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12 and on behalf of all others similarly situated.

13 **SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**
14 **FOR THE COUNTY OF MADERA**

15 IGNACIO REYES CORTES, individually
16 and on behalf of all others similarly
17 situated,

18 Plaintiff,

19 vs.

20 ACES FARM LABOR CONTRACTING,
21 INC. Which Will Do Business in California
22 as ACES FARM LABOR
23 CONTRACTING SERVICES, INC.; and
24 DOES 1 through 20, inclusive,

25 Defendants.

Case No. MCV083991

*Assigned to all purposes to:
Hon. James E. Oakley, Dept. 45*

**[Amended as a matter of right, pursuant to
Labor Code section 2699.3(a)(2)(C)]**

**FIRST AMENDED CLASS ACTION
COMPLAINT FOR:**

1. Failure to Pay Minimum Wages;
2. Failure to Pay Overtime Wages;
3. Failure to Provide Meal Periods;
4. Failure to Permit Rest Breaks;
5. Failure to Provide Accurate Itemized Wage Statements;
6. Failure to Pay All Wages Due Upon Separation of Employment;
7. Violation of Business and Professions Code §§ 17200, *et seq.*
8. Enforcement of Labor Code § 2698 *et seq.* ("PAGA")

FILED
MADERA SUPERIOR COURT
APR 13 2021
ADRIENNE Y. CALIP CLERK
DEPUTY

BY FAX

1 Plaintiff Ignacio Reyes Cortes, individually, and on behalf of others similarly situated,
2 alleges as follows:

3 **NATURE OF ACTION AND INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT**

4 1. Plaintiff Ignacio Reyes Cortes (“Plaintiff”) brings this putative class and
5 representative action pursuant to the Private Attorneys General Act of 2004, Cal. Lab. Code. §
6 2698 *et seq.*, against defendants ACES Farm Labor Contracting Services, Inc., and DOES 1
7 through 20, inclusive (collectively, “Defendants”), on behalf of himself individually and on
8 behalf of California citizens who are and were employed by Defendants throughout California.

9 2. Defendants are in the business of providing farm labor services.

10 3. Through this action, Plaintiff alleges that Defendants have engaged in a
11 systematic pattern of wage and hour violations under the California Labor Code and Industrial
12 Welfare Commission (“IWC”) Wage Orders, all of which contribute to Defendants’ deliberate
13 unfair competition.

14 4. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that Defendants have
15 increased their profits by violating state wage and hour laws by, among other things:

- 16 (a) failing to pay all wages (including minimum wages and overtime
17 wages);
- 18 (b) failing to pay for non-productive time;
- 19 (c) failing to provide lawful meal periods or compensation in lieu thereof;
- 20 (d) failing to authorize or permit lawful rest breaks or provide compensation
21 in lieu thereof;
- 22 (e) failing to provide accurate itemized wage statements;
- 23 (f) failing to pay all wages due upon separation of employment.

24 5. Plaintiff seeks monetary relief against Defendants on behalf of himself and all
25 others similarly situated in California to recover, among other things, unpaid wages and
26 benefits, interest, attorneys’ fees, costs and expenses, and penalties pursuant to Labor Code §§
27 201-203, 204, 210, 226, 226.2, 226.3, 226.7, 510, 512, 558, 1174, 1174.5, 1182.12, 1194,
28 1194.2, 1197, 1197.1, 1198, 2698, *et seq.*, and Code of California Civil Procedure § 1021.5.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

6. This is a class action pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure § 382. The monetary damages and restitution sought by Plaintiff exceeds the minimal jurisdictional limits of the Superior Court and will be established according to proof at trial.

7. This Court has jurisdiction over this action pursuant to the California Constitution, Article VI, § 10, which grants the Superior Court original jurisdiction in all causes, except those given by statutes to other courts. The statutes under which this action is brought do not specify any other basis for jurisdiction.

8. This Court has jurisdiction over all Defendants because, upon information and belief, they are citizens of California, have sufficient minimum contacts in California, or otherwise intentionally avail themselves of the California market so as to render the exercise of jurisdiction over them by the California courts consistent with traditional notions of fair play and substantial justice.

9. Venue is proper in this Court because, upon information and belief, Defendants reside, transact business, or have offices in this county, and the acts and omissions alleged herein took place in this county.

THE PARTIES

10. Plaintiff is a resident of California and worked for Defendants in California during the relevant time periods as alleged herein.

11. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereon alleges that at all times hereinafter mentioned, Defendants were and are subject to the Labor Code and IWC Wage Orders as employers, whose employees were and are engaged throughout this county and the State of California.

12. Plaintiff is unaware of the true names or capacities of the defendants sued herein under the fictitious names DOES 1 through 20, but will seek leave of this Court to amend this Complaint and serve such fictitiously named defendants once their names and capacities become known.

13. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that DOES 1 through 20 are or were the partners, agents, owners, shareholders, managers, or employees of Defendants at all relevant times.

14. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that each defendant acted in all respects pertinent to this action as the agent of the other defendant, carried out a joint scheme, business plan, or policy in all respects pertinent hereto, and the acts of each defendant are legally attributable to the other defendant. Furthermore, defendants in all respects acted as the employer and/or joint employer of Plaintiff and the class members.

15. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that each and all of the acts and omissions alleged herein were performed by, or are attributable to, Defendants and/or DOES 1 through 20, acting as the agent or alter ego for the other, with legal authority to act on the other's behalf. The acts of any and all Defendants were in accordance with, and represent, the official policy of Defendants.

16. At all relevant times, Defendants, and each of them, acted within the scope of such agency or employment, or ratified each and every act or omission complained of herein. At all relevant times, Defendants, and each of them, aided and abetted the acts and omissions of each and all the other Defendants in proximately causing the damages herein alleged.

17. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that each of said Defendants is in some manner intentionally, negligently, or otherwise responsible for the acts, omissions, occurrences, and transactions alleged herein.

CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS

18. Plaintiff brings this action under Code of Civil Procedure § 382 on behalf of himself and all others similarly situated who were affected by Defendants' Labor Code, Business and Professions Code §§ 17200, and IWC Wage Order violations.

19. All claims alleged herein arise under California law for which Plaintiff seeks relief authorized by California law.

20. Plaintiff's proposed class consists of and is defined as follows:

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1 Class

2 All California citizens currently or formerly employed by Defendants in the State
3 of California at any time from April 6, 2016¹ to the date of class certification
4 ("Class").

5 21. Plaintiff also seeks to certify the following subclass of employees:

6 Waiting Time Subclass

7 All Class Members who separated their employment with Defendants at any time
8 from April 6, 2017 to the date the class is certified ("Subclass" or "Waiting Time
9 Subclass").

10 22. Plaintiff reserves the right to modify or re-define the Class, establish additional
11 subclasses, or modify or re-define any class or subclass definition as appropriate based on
12 investigation, discovery, and specific theories of liability.

13 23. Members of the Class and the Subclass described above will be collectively
14 referred to as "Class Members."

15 24. There are common questions of law and fact as to the Class Members that
16 predominate over any questions affecting only individual members including, but not limited to,
17 the following:

18 (a) Whether Defendants fail to pay Plaintiff and Class Members all wages
19 (including minimum wages and overtime wages) for all hours worked by
20 Plaintiff and Class Members.

21 (b) Whether Defendants required Plaintiff and Class Members to work over
22 eight (8) hours per day, over twelve (12) hours per day, over forty (40)
23 hours per week, and/or seven (7) consecutive days and failed to pay them
24 overtime compensation at the proper rate.

25 (c) Whether Defendants failed to pay Plaintiff and Class Members for non-
26 productive time, including time spent in rest breaks.

27 ¹ The statute of limitations for this matter was tolled pursuant to Cal. Rules of Court, Appendix I,
28 Emergency Rule No. 9.

- 1 (d) Whether Defendants deprived Plaintiff and Class Members of timely
2 meal periods or required Plaintiff and Class Members to work through
3 meal periods without proper compensation.
- 4 (e) Whether Defendants deprived Plaintiff and Class Members of rest breaks
5 or required Plaintiff and Class Members to work through rest breaks
6 without proper compensation.
- 7 (f) Whether Defendants failed to provide Plaintiff and Class Members
8 accurate itemized wage statements.
- 9 (g) Whether Defendants failed to timely pay the Waiting Time Subclass all
10 wages due upon termination or within seventy-two (72) hours of
11 resignation.
- 12 (h) Whether Defendants' conduct was willful or reckless.
- 13 (i) Whether Defendants engaged in unfair business practices in violation of
14 Business and Professions Code §§ 17200, *et seq.*

15 25. There is a well-defined community of interest in this litigation and the proposed
16 Class and Subclass are readily ascertainable:

17 (a) Numerosity: The Class Members are so numerous that joinder of all
18 members is impractical. Although the members of the entire Class and Subclass are unknown
19 to Plaintiff at this time, on information and belief, the class is estimated to be greater than
20 twenty-five (25) individuals. The identities of the Class Members are readily ascertainable by
21 inspection of Defendants' employment and payroll records.

22 (b) Typicality: The claims (or defenses, if any) of Plaintiff are typical of the
23 claims (or defenses, if any) of the Class Members because Defendants' failure to comply with
24 the provisions of California's wage and hour laws entitled each Class Member to similar pay,
25 benefits, and other relief. The injuries sustained by Plaintiff are also typical of the injuries
26 sustained by the Class Members because they arise out of and are caused by Defendants'
27 common course of conduct as alleged herein.

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1 (c) Adequacy: Plaintiff will fairly and adequately represent and protect the
2 interests of all Class Members because it is in his best interest to prosecute the claims alleged
3 herein to obtain full compensation and penalties due to him and the Class Members. Plaintiff's
4 attorneys, as proposed class counsel, are competent and experienced in litigating large
5 employment class actions and versed in the rules governing class action discovery,
6 certification, and settlement. Plaintiff has incurred and, throughout the duration of this action,
7 will continue to incur attorneys' fees and costs that have been and will be necessarily expended
8 for the prosecution of this action for the substantial benefit of the Class Members.

9 (d) Superiority: The nature of this action makes use of class action
10 adjudication superior to other methods. A class action will achieve economies of time, effort,
11 and expense as compared with separate lawsuits and will avoid inconsistent outcomes because
12 the same issues can be adjudicated in the same manner for the entire Class and Subclass at the
13 same time. If appropriate, this Court can, and is empowered to, fashion methods to efficiently
14 manage this case as a class action.

