1 2	Jon P. Kardassakis, SB# 90602 Jon.Kardassakis@lewisbrisbois.com MICHAEL K. GRIMALDI, SB# 280939	
3		
4	Los Angeles, CA 90071 Telephone: 213.250.1800	
5	Facsimile: 213.250.7900	
6	Attorneys for Defendant P.F. CHANG'S CHINA BISTRO, INC.	
7		
8	United States	DISTRICT COURT
9	Northern District of Cal	LIFORNIA, SAN JOSE DIVISION.
10		
11	ANNA MARIE PHILLIPS, on behalf of herself	Case No. 5:15-cv-00344 (RMW)
12	and others similarly situated,	D.E. Created a Create Drawn a Live to Morrow
13	Plaintiff,	P.F. CHANG'S CHINA BISTRO, INC.'S MOTION TO DISMISS:
14	VS.	1. Plaintiff's Complaint for Failure
15	P.F. CHANG'S CHINA BISTRO, INC. , a Delaware corporation, and Does 1 through 50,	TO STATE A CLAIM (FRCP 12(B)(6))
16	inclusive,	2. PLAINTIFF'S INJUNCTION REQUEST FOR LACK OF STANDING (FRCP 12(B)(1))
17	Defendants.	[Concurrently Filed with the Request for Judicial Notice and Proposed Order]
18		The Hon. Ronald M. Whyte
19		·
20		Date: Friday, April 10, 2015 Time: 9:00 a.m.
21		Crtrm: 6, 4th Floor
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BISGAARD
& SMITH LLP
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

4818-1495-1713.11 5:15-cv-00344

NOTICE OF MOTION TO DISMISS

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on April 10, 2015 at 9 a.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard in Courtroom 5 (4th Floor) of the above-entitled court, located at 280 South 1st Street, San Jose, California 95113, defendant P.F. Chang's China Bistro, Inc. ("P.F. Chang's") will, and hereby does, move the Court under Federal Rules of Civil Procedure 12(B)(1) and 12(B)(6) for an order dismissing the Complaint of plaintiff Anna Marie Phillips. The 12(B)(1) motion is made on the grounds that plaintiff lacks Article III standing to enjoin P.F. Chang's. The 12(B)(6) motion is made on the grounds that, even assuming plaintiff has standing, she has failed to state a claim under any of the causes of action in her Complaint. This motion is based on this notice, the concurrently-filed memorandum of points and authorities, the request for judicial notice, and all other facts the Court may or should take notice of, all files, records, and proceedings in this case, and any oral argument the Court may entertain.

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DATED: February 27, 2015 LEWIS BRISBOIS BISGAARD & SMITH LLP

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By:

Jon P. Kardassakis Michael K. Grimaldi

Attorneys for Defendant P.F. CHANG'S CHINA BISTRO, INC.

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P.F. CHANG'S CHINA BISTRO, INC.'S MOTION TO DISMISS THE COMPLAINT

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MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES

I. INTRODUCTION AND STATEMENT OF ISSUES TO BE DECIDED.

Plaintiff Anna Marie Phillips alleges that P.F. Chang's discriminated against her, and other guests with celiac disease or a gluten allergy/intolerance, because P.F. Chang's charges \$1.00 more for some gluten-free menu items compared to non-gluten-free versions of menu items with the same name (but prepared differently). Plaintiff purports to bring this attempted class action on behalf of all persons who have been diagnosed with celiac disease or an allergy/intolerance to gluten and who purchased items from P.F. Chang's gluten-free menu in California. Comp. ¶ 18. The Complaint asserts five causes of action for (1) violation of California's Unruh Civil Rights Act (Cal. Civ. Code § 51 et seq.) ("Unruh Act"); (2) violation of California's Disabled Persons Act (Cal. Civ. Code § 54 et seq.) ("DPA")¹ based solely on an alleged violation of the Americans with Disabilities Act ("ADA"); (3) violation of the unfairness prong of the California Unfair Competition Law (Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17200 et seq.) ("UCL"); (4) violation of the unlawful prong of the UCL; and (5) restitution based on quasi-contract/unjust enrichment.

As set forth herein, plaintiff's claims must be dismissed in their entirety. Resolution of the following issues indisputably must be made in P.F. Chang's favor because:

- (1) Plaintiff has failed to plausibly allege that she is disabled under any applicable statute since her condition constitutes only a *minimal limitation* on the major life activity of eating. She can still consume all gluten-free foods. No authority supports plaintiff's baseless position that she is disabled.
- (2) P.F. Chang's does not discriminate on the basis of a disability (or at all) since it charges all guests the same prices for gluten-free menu items. The price P.F. Chang's charges to all guests for its gluten-free items does not include an unlawful "surcharge" under the ADA. The disability statutes only require equal access; they do not require businesses to reduce their prices or even alter their inventory. And while plaintiff's Complaint fails on its face and as a matter of

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¹ Civil Code §§ 54 to 55.3 are "commonly referred to as the 'Disabled Persons Act,' although it has no official title." *Munson v. Del Taco, Inc.*, 46 Cal. 4th 661, 674 n.8 (2009).

law, the detrimental implications of allowing plaintiff's baseless claims to proceed impact an entire industry.

- (3) P.F. Chang's did not violate the ADA regulation requiring special orders since that regulation only applies to "unstocked goods," which is not applicable in the restaurant setting.
- (4) P.F. Chang's did not violate the UCL unlawful prong because plaintiff has not pled a violation of the Unruh Act or DPA. Plaintiff's claim that P.F. Chang's violated the UCL unfairness prong fails too because it is perfectly fair to charge all guests the same prices for gluten-free items. This practice conforms to the fundamental principle of equal treatment.
- (5) Plaintiff's unjust enrichment claim fails because there is no cause of action in California for unjust enrichment. Plaintiff's quasi-contract claim is also fatally flawed because a valid express contract already existed between the parties based on the dining transactions.
- (6) Plaintiff lacks Article III standing to enjoin P.F. Chang's because she has failed to allege any facts whatsoever demonstrating an imminent threat of future injury. Plaintiff's request for injunction also fails on the merits because plaintiff has no disability claim in the first place.

Plaintiff has not stated, nor could she ever state, a viable claim because each of these issues can only be decided in P.F. Chang's favor. Further, it would be futile for plaintiff to attempt to cure the fatal deficiencies in her Complaint through amendment. This case should be dismissed with prejudice.

II. BACKGROUND FACTS AND SUMMARY OF ALLEGATIONS

A. Gluten-Free Menu Items Cost More to Prepare.

In 2013, sales of gluten-free products were approximately \$10.5 billion and expected to grow to more than \$15 billion in 2016.² The number of U.S. adults who say they are choosing to cut down on or avoid gluten is "too large for restaurant operators to ignore," says one analyst.³

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² Strom, *A Big Bet on Gluten-Free*, N.Y. Times, Feb. 18, 2014, at B1, *available at* www.nytimes.com/2014/02/18/business/food-industry-wagers-big-on-gluten-free.html.

