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SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF STANISLAUS

MIGUEL RAMIREZ, an individual, on behalf
of himself, and on behalf of all persons similarly
situated,

Plaintiffs,

v.

SILVER FARM LABOR, INC. dba SILVER
FARMS INC. LABOR CONTRACTING, a
California corporation; and DOES 1-50,
Inclusive,

Defendant.

Case No: CV-24-003196

**FIRST AMENDED CLASS ACTION
COMPLAINT FOR:**

- 1) UNFAIR COMPETITION IN VIOLATION
OF CAL. BUS. & PROF. CODE §17200 *et*
seq;
- 2) FAILURE TO PAY MINIMUM WAGES IN
VIOLATION OF CAL. LAB. CODE §§
1194, 1197 & 1197.1;
- 3) FAILURE TO PAY OVERTIME WAGES
IN VIOLATION OF CAL. LAB. CODE §§
510, *et seq*;
- 4) FAILURE TO PROVIDE REQUIRED
MEAL PERIODS IN VIOLATION OF
CAL. LAB. CODE §§ 226.7 & 512 AND
THE APPLICABLE IWC WAGE ORDER;
- 5) FAILURE TO PROVIDE REQUIRED
REST PERIODS IN VIOLATION OF CAL.
LAB. CODE §§ 226.7 & 512 AND THE
APPLICABLE IWC WAGE ORDER;

- 1 6) FAILURE TO REIMBURSE EMPLOYEES
2 FOR REQUIRED EXPENSES IN
3 VIOLATION OF CAL. LAB. CODE § 2802;
4 7) FAILURE TO PROVIDE ACCURATE
5 ITEMIZED STATEMENTS IN
6 VIOLATION OF CAL. LAB. CODE § 226;
7 8) FAILURE TO PROVIDE WAGES WHEN
8 DUE IN VIOLATION OF CAL. LAB.
CODE §§ 201, 202 AND 203.
9 9) VIOLATION OF THE PRIVATE
ATTORNEYS GENERAL ACT [LABOR
CODE §§ 2698 ET SEQ.

DEMAND FOR A JURY TRIAL

10 PLAINTIFF MIGUEL RAMIREZ (“PLAINTIFF”), an individual, on behalf of himself and
11 all other similarly situated current and former employees, allege on information and belief, except
12 for his own acts and knowledge which are based on personal knowledge, the following:

13 **PRELIMINARY ALLEGATIONS**

14 1. Defendant SILVER FARM LABOR, INC. (“Defendant”) is a California
15 corporation that at all relevant times mentioned herein conducted and continues to conduct
16 substantial and regular business throughout California.

17 2. DEFENDANT is a labor contracting company throughout the state of California,
18 including the county of Stanislaus, where PLAINTIFF worked.

19 3. PLAINTIFF was employed by DEFENDANT in California most recently from
20 February 2019 to through November of 2023 as a non-exempt employee, paid on an hourly basis,
21 and entitled to the legally required meal and rest periods and payment of minimum and overtime
22 wages due for all time worked.

23 4. PLAINTIFF brings this Class Action on behalf of himself and a California class,
24 defined as all persons who are or previously were employed by Defendant Silver Farm Labor,
25 Inc., and classified as non-exempt employees (the “CALIFORNIA CLASS”) at any time during
26 the period beginning four (4) years prior to the filing of the original Complaint and ending on the
27 date as determined by the Court (the “CLASS PERIOD”). The amount in controversy for the
28

1 aggregate claim of the CALIFORNIA CLASS Members is under five million dollars
2 (\$5,000,000.00).

3 5. PLAINTIFF brings this Class Action on behalf of himself and a CALIFORNIA
4 CLASS in order to fully compensate the CALIFORNIA CLASS for their losses incurred during
5 the CLASS PERIOD caused by DEFENDANT's uniform policy and practice which failed to
6 lawfully compensate these employees. DEFENDANT's uniform policy and practice alleged
7 herein was an unlawful, unfair, and deceptive business practice whereby DEFENDANT retained
8 and continues to retain wages due to PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA
9 CLASS. PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS seek an injunction
10 enjoining such conduct by DEFENDANT in the future, relief for the named PLAINTIFF and the
11 other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS who have been economically injured by
12 DEFENDANT's past and current unlawful conduct, and all other appropriate legal and equitable
13 relief.

14 6. The true names and capacities, whether individual, corporate, subsidiary,
15 partnership, associate or otherwise of DEFENDANTS DOES 1 through 50, inclusive, are
16 presently unknown to PLAINTIFF who therefore sues these DEFENDANTS by such fictitious
17 names pursuant to Cal. Civ. Proc. Code § 474. PLAINTIFF will seek leave to amend this
18 Complaint to allege the true names and capacities of Does 1 through 50, inclusive, when they are
19 ascertained. PLAINTIFF is informed and believes, and based upon that information and belief
20 alleges, that the DEFENDANTS named in this Complaint, including DOES 1 through 50,
21 inclusive, are responsible in some manner for one or more of the events and happenings that
22 proximately caused the injuries and damages hereinafter alleged.

23 7. The agents, servants and/or employees of the Defendant and each of them acting
24 on behalf of the Defendant acted within the course and scope of his, her or its authority as the
25 agent, servant and/or employee of the Defendant, and personally participated in the conduct
26 alleged herein on behalf of the Defendant with respect to the conduct alleged herein.
27 Consequently, the acts of each Defendant are legally attributable to the other Defendants and all
28 Defendants are jointly and severally liable to PLAINTIFF and the other members of the

1 CALIFORNIA CLASS, for the loss sustained as a proximate result of the conduct of the
2 Defendants' agents, servants and/or employees.