15 (e) Public Policy Considerations: Employers in the State of California
16 violate employment and labor laws every day. Current employees are often afraid to assert their
17 rights out of fear of direct or indirect retaliation. Former employees are fearful of bringing
18 actions because they believe their former employers might damage their future endeavors
19 through negative references and/or other means. Class actions provide class members who are
20 not named in the complaint with a type of anonymity that allows for the vindication of their
21 rights while affording them privacy protections.

22 **GENERAL ALLEGATIONS**

23 26. At all relevant times mentioned herein, Defendants employed Plaintiff and other
24 California residents as employees at Defendants' California business location(s).

25 27. Defendant employed Plaintiff at Defendants' California business location.

26 28. Defendants continue to employ employees within California.

27 29. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that at all times herein
28 mentioned, Defendants were advised by skilled lawyers, employees, and other professionals

1 who were knowledgeable about California's wage and hour laws, employment and personnel
2 practices, and the requirements of California law.

3 30. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that Defendants knew or
4 should have known that Plaintiff and Class Members were entitled to receive wages for all time
5 worked (including minimum wages and overtime wages), as well as non-productive time, and
6 that they were not receiving all wages earned for work that was required to be performed or
7 non-productive time. In violation of the Labor Code and IWC Wage Orders, Plaintiff and Class
8 Members were not paid all wages (including minimum wages and overtime wages) for all
9 hours worked and for non-productive time.

10 31. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that Defendants knew or
11 should have known that Plaintiff and Class Members were entitled to receive all required meal
12 periods or payment of one (1) additional hour of pay at Plaintiff's and Class Members' regular
13 rate of pay when they did not receive a timely, uninterrupted meal period. In violation of the
14 Labor Code and IWC Wage Orders, Plaintiff and Class Members did not receive all meal
15 periods or payment of one (1) additional hour of pay at Plaintiff's and Class Members' regular
16 rate of pay when they did not receive a timely, uninterrupted meal period.

17 32. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that Defendants knew or
18 should have known that Plaintiff and Class Members were entitled to receive all rest breaks or
19 payment of one (1) additional hour of pay at Plaintiff's and Class Members' regular rate of pay
20 when a rest break was missed. In violation of the Labor Code and IWC Wage Orders, Plaintiff
21 and Class Members did not receive all rest breaks or payment of one (1) additional hour of pay
22 at Plaintiff's and Class Members' regular rate of pay when a rest break was missed.

23 33. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that Defendants knew or
24 should have known that Plaintiff and Class Members were entitled to receive itemized wage
25 statements that accurately showed the following information pursuant to the Labor Code: (1)
26 gross wages earned; (2) total hours worked by the employee; (3) the number of piece-rate units
27 earned and any applicable piece rate if the employee is paid on a piece-rate basis; (4) all
28 deductions, provided that all deductions made on written orders of the employee may be

1 aggregated and shown as one item; (5) net wages earned; (6) the inclusive dates of the period
2 for which the employee is paid; (7) the name of the employee and only the last four digits of his
3 or her social security number or an employee identification number other than a social security
4 number; (8) the name and address of the legal entity that is the employer, and, if the employer
5 is a farm labor contractor, as defined in subdivision (b) of Section 1682, the name and address
6 of the legal entity that secured the services of the employer; and (9) all applicable hourly rates
7 in effect during the pay period and the corresponding number of hours worked at each hourly
8 rate by the employee. In violation of the Labor Code, Plaintiff and Class Members were not
9 provided with accurate itemized wage statements.

10 34. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that Defendants knew or
11 should have known that the Waiting Time Subclass was entitled to timely payment of wages
12 due upon separation of employment. In violation of the Labor Code, the Waiting Time Subclass
13 did not receive payment of all wages within permissible time periods.

14 35. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that Defendants knew or
15 should have known they had a duty to compensate Plaintiff and Class Members, and
16 Defendants had the financial ability to pay such compensation but willfully, knowingly, and
17 intentionally failed to do so in order to increase Defendants' profits.

18 36. Therefore, Plaintiff brings this lawsuit seeking monetary and injunctive relief
19 against Defendants on behalf of himself and all Class Members to recover, among other things,
20 unpaid wages (including minimum wages and overtime wages), unpaid meal period premium
21 payments, unpaid rest period premium payments, interest, attorneys' fees, penalties, costs, and
22 expenses.

23 **FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION**

24 **FAILURE TO PAY MINIMUM WAGES**

25 (Violation of Labor Code §§ 226.2, 1182.12, 1194, 1194.2, and 1197; Violation of Wage Order)

26 37. Plaintiff hereby re-alleges and incorporates by reference all paragraphs above as
27 though fully set forth herein.

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1 38. Labor Code §§ 1194 and 1197 provide that the minimum wage for employees
2 fixed by the IWC is the minimum wage to be paid to employees, and the payment of a lesser
3 wage than the minimum so fixed is unlawful.

4 39. Labor Code § 226.2 requires payment to piece rate workers at their regular rate
5 of pay for non-productive time.

6 40. During the relevant time period, Defendants paid Plaintiff and Class Members
7 less than minimum wages when they failed to pay proper compensation for all hours worked
8 and regular rate pay for non-productive time. To the extent these hours do not qualify for the
9 payment of overtime, Plaintiff and Class Members were not being paid at least the lawful
10 minimum wage or regular rate for their work.