³ One in Three Americans Now Avoiding Gluten, Celiac.com (Apr. 5, 2013), www.celiac.com/articles/23241/1/One-in-Three-Americans-Now-Avoiding-Gluten/Page1.html.

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With that in mind, a recent Consumer Reports article "found that in every category except ready-to-eat cereal, the gluten-free versions were more expensive than their regular counterparts, about double the cost, and in some cases considerably more." Because of the higher costs to prepare, restaurants commonly charge more for gluten-free menu items.

Beyond the cost of the raw ingredients that factor into a price-point for gluten-free offerings, there are a host of other cost drivers for restaurants who elect to use the gluten-free label on menu items that cannot be ignored, such as:

- (1) the time and resources involved in sourcing verifiably gluten-free ingredients;
- (2) capital investment in additional kitchen equipment to reduce the risk of gluten exposure during cooking and development of new recipes;
- (3) implementing specific cooking procedures and handling protocols across multiple restaurant locations;
- (4) the risk of governmental enforcement action if gluten-free labeled menu items actually contain gluten; and
- (5) personal-injury/consumer-fraud claims by any guest who claims to have been injured by consuming foods that were represented as gluten free.⁵

B. P.F. Chang's Gluten-Free Menu and Plaintiff's Alleged Price Discrimination.

P.F. Chang's is a chain of full-service, upscale-casual dining restaurants that offers high-quality, Chinese-inspired cuisine in a contemporary bistro setting.⁶ Domestically, P.F. Chang's operates 211 branded restaurants. In addition to its many standard-menu items, P.F. Chang's offers a range of gluten-free items for any customer who wishes to purchase a gluten-free meal.⁷ P.F. Chang's is considered one of the industry's early pioneers and adopters of gluten-free dining

⁴ Will a Gluten-Free Diet Really Make You Healthier?, Consumer Reports, supra.

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⁵ *Tips for Restaurants (and Counsel) in a Gluten-Free World*, Law360 (Aug. 22, 2014) http://www.law360.com/articles/570403/tips-for-restaurants-and-counsel-in-a-gluten-free-world.

⁶ See http://www.pfcb.com/restaurants.html.

⁷ The Court can take judicial notice of P.F. Chang's menu since it has been incorporated by reference in the Complaint. Request for Judicial Notice ("RJN"), Exs. 1-2.

options, having provided gluten-free menu options for well over a decade. The celebrated brand has received, and continues to receive, numerous accolades for its superior willingness and ability to provide an optimal dining experience for people with food allergies like gluten and its best-inclass food-allergy procedures, training, and knowledge. For example, P.F. Chang's is proud that, for the last two years in a row, it has been recognized as one of the most allergy-friendly restaurants in the country by AllergyEats, the leading guide to allergy-friendly restaurants. 9

The subject of this suit is P.F. Chang's gluten-free menu. Comp. ¶ 3; RJN, Exs. 1-2. Plaintiff alleges that P.F. Chang's gluten-free menu items cost \$1.00 more per item compared to the "regular" non-gluten-free version of that item. Comp. ¶ 14. Plaintiff characterizes this \$1.00 price differential between the gluten-free menu item and the regular-menu item as a "surcharge." Comp. ¶ 9, 16. However, plaintiff fails to acknowledge, or conveniently ignores, that gluten-free menu *prices are the same* for all guests who wish to order from the gluten-free menu, including those guests with celiac disease, a gluten allergy/intolerance, those who choose a gluten-free diet, or simply those who would like to try a gluten-free meal that day.

Plaintiff alleges that P.F. Chang's "discriminates" against guests like her with celiac disease (and other guests with a gluten intolerance/allergy) because of the price differential between the gluten-free and the non-gluten-free menu items. *Id.* ¶¶ 15-16, 18. Plaintiff does not allege, nor could she, that P.F. Chang's directly or intentionally discriminates against guests with celiac disease, a gluten allergy, or a gluten intolerance. Nor does she allege that anyone forced her to dine at P.F. Chang's. She asserts that the "disparate pricing draws arbitrary distinctions between

⁸ See *P.F. Chang's China Bistro: A Great Place for Food-Allergic/Gluten-Intolerant Diners to Eat*, AllergyEats, www.allergyeats.com/blog/index.php/p-f-changs-china-bistro-a-great-place-for-food-allergic-gluten-intolerant-diners-to-eat/.

⁹ RJN, Ex. 3, 2015 List of Most Allergy-Friendly Restaurant Chains, AllergyEats (Feb. 23, 2015), http://www.allergyeats.com/blog/wp-content/uploads/2010/06/AllergyEats-Release-Best-Rated-Restaurants-FINAL-150223.pdf; RJN, Ex. 4, 2014 List of Most Allergy-Friendly Restaurant Chains, AllergyEats (Mar. 4, 2014), www.allergyeats.com/blog/wp-

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consumers with and without celiac disease." *Id.* No facts are pled to support this assertion, nor could there be. The gluten-free menu pricing is applicable to all guests. Despite the fact that preparation of gluten-free menu items costs more and additional measures must be implemented, plaintiff second guesses P.F. Chang's gluten-free pricing. Comp. ¶¶ 15, 16. As set forth more fully below, plaintiff's allegations fail to establish any viable cause of action, and thus her Complaint must be dismissed in total.

III. RULE 12(B)(6) STANDARD

A court must dismiss a complaint if the alleged facts do not entitle the plaintiff to relief. See *Bell Atl. Corp. v. Twombly*, 550 U.S. 544, 560-61 (2007). "[A] plaintiff's obligation to provide the grounds of his entitlement to relief requires more than labels and conclusions, and a formulaic recitation of the elements of a cause of action will not do." *Id.* at 555 (citation, alteration, and internal quotation marks omitted). Nor is a court "required to accept as true allegations that are merely conclusory, unwarranted deductions of fact, or unreasonable inferences." *Sprewell v. Golden State Warriors*, 266 F.3d 979, 988 (9th Cir. 2001). And "the tenet that a court must accept as true all of the allegations contained in a complaint is inapplicable to legal conclusions ... While legal conclusions can provide the framework of a complaint, they must be supported by factual allegations." *Ashcroft v. Iqbal*, 129 S. Ct. 1937, 1949-50 (2009).

IV. EVEN IF PLAINTIFF HAS CELIAC DISEASE, SHE IS NOT DISABLED AND THUS HAS NO VIABLE CLAIM UNDER THE UNRUH ACT, THE DPA, OR THE ADA.

As a threshold issue, celiac disease does not qualify as a "disability" for purposes of the Unruh Act or DPA/ADA.¹⁰ To invoke protection under the ADA, plaintiff must show that she suffers from a "disability" as defined in the ADA. E.g., *Weaving v. City of Hillsboro*, 763 F.3d

¹⁰ A violation of the ADA constitutes a violation of the DPA. Civ. Code § 54.1(d). Plaintiff alleges that P.F. Chang's violated the ADA by placing a "surcharge" on gluten-free menu items. Comp. ¶¶ 41-48. Plaintiff concludes that because P.F. Chang's conduct violates the ADA, it also violates the DPA. *Id.* ¶ 48. Based on this alleged ADA violation, plaintiff seeks an injunction enjoining further surcharges by P.F. Chang's on gluten-free orders by persons with celiac disease or gluten sensitivities. *Id.* ¶ 49.

