharge or otherwise limit any right, claim, or right of action by any person or entity or by any local, state, federal, or other governmental entity or agency which is not a party hereto, and as to the parties hereto, only to the specific extent agreed to herein.

VI. RELINQUISHMENT PROGRAM

110. Diamond has publicly announced the Relinquishment Program, a program through which Diamond may from time to time, in its sole and subjective discretion, offer certain qualifying Diamond owners ("RP Qualifying Owners") the ability to relinquish all obligations and benefits of owning a Membership or other timeshare interest. Diamond anticipates notifying its owners about the Eligibility Criteria (defined below) for the Relinquishment Program in the first quarter of 2017.

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- 111. To be considered an RP Qualifying Owner, an owner of a Membership or other timeshare interest (collectively, "Qualifying Interest") must meet at least the following criteria ("Eligibility Criteria"):
 - a. not have a loan balance or other lien encumbering the Qualifying Interest;
 - b. be current on the payment of all Maintenance Fees levied against the Qualifying Interest and THE Club dues;
 - c. have free and clear title to the Qualifying Interest;
 - d. own a Qualifying Interest from a Diamond managed resort/program trust or a Qualifying Interest that is eligible for Diamond's multisite vacation plan; and
 - e. have acquired the Qualifying Interest from Diamond or through any entity where Diamond acquired associated developer rights; however, in some cases, Diamond may acquire interests acquired by the RP Qualifying Owner in the secondary market as Diamond shall determine.
- RP Qualifying Owners who previously attempted to make transfers to fraudulent companies may participate in the Relinquishment Program if they otherwise meet the Eligibility Criteria. The Relinquishment Program is separate from the Relinquishment Remedy Program set forth in Article IV(A) of this Assurance. Moreover, the Relinquishment Program is a program offered, on a case-by-case basis, at Diamond's discretion and it does not constitute an obligation under this Assurance aside from the election resulting in the RP Monetary Payment in paragraph 113.
- 113. If in any calendar year commencing January 1, 2018 through December 31, 2023 Diamond, in its discretion, elects (i) to terminate the Relinquishment Program with respect to Consumer purchases of Qualifying Interests at Sales Centers in Arizona or with respect to Consumers domiciled in Arizona or (ii) not to offer relinquishment to a Consumer who otherwise meets the Eligibility Criteria in any calendar year where the Relinquishment Cap (as defined below) has not been met ("RP Denied Consumer"), Diamond shall promptly pay to the #5522176

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Attorney General's Office a monetary payment of Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000), pursuant to A.R.S. § 44-1530, which will be deposited into the Consumer Restitution and Remediation Revolving Fund, pursuant A.R.S. § 44-1531.02 ("RP Monetary Payment"). Only one RP Monetary Payment shall be required in any calendar year irrespective of the total number of RP Denied Consumers in that year. In no event, however, shall any portion of such RP Monetary Payment be characterized, by the Attorney General or otherwise, as a fine, penalty, sanction, or forfeiture by Diamond to the State. For purposes of this paragraph, the "Relinquishment Cap" means the maximum amount of relinquished Qualifying Interests (represented by Points) to RP Qualifying Owners under the Relinquishment Program in a calendar year, and shall equal 15% of the previous year's timeshare sales (represented by Points). The Relinquishment Cap will not include any Consumer complaints resolved under the Relinquishment Remedy Program. To the extent Diamond agrees to acquire an interest under the Relinquishment Program, Diamond will charge no more than \$250 per interval or Points package, subject to annual inflation increases as designated by the U.S. Consumer Price Index.

VII. ADDITIONAL PAYMENT

- 114. Subject to the terms and conditions of this Section, and in consideration of the time and effort of the Attorney General in connection with this Assurance, Diamond will pay to the Attorney-General an additional-monetary payment of One Hundred and Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$150,000), pursuant to A.R.S. § 44-1530.
- 115. Such additional payment will be made by cashier's check, or by wire, payable to the Office of the Attorney General, in a single lump sum, no later than thirty (30) calendar days after the Effective Date.
- 116. The Attorney General will deposit such payment in the Consumer Protection Consumer Fraud Revolving Fund in accordance with A.R.S. § 44-1531.01 and used for the purposes set forth therein.
- 117. In the event that Diamond fails to timely make the full additional payment #5522176

imposed by this Assurance, and in addition to any other relief or remedy elected or pursued by the State, the remaining balance will accrue interest at the rate of ten percent (10%) per annum beginning thirty (30) calendar days after the Effective Date until paid in full.

118. No portion of the additional payment set forth in this Section will be characterized as a fine, penalty, sanction, or forfeiture by Diamond to the State.

VIII. GENERAL PROVISIONS

- 119. This Assurance applies to Diamond, any successor entity or entities, whether by acquisition, merger or otherwise, Diamond's current or future officers, directors, managerial or supervisory employees, and to any other employees or agents having responsibilities with respect to the subject matter of this Assurance of Discontinuance.
- 120. Diamond shall not participate, directly or indirectly, in any activity, or form a separate corporation or entity for the purpose of engaging in acts or practices in whole or in part within the State, that is prohibited by this Assurance or for any other purpose that would otherwise circumvent any part of this Assurance.
- 121. Acceptance of this Assurance by the State shall not be deemed approval of or sanction by the State of Diamond's past, present or future business practices, and Diamond is prohibited from making any representations to the contrary. Further, neither Diamond nor anyone acting on its behalf shall state or imply or cause to be stated or implied that the State, or any other governmental unit, has approved, sanctioned, or authorized any of Diamond's acts or practices.
- 122. Nothing in this Assurance shall be construed as relieving Diamond of its obligation to comply with all applicable state and federal laws, regulations, or rules, or granting it permission to engage in any acts or practices prohibited by such laws, regulations, or rules.
- 123. In the event that any statute, rule, or regulation pertaining to the subject matter of this Assurance is enacted, promulgated, modified, or interpreted by a federal or state court, or any federal or state government, or any federal or state agency, or a court of competent #5522176

jurisdiction holds that such statute, rule, or regulation is in conflict with any provision of this Assurance, Diamond may comply with such statute, rule, or regulation and such action shall not per se constitute a violation of this Assurance.