11 41. During the relevant time period, Defendants regularly failed to pay at least
12 minimum wage to Plaintiff and Class Members for all hours worked pursuant to Labor Code
13 §§ 1194 and 1197.

14 42. Defendants' failure to pay Plaintiff and Class Members the required minimum
15 wage violates Labor Code §§ 1194 and 1197. Pursuant to these sections, Plaintiff and Class
16 Members are entitled to recover the unpaid balance of their minimum wage compensation as
17 well as interest, costs, and attorneys' fees.

18 43. Pursuant to Labor Code § 1194.2, Plaintiff and Class Members are entitled to
19 recover liquidated damages in an amount equal to the wages unlawfully unpaid and the accrued
20 interest thereon.

21 **SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION**

22 **FAILURE TO PAY OVERTIME**

23 (Violation of Labor Code §§ 510, 1194, and 1198; Violation of IWC Wage Order)

24 44. Plaintiff hereby re-alleges and incorporates by reference all paragraphs above as
25 though fully set forth herein.

26 45. Labor Code § 1198 and the applicable IWC Wage Order provide that it is
27 unlawful to employ persons without compensating them at a rate of pay either one and one-half

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1 (1½) or two (2) times the person's regular rate of pay, depending on the number of hours or
2 days worked by the person on a daily or weekly basis.

3 46. Specifically, the applicable IWC Wage Orders provide that Defendants are and
4 were required to pay overtime compensation to Plaintiff and Class Members at the rate of one
5 and one-half times (1½) their regular rate of pay when working and for all hours worked in
6 excess of eight (8) hours in a day or more than forty (40) hours in a workweek and for the first
7 eight (8) hours of work on the seventh day of work in a workweek.

8 47. The applicable IWC Wage Orders further provide that Defendants are and were
9 required to pay overtime compensation to Plaintiff and Class Members at a rate of two times
10 their regular rate of pay when working and for all hours worked in excess of twelve (12) hours
11 in a day or in excess of eight (8) hours on the seventh day of work in a workweek.

12 48. California Labor Code § 510 codifies the right to overtime compensation at one
13 and one-half (1½) times the regular hourly rate for hours worked in excess of eight (8) hours in
14 a day or forty (40) hours in a week and for the first eight (8) hours worked on the seventh
15 consecutive day of work, and overtime compensation at twice the regular hourly rate for hours
16 worked in excess of twelve (12) hours in a day or in excess of eight (8) hours in a day on the
17 seventh day of work in a workweek.

18 49. Labor Code § 510 and the applicable IWC Wage Orders provide that
19 employment of more than six days in a workweek is only permissible if the employer pays
20 proper overtime compensation as set forth herein.

21 50. Plaintiff and Class Members were or should have been classified as non-exempt
22 employees entitled to the protections of California Labor Code §§ 510 and 1194.

23 51. During the relevant time period, Defendants required Plaintiff and Class
24 Members to work in excess of eight (8) hours in a day, forty (40) hours in a week, and/or for a
25 seventh consecutive day in a workweek without paying Plaintiff and Class Members overtime
26 wages for their work.

27 52. During the relevant time period, Defendants failed to pay Plaintiff and Class
28 Members overtime wages for all overtime hours worked when Plaintiff and Class Members

1 worked in excess of eight (8) hours in a day, forty (40) hours in a week and/or for a seventh
2 consecutive day of work in a workweek, or when Plaintiff and Class Members worked in
3 excess of twelve (12) hours in a day and/or in excess of eight (8) hours on the seventh day of
4 work in a work week.

5 53. In violation of state law, Defendants knowingly and willfully refused to perform
6 their obligations and compensate Plaintiff and Class Members for all wages earned and all
7 hours worked.

8 54. Defendants' failure to pay Plaintiff and Class Members the unpaid balance of
9 overtime and double time compensation, as required by California law, violates the provisions
10 of Labor Code §§ 510 and 1198, and is therefore unlawful.

11 55. Pursuant to Labor Code § 1194, Plaintiff and Class Members are entitled to
12 recover their unpaid overtime and double time compensation as well as interest, costs, and
13 attorneys' fees.

14 **THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION**

15 **FAILURE TO PROVIDE MEAL PERIODS**

16 (Violation of Labor Code §§ 226.7 and 512; Violation of IWC Wage Order)

17 56. Plaintiff hereby re-alleges and incorporates by reference all paragraphs above as
18 though fully set forth herein

19 57. Labor Code § 226.7 provides that no employer shall require an employee to work
20 during any meal period mandated by the IWC Wage Orders.

21 58. Section 11 of the applicable IWC Wage Order states, "[n]o employer shall
22 employ any person for a work period of more than five (5) hours without a meal period of not
23 less than 30 minutes, except that when a work period of not more than six (6) hours will
24 complete the day's work the meal period may be waived by mutual consent of the employer and
25 the employee."

26 59. Labor Code § 512(a) provides that an employer may not require, cause, or permit
27 an employee to work for a period of more than five (5) hours per day without providing the
28 employee with an uninterrupted meal period of not less than thirty (30) minutes, except that if

1 the total work period per day of the employee is not more than six (6) hours, the meal period
2 may be waived by mutual consent of both the employer and the employee.