1106, 1111 (9th Cir. 2014). Under the ADA, "disability" is defined in relevant part as "a physical. . . impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities of such individual." 42 U.S.C. § 12102(1). Similarly, the Unruh Act prohibits discrimination based on a "disability" or a "medical condition." Civ. Code § 51(b). Counsel for P.F. Chang's has not found a single case where a court has held that celiac disease qualifies as a legal disability within the meaning of the Unruh Act, the DPA, or the ADA. There is no basis for this Court to blaze that trail here. Under any reasonable interpretation of these acts, a person cannot be considered "disabled" just because he or she cannot eat certain foods. And, in any event, plaintiff has failed to allege plausible facts showing that she is disabled.

The definition of a protected disability is not unlimited. Plaintiff contends that she is disabled because "Celiac disease affects a major life activity of eating and impacts the digestive system" (Comp. ¶ 44), making it medically necessary for her to consume a gluten-free diet (id. ¶ 16). While eating and the digestive system are considered major life activities, plaintiff has pled no allegations showing how a gluten-free diet "substantially limits" these major life activities. 42 U.S.C. §§ 12102(1), 12102(2)(A) (emphasis added). Instead, plaintiff merely alleges that celiac disease "affects" a major life activity. Comp. ¶ 44. But that is clearly not the test. See, e.g., Henry v. Univ. Tech. Inst., 559 F. App'x 648, 650 (9th Cir. 2014) (affirming dismissal because plaintiff failed to allege facts showing that he was disabled).

Plaintiff has failed to allege how a gluten-free diet substantially limits her quality of life other than the fact that she cannot eat foods containing gluten. Plaintiff can still eat and digest gluten-free foods. She does not allege how celiac disease affects her if she does eat foods containing gluten. See Comp. ¶ 17. Nor does plaintiff allege an "impairment that is episodic or in remission" that "substantially limit[s] a major life activity when active." 42 U.S.C. §12102(4)(D). Indeed, individuals with celiac disease only need to follow a "well-balanced, gluten-free diet" to stay well. ¹¹

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¹¹ Celiac Disease, U.S. Nat'l Library of Med., Nat'l Inst. of Health, A.D.A.M. Med. (footnote continued)

Equally as fatal for plaintiff is that she has failed to allege how she is disabled under the Unruh Act's definitions of "medical condition" or "disability." Civ. Code § 51(b). Counsel for P.F. Chang's has not found a single case that held that celiac disease or a food allergy is a "medical condition" or a "disability" under the Unruh Act. "Medical condition" is defined as a health impairment related to cancer or "genetic characteristics." Gov. Code § 12926(i). Plaintiff does not allege that celiac disease is a "medical condition" under this definition. Plaintiff's allegations that celiac disease *affects* a major life activity of eating and impacts the digestive system" (Comp. ¶ 44) does not satisfy the substantially similar "disability" definition under the Unruh Act. 13

Plaintiff's bid to be defined as disabled is contradicted by case law. As numerous cases have squarely found, merely having to abstain from eating certain types of foods does not constitute a substantial limitation on eating. For example, in Rodriguez v. Putnam, 2013 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 67090 (C.D. Cal. May 8, 2013), the court granted a motion to dismiss and dismissed an ADA claim with prejudice, finding that a peanut allergy does not constitute a disability. The plaintiff prisoner in Rodriguez had a peanut allergy and requested that he be provided with a substitute meal when peanut butter or food containing peanuts was served. Id. at *3-4. Despite this request, plaintiff claimed to suffer multiple allergic reactions at the prison and sued, in part, on an ADA theory. Id. at *6-7. The court found that while eating is a major life activity, having a peanut allergy was only a "minimal limitation on it" and "does not amount to a substantial limitation." Id. at *6 (emphasis added) (citing Fraser v. Goodale, 342 F.3d 1032, 1040 (9th Cir. 2003); Land v. Baptist Med. Ctr., 164 F.3d 423, 425 (8th Cir. 1999)).

Other courts have come to the same conclusion. In Land v. Baptist Medical Center, 164

Encyclopedia (Feb. 1, 2014), www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmedhealth/PMH0001280.

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¹² The Unruh Act defines "medical condition" to have the same meaning as defined in Section 12926 of the Government Code. Civ. Code § 51(e)(3).

¹³ The Unruh Act defines "disability" to mean "any physical disability as defined in Sections 12926 and 12926.1 of the Government Code." Civ. Code § 56(e)(1). Notably, Gov. Code § 12926(n) incorporates by reference the ADA definition of disability to the extent it is broader.

F.3d 423 (8th Cir. 1999), the court held that a day care student's food allergy is not a disability under the ADA since it does not substantially limit the student's ability to engage in a major life activity. Although the student could not eat peanuts, the court found that she did not "suffer[] an allergic reaction when she consumes any other kind of food or that her physical ability to eat is in any way restricted." *Id.* at 425. So even though the student's "allergic reaction to peanut-laden foods affects her eating and breathing, her allergy does not substantially or materially limit these major life activities within the definition of disability under the ADA." *Id.* The court thus affirmed summary judgment in favor of the day care center. *Id.* at 427. In similar cases as *Land* where a plaintiff experiences an *avoidable* allergic reaction, courts have repeatedly determined that the condition is not a "disability" under the ADA.¹⁴

As the Ninth Circuit has made clear, courts must "carefully separate those who have simple dietary restrictions from those who are truly disabled" and permit only those with "severe dietary restrictions to enjoy the protections of the ADA." *Fraser v. Goodale*, 342 F.3d 1032, 1045 (9th Cir. 2003) (severe diabetes substantially limits eating). Plaintiff has not pled how celiac disease is a severe dietary restriction tantamount to diabetes. Thus, even giving the definition of "disability" a broad construction (42 U.S.C. § 12102(4)(A)), there can be no inference that plaintiff is disabled due to her intolerance to gluten.

¹⁴ See, e.g., *Slade v. Hershey Co.*, 2011 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 81270, at *13-14 (M.D. Pa. July 26, 2011) (finding that plaintiff is not disabled under the ADA since plaintiff could cure her breathing problem through simple measures such as avoiding exposure to nuts and keeping medication on her person); *McLorn v. Cmty. Health Servs.*, 456 F. Supp. 2d 991, 997 (S.D. Ill. 2006) (mere periodic episodes of allergic reactions that occurred only when plaintiff was in direct contact with latex not a substantial impairment of a major life activity); *Gallagher v. Sunrise Assisted Living of Haverford*, 268 F. Supp. 2d 436 (E.D. Pa. 2003) (finding no disability where an employee with a severe allergy to animals worked in a nursing home allowing pets); *Moore v. J.B. Hunt Transp., Inc.*, 221 F.3d 944, 952 (7th Cir. 2000) (intermittent flare-ups may not render a condition a "disability" under the ADA); *Maulding v. Sullivan*, 961 F.2d 694 (8th Cir.1992) (plaintiff who was unable to work in a particular lab due to allergies was not disabled).