3 8. DEFENDANT was PLAINTIFF'S employers or persons acting on behalf of the
4 PLAINTIFF'S employer, within the meaning of California Labor Code § 558, who violated or
5 caused to be violated, a section of Part 2, Chapter 1 of the California Labor Code or any provision
6 regulating hours and days of work in any order of the Industrial Welfare Commission and, as
7 such, are subject to civil penalties for each underpaid employee, as set forth in Labor Code § 558,
8 at all relevant times.

9 9. DEFENDANT was PLAINTIFF'S employers or persons acting on behalf of
10 PLAINTIFF'S employer either individually or as an officer, agent, or employee of another person,
11 within the meaning of California Labor Code § 1197.1, who paid or caused to be paid to any
12 employee a wage less than the minimum fixed by California state law, and as such, are subject to
13 civil penalties for each underpaid employee.

14 10. DEFENDANT's uniform policies and practices alleged herein were unlawful,
15 unfair, and deceptive business practices whereby DEFENDANT retained and continues to retain
16 wages due to PLAINTIFF and other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS.

17 11. PLAINTIFF and other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS seek an injunction
18 enjoining such conduct by DEFENDANT in the future, relief for the named PLAINTIFF and
19 other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS who has been economically injured by
20 DEFENDANT's past and current unlawful conduct, and all other appropriate legal and equitable
21 relief.

22 **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

23 12. This Court has jurisdiction over this Action pursuant to California Code of Civil
24 Procedure, Section 410.10 and California Business & Professions Code, Section 17203. This
25 action is brought as a Class Action on behalf of PLAINTIFF and similarly situated employees of
26 DEFENDANT pursuant to Cal. Code of Civ. Proc. § 382.

27 13. Venue is proper in this Court pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure,
28 Sections 395 and 395.5, because DEFENDANT operates in locations across California, employs

1 the CALIFORNIA CLASS across California, including in this County, and committed the
2 wrongful conduct herein alleged in this County against the CALIFORNIA CLASS.

3 **THE CONDUCT**

4 14. In violation of the applicable sections of the California Labor Code and the
5 requirements of the Industrial Welfare Commission (“IWC”) Wage Order, DEFENDANT as a
6 matter of company policy, practice, and procedure, intentionally, knowingly, and systematically
7 failed to provide legally compliant meal and rest periods, failed to accurately compensate
8 PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS for missed meal and rest
9 periods, failed to pay PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS for all
10 time worked, failed compensate PLAINTIFF for off-the-clock work, failed to pay PLAINTIFF
11 and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS overtime at the correct regular rate of pay,
12 failed to compensate PLAINTIFF and other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS meal rest
13 premiums at the regular rate, failed to reimburse PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS
14 Members for business expenses, and failed to issue to PLAINTIFF and the members of the
15 CALIFORNIA CLASS with accurate itemized wage statements showing, among other things, all
16 applicable hourly rates in effect during the pay periods and the corresponding amount of time
17 worked at each hourly rate, and an accurate amount of “total hours worked”. DEFENDANT’s
18 uniform policies and practices are intended to purposefully avoid the accurate and full payment
19 for all time worked as required by California law which allows DEFENDANT to illegally profit
20 and gain an unfair advantage over competitors who comply with the law. To the extent equitable
21 tolling operates to toll claims by the CALIFORNIA CLASS against DEFENDANT, the CLASS
22 PERIOD should be adjusted accordingly.

23 **A. Meal Period Violations**

24 15. Pursuant to the Industrial Welfare Commission Wage Orders, DEFENDANT was
25 required to pay PLAINTIFF and CALIFORNIA CLASS Members for all their time worked,
26 meaning the time during which an employee is subject to the control of an employer, including
27 all the time the employee is suffered or permitted to work. From time to time during the CLASS
28 PERIOD, DEFENDANT required PLAINTIFF and CALIFORNIA CLASS Members to work

1 without paying them for all the time they were under DEFENDANT's control. Specifically,
2 DEFENDANT required PLAINTIFF to work while clocked out during what was supposed to be
3 PLAINTIFF's off-duty meal break. Indeed, there were many days where PLAINTIFF did not
4 even receive a partial lunch. As a result, the PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS
5 Members forfeited minimum wage and overtime compensation by regularly working without their
6 time being accurately recorded and without compensation at the applicable minimum wage and
7 overtime rates. DEFENDANT's uniform policy and practice not to pay PLAINTIFF and other
8 CALIFORNIA CLASS Members for all time worked is evidenced by DEFENDANT's business
9 records.

10 16. From time to time during the CLASS PERIOD, as a result of their rigorous work
11 schedules and DEFENDANT's inadequate staffing practices, PLAINTIFF and other
12 CALIFORNIA CLASS Members are from time to time unable to take thirty (30) minute off duty
13 meal breaks and were not fully relieved of duty for their meal periods. PLAINTIFF and other
14 CALIFORNIA CLASS Members are required to perform work as ordered by DEFENDANT for
15 more than five (5) hours during some shifts without receiving a meal break. Moreover,
16 DEFENDANT did not provide a second meal period after the tenth hour of work, and did not
17 provide the required meal period premiums. PLAINTIFF and other members of the
18 CALIFORNIA CLASS never received a one-hour premium for late, missed, or interrupted meal
19 periods. The nature of the work performed by PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS
20 Members does not qualify for the limited and narrowly construed "on-duty" meal period
21 exception. When they were provided with meal periods, PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA
22 CLASS Members were, from time to time, required to remain on duty and on call. Specifically,
23 DEFENDANT would instruct PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members they
24 could not leave the premises during their meal breaks. Further, DEFENDANT from time to time
25 required PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members to maintain cordless
26 communication devices in order to receive and respond to work-related communications during
27 what was supposed to be their off-duty meal breaks. DEFENDANT's failure to provide
28 PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS Members with legally required meal breaks is

1 evidenced by DEFENDANT's business records. PLAINTIFF and other members of the
2 CALIFORNIA CLASS therefore forfeit meal breaks without additional compensation and in
3 accordance with DEFENDANT's strict corporate policy and practice.