3 60. Labor Code § 512(a) also provides that an employer may not employ an
4 employee for a work period of more than ten (10) hours per day without providing the employee
5 with a second meal period of not less than thirty (30) minutes, except that if the total hours
6 worked is no more than twelve (12) hours, the second meal period may be waived by mutual
7 consent of the employer and the employee only if the first meal period was not waived.

8 61. During the relevant time period, Plaintiff and Class Members did not receive
9 compliant meal periods for working more than five (5) and/or ten (10) hours per day because
10 their meal periods were missed, late, short, interrupted, and/or they were not permitted to take a
11 second meal period.

12 62. Labor Code § 226.7(b) and section 11 of the applicable IWC Wage Order
13 requires an employer to pay an employee one (1) additional hour of pay at the employee's
14 regular rate of compensation for each work day that a compliant meal period is not provided.

15 63. At all relevant times, Defendants failed to pay Plaintiff and Class Members meal
16 period premiums for missed, late, short, and/or interrupted meal periods pursuant to Labor Code
17 § 226.7(b) and section 11 of the applicable IWC Wage Order.

18 64. As a result of Defendants' failure to pay Plaintiff and Class Members an
19 additional hour of pay for each day a compliant meal period was not provided, Plaintiff and
20 Class Members suffered and continue to suffer a loss of wages and compensation.

21 **FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

22 **FAILURE TO PERMIT REST BREAKS**

23 (Violation of Labor Code §§ 226.7; Violation of IWC Wage Order)

24 65. Plaintiff hereby re-alleges and incorporates by reference all paragraphs above as
25 though fully set forth herein.

26 66. Labor Code § 226.7(a) provides that no employer shall require an employee to
27 work during any rest period mandated by the IWC Wage Orders.

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67. Section 12 of the applicable IWC Wage Order states “[e]very employer shall authorize and permit all employees to take rest periods, which insofar as practicable shall be in the middle of each work period[,]” and the “[a]uthorized rest period time shall be based on the total hours worked daily at the rate of ten (10) minutes net rest time per four (4) hours or major fraction thereof[,]” unless the total daily work time is less than three and one-half (3½) hours.

68. During the relevant time period, Plaintiff and Class Members did not receive a ten (10) minute rest period for every four (4) hours or major fraction thereof worked because they were required to work through their daily rest periods, were not permitted to take timely rest periods, and/or were not authorized to take their rest periods.

69. Labor Code § 226.7(b) and section 12 of the applicable IWC Wage Order requires an employer to pay an employee one (1) additional hour of pay at the employee's regular rate of compensation for each work day that a compliant rest period is not provided.

70. At all relevant times, Defendants failed to pay Plaintiff and Class Members rest period premiums for missed, late, and/or interrupted rest periods pursuant to Labor Code § 226.7(b) and section 12 of the applicable IWC Wage Order.

71. As a result of Defendants' failure to pay Plaintiff and Class Members an additional hour of pay for each day a compliant rest period was not provided, Plaintiff and Class Members suffered and continue to suffer a loss of wages and compensation.

FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION

FAILURE TO PROVIDE ACCURATE ITEMIZED WAGE STATEMENTS

(Violation of Labor Code § 226; Violation of IWC Wage Order)

72. Plaintiff hereby re-alleges and incorporates by reference all paragraphs above as though fully set forth herein.

73. Labor Code § 226(a) requires Defendants to provide each employee with an accurate wage statement in writing showing nine pieces of information, including, the following: (1) gross wages earned, (2) total hours worked by the employee, (3) the number of piece-rate units earned and any applicable piece rate if the employee is paid on a piece-rate basis, (4) all deductions, provided that all deductions made on written orders of the employee

1 may be aggregated and shown as one item, (5) net wages earned, (6) the inclusive dates of the
2 period for which the employee is paid, (7) the name of the employee and the last four digits of
3 his or her social security number or an employee identification number other than a social
4 security number, (8) the name and address of the legal entity that is the employer, and (9) all
5 applicable hourly rates in effect during the pay period and the corresponding number of hours
6 worked at each hourly rate by the employee.

7 74. During the relevant time period, Defendants have knowingly and intentionally
8 failed to comply with Labor Code § 226(a) on wage statements that were provided to Plaintiff
9 and Class Members. Defendants provided Plaintiff and Class Members with wage statements
10 that were missing or inaccurately stated one or more of the following items: (1) gross wages
11 earned, (2) total hours worked by the employee, (3) the number of piece-rate units earned and
12 any applicable piece rate if the employee is paid on a piece-rate basis, (4) all deductions,
13 provided that all deductions made on written orders of the employee may be aggregated and
14 shown as one item, (5) net wages earned, (6) the inclusive dates of the period for which the
15 employee is paid, (7) the name of the employee and the last four digits of his or her social
16 security number or an employee identification number other than a social security number, (8)
17 the name and address of the legal entity that is the employer, and, if the employer is a farm
18 labor contractor, as defined in subdivision (b) of Section 1682, the name and address of the
19 legal entity that secured the services of the employer, and/or (9) all applicable hourly rates in
20 effect during the pay period and the corresponding number of hours worked at each hourly rate
21 by the employee.