V. P.F. CHANG'S POLICY OF CHARGING ALL GUESTS THE SAME PRICE FOR GLUTEN-FREE MENU ITEMS DOES NOT CONSTITUTE DISCRIMINATION ON THE BASIS OF A DISABILITY.

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Even assuming plaintiff is "disabled" under the law (she is not), she does not and cannot allege that P.F. Chang's discriminated against her based on her celiac disease. Simply put, P.F.

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Chang's gluten-free menu prices are the same for all guests. Title III of the ADA prohibits public accommodations, such as restaurants, from discriminating against any individual "on the basis of disability in the full and equal enjoyment of the goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages, or accommodations of any place of public

36.202. To state a claim under Title III, plaintiff must show: (1) discrimination on the basis of a

accommodation ..." 42 U.S.C. § 12182(a) (emphasis added); see also 28 C.F.R. §§ 36.201(a),

disability; (2) in the full and equal enjoyment of the goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages or accommodations of any place of public accommodation; (3) by the public

accommodation's owner, lessor or operator. *Id.*; see also, e.g., *Hernandez v. Cnty. of Monterey*,

2014 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 138247, at *17 (N.D. Cal. Sept. 29, 2014); Anderson v. Macy's, Inc., 943

F. Supp. 2d 531, 542-43 (W.D. Pa. 2013). The Unruh Act requires intentional discrimination. See

Sec. VIII, infra.

Plaintiff cannot plausibly allege that P.F. Chang's discriminates against guests with celiac disease by charging these persons more than other guests. Cf. Comp. ¶ 16. The gluten-free menu and its related pricing is offered to all guests on an equal basis—anyone who wants gluten-free items can order them. Plaintiff was given access to the "full and equal enjoyment of the goods" that P.F. Chang's offers, and that is all that is required. See, e.g., Krist v. Kolombos Rest., Inc., 688 F.3d 89, 97 (2d Cir. 2012) ("Title III is designed to prevent a facility offering public accommodation from denying individuals with disabilities 'goods [and] services."") (citing 42 U.S.C. §§ 12182(a), 12182(b)(2)(A)(ii)). There can be no inference that P.F. Chang's discriminated against plaintiff based on her celiac disease.

Beyond that, because gluten-free versions of foods cost more to prepare, businesses must be free to pass on the increased cost to guests who want these products. A business is free to sell a gluten-free product for a different price than a non-gluten-free product. By plaintiff's logic, a

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paraplegic could sue the makers of wheelchair-accessible vans for charging more for them than similar vans without the wheelchair ramps or lifts used to make them accessible.

Plaintiff is actually, and inappropriately, requesting *preferential treatment* at P.F. Chang's—and any other restaurant serving gluten-free items with prices that differ from the "regular" menu—for those persons with celiac disease or a gluten allergy. Plaintiff's request is squarely undercut by law. In *Bodley v. Macayo Rests.*, *LLC*, 546 F. Supp. 2d 696 (D. Ariz. 2008), for instance, the court dismissed ADA claims requesting preferential treatment. In that case, the disabled patron and his wife were seated on an outside patio to enjoy happy-hour food and drinks rather than the first floor's inside-dining section, which they preferred. The court found no disability discrimination because "Plaintiff's request to be seated inside was not a request for a modification that would enable him to enjoy a good or service on equal terms with those who are not disabled." Id. at 699. Rather, plaintiff was making "a request for preferential treatment—to be seated inside despite the fact that others receiving happy hour drinks and food on the first floor must eat outside." Id. (emphasis added). The court held that the "ADA mandates only equal enjoyment of goods and services offered by a place of public accommodation." Id. (citing 28 C.F.R. § 36.201(a); 28 C.F.R. § 36.202(b)). The same logic controls here.

As explained in more detail in the next section, P.F. Chang's is also not legally required to offer a gluten-free menu in the first place; it voluntarily decided to do so. As a public accommodation, P.F. Chang's must make only "reasonable modifications in policies, practices, or procedures, when such *modifications are necessary* to afford such goods ... to individuals with disabilities ..." 42 U.S.C. § 12182(b)(2)(A)(ii) (emphasis added); see also 28 C.F.R. § 36.302. Here, plaintiff voluntarily chose to dine at P.F. Chang's and order items off the gluten-free menu.

In addition, plaintiff fails to allege that she affirmatively requested a further accommodation that was tied to her purported disability. See *Bodley*, 546 F. Supp. 2d at 699-700 (dismissing ADA claim in part for this reason). To the extent plaintiff is requesting a modification to P.F. Chang's policy of charging everyone the same price for gluten-free menu items (Comp. ¶¶ 46-47), plaintiff's failure to request a modification dooms her claim. Fortyune v. Am. Multi-Cinema, Inc., 364 F.3d 1075, 1082 (9th Cir. 2004) ("An individual alleging discrimination under

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Title III must show that the defendant discriminated against the plaintiff based upon the
plaintiff's disability by (a) failing to make a requested reasonable modification that was (b)
necessary to accommodate the plaintiff's disability") (emphasis added).

VI. THE PRICE P.F. CHANG'S CHARGES FOR ITS GLUTEN-FREE MENU ITEMS DOES NOT INCLUDE AN UNLAWFUL "SURCHARGE" UNDER THE ADA BECAUSE THE GLUTEN-FREE MENU ITEM PRICES ARE APPLICABLE TO ALL GUESTS.

In her claim that P.F. Chang's violated the DPA by violating the ADA, plaintiff alleges that P.F. Chang's imposed a discriminatory "surcharge" on the gluten-free items in violation of 28 C.F.R. § 36.301(c). Comp. ¶ 41. ADA regulation 28 C.F.R. § 36.301(c) states, in relevant part, that "[a] public accommodation may not impose a surcharge on a particular individual with a disability ... to cover the costs of measures ... that are required to provide that individual or group with the nondiscriminatory treatment required by the Act or this part." (Emphasis added.) With regard to this section, the ADA Title III Technical Assistance Manual explains that "[a]lthough compliance may result in some additional cost, a public accommodation may not place a surcharge only on particular individuals with disabilities or groups of individuals with disabilities to cover these expenses." § III-4.1400 (emphasis added), available at http://www.ada.gov/taman3.html. To evaluate whether an added cost constitutes a surcharge that violates Title III of the ADA, courts consider whether the added cost (1) is used to cover the costs of ADA-mandated measures and (2) is really a surcharge (a charge that nondisabled people would not incur). See, e.g., Dare v. Ca., 191 F.3d 1167, 1171 (9th Cir. 1999); Anderson v. Macy's, Inc., 943 F. Supp. 2d 531, 545 & n.22 (W.D. Pa. 2013) (noting that the same test is used for both public and private entities under Title II and III of the ADA, respectively). Plaintiff's claim clearly fails on both prongs.