4 **B. Rest Period Violations**

5 17. From time to time during the CLASS PERIOD, PLAINTIFF and other
6 CALIFORNIA CLASS Members were also required to work in excess of four (4) hours without
7 being provided ten (10) minute rest periods as a result of their rigorous work requirements and
8 DEFENDANT's inadequate staffing. Further, for the same reasons, these employees were denied
9 their first rest periods of at least ten (10) minutes for some shifts worked of at least two (2) to four
10 (4) hours from time to time, a first and second rest period of at least ten (10) minutes for some
11 shifts worked of between six (6) and eight (8) hours from time to time, and a first, second and
12 third rest period of at least ten (10) minutes for some shifts worked of ten (10) hours or more from
13 time to time. When they were provided with rest breaks, PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA
14 CLASS Members were, from time to time, required to remain on duty and/or on call. Further,
15 DEFENDANT from time to time required PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS
16 Members to maintain cordless communication devices in order to receive and respond to work-
17 related communications during what was supposed to be their off-duty rest breaks. PLAINTIFF
18 and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members were also not provided with one-hour wages *in lieu*
19 thereof. As a result of their rigorous work schedules and DEFENDANT's inadequate staffing,
20 PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members were from time to time denied their
21 proper rest periods by DEFENDANT and DEFENDANT's managers.

22 **C. Unreimbursed Business Expenses**

23 18. DEFENDANT as a matter of corporate policy, practice, and procedure,
24 intentionally, knowingly, and systematically failed to reimburse and indemnify the PLAINTIFF
25 and the other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members for required business expenses incurred by the
26 PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members in direct consequence of discharging
27 their duties on behalf of DEFENDANT. Under California Labor Code Section 2802, employers
28 are required to indemnify employees for all expenses incurred in the course and scope of their

1 employment. Cal. Lab. Code § 2802 expressly states that "an employer shall indemnify his or her
2 employee for all necessary expenditures or losses incurred by the employee in direct consequence
3 of the discharge of his or her duties, or of his or her obedience to the directions of the employer,
4 even though unlawful, unless the employee, at the time of obeying the directions, believed them
5 to be unlawful."

6 19. In the course of their employment, DEFENDANT required PLAINTIFF and other
7 CALIFORNIA CLASS Members to use their personal cell phones as a result of and in furtherance
8 of their job duties, including but not limited to receiving and/or responding to work-related
9 communications and performing work-related duties. However, DEFENDANT unlawfully failed
10 to reimburse PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members for the use of their personal
11 cell phones. Specifically, DEFENDANT would require PLAINTIFF to update DEFENDANT
12 once a job was completed and would give new job assignments all on PLAINTIFF'S personal
13 cell phone. DEFENDANT also failed to reimburse PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA
14 CLASS Members for the purchase of required uniforms. As a result, in the course of their
15 employment with DEFENDANT, the PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members
16 incurred unreimbursed business expenses that included, but were not limited to, costs related to
17 the use of their personal cell phones.

18 **D. Wage Statement Violations**

19 20. California Labor Code Section 226 required an employer to furnish its employees
20 and accurate itemized wage statement in writing showing (1) gross wages earned, (2) total hours
21 worked, (3) the number of piece-rate units earned and any applicable piece-rate, (4) all deductions,
22 (5) net wages earned, (6) the inclusive dates of the period for which the employee is paid, (7) the
23 name of the employee and only the last four digits of the employee's social security number or an
24 employee identification number other than a social security number, (8) the name and address of
25 the legal entity that is the employer, and (9) all applicable hourly rates in effect during the pay
26 period and the corresponding number of hours worked at each hourly rate by the employee.

27 21. From time to time during the CLASS PERIOD, when PLAINTIFF and other
28 CALIFORNIA CLASS Members missed meal and rest breaks, or were paid inaccurately for

1 missed meal and rest period premiums, or were not paid for all hours worked, DEFENDANT also
2 failed to provide PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members with complete and
3 accurate wage statements which failed to show, among other things, all deductions, the total hours
4 worked and all applicable hourly rates in effect during the pay period and the corresponding
5 amount of time worked at each hourly rate, correct rates of pay for penalty payments or missed
6 meal and rest periods and the name and address of the legal entity that is the employer .

7 22. In addition to the foregoing, DEFENDANT, from time to time, failed to provide
8 PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS Members with wage statements that comply with
9 Cal. Lab. Code § 226.

10 23. As a result, DEFENDANT issued PLAINTIFF and other members of the
11 CALIFORNIA CLASS with wage statements that violate Cal. Lab. Code § 226. Further,
12 DEFENDANT's violations are knowing and intentional, were not isolated due to an unintentional
13 payroll error due to clerical or inadvertent mistake.