22 75. As a result of Defendants' knowing and intentional failure to comply with Labor
23 Code § 226(a), Plaintiff and Class Members have suffered injury and damage to their
24 statutorily-protected rights. Specifically, Plaintiff and Class Members are deemed to suffer an
25 injury pursuant to Labor Code § 226(e) where, as here, Defendants intentionally violated Labor
26 Code § 226(a). Plaintiff and Class Members were denied both their legal right to receive, and
27 their protected interest in receiving, accurate itemized wage statements under Labor Code
28 § 226(a). In addition, because Defendants failed to provide the accurate rates of pay on wage

1 statements, Defendants prevented Plaintiff and Class Members from determining if all hours
2 worked were paid at the appropriate rate and the extent of the underpayment. Plaintiff has had
3 to file this lawsuit in order to analyze the extent of the underpayment, thereby causing Plaintiff
4 to incur expenses and lost time. Plaintiff would not have had to engage in these efforts and
5 incur these costs had Defendants provided the accurate hours worked, wages earned, and rates
6 of pay. This has also delayed Plaintiff's ability to demand and recover the underpayment of
7 wages from Defendants.

8 76. Plaintiff and Class Members are entitled to recover from Defendants the greater
9 of all actual damages caused by Defendants' failure to comply with Labor Code § 226(a) or
10 fifty dollars (\$50.00) for the initial pay period in which a violation occurred and one hundred
11 dollars (\$100.00) per employee for each violation in subsequent pay periods in an amount not
12 exceeding four thousand dollars (\$4,000.00) per employee, plus attorneys' fees and costs.

13 77. Defendants' violations of California Labor Code § 226(a) prevented Plaintiff
14 and Class Members from knowing, understanding, and disputing the wages paid to them and
15 resulted in an unjustified economic enrichment to Defendants. As a result of Defendants'
16 knowing and intentional failure to comply with California Labor Code § 226(a), Plaintiff and
17 Class Members have suffered an injury, in the exact amount of damages and/or penalties to be
18 shown according to proof at trial.

19 78. Class Members that are still employed by Defendants are also entitled to
20 injunctive relief under California Labor Code § 226(h), compelling Defendants to comply with
21 California Labor Code § 226. Accordingly, affected Class Members seek the recovery of
22 attorneys' fees and costs incurred in obtaining this injunctive relief.

23 **SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

24 **FAILURE TO PAY ALL WAGES DUE UPON SEPARATION OF EMPLOYMENT**

25 (Violation of Labor Code §§ 201, 202, and 203; Violation of IWC Wage Order)

26 79. Plaintiff hereby re-alleges and incorporates by reference all paragraphs above as
27 though fully set forth herein.

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80. Labor Code §§ 201 and 202 provide that if an employer discharges an employee, the wages earned and unpaid at the time of discharge are due and payable immediately, and that if an employee voluntarily leaves his employment, his or her wages shall become due and payable not later than seventy-two (72) hours thereafter, unless the employee has given seventy-two (72) hours previous notice of an intention to quit, in which case the employee is entitled to his or her wages at the time of quitting.

81. During the relevant time period, Defendants willfully failed to pay the Waiting Time Subclass all their earned wages upon termination, including, but not limited to, proper minimum wage and overtime compensation, meal period premiums, and rest period premiums either at the time of discharge or within seventy-two (72) hours of their leaving Defendants' employ.

82. Defendants' failure to pay the Waiting Time Subclass all their earned wages at the time of discharge or within seventy-two (72) hours of their leaving Defendants' employ is in violation of Labor Code §§ 201 and 202.

83. Labor Code § 203 provides that if an employer willfully fails to pay wages owed immediately upon discharge or resignation in accordance with Labor Code §§ 201 and 202, then the wages of the employee shall continue as a penalty from the due date at the same rate until paid or until an action is commenced; but the wages shall not continue for more than thirty (30) days.

84. Pursuant to Labor Code § 203, the Waiting Time Subclass is entitled to recover from Defendants the statutory penalty, which is defined as the Waiting Time Subclass members' regular daily wages at their regular hourly rate of pay for each day they were not paid, up to a maximum of thirty (30) days.

SEVENTH CAUSE OF ACTION

VIOLATION OF BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONS CODE §§ 17200, ET SEQ.

(Violation of Business and Professions Code §§ 17200, *et seq.*)

85. Plaintiff hereby re-alleges and incorporates by reference all paragraphs above as though fully set forth herein.

1 86. California Business and Professions Code §§ 17200, *et seq.*, prohibits acts of
2 unfair competition, which includes any “unlawful, unfair or fraudulent business act or practice .
3 ...”

4 87. A violation of California Business and Professions Code §§ 17200, *et seq.*, may
5 be predicated on a violation of any state or federal law. In the instant case, Defendants’ policies
6 and practices violated state law, causing Plaintiff and Class Members to suffer and continue to
7 suffer injuries-in-fact.

8 88. Defendants’ policies and practices violated state law in at least the following
9 respects:

10 (a) Failing to pay all wages earned (including minimum wage and overtime
11 wages) to Plaintiff and Class Members in violation of Labor Code §§
12 226.2, 510, 1182.12, 1194, 1194.2, 1197, and 1198.

13 (b) Failing to provide compliant meal periods without paying Plaintiff and
14 Class Members premium wages for every day said meal periods were not
15 provided in violation of Labor Code §§ 226.7 and 512.

16 (c) Failing to authorize or permit compliant rest breaks without paying
17 Plaintiff and Class Members premium wages for every day said rest
18 breaks were not authorized or permitted in violation of Labor Code §
19 226.7.

20 (d) Failing to provide Plaintiff and Class Members with accurate itemized
21 wage statements in violation of Labor Code § 226.