First, P.F. Chang's is not required to carry gluten-free menu items. The core meaning of Title III is that the ADA only requires equal access to places of public accommodation. The ADA does not regulate what P.F. Chang's decides to put on its menu. As one Court of Appeals has explained, directly on this very point:

The common sense of the statute is that the content of the goods or services offered by a place of public accommodation is not regulated. A camera store may not refuse to sell cameras to a disabled person, but it is not required to stock cameras

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Ms 28 specially designed for such persons. Had Congress purposed to impose so enormous a burden on the retail sector of the economy and so vast a supervisory responsibility on the federal courts, we think it would have made its intention clearer and would at least have imposed some standards. It is hardly a feasible judicial function to decide whether shoe stores should sell single shoes to one-legged persons and *if so at what price*, or how many Braille books the Borders or Barnes and Noble bookstore chains should stock in each of their stores.

Doe v. Mut. of Omaha Ins. Co., 179 F.3d 557, 560 (7th Cir. 1999) (emphasis added). ¹⁵ Since providing a gluten-free menu is "not required under the ADA, the inquiry ends" as the regulation only forbids surcharges for ADA "required" measures. *Dare*, 191 F.3d at 1171.

Second, the higher cost of preparing gluten-free menu items is not a "surcharge" because the higher cost is not imposed only on disabled persons. There are no allegations (nor could there be) that disabled persons are charged a higher price than non-disabled persons for the same gluten-free menu items, or that only disabled persons consume gluten-free items. In truth, and indisputably, P.F. Chang's offers its gluten-free items to all guests at the same prices. RJN Ex. 1-2. Plaintiff cannot contest this point, and thus any price difference between the gluten-free items and their regular counterparts is not an unlawful "surcharge" under this ADA regulation. See also *Dare*, 191 F.3d at 1171 ("If nondisabled people pay the same fee for an equivalent service, the charge to disabled people would not constitute a surcharge on a 'required' measure.").

Plaintiff's allegations simply fail to allege that any purported price differential is a "surcharge" on only disabled persons to cover the cost of ADA compliance. Because no

¹⁵ See also, e.g, *Ariz. ex rel. Goddard v. Harkins Amusement Enters., Inc.*, 603 F.3d 666, 671 (9th Cir. 2010) ("whatever goods or services the place provides, it cannot discriminate on the basis of disability in providing enjoyment of those goods and services. This language does not require provision of different goods or services, just nondiscriminatory enjoyment of those that are provided."); *Weyer v. Twentieth Century Fox Film Corp.*, 198 F.3d 1104, 1115 (9th Cir. 2000) ("The ordinary meaning of [Title III] is that whatever goods or services the place provides, it cannot discriminate on the basis of disability in providing enjoyment of those goods and services, just nondiscriminatory enjoyment of those that are provided. Thus, a bookstore cannot discriminate against disabled people in granting access, but need not assure that the books are available in Braille as well as print."); *Nat'l Fed'n of the Blind v. Target Corp.*, 452 F. Supp. 2d 946 (N.D. Cal. 2006) ("The purpose of the ADA's public accommodations requirements is to ensure accessibility to the goods offered by a public accommodation, not to alter the nature or mix of goods that the public accommodation has typically provided.").

amendment to the pleadings could change the result, this claim should be dismissed with prejudice. See *Anderson*, 943 F. Supp. 2d at 545 (dismissing similar surcharge claim on motion to dismiss with prejudice). For these same reasons, plaintiff has not alleged a discriminatory "surcharge" or "price discrimination" under the Unruh Act, to the extent such a claim even exists. Comp. ¶ 32.

VII. PLAINTIFF'S CITATION TO AN ADA REGULATION REQUIRING SPECIAL ORDERS OF UNSTOCKED GOODS IS IRRELEVANT TO THIS ACTION.

Plaintiff appears to contend that P.F. Chang's failed to provide plaintiff a "special order" of gluten-free menu items for the same price as regular menu items in violation of 28 C.F.R. § 36.307. Comp. ¶ 42. This reading misconstrues the plain meaning of this regulation because § 36.307 is not applicable to the restaurant setting.

There are three subsections in 28 C.F.R. § 36.307. According to § 36.307(a), Title III does not require a place of public accommodation to "alter its inventory to include accessible or special goods that are designed for, or facilitate use by, individuals with disabilities." (Emphasis added.) P.F. Chang's is not required to provide a gluten-free menu. Section 36.307(b) provides that a place of public accommodation shall "order accessible or special goods at the request of an individual with disabilities, if, in the normal course of its operation, it makes special orders on request for unstocked goods, and if the accessible or special goods can be obtained from a supplier with whom the public accommodation customarily does business." (Emphasis added.) Section 36.307(c) defines "special goods" to include "special foods to meet particular dietary needs."

An appendix to this regulation explains that "a clothing store would be required to order specially-sized clothing at the request of an individual with a disability, *if it customarily makes special orders* for clothing that it does not keep in stock, and if the clothing can be obtained from one of the store's customary suppliers." 28 C.F.R. pt. 36, App. C (emphasis added). On the other hand, "a book and recording store would not have to specially order Braille books if, in the normal course of its business, it only specially orders recordings and not books." *Id*.

As this language makes clear, § 36.307(b) is not applicable to the restaurant setting. The regulation only applies to "special orders" for "unstocked goods." (Emphasis added.) The plain

meaning of this regulation is that it only applies to special requests by customers to order goods
currently not available at the store or business. But P.F. Chang's gluten-free menu items are
already stocked in the restaurant; they are not unstocked goods that would require a special order.
No "special order" for "unstocked goods" would ever be necessary or placed at P.F. Chang's.
Further, no reading of § 36.307 supports plaintiff's suggestion that "special order" means that P.F.
Chang's is required to provide gluten-free products for the same price as other products. The
ordinary meaning of "special order" is to order goods that are not currently available at the public
accommodation.

Plaintiff's reliance on § 36.307 is misplaced. This regulation does not apply to public accommodations such as P.F. Chang's that has stocked the goods a guest is requesting. Because § 36.307 could never apply in this case, this claim should be dismissed with prejudice.

VIII. PLAINTIFF FAILS TO AND IS UNABLE TO ALLEGE THAT P.F. CHANG'S DISCRIMINATES AGAINST THOSE WITH CELIAC DISEASE (INTENTIONALLY OR OTHERWISE) IN VIOLATION OF THE UNRUH ACT.

A required element of an Unruh Act claim is "intentional discrimination." Plaintiff's Unruh Act claim fails for the additional reason that plaintiff was never intentionally discriminated against (or at all) based on her celiac disease. She could never allege, let alone establish, the requisite intent. Quite simply, anyone who desires gluten-free menu items is welcome to dine at P.F. Chang's, and P.F. Chang's gluten-free menu item prices are applicable to all guests.

