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Thurston et al v. Bear Naked, Inc.

- 1. On September 21, 2011, Plaintiffs filed the Complaint in this action. Plaintiffs simultaneously filed a Notice of Related Cases, identifying *Sethavanish v. Kashi Company*, N.D. Cal. Case No. 4:11-cv-04453-CW. At that time, a case substantially similar to *Sethavanish*, titled *Bates v. Kashi Company*, No. 11-1967 (S.D. Cal.), was already pending in the Southern District of California before the Honorable Marilyn L. Huff. All three cases, including this action, involve allegations regarding "all natural" food labels. The deadline to respond to or answer the complaint in this action is January 4, 2012.
- 2. On October 12, 2011, the *Sethavanish* plaintiffs voluntarily dismissed their lawsuit in the Northern District of California and re-filed their complaint in the Southern District of California, where the case was assigned to Judge Huff.
- 3. On November 10, 2011, Defendant filed a Motion to Transfer this case to the Southern District of California, stating that there are six substantially similar "all natural" *Kashi* cases, including *Bates* and *Sethavanish*, pending in that District. In the time since Defendant filed its Motion to Transfer, all six *Kashi* cases have been transferred to Judge Huff and have been consolidated, with the *Bates v. Kashi Company* designated as the lead case.
- 4. On November 23, 2011, the parties filed a Stipulation to Continue the Briefing and Hearing Schedule on Defendant's Motion to Transfer, indicating their intent to resolve Defendant's motion without court intervention. The Court granted the extension that same day.
- 5. The parties agree that this case should not be consolidated with the *Kashi* cases since they involve different defendant entities and different product lines. Neither party will seek consolidation of this case with the *Kashi* cases.
- 6. Because Defendant Bear Naked is a subsidiary of Kashi, the parties believe that to some extent coordination (as opposed to consolidation) of this case with the consolidated "all

natural" *Kashi* cases could save judicial and party resources. Accordingly, the parties request that this case be transferred to Judge Huff in the Southern District of California and stipulate that the briefing and discovery schedule be coordinated and consistent with that in *Bates v. Kashi Company*. The parties agree that the deadline to answer or otherwise respond to the complaint be continued from January 4, 2012 to March 4, 2012 to provide the Southern District of California an opportunity to coordinate the briefing and discovery schedule.

7. Plaintiff reserves the right to seek transfer back to the Northern District of California if, after transfer to the Southern District of California, this case is not assigned to the same judge as or coordinated with the *Kashi* cases as set forth by this Stipulation. Defendant reserves its right to oppose any motion to transfer back to the Northern District of California.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED AND AGREED, subject to the Court's approval, that this case shall be transferred to Judge Huff in the Southern District of California, for purposes of coordination with *Bates v. Kashi Company*, No. 11-1967 (S.D. Cal.).

1	Dated: December 12, 2011	Dated: December 12, 2011
2		
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20		
21	[PROPOSED] ORDER	
22	PURSUANT TO STIPULATION AND 28 U.S.C. 1404(a), IT IS ORDERED that this action be	
23	transferred to the Southern District of California and that the deadline to answer or otherwise	
24	respond to the complaint is continued from January 4, 2012 to March 4, 2012.	
25		
26	DATED: December <u>12</u> , 2011	Think Seeling
27		The Honorable Richard Seeborg
28		U.S. District Court Judge