22 (e) Failing to timely pay all earned wages to the members of the Waiting
23 Time Subclass upon separation of employment in violation of Labor
24 Code §§ 201, 202, and 203.

25 89. As alleged herein, Defendants systematically engaged in unlawful conduct in
26 violation of the California Labor Code and IWC Wage Orders, such as failing to pay all wages
27 (minimum and overtime wages), failing to provide meal periods and rest breaks or
28 compensation in lieu thereof, failing to furnish accurate wage statements, and failing to pay all

1 wages due and owing upon separation of employment in a timely manner, all in order to
2 decrease their costs of doing business and increase their profits.

3 90. At all relevant times herein, Defendants held themselves out to Plaintiff and
4 Class Members as being knowledgeable concerning the labor and employment laws of
5 California.

6 91. At all times relevant herein, Defendants intentionally avoided paying Plaintiff
7 and Class Members wages and monies, thereby creating for Defendants an artificially lower
8 cost of doing business in order to undercut their competitors and establish and/or gain a greater
9 foothold in the marketplace.

10 92. As a result of Defendants' intentional, willful, purposeful, and wrongful
11 misrepresentation of their conformance with the California Labor Code and IWC Wage Orders,
12 Plaintiff and Class Members suffered a loss of wages and monies, all in an amount to be shown
13 according to proof at trial.

14 93. By violating the foregoing statutes and regulations as herein alleged,
15 Defendants' acts constitute unfair and unlawful business practices under California Business
16 and Professions Code §§ 17200, *et seq.*

17 94. As a result of the unfair and unlawful business practices of Defendants, as
18 alleged herein, Plaintiff and Class Members are entitled to injunctive relief, disgorgement, and
19 restitution in an amount to be shown according to proof at trial.

20 95. Plaintiff seeks to enforce important rights affecting the public interest within the
21 meaning of California Code of Civil Procedure § 1021.5. Defendants' conduct, as alleged
22 herein, has been and continues to be unfair, unlawful, and harmful to Plaintiff, Class Members,
23 and the general public. Based on Defendants' conduct as alleged herein, Plaintiff and Class
24 Members are entitled to an award of attorneys' fees pursuant to California Code of Civil
25 Procedure § 1021.5.

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1 **EIGHTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

2 **ENFORCEMENT OF LABOR CODE §§ 2698 ET SEQ. ("PAGA")**

3 96. Plaintiff hereby re-alleges and incorporate by reference the previous paragraphs as
4 though fully set forth herein.

5 97. Pursuant to Labor Code § 2699(a), any provision of the Labor Code that provides
6 for a civil penalty to be assessed and collected by the Labor and Workforce Development Agency
7 ("LWDA") or any of its departments, divisions, commissions, boards, agencies, or employees for
8 violation of the Labor Code may, as an alternative, be recovered through a civil action brought by
9 an aggrieved employee on behalf of himself or herself and other current or former employees
10 pursuant to the procedures specified in Labor Code § 2699.3.

11 98. For all provisions of the Labor Code except those for which a civil penalty is
12 specifically provided, Labor Code § 2699(f) imposes upon Defendants a penalty of one hundred
13 dollars (\$100.00) for each aggrieved employee per pay period for the initial violation and two
14 hundred dollars (\$200.00) for each aggrieved employee per pay period for each subsequent pay
15 period in which Defendants violated these provisions of the Labor Code.

16 99. Defendants' conduct violates numerous Wage Order and Labor Code sections,
17 including, but not limited to, the following:

- 18 a. violation of Labor Code §§ 201-203, 204, 210, 510, 1182.12, 1194, 1197,
19 and 1198 for failure to timely pay all earned wages (including minimum
20 wage and overtime wages) owed to Plaintiff and other aggrieved
21 employees during employment and upon separation of employment as
22 herein alleged;
- 23 b. violation of Labor Code §§ 226.7 and 512 for failure to provide meal
24 periods to Plaintiff and other aggrieved employees and failure to pay
25 premium wages for missed meal periods as herein alleged;
- 26 c. violation of Labor Code § 226.7 for failure to permit rest breaks to
27 Plaintiff and other aggrieved employees and failure to pay premium wages
28 for missed rest periods as herein alleged;

1 d. violation of Labor Code § 226 for failure to provide accurate itemized
2 wage statements to Plaintiff and other aggrieved employees as herein
3 alleged; and

4 e. violation of Labor Code §§ 1174 and 1174.5 for failure to maintain
5 accurate and complete records showing, among other things, the hours
6 worked daily by and the wages paid to aggrieved employees.

7 100. Plaintiff is an “aggrieved employee” because he was employed by the alleged
8 violator and had one or more of the violations committed against him, and therefore is properly
9 suited to represent the interests of all other aggrieved employees.

10 101. Plaintiff has exhausted the procedural requirements under Labor Code § 2699.3 as
11 to Defendants and is therefore able to pursue a claim for penalties on behalf of himself and all
12 other aggrieved employees under PAGA.

13 102. Pursuant to Labor Code §§ 2699(a), 2699.3 and 2699.5, Plaintiff is entitled to
14 recover civil penalties, in addition to other remedies, for violations of the Labor Code sections
15 cited above.

16 103. For bringing this action, Plaintiff is entitled to attorney’s fees and costs incurred
17 herein.