The Unruh Act provides that "[a]ll persons within the jurisdiction of this state are free and equal, and no matter what their ... disability ... are entitled to the full and equal accommodations, advantages, facilities, privileges, or services in all business establishments of every kind whatsoever." Civ. Code § 51(b). To maintain an Unruh Act claim independent of an ADA claim, plaintiff must allege "intentional discrimination in public accommodations in violation of terms of the Act." Munson v. Del Taco, Inc., 46 Cal. 4th 661, 668 (2009) (quoting Harris v. Capital Growth Investors XIV, 52 Cal. 3d 1142, 1175 (1991)). To state a claim for intentional discrimination, plaintiff must allege "willful, affirmative misconduct"; this constitutes more than a disparate impact of a facially neutral policy on a particular group. Koebke v. Bernardo Heights Country Club, 36 Cal. 4th 824, 854 (2005).

Plaintiff fails to allege facts showing that P.F. Chang's intentionally discriminated against her on the basis of her purported disability. Plaintiff defines "price discrimination" to mean generally charging more for gluten-free menu items than similar non-gluten-free items. See, e.g., Comp. ¶¶ 13-16, 32. But that definition simply does not constitute discrimination on the basis of a disability. As already made clear, P.F. Chang's offers gluten-free menu items to all guests at the same price. Guests who do not have any form of gluten sensitivity are also free to purchase gluten-free menu items.

Nor does plaintiff allege that P.F. Chang's had any knowledge of plaintiff's purported celiac disease at the time of dining, which further undercuts any attempt by plaintiff to establish intent. Common sense dictates that, without any knowledge of plaintiff's alleged condition at the time of dining, P.F. Chang's could not have intentionally discriminated against plaintiff. Even if P.F. Chang's was aware, which it was not, it is ultimately irrelevant—the gluten-free prices that plaintiff paid are fixed and applicable to all guests.

The absence of *any* supporting factual allegations of intentional discrimination is fatal to plaintiff's claim. Because plaintiff received the same treatment as every other guest, plaintiff has failed to allege that P.F. Chang's intentionally discriminated against her. *Munson*, 46 Cal. 4th at 668; *Harris*, 52 Cal. 3d at 1175. Contrary to plaintiff's misplaced theories, P.F. Chang's glutenfree menu is exactly the sort of "reasonable," "nonarbitrary" practice proscribed by the Unruh Act. E.g., *Koire v. Metro Car Wash*, 40 Cal. 3d 24, 30 (1985).

To the extent plaintiff is attempting to allege a disparate-impact claim, that theory fails too. The disparate-impact test does not apply to Unruh Act claims. *Munson*, 46 Cal. 4th at 671; *Harris*, 52 Cal. 3d at 1175.

Plaintiff's "conclusory allegations of law and unwarranted inferences are insufficient to defeat a motion to dismiss for failure to state a claim." *Epstein v. Wash. Energy Co.*, 83 F.3d 1136, 1140 (9th Cir. 1996); see also *Iqbal*, 556 U.S. at 677-80. Her first cause of action under the Unruh

Act must be dismissed.¹⁶

IX. PLAINTIFF'S CLAIM THAT P.F. CHANG'S VIOLATED THE UCL UNLAWFUL PRONG FAILS BECAUSE PLAINTIFF HAS NOT PLEAD A VIOLATION OF THE UNRUH ACT OR DPA.

The UCL unlawful prong "borrows violations of other laws ... and makes those unlawful practices actionable under the UCL." *Klein v. Chevron U.S.A., Inc.*, 202 Cal. App. 4th 1342, 1383 (2012) (citation omitted). Plaintiff alleges that the predicate violations for her unlawful-prong claim are violations of the Unruh Act and DPA. Comp. ¶ 62. Because plaintiff has failed to state a claim under these statutes, her fourth cause of action must be dismissed.

X. PLAINTIFF'S CLAIM THAT P.F. CHANG'S VIOLATED THE UCL UNFAIRNESS PRONG FAILS BECAUSE THERE IS NOTHING FUNDAMENTALLY UNFAIR ABOUT CHARGING ALL GUESTS THE SAME PRICE FOR GLUTEN-FREE MENU ITEMS.

There is no merit to plaintiff's claim that P.F. Chang's gluten-free menu violates the unfairness prong of the UCL. Plaintiff claims that P.F. Chang's violates the unfair prong using the "balancing test." See Comp. ¶ 53. The "balancing test" asks whether the alleged business practice is "immoral, unethical, oppressive, unscrupulous or substantially injurious to consumers and requires the court to weigh the utility of the defendant's conduct against the gravity of the harm to the alleged victim." *Drum v. San Fernando Valley Bar Ass'n.*, 182 Cal. App. 4th 247, 257 (2010) (quotations omitted).

Contrary to plaintiff's allegations, and as dictated by common sense, there is nothing morally, ethically, or legally wrong with charging all guests the same price for the same item. In fact, plaintiff's proposal to give certain guests a discount would be considered unfair itself and violate the fundamental fairness principle of equal treatment. Plaintiff's theory would turn disability-discrimination law on its head too. There would be no limiting principle since any price differential could be claimed to be discriminatory. Because the premise of this suit—that P.F. Chang's conduct amounts to unlawful discrimination—is patently without merit, no subsequent

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¹⁶ See, e.g., *Horizons Unlimited v. Santa Cruz-Monterey-Merced Managed Med. Care Comm'n*, 2014 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 93330, at *48-49 (E.D. Cal. July 1, 2014) (dismissing Unruh Act claim on motion to dismiss for same reasons as above); *Earll v. Ebay Inc.*, 2012 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 180528, at *6 (N.D. Cal. Dec. 20, 2012) (same).

1 discovery could ever justify allowing this claim to proceed.

Even so, in support of her theory, plaintiff alleges that P.F. Chang's "discriminated against customers with celiac disease and gluten sensitivities by surcharging them for purchasing gluten-free menu items." Comp. ¶ 55. She alleges that P.F. Chang's "took advantage of these disabled customers, who had no alternative but to purchase gluten-free items at the higher price because they medically are unable to tolerate items that contain or were exposed to gluten." *Id.* (emphasis added). Plaintiff claims that she "suffered a substantial injury by virtue of buying [P.F. Chang's] gluten-free menu items at the surcharged prices," and that she would not have incurred these "additional costs" but for P.F. Chang's conduct. *Id.* ¶ 56. Plaintiff appears to define this "substantial injury" as having to pay "at least \$4 more than a consumer without celiac disease" to eat a full gluten-free meal. *Id.* ¶ 15. Even a cursory analysis of these allegations shows that they are merely "labels and conclusions" and "bare assertions" that cannot survive a challenge. See *Twombly*, 550 U.S. at 555; *Iqbal*, 129 S. Ct. at 1951.

First, there can be no plausible inference from the Complaint that P.F. Chang's "took advantage" of plaintiff and that plaintiff had "no alternative" except to dine at P.F. Chang's. Plaintiff dined at P.F. Chang's of her own free will; she was not coerced. She could have patronized any of the numerous other restaurants or grocery stores that offer gluten-free options.