14 **E. Off-the-Clock Work Resulting in Minimum Wage and Overtime Violations**

15 24. During the CLASS PERIOD, from time-to-time DEFENDANT failed and
16 continues to fail to accurately pay PLAINTIFF and other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS
17 for all hours worked.

18 25. During the CLASS PERIOD, from time-to-time DEFENDANT required
19 PLAINTIFF and other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS to perform pre-shift or post-shift
20 work, including but not limited to, submitting to Covid-19 health screenings and spending time
21 performing keyholder duties by opening and closing the shop door. This resulted in PLAINTIFF
22 and other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS having to work while off-the-clock.

23 26. DEFENDANT directed and directly benefited from the undercompensated off-the-
24 clock work performed by PLAINTIFF and the other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members.

25 27. DEFENDANT controlled the work schedules, duties, and protocols, applications,
26 assignments, and employment conditions of PLAINTIFF and the other members of the
27 CALIFORNIA CLASS.

1 28. DEFENDANT was able to track the amount of time PLAINTIFF and the other
2 members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS spent working; however, DEFENDANT failed to
3 document, track, or pay PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS all
4 wages earned and owed for all the work they performed.

5 29. PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS were non-
6 exempt employees, subject to the requirements of the California Labor Code.

7 30. DEFENDANT's policies and practices deprived PLAINTIFF and the other
8 CALIFORNIA CLASS Members of all minimum regular, overtime, and double time wages owed
9 for the off-the-clock work activities. Because PLAINTIFF and the other members of the
10 CALIFORNIA CLASS typically worked over forty (40) hours in a workweek, and more than
11 eight (8) hours per day, DEFENDANT's policies and practices also deprived them of overtime
12 pay.

13 31. DEFENDANT knew or should have known that PLAINTIFF and the other
14 members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS off-the-clock work was compensable under the law.

15 32. As a result, PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS
16 forfeited wages due to them for all hours worked at DEFENDANT's direction, control, and
17 benefit for the time spent working while off-the-clock, including but not limited to, time spent
18 submitting to Covid-19 health screenings and performing keyholder duties. DEFENDANT's
19 uniform policy and practice to not pay PLAINTIFF and the members of the CALIFORNIA
20 CLASS wages for all hours worked in accordance with applicable law is evidenced by
21 DEFENDANT's business records.

22 **F. Regular Rate Violation – Overtime, Double Time, Meal and Rest Period Premiums,**
23 **and Redeemed Sick Pay**

24 33. From time to time during the CLASS PERIOD, DEFENDANT failed and
25 continues to fail to accurately calculate and pay PLAINTIFF and the other CALIFORNIA CLASS
26 Members for their overtime and double time hours worked, meal and rest period premiums, and
27 redeemed sick pay. As a result, PLAINTIFF and the other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members
28 forfeited wages due to them for working overtime without compensation at the correct overtime

1 and double time rates, meal and rest period premiums, and redeemed sick pay rates.
2 DEFENDANT's uniform policy and practice not to pay the CALIFORNIA CLASS Members at
3 the correct rate for all overtime and double time worked, meal and rest period premiums, and sick
4 pay in accordance with applicable law is evidenced by DEFENDANT's business records.

5 34. State law provides that employees must be paid overtime at one-and-one-half times
6 their "regular rate of pay." PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members were
7 compensated at an hourly rate plus incentive pay that was tied to specific elements of an
8 employee's performance in addition to shift differentials.

9 35. The second component of PLAINTIFF'S and other CALIFORNIA CLASS
10 Members' compensation was DEFENDANT's non-discretionary incentive program that paid
11 PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members incentive wages based on their
12 performance for DEFENDANT. The non-discretionary bonus program provided all employees
13 paid on an hourly basis with bonus compensation when the employees met the various
14 performance goals set by DEFENDANT.

15 36. However, from time to time, when calculating the regular rate of pay in those pay
16 periods where PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members worked overtime, double
17 time, paid meal and rest period premium payments, and/or redeemed sick pay, and earned non-
18 discretionary bonuses, DEFENDANT failed to accurately include the non-discretionary bonus
19 compensation as part of the employee's "regular rate of pay" and/or calculated all hours worked
20 rather than just all non-overtime hours worked. Management and supervisors described the
21 incentive/bonus program to potential and new employees as part of the compensation package.
22 As a matter of law, the incentive compensation received by PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA
23 CLASS Members must be included in the "regular rate of pay." The failure to do so has resulted
24 in a systematic underpayment of overtime and double time compensation, meal and rest period
25 premium payments, and redeemed sick pay to PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS
26 Members by DEFENDANT. Specifically, California Labor Code Section 246 mandates that paid
27 sick time for non-exempt employees shall be calculated in the same manner as the regular rate of
28 pay for the workweek in which the non-exempt employee uses paid sick time, whether or not the

1 employee actually works overtime in that workweek. DEFENDANT's conduct, as articulated
2 herein, by failing to include the incentive compensation as part of the "regular rate of pay" for
3 purposes of sick pay compensation was in violation of Cal. Lab. Code § 246 the underpayment of
4 which is recoverable under Cal. Lab. Code Sections 201, 202, 203, and/or 204.

5 37. In violation of the applicable sections of the California Labor Code and the
6 requirements of the Industrial Welfare Commission ("IWC") Wage Order, DEFENDANT as a
7 matter of company policy, practice, and procedure, intentionally and knowingly failed to
8 compensate PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS at the correct rate
9 of pay for all overtime and double time worked, meal and rest period premiums, and redeemed
10 sick pay as required by California law which allowed DEFENDANT to illegally profit and gain
11 an unfair advantage over competitors who complied with the law. To the extent equitable tolling
12 operates to toll claims by the CALIFORNIA CLASS Members against DEFENDANT, the
13 CLASS PERIOD should be adjusted accordingly.