18 **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

19 Plaintiff, on his own behalf and on behalf of all others similarly situated, prays for relief
20 and judgment against Defendants, jointly and severally, as follows:

21 1. For certification under California Code of Civil Procedure § 382 of the proposed
22 Class, Waiting Time Subclass, and any other appropriate subclasses;

23 2. For appointment of Ignacio Reyes Cortes as the class representative;

24 3. For appointment of Aegis Law Firm, PC, as class counsel for all purposes;

25 4. For compensatory damages in an amount according to proof at trial;

26 5. For an award of damages in the amount of unpaid compensation including, but
27 not limited to, unpaid wages, benefits, and penalties;

28 6. For economic and/or special damages in an amount according to proof at trial;

- 1 7. For liquidated damages pursuant to Labor Code § 1194.2;
- 2 8. For statutory penalties to the extent permitted by law, including those pursuant
- 3 to the Labor Code and IWC Wage Orders;
- 4 9. For injunctive relief as provided by the California Labor Code and California
- 5 Business and Professions Code §§ 17200, *et seq.*;
- 6 10. For restitution as provided by Business and Professions Code §§ 17200, *et seq.*;
- 7 11. For an order requiring Defendants to restore and disgorge all funds to each
- 8 employee acquired by means of any act or practice declared by this Court to be unlawful,
- 9 unfair, or fraudulent and, therefore, constituting unfair competition under Business and
- 10 Professions Code §§ 17200, *et seq.*;
- 11 12. For pre-judgment interest;
- 12 13. For civil penalties;
- 13 14. For reasonable attorneys' fees, costs of suit, and interest to the extent permitted
- 14 by law, including, but not limited to, Code of Civil Procedure § 1021.5, Labor Code §§ 226(e),
- 15 1194, and 2698 *et seq.*; and
- 16 15. For such other relief as the Court deems just and proper.
- 17

18 Dated: April 12, 2021

AEGIS LAW FIRM, PC

19

20 By: _____

21 Chelsea D. Hollins

22 Attorneys for Plaintiff Ignacio Reyes Cortes

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1 **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

2 I, the undersigned, am employed in the County of Orange, State of California. I am over
3 the age of 18 and not a party to the within action; am employed with Aegis Law Firm PC and
my business address is 9811 Irvine Center Drive, Suite 100, Irvine, California 92618.

4 On April 12, 2021, I served the foregoing document entitled:

- 5 • **[Amended as a matter of right, pursuant to Labor Code section 2699.3(a)(2)(C)]**
FIRST AMENDED CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT

6 on all the appearing and/or interested parties in this action by delivering ☐ *the original*
7 ☒ *a true copy* thereof on the party(ies) addressed below as follows:

8 Gerardo V. Hernandez
9 Anthony P. Raimondo
10 James D. Miller
11 Kevin B. Piercy
12 RAIMANDO & ASSOCIATES
13 7110 N. Marks Avenue, Suite 104
14 Fresno, CA 93711
15 Telephone: 559.432.3000
Facsimile: 559.432.2242
apr@raimondoassociates.com
gvh@raimondoassociates.com
jdm@raimondoassociates.com
kbp@raimondoassociates.com

16 *Attorneys for Defendant:*

17 ACES FARM LABOR CONTRACTING, INC.

18 Which Will Do Business in California as

19 ACES FARM LABOR CONTRACTING SERVICES, INC.

20 ☒ **(BY MAIL)** I am readily familiar with the firm's practice of collection and processing
21 correspondence for mailing. Under that practice it would be deposited with the U.S.
22 Postal Service on that same day with postage thereon fully prepaid at Irvine, California
in the ordinary course of business. I am aware that on motion of the party served, service
is presumed invalid if postage cancellation date or postage meter date is more than one
day after date of deposit for mailing this affidavit. (*Cal Code Civ. Proc. § 1013(a); Fed.*
R. Civ. Proc. 5(a); Fed. R. Civ. Proc. 5(c).)

23 ☐ **(BY OVERNIGHT MAIL)** I am personally and readily familiar with the business
24 practice of Aegis Law Firm PC for collection and processing correspondence for
25 overnight delivery, and I caused such document(s) described herein to be deposited for
delivery to a facility regularly maintained Federal Express for overnight delivery. (*Cal*
Code Civ. Proc. § 1013(c); Fed. R. Civ. Proc. 5(c).)

26 ☐ **(BY ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION)** I caused said document(s) to be served via
27 electronic transmission via the above listed email addresses on the date below. (*Cal.*
Code Civ. Proc. § 1010.6(6); Fed. R. Civ. Proc. 5(b)(2)(E); Fed. R. Civ. Proc. 5(b)(3).)

1 ☐ **(BY PERSONAL SERVICE)** I delivered the foregoing document by hand delivery to
2 the addressed named above. (*Cal Code Civ. Proc. § 1011; Fed. R. Civ. Proc.*
3 *5(b)(2)(A).*)

4 I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the
5 foregoing is true and correct.

6 Executed on April 12, 2021, at Irvine, California.

7 
Andrea Drocco

DRIVE, SUITE 100

\$1.60
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APR 12 2021
stamps



062S0010896178

endicia *****



Gerardo Hernandez, Anthony Raimondo
RAIMANDO & ASSOCIATES
7110 N. Marks Avenue, Suite 104
Fresno CA 93711-0798