Second, plaintiff cannot plausibly claim that she was "substantially injured" by having to pay the same price that all other guests have to pay for a gluten-free item. The \$1.00 price difference for most gluten-free dishes is perfectly reasonable.

Requiring all P.F. Chang's guests to pay the same prices for gluten-free menu items is indisputably a fair practice under law. See, e.g., *Drum*, 182 Cal. App. 4th at 257. It does not offend any established public policy, is not immoral, unethical, oppressive, unscrupulous, and is not substantially injurious to guests that must eat gluten free. "[T]he 'unfair' prong of the unfair competition law was not intended to eliminate retailers' profits by requiring them to sell at their cost ..." See Kunert v. Mission Fin. Servs. Corp., 110 Cal. App. 4th 242, 265 (2003) (emphasis added). Charging more for gluten-free menu items is fair because it costs restaurants more to prepare gluten-free products.

/IS 28 OIS ARD Plaintiff's argument is further undercut by the analogous case, *In re Ins. Installment Fee Cases*, 211 Cal. App. 4th 1395 (2012). There the California Court of Appeal held that an insurer's business practice of charging policyholders a fee for paying premiums via installments "is not an unfair practice ... because it does not offend any established public policy, is not immoral, unethical, oppressive, unscrupulous, and is not substantially injurious to the policyholders who pay premiums in installments." *Id.* at 1419. The Court of Appeal affirmed dismissal of this UCL unfair-prong claim at the pleading stage. The same logic controls here. Unlike the *In re Ins. Installment Fee Cases* and this case, suits that are allowed to proceed with a UCL unfairness claim invoke an immediate, visceral sense of punishable unfairness. ¹⁷ Quite the opposite is true here.

The complaint does not suggest, nor could it, that P.F. Chang's gluten-free menu has invoked an immediate, visceral sense of punishable unfairness. It appears that a vast majority of consumers upon hearing about this suit are "appalled" or find the suit "ridiculous" and "frivolous." One commentator notes that "I am happy to pay the extra dollar, and expect them in return to continue their meticulous care of my order." Further, for the last two years in a row, P.F. Chang's has been recognized as one of the most allergy-friendly restaurants in the country for

17 See, e.g. *Jolley v. Chase Home Finance, LLC*, 213 Cal. App. 4th 872, 907 (2013) (allegation of bank practice of "dual tracking"—agreeing to a loan modification while continuing to pursue foreclosure—states an unfair practice); *Rubio v. Capital One Bank*, 613 F.3d 1195, 1204-05 (9th Cir. 2010) (plaintiff credit card holder successfully stated a claim of "unfair" business practice by alleging that credit card issuer's misleading direct mail solicitation that offered a "fixed" annual percentage rate on purchases and balance transfers); *In re Acacia Media Techs. Corp.*, 2005 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 37009, at *16-18 (N.D. Cal. July 19, 2005) (company alleged that patent owner is prosecuting patent infringement actions in bad faith to intimidate others into entering into licensing agreements; UCL counterclaim for "unfair" business practice survives motion to dismiss); *Blakemore v. Sup. Ct.*, 129 Cal. App. 4th 36, 49 (2005) (cosmetic company's practice of representing to sales representatives that it would not charge for returned product, when in fact its practice was to ship unordered product and fail to grant credit for returned product, states an "unfair" claim).

¹⁸ See reader comments, often colorful, in Shah, *Woman Sues P.F. Chang's Over* "*Discriminatory*" *Gluten-Free Menu Pricing*, Eater (Feb. 2, 2015), www.eater.com/20152/2/7967325/woman-sues-p-f-changs-over-discriminatory-gluten-free-menu/.

¹⁹ *Id*.

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its size by AllergyEats, the leading guide to allergy-friendly restaurants. RJN, Exs. 3-4. Moreover, even the national organization that advocates for sufferers of celiac disease does not seem to support plaintiff's suit; its CEO expressly acknowledged that the "Celiac Disease Foundation recognizes that restaurants bear a financial burden for the employee training and other accommodations that are required to serve meals that are safe for those with celiac disease." ²⁰

In any event, neither plaintiff nor the courts may "simply impose their own notions of the day as to what is fair or unfair." *Cel-Tech Commc'ns, Inc. v. L.A. Cellular Tel. Co.*, 20 Cal. 4th 163, 182 (1999); cf. Civ. Code § 3533 ("The law disregards trifles."). Plaintiff's idiosyncratic notion of fairness must be rejected, and this third cause of action should be dismissed with prejudice.

XI. PLAINTIFF'S "QUASI-CONTRACT/UNJUST ENRICHMENT" CLAIM(S) FAILS BECAUSE THIS IS NOT A VIABLE CAUSE OF ACTION UNDER CALIFORNIA LAW.

Plaintiff alleges that P.F. Chang's "took additional monies" from her by charging her for the gluten-free menu items that she ordered. Comp. ¶ 65. Plaintiff alleges that P.F. Chang's was unjustly enriched when it accepted the money plaintiff paid P.F. Chang's for dining there, and this somehow created a "quasi-contractual obligation ... to restore these ill-gotten gains." *Id.* ¶ 66. This fifth cause of action has no merit.

"Courts consistently have held that unjust enrichment is not a proper cause of action under California law." *In re Toyota Motor Corp. Unintended Acceleration Mktg., Sales Practices, & Prods. Liab. Litig.*, 754 F. Supp. 2d 1145, 1194 (C.D. Cal. 2010). "Unjust enrichment is a general principle, underlying various legal doctrines and remedies, rather than a remedy itself." *Melchior v. New Line Prods., Inc.*, 106 Cal. App. 4th 779, 793 (2003). "Simply put, 'there is no cause of action in California for unjust enrichment." *In re Toyota Motor Corp.*, 754 F. Supp. 2d at 1194 (citing *Melchior*, 106 Cal. App. 4th at 793). Because plaintiff's unjust-enrichment theory is not a

²⁰ O'Brien, *Celiac Disease Foundation Doesn't Back Class Action over Gluten-Free Menu at P.F. Chang's*, Legal Newsline (Feb. 10, 2015), http://legalnewsline.com/issues/class-action/254852-celiac-disease-foundation-doesnt-back-class-action-over-gluten-free-menu-at-p-f-changs.

valid claim, it must be dismissed without leave. See, e.g., *Williamson v. McAfee, Inc.*, 2014 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 117565, at *14 (N.D. Cal. Aug. 22, 2014) (dismissing unjust enrichment claim without leave); *Dunkel v. eBay Inc.*, 2013 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 13866, at *31 (N.D. Cal. Jan. 31, 2013) (same).