14 **G. Violations for Untimely Payment of Wages**

15 38. Pursuant to California Labor Code section 204, PLAINTIFF and the
16 CALIFORNIA CLASS members were entitled to timely payment of wages during their
17 employment. PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS members, from time to time, did not
18 receive payment of all wages, including, but not limited to, overtime wages, minimum wages,
19 meal period premium wages, and rest period premium wages within permissible time period.

20 39. Pursuant to Cal. Lab. Code § 201, "If an employer discharges an employee, the
21 wages earned and unpaid at the time of discharge are due and payable immediately." Pursuant to
22 Cal. Lab. Code § 202, if an employee quits his or her employment, "his or her wages shall become
23 due and payable not later than 72 hours thereafter, unless the employee has given 72 hours
24 previous notice of his or her intention to quit, in which case the employee is entitled to his or her
25 wages at the time of quitting." PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS Members were, from
26 time to time, not timely provided the wages earned and unpaid at the time of their discharge and/or
27 at the time of quitting, in violation of Cal. Lab. Code §§ 201 and 202.

28 40. As such, PLAINTIFF demands up to thirty days of pay as penalty for not timely

1 paying all wages due at time of termination for all CALIFORNIA CLASS Members whose
2 employment ended during the CLASS PERIOD.

3 **H. Unlawful Deductions**

4 41. DEFENDANT, from time-to-time unlawfully deducted wages from PLAINTIFF
5 and CALIFORNIA CLASS Members' pay without explanations and without authorization to do
6 so or notice to PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS Members. As a result,
7 DEFENDANTS violated Labor Code § 221.

8 **I. Timekeeping Manipulation**

9 42. During the CLASS PERIOD, DEFENDANT, from time-to-time, did not have an
10 immutable timekeeping system to accurately record and pay PLAINTIFF and other members of
11 the CALIFORNIA CLASS for the actual time PLAINTIFF and other members of the
12 CALIFORNIA CLASS worked each day, including regular time, overtime hours, sick pay, meal
13 and rest breaks. As a result, DEFENDANT was able to and did in fact, unlawfully, and
14 unilaterally alter the time recorded in DEFENDANT's timekeeping system for PLAINTIFF and
15 other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS in order to avoid paying these employees for all
16 hours worked, applicable overtime compensation, applicable sick pay, missed meal breaks and
17 missed rest breaks.

18 43. As a result, PLAINTIFF and other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS, from
19 time-to-time, forfeited time worked by working without their time being accurately recorded and
20 without compensation at the applicable pay rates.

21 44. The mutability of the timekeeping system also allowed DEFENDANT to alter
22 employee time records by recording fictitious thirty (30) minute meal breaks in DEFENDANT's
23 timekeeping system so as to create the appearance that PLAINTIFF and other members of the
24 CALIFORNIA CLASS clocked out for thirty (30) minute meal break when in fact the employees
25 were not at all times provided an off-duty meal break. This practice is a direct result of
26 DEFENDANT's uniform policy and practice of denying employees uninterrupted thirty (30)
27 minute off-duty meal breaks each day or otherwise compensate them for missed meal breaks.

28 45. As a result, PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS

1 forfeited wages due them for all hours worked at DEFENDANT's direction, control and benefit
2 for the time the timekeeping system was inoperable. DEFENDANT's uniform policy and
3 practice to not pay PLAINTIFF and the members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS wages for all
4 hours worked in accordance with applicable law is evidenced by DEFENDANT'S business
5 records.

6 **J. Unlawful Rounding Practices**

7 46. During the CALIFORNIA CLASS PERIOD, DEFENDANTS did not have in
8 place an immutable timekeeping system to accurately record and pay PLAINTIFF and other
9 CALIFORNIA CLASS Members for the actual time these employees worked each day,
10 including overtime hours. Specifically, DEFENDANTS had in place an unlawful rounding
11 policy and practice that resulted in PLAINTIFF and CALIFORNIA CLASS Members being
12 undercompensated for all of their time worked. As a result, DEFENDANTS were able to and did
13 in fact unlawfully, and unilaterally round the time recorded in DEFENDANTS' timekeeping
14 system for PLAINTIFF and the members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS in order to avoid paying
15 these employees for all their time worked, including the applicable overtime compensation for
16 overtime worked. As a result, PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members, from
17 time to time, forfeited compensation for their time worked by working without their time being
18 accurately recorded and without compensation at the applicable overtime rates.

19 47. Further, the mutability of DEFENDANTS' timekeeping system and unlawful
20 rounding policy and practice resulted in PLAINTIFF and CALIFORNIA CLASS Members' time
21 being inaccurately recorded. As a result, from time to time, DEFENDANTS' unlawful rounding
22 policy and practice caused PLAINTIFF and CALIFORNIA CLASS Members to perform work
23 as ordered by DEFENDANTS for more than five (5) hours during a shift without receiving an
24 off-duty meal break.

25 **K. Sick Pay Violations**

26 48. Cal. Labor Code Section 246 (a)(1) mandates that "An employee who, on or after
27 July 1, 2015, works in California for the same employer for 30 or more days within a year from
28 the commencement of employment is entitled to paid sick days as specified in this section."