- 124. Nothing in this Assurance shall be construed to affect, restrict, limit, alter, waive, or create any private right of action that a Consumer may hold against Diamond, unless expressly set forth in state law.
- 125. This Assurance is made without trial or adjudication of any issue of fact or law. The settlement negotiations resulting in this Assurance have been undertaken by the Parties in good faith and for settlement purposes only. Nothing contained in this Assurance shall be construed as an admission or concession of liability or fact by Diamond, a public reprimand, or an adverse administrative order.
- 126. Neither this Assurance nor any evidence of any settlement negotiation or settlement communications resulting in this Assurance, including determinations by the Facilitator as part of the Relinquishment Remedy Program, shall be offered or received in evidence in any action or proceeding for any purpose other than the enforcement of this Assurance or related actions or enforcement proceedings. Nothing contained in this Assurance shall be construed to create any legal or voluntary standard of care. Further, Diamond does not intend that this Assurance be retired upon in any manner by any third-party in any civil, criminal, or administrative proceeding before any court, administrative agency, or other tribunal as an admission, concession, or evidence that Diamond has violated any federal, state, or local law, or that any of Diamond's current or prior practices are or were in accordance with any federal, state, or local law.
- 127. To seek modifications of this Assurance, Diamond shall send a written request for modification with a detailed written explanation of the reason for the request to the Attorney General. The Attorney General shall review such request on a timely basis and shall provide a written response to Diamond within ninety (90) calendar days of the request.

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- 128. This Assurance contains the entire agreement between the Parties. If any clause, provision, or section of this Assurance shall, for any reason, be held illegal, invalid, or unenforceable, such illegality, invalidity, or unenforceability shall not affect any other clause, provision, or section of this Assurance, and this Assurance shall be construed and enforced as if such illegal, invalid, or unenforceable clause, section, or other provision had not been contained herein.
- 129. No waiver, modification, or amendment of the terms of this Assurance shall be valid or binding unless made in writing, signed by the Parties, and then only to the extent specifically set forth in such written waiver, modification, or amendment. To the extent that a waiver, modification, or amendment of this Assurance must be approved and entered by the Court, the State and Diamond agree to submit such waiver, modification, or amendment to the Court for approval.
- 130. Although time is of the essence, nothing in this Assurance shall be construed to require, prevent, or prohibit the Parties from agreeing to extend any time period set forth herein, including but not limited to any notice requirement specified herein.
- 131. Diamond represents that it has fully read this Assurance and understands the legal consequences involved in signing this Assurance.
- been fully advised of its legal rights in this matter; and the corporate signatory signing below is fully authorized to act on behalf of Diamond.
- 133. Diamond shall provide a copy of this Assurance or a complete and accurate summary of the material terms and conditions of this Assurance to its senior executive officers who have managerial responsibility over the subject matter of this Assurance.
- 134. Diamond shall comply with the terms and conditions of this Assurance as of the Effective Date, unless indicated otherwise in this Assurance or agreed to in writing by the Parties.

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Any notices required to be sent to the State or Diamond by this Assurance shall be sent by United States mail or other national recognized courier service. Notice may also be provided by facsimile, e-mail, or other electronic means of transmission. The documents shall be sent to the following addresses:

For the State of Arizona: Alyse C. Meislik Assistant Attorney General 1275 West Washington Street Phoenix, Arizona 85007-2997 consumer@azag.gov

For Diamond: Jared T. Finkelstein Senior Vice President and General Counsel 10600 West Charleston Boulevard Las Vegas; Nevada 89135

Jared.Finkelstein@diamondresorts.com

- If the State receives a request for documents provided by Diamond relating to this Assurance or the negotiations resulting in this Assurance, or for any documents, materials, reports or information specified by or required herein, the State shall comply with applicable public disclosure laws, including without limitation A.R.S. § 44-1525.
- This Assurance shall not be construed against the "drafter" because all Parties participated in the drafting of this Assurance.
- This Assurance may only be enforced by the Parties. Nothing contained in this Assurance shall be construed to create any third-party beneficiary rights or give rise to or support any right of action in favor of any consumer or group of consumers, or confer upon any third-party any rights-and remedies.
- 139. This Assurance is entered pursuant and subject to the provisions of A.R.S. § 44-1530.
- Diamond acknowledges that a violation of this Assurance within six (6) years of the Effective Date constitutes prima facie evidence of a violation of A.R.S. § 44-1522.
- The Attorney General shall file and seek Court approval of this Assurance. This Court retains jurisdiction over the parties and the subject matter for purposes of enabling the Parties to apply to the Court at any time for orders and directions as may be necessary or appropriate to enforce compliance with or punish violations of this Assurance. Neither Party #5522176

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Case 2:20-cv-00760-MCE-CKD Document 1-1 Filed 04/13/20 Page 47 of 47 ampong workerall mannunuresons compower weakeady viewBody.aspx?t.. Diamoud Resorts Corporation 3 T. Finkelstein Senior Vice President and General Counsel of Respondent Diamond Resorts Corporation 5 б 7 8 9 APPROVED AS TO FORM AND CONTENT: 10 11 By: Joseph Kanefield 12 Ballard Spahr, LLP 13 Attorneys for Respondents 14 15 16 17 18 .19 .20 21 22

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