California courts turn to the legal fiction of "quasi-contract" to prevent unjust enrichment. *Earhart v. William Low Co.*, 25 Cal. 3d 503, 515 n.10 (1979). "[I]t is well settled that an action based on an implied-in-fact or quasi-contract cannot lie where there exists between the parties a valid express contract covering the same subject matter." E.g. *Lance Camper Mfg. Corp. v. Republic Indem. Co.*, 44 Cal. App. 4th 194, 203 (1996); see also *Eisenberg v. Alameda Newspapers, Inc.*, 74 Cal. App. 4th 1359, 1387 (1999). Here, plaintiff entered into a contractual transaction with P.F. Chang's when she dined there. In exchange for monetary payment, plaintiff received the gluten-free menu items she ordered. Because an express contract already existed between the parties, plaintiff's quasi-contract claim must be dismissed. E.g., *Raisin Bargaining Ass'n v. Hartford Cas. Ins. Co.*, 715 F. Supp. 2d 1079, 1089-90 (E.D. Cal. 2010) (dismissing quasi-contract claim for a similar reason).

XII. RULE 12(B)(1) STANDARD

"[T]o invoke the jurisdiction of the federal courts, a disabled individual claiming discrimination must satisfy the case or controversy requirement of Article III by demonstrating his standing to sue at each stage of the litigation." *Chapman v. Pier 1 Imports*, 631 F.3d 939, 946 (9th Cir. 2011). To satisfy Article III, a plaintiff must allege (1) an injury in fact that is "concrete and particularized" and "actual or imminent," (2) a causal connection between the injury and the conduct complained about; and (3) "it must be likely, as opposed to merely speculative, that the injury will be redressed by a favorable decision." *Lujan v. Defenders of Wildlife*, 504 U.S. 555, 560-61 (1992). The Ninth Circuit has "found actual or imminent injury sufficient to establish standing where a plaintiff demonstrates an intent to return to the geographic area where the accommodation is located and a desire to visit the accommodation if it were made accessible." *D'Lil v. Best W. Encina Lodge & Suites*, 538 F.3d 1031, 1036-37 (9th Cir. 2008).

XIII. PLAINTIFF LACKS STANDING TO ENJOIN P.F. CHANG'S BECAUSE SHE HAS FAILED TO ALLEGE FACTS DEMONSTRATING AN IMMINENT THREAT OF FUTURE INJURY.

Plaintiff seeks to enjoin all P.F. Chang's restaurants in California from charging its current gluten-free pricing beyond the price of its "regular" non-gluten-free menu. Comp. ¶ 49. Plaintiff seeks this injunction under the DPA based solely on a violation of the ADA. But plaintiff's request for an injunction fails on the merits because plaintiff has no disability claim, nor would an injunction be an appropriate remedy here. Plaintiff's request fails for the additional reason that she has not alleged any desire or likelihood that she will ever return to P.F. Chang's, and thus she has no imminent threat of future injury.

Even if she did allege she will return to P.F. Chang's, "[i]n determining whether the plaintiff's likelihood of return is sufficient to confer standing, courts have closely examined factors such as: (1) the proximity of defendant's business to plaintiff's residence, (2) the plaintiff's past patronage of defendant's business, (3) the definitiveness of plaintiff's plans to return, and (4) the plaintiff's frequency of travel near defendant." *Harris v. Del Taco, Inc.*, 396 F. Supp. 2d 1107, 1113 (C.D. Cal. 2005) (internal quotation omitted). Courts frequently dismiss cases for failing to demonstrate standing under this test. ²² The bare-bones complaint here gives no reason to infer plaintiff's intent to return.

The proximity of a P.F. Chang's location to plaintiff's residence. Plaintiff has not alleged her current residence, so there is no way to tell how close she is to a P.F. Chang's location. Plaintiff alleges that she is a California resident (Comp. \P 17) and that she has dined at the "P.F. Chang's in Santa Clara County during the past four years before filing this action" (*Id.* \P 9). But without more, there is no reason to infer that plaintiff resides close to P.F. Chang's, and thus no

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²¹ For an explanation of plaintiff's DPA claim, see note 10, *supra*.

²² See, e.g., *O'Campo v. Ghoman*, 2013 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 106016, at *11-12 (E.D. Cal. July 26, 2013) (finding sua sponte that plaintiff did not sufficiently show a "likelihood [that he] will be wronged again[.]"); *Johnson v. MP Quail Chase LLC*, 2013 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 2986, at *16 (E.D. Cal. Jan. 7, 2013) (dismissing ADA and Unruh Act claims for lack of standing); *Harris v. Del Taco, Inc.*, 396 F. Supp. 2d 1107, 1113-16 (C.D. Cal. 2005) (same); *Molski v. Mandarin Touch Rest.*, 385 F. Supp. 2d 1042, 1048 (C.D. Cal. 2005) (same).

way to infer she will ever return. If the distance between the public accommodation and plaintiff's residence is significant, especially if it is in excess of 100 miles, courts often find that such a distance weighs against finding a reasonable likelihood of future harm. E.g., *DeLil v. El Torito Rest.*, 1997 WL 714866, at *3 (N.D. Cal. 1997) (plaintiff failed to establish likelihood of future harm in part because she lived over 100 miles from restaurant).

Plaintiff's past patronage of P.F. Chang's. Plaintiff has not alleged how often she has dined at P.F. Chang's. Plaintiff has not stated a particular preference for P.F. Chang's gluten-free menu items. *Molski v. Kahn Winery*, 405 F. Supp. 2d 1160, 1164 (C.D. Cal. 2005) (lack of past patronage at winery and demonstrated lack of preference for its goods weigh against the likelihood of future harm). This factor also does not support standing.

The definitiveness of plaintiff's plans to return. Nowhere in the complaint does plaintiff allege she intends to return to P.F. Chang's. Even if she did, "[s]tanding cannot be established 'by respondents' mere profession of an intent, some say, to return." Molski v. Mandarin Touch Rest., 385 F. Supp. 2d 1042, 1046 (C.D. Cal. 2005) (quoting Lujan, 504 U.S. at 564 n.2)). "Where a plaintiff lacks 'concrete plans to return, the Court must satisfy itself that a plaintiff's professed intent to return is sincere and supported by the facts." Kahn Winery, 2005 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 41768, at *9 (citation omitted). Here, plaintiff has not stated any plans to return. She does not allege whether the "surcharge" makes the gluten-free menu unaffordable for her. Nor does she indicate any desire to visit P.F. Chang's if the "surcharge" was removed. This factor does not support standing.

Plaintiff's frequency of travel near P.F. Chang's. Plaintiff alleged no facts showing that she travels near a P.F. Chang's restaurant.

In short, the complaint does not give any basis to infer that plaintiff ever intends to return to P.F. Chang's. She thus has no standing to enjoin P.F. Chang's. In any event, an injunction is not warranted since plaintiff could never state a claim.

XIV. CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, P.F. Chang's respectfully requests that plaintiff's Complaint be dismissed in total with prejudice. This lawsuit is meritless, has no basis or support in law, defies common sense and logic, flies in the face of fundamental economic and commercial principles, and would impact an entire industry. Further, the futility of allowing plaintiff to attempt to cure her fatal deficiencies through amendment is patently obvious.

Dated: February 27, 2015 Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith LLP

By:

Jon P. Kardassakis Michael K. Grimaldi

Attorneys for Defendant P.F. CHANG'S CHINA BISTRO, INC.

EWIS 28
RISBOIS