1 Further, Cal. Labor Code Sections 246(b)-(d) provide for the sick day accrual requirements. From
2 time to time, DEFENDANT failed to have a policy or practice in place that provided PLAINTIFF
3 and other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS with sick days and/or paid sick leave. As of
4 January 1, 2024, Defendants failed to adhere to the law in that they failed to provide and allow
5 employees to use at least 40 hours or five days of paid sick leave per year.

6 49. California Labor Code Section 246(i) requires an employer to furnish its
7 employees with written wage statements setting forth the amount of paid sick leave available.
8 From time to time, DEFENDANT violated Cal. Lab. Code § 246 by failing to furnish PLAINTIFF
9 and other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS with wage statements setting forth the amount
10 of paid sick leave available.

11 **CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS**

12 50. PLAINTIFF brings this Class Action on behalf of himself, and a California class
13 defined as all persons who are or previously were employed by DEFENDANT Silver Farms
14 Labor, Inc. and classified as non-exempt employees (the “CALIFORNIA CLASS”) at any time
15 during the period beginning four (4) years prior to the filing of the original Complaint and ending
16 on the date as determined by the Court (the “CLASS PERIOD”). The amount in controversy for
17 the aggregate claim of the CALIFORNIA CLASS Members is under five million dollars
18 (\$5,000,000.00).

19 51. PLAINTIFF and the other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members have uniformly been
20 deprived of wages and penalties from unpaid wages earned and due, including but not limited to
21 unpaid minimum wages, unpaid overtime compensation, unpaid meal and rest period premiums,
22 illegal meal and rest period policies, failed to reimburse for business expenses, failed compensate
23 for off-the-clock work, failure to provide accurate itemized wage statements, failure to maintain
24 required records, and interest, statutory and civil penalties, attorney’s fees, costs, and expenses.

25 52. The members of the class are so numerous that joinder of all class members is
26 impractical.

27 53. Common questions of law and fact regarding DEFENDANT’s conduct, including
28 but not limited to, off-the-clock work, unpaid meal and rest period premiums, failure to

1 accurately calculate the regular rate of pay for overtime compensation, failure to accurately
2 calculate the regular rate of compensation for missed meal and rest period premiums, failure to
3 provide legally compliant meal and rest periods, failure to reimburse for business expenses,
4 failure to provide accurate itemized wage statements accurate, and failure to ensure they are paid
5 at least minimum wage and overtime, exist as to all members of the class and predominate over
6 any questions affecting solely any individual members of the class. Among the questions of law
7 and fact common to the class are:

- 8 a. Whether DEFENDANT maintained legally compliant meal period policies and
9 practices;
- 10 b. Whether DEFENDANT maintained legally compliant rest period policies and
11 practices;
- 12 c. Whether DEFENDANT failed to pay PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS
13 Members accurate premium payments for missed meal and rest periods;
- 14 d. Whether DEFENDANT failed to pay PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS
15 Members accurate overtime wages;
- 16 e. Whether DEFENDANT failed to pay PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS
17 Members at least minimum wage for all hours worked;
- 18 f. Whether DEFENDANT failed to compensate PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA
19 CLASS Members for required business expenses;
- 20 g. Whether DEFENDANT issued legally compliant wage statements;
- 21 h. Whether DEFENDANT committed an act of unfair competition by systematically
22 failing to record and pay PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA
23 CLASS for all time worked;
- 24 i. Whether DEFENDANT committed an act of unfair competition by systematically
25 failing to record all meal and rest breaks missed by PLAINTIFF and other
26 CALIFORNIA CLASS Members, even though DEFENDANT enjoyed the benefit
27 of this work, required employees to perform this work and permits or suffers to
28 permit this work;

1 j. Whether DEFENDANT committed an act of unfair competition in violation of the
2 UCL, by failing to provide the PLAINTIFF and the other members of the
3 CALIFORNIA CLASS with the legally required meal and rest periods.

4 54. PLAINTIFF is a member of the CALIFORNIA CLASS and suffered damages as
5 a result of DEFENDANT's conduct and actions alleged herein.

6 55. PLAINTIFF'S claims are typical of the claims of the CALIFORNIA CLASS, and
7 PLAINTIFF have the same interests as the other members of the class.

8 56. PLAINTIFF will fairly and adequately represent and protect the interests of the
9 CALIFORNIA CLASS Members.

10 57. PLAINTIFF retained able class counsel with extensive experience in class action
11 litigation.

12 58. Further, PLAINTIFF'S interests are coincident with, and not antagonistic to, the
13 interest of the other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members.

14 59. There is a strong community of interest among PLAINTIFF and the members of
15 the CALIFORNIA CLASS to, inter alia, ensure that the combined assets of DEFENDANT are
16 sufficient to adequately compensate the members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS for the injuries
17 sustained.

18 60. The questions of law and fact common to the CALIFORNIA CLASS Members
19 predominate over any questions affecting only individual members, including legal and factual
20 issues relating to liability and damages.

21 61. A class action is superior to other available methods for the fair and efficient
22 adjudication of this controversy because joinder of all class members is impractical. Moreover,
23 since the damages suffered by individual members of the class may be relatively small, the
24 expense and burden of individual litigation makes it practically impossible for the members of
25 the class individually to redress the wrongs done to them. Without class certification and
26 determination of declaratory, injunctive, statutory, and other legal questions within the class
27 format, prosecution of separate actions by individual members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS
28 will create the risk of:

- 1 a. Inconsistent or varying adjudications with respect to individual members of the
2 CALIFORNIA CLASS which would establish incompatible standards of conduct
3 for the parties opposing the CALIFORNIA CLASS; and/or,
4 b. Adjudication with respect to individual members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS
5 which would as a practical matter be dispositive of the interests of the other
6 members not party to the adjudication or substantially impair or impeded their
7 ability to protect their interests.
- 8 62. Class treatment provides manageable judicial treatment calculated to bring an
9 efficient and rapid conclusion to all litigation of all wage and hour related claims arising out of
10 the conduct of DEFENDANT.

