Mary Jo O'Neill AZ Bar No. 005924 Sally Shanley AZ Bar No. 012251 Lucila G. Rosas CA Bar No. 187345 **EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION, Phoenix District Office** 3300 North Central Avenue, Suite 690 Phoenix, Arizona 85012 Telephone: (602) 640-5032 sally.shanley@eeoc.gov lucila.rosas@eeoc.gov Attorneys for Plaintiff

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF ARIZONA

EQUAL EMPLOYMENT
OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION,

Plaintiff,

v.

(Jury Demand)

Arizona Limited Liability Company,

Defendant.

Defendant.

NATURE OF THE ACTION

This is an action under the Equal Pay Act of 1963 and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Title I of the Civil Rights Act of 1991 to restrain the unlawful payment of wages to employees of one sex at rates less than the rates paid to employees of the opposite sex, and to correct unlawful employment practices on the basis of sex. The Commission alleges that Eagle Produce L.L.C., paid its female Quality Control Inspector, Anita Guerreo, at wage rates which were less than the rates paid to its male employees performing substantially equal work, and otherwise discriminated against that female employee because of her sex.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 1. Jurisdiction of this Court is invoked pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 451, 1331, 1337, 1343 and 1345. This action is authorized and instituted pursuant to Sections 16(c) and Section 17 of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (the "FLSA"), as amended, 29 U.S.C. §§ 216(c) and 217, to enforce the requirements of the Equal Pay Act of 1963, codified as Section 6(d) of the FLSA, 29 U.S.C. § 206(d) ("EPA"), and pursuant to Section 706(f)(1) and (3) of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, 42 U.S.C. § 2000e-5(f)(1) and (3) § 2000e-5(f)(1) and (3)("Title VII"). This action is also authorized and instituted pursuant to Section 102 of Title I of the Civil Rights Act of 1991, 42 U.S.C. § 1981a.
- 2. The employment practices alleged to be unlawful were committed within the jurisdiction of the United States District Court for Arizona.

PARTIES

- 3. Plaintiff, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (the "Commission"), is the agency of the United States of America charged with the administration, interpretation and enforcement of the Equal Pay Act and Title VII, and is expressly authorized to bring this action by Sections 16(c) and 17 of the FLSA, 29 U.S.C. §§ 216(c) and 217, as amended by Section 1 of Reorganization Plan No. 1 of 1978, 92 Stat. 3781, and Public Law 98-532 (1984), 98 Stat. 2705, and by 706(f)(1) and (3) of Title VII, 42 U.S.C. § 2000e-5(f)(1)and (3).
- 4. At all relevant times, Defendant, Eagle Produce, L.L.C. (the "Employer"), has continuously been an Arizona Limited Liability Corporation, doing business in the State of Arizona.
- 5. At all relevant times, Defendant Employer has acted directly or indirectly as an employer in relation to employees and has continuously been an employer within the meaning of Section 3(d) of the FLSA, 29 U.S.C. § 203(d).

- 6. At all relevant times, Defendant Employer has continuously been an employer engaged in an industry affecting commerce within the meaning of Sections 701(b), (g) and (h) of Title VII, 42 U.S.C. §§ 2000e(b), (g) and (h).
- 7. At all relevant times, Defendant Employer has continuously employed employees engaged in commerce or in the production of goods for commerce within the meaning of Sections 3(b), (i) and (j) of the FLSA, 29 U.S.C. §§ 203(b), (i) and (j) has continuously been an enterprise engaged in commerce or in the production of goods for commerce within the meaning of Sections 3(r) and (s) of the FLSA, 29 U.S.C. §§ 203(r) and (s) and, in that said enterprise has continuously been an enterprise whose annual gross volume of sales made or business done is not less than \$500,000.

STATEMENT OF EPA CLAIMS

- 8. Since at least May, 2004, Defendant Employer violated Sections 6(d)(1) and 15(a)(2) of the FLSA, 29 U.S.C. §§ 206(d)(1) and 215(a)(2), by paying wages to Anita Guerrero in its Arizona facility, at rates less than the rates paid to a male employee in the same establishment for substantially equal work on jobs the performance of which requires equal skill, effort, and responsibility, and which are performed under similar working conditions.
- 9. As a result of the acts complained of above in paragraph 8, Defendant Employer unlawfully has withheld and is continuing to withhold the payment of wages due to Anita Guerrero.
- 10. The unlawful practices complained of in paragraph 8 above were willful.

STATEMENT OF TITLE VII CLAIM

11. More than thirty days prior to the institution of this lawsuit, Anita Guerrero filed a charge with the Commission alleging violations of Title VII by Defendant employer. All conditions precedent to the institution of this lawsuit have been

fulfilled.

- 12. Since at least June 2003, Defendant employer has engaged in unlawful employment practices at its Yuma, Arizona site, in violation of Section 703(a) of Title VII, 42 U.S.C. § 2000e-2(a) by discriminating against Anita Guerrero with respect to her compensation because of her sex, female. This discrimination includes paying Ms. Guerrero less than a male employee for the same work.
- 13. The effect of the practices complained of in paragraph 9 above has been to deprive Anita Guerrero of equal employment opportunities and otherwise adversely affect her status as an employee because of her sex, female.
- 14. The unlawful employment practices complained of in paragraph 9 above were intentional.
- 15. The unlawful employment practices complained of in paragraph 9 above were done with malice or with reckless indifference to the federally protected rights of Anita Guerrero.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

Wherefore, the Commission requests that this Court:

- A. Grant a permanent injunction enjoining the Defendant employer, its officers, successors, assigns and all persons in active concert or participation with it, from (a) engaging in gender-based disparate compensation and in any other employment practice which discriminates on the basis of sex and (b) retaliating against employees because they oppose practices made unlawful by Title VII or participate in a proceeding pursuant to Title VII.
- B. Grant a permanent injunction enjoining the Defendant Employer, its officers, successors, assigns and all persons in active concert or participation with it, from discriminating within any of its establishments between employees on

- Order Defendant employer to pay Anita Guerrero punitive damages for its malicious and/or reckless conduct described in paragraph 9 above, in an amount to be determined at trial.
- F. Grant a judgment requiring Defendant Employer to pay appropriate back wages in amounts to be determined at trial, an equal sum as liquidated damages, and prejudgment interest to Anita Guerrero whose wages were being unlawfully withheld as a result of the acts complained of above.
- Grant such further relief as this Court deems necessary and proper in the public interest.
- Award the Commission its costs of this action.

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JURY TRIAL DEMAND

The Commission requests a jury trial on all questions of fact raised by this Complaint.

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