11 **FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION**

12 **Unlawful Business Practices**

13 **(Cal. Bus. And Prof. Code §§ 17200, *et seq.*)**

14 **(Alleged by PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS against all DEFENDANTS)**

15 63. PLAINTIFF, and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS, reallege and
16 incorporate by this reference, as though fully set forth herein, the prior paragraphs of this
17 Complaint.

18 64. DEFENDANT is a “person” as that term is defined under Cal. Bus. And Prof.
19 Code § 17021.

20 65. California Business & Professions Code §§ 17200, *et seq.* (the “UCL”) defines
21 unfair competition as any unlawful, unfair, or fraudulent business act or practice. Section 17203
22 authorizes injunctive, declaratory, and/or other equitable relief with respect to unfair competition
23 as follows:

24 Any person who engages, has engaged, or proposes to engage in unfair competition may
25 be enjoined in any court of competent jurisdiction. The court may make such orders or
26 judgments, including the appointment of a receiver, as may be necessary to prevent the
27 use or employment by any person of any practice which constitutes unfair competition, as
28 defined in this chapter, or as may be necessary to restore to any person in interest any
money or property, real or personal, which may have been acquired by means of such
unfair competition. (Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17203).

1 66. By the conduct alleged herein, DEFENDANT has engaged and continues to
2 engage in a business practice which violates California law, including but not limited to, the
3 applicable Wage Order(s), the California Code of Regulations and the California Labor Code
4 including Sections 201, 202, 203, 204, 210, 226.7, 510, 512, 558, 1194, 1197, 1197.1, 1198, and
5 2802, for which this Court should issue declaratory and other equitable relief pursuant to Cal.
6 Bus. & Prof. Code § 17203 as may be necessary to prevent and remedy the conduct held to
7 constitute unfair competition, including restitution of wages wrongfully withheld.

8 67. By the conduct alleged herein, DEFENDANT's practices were unlawful and unfair
9 in that these practices violated public policy, were immoral, unethical, oppressive unscrupulous
10 or substantially injurious to employees, and were without valid justification or utility for which
11 this Court should issue equitable and injunctive relief pursuant to Section 17203 of the California
12 Business & Professions Code, including restitution of wages wrongfully withheld.

13 68. By the conduct alleged herein, DEFENDANT's practices were deceptive and
14 fraudulent in that DEFENDANT's uniform policy and practice failed to provide the legally
15 mandated meal and rest periods and the required amount of compensation for missed meal and
16 rest periods, failed to pay minimum and overtime wages owed, and failed to reimburse all
17 necessary business expenses incurred, due to a systematic business practice that cannot be
18 justified, pursuant to the applicable Cal. Lab. Code, and Industrial Welfare Commission
19 requirements in violation of Cal. Bus. Code §§ 17200, *et seq.*, and for which this Court should
20 issue injunctive and equitable relief, pursuant to Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17203, including
21 restitution of wages wrongfully withheld.

22 69. By the conduct alleged herein, DEFENDANT's practices were also unlawful,
23 unfair, and deceptive in that DEFENDANT's employment practices caused PLAINTIFF and the
24 other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS to be underpaid during their employment with
25 DEFENDANT.

26 70. By the conduct alleged herein, DEFENDANT's practices were also unfair and
27 deceptive in that DEFENDANT's uniform policies, practices and procedures failed to provide
28

1 mandatory meal and/or rest breaks to PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS members as
2 required by Cal. Lab. Code §§ 226.7 and 512.

3 71. Therefore, PLAINTIFF demands on behalf of himself and on behalf of each
4 CALIFORNIA CLASS member, one (1) hour of pay for each workday in which an off-duty meal
5 period was not timely provided for each five (5) hours of work, and/or one (1) hour of pay for
6 each workday in which a second off-duty meal period was not timely provided for each ten (10)
7 hours of work.

8 72. PLAINTIFF further demands on behalf of himself and on behalf of each
9 CALIFORNIA CLASS member, one (1) hour of pay for each workday in which a rest period
10 was not timely provided as required by law.

11 73. By and through the unlawful and unfair business practices described herein,
12 DEFENDANT has obtained valuable property, money and services from PLAINTIFF and the
13 other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS, including earned wages for all time worked, and
14 has deprived them of valuable rights and benefits guaranteed by law and contract, all to the
15 detriment of these employees and to the benefit of DEFENDANT so as to allow DEFENDANT
16 to unfairly compete against competitors who comply with the law.

17 74. All the acts described herein as violations of, among other things, the Industrial
18 Welfare Commission Wage Orders, the California Code of Regulations, and the California Labor
19 Code, were unlawful and in violation of public policy, were immoral, unethical, oppressive, and
20 unscrupulous, were deceptive, and thereby constitute unlawful, unfair, and deceptive business
21 practices in violation of Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code §§ 17200, *et seq.*

22 75. PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS are entitled to,
23 and do, seek such relief as may be necessary to restore to them the money and property which
24 DEFENDANT has acquired, or of which PLAINTIFF and the other members of the
25 CALIFORNIA CLASS have been deprived, by means of the above described unlawful and
26 unfair business practices, including earned but unpaid wages for all time worked.

27 76. PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS are further
28 entitled to, and do, seek a declaration that the described business practices are unlawful, unfair,

1 and deceptive, and that injunctive relief should be issued restraining DEFENDANT from
2 engaging in any unlawful and unfair business practices in the future.

3 77. PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS have no plain,
4 speedy and/or adequate remedy at law that will end the unlawful and unfair business practices of
5 DEFENDANT. Further, the practices herein alleged presently continue to occur unabated. As a
6 result of the unlawful and unfair business practices described herein, PLAINTIFF and the other
7 members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS have suffered and will continue to suffer irreparable
8 legal and economic harm unless DEFENDANT is restrained from continuing to engage in these
9 unlawful and unfair business practices.

10 **SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION**

11 **Failure To Pay Minimum Wages**

12 **(Cal. Lab. Code §§ 1194, 1197 and 1197.1)**

13 **Alleged by PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS against all DEFENDANTS)**

14 78. PLAINTIFF, and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS, reallege and
15 incorporate by this reference, as though fully set forth herein, the prior paragraphs of this
16 Complaint.

17 79. PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS bring a claim
18 for DEFENDANT's willful and intentional violations of the California Labor Code and the
19 Industrial Welfare Commission requirements for DEFENDANT's failure to accurately calculate
20 and pay minimum wages to PLAINTIFF and CALIFORNIA CLASS Members.

21 80. Pursuant to Cal. Lab. Code § 204, other applicable laws and regulations, and public
22 policy, an employer must timely pay its employees for all hours worked.

23 81. Cal. Lab. Code § 1197 provides the minimum wage for employees fixed by the
24 commission is the minimum wage to be paid to employees, and the payment of a less wage than
25 the minimum so fixed is unlawful.

26 82. Cal. Lab. Code § 1194 establishes an employee's right to recover unpaid wages,
27 including minimum wage compensation and interest thereon, together with the costs of suit.
28

1 83. DEFENDANT maintained a uniform wage practice of paying PLAINTIFF and the
2 other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS without regard to the correct amount of time they
3 work. As set forth herein, DEFENDANT's uniform policy and practice was to unlawfully and
4 intentionally deny timely payment of wages due to PLAINTIFF and the other members of the
5 CALIFORNIA CLASS.

6 84. DEFENDANT's uniform pattern of unlawful wage and hour practices manifested,
7 without limitation, applicable to the CALIFORNIA CLASS as a whole, as a result of
8 implementing a uniform policy and practice that denies accurate compensation to PLAINTIFF
9 and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS in regard to minimum wage pay.

10 85. In committing these violations of the California Labor Code, DEFENDANT
11 inaccurately calculated the correct time worked and consequently underpaid the actual time
12 worked by PLAINTIFF and other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS. DEFENDANT acted
13 in an illegal attempt to avoid the payment of all earned wages, and other benefits in violation of
14 the California Labor Code, the Industrial Welfare Commission requirements and other applicable
15 laws and regulations.

16 86. As a direct result of DEFENDANT's unlawful wage practices as alleged herein,
17 PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS did not receive the correct
18 minimum wage compensation for their time worked for DEFENDANT.

19 87. During the CLASS PERIOD, PLAINTIFF and the other members of the
20 CALIFORNIA CLASS were paid less for time worked than they were entitled to, constituting a
21 failure to pay all earned wages.

22 88. By virtue of DEFENDANT's unlawful failure to accurately pay all earned
23 compensation to PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS for the true
24 time they worked, PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS have
25 suffered and will continue to suffer an economic injury in amounts which are presently unknown
26 to them, and which will be ascertained according to proof at trial.

27 89. DEFENDANT knew or should have known that PLAINTIFF and the other
28 members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS were under-compensated for their time worked.

1 DEFENDANT systematically elected, either through intentional malfeasance or gross
2 nonfeasance, to not pay employees for their labor as a matter of uniform company policy, practice
3 and procedure, and DEFENDANT perpetrated this systematic scheme by refusing to pay
4 PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS the correct minimum wages
5 for their time worked.

6 90. In performing the acts and practices herein alleged in violation of California labor
7 laws, and refusing to compensate the members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS for all time worked
8 and provide them with the requisite compensation, DEFENDANT acted and continues to act
9 intentionally, oppressively, and maliciously toward PLAINTIFF and the other members of the
10 CALIFORNIA CLASS with a conscious and utter disregard for their legal rights, or the
11 consequences to them, and with the despicable intent of depriving them of their property and
12 legal rights, and otherwise causing them injury in order to increase company profits at the
13 expense of these employees.

14 91. PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS therefore request
15 recovery of all unpaid wages, according to proof, interest, statutory costs, as well as the
16 assessment of any statutory penalties against DEFENDANT, in a sum as provided by the
17 California Labor Code and/or other applicable statutes. To the extent minimum wage
18 compensation is determined to be owed to the CALIFORNIA CLASS Members who have
19 terminated their employment, DEFENDANT's conduct also violates Labor Code §§ 201 and/or
20 202, and therefore these individuals are also be entitled to waiting time penalties under Cal. Lab.
21 Code § 203, which penalties are sought herein on behalf of these CALIFORNIA CLASS
22 Members. DEFENDANT's conduct as alleged herein was willful, intentional and not in good
23 faith. Further, PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members are entitled to seek and
24 recover statutory costs.

25 **THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION**

26 **Failure To Pay Overtime Compensation**

27 **(Cal. Lab. Code §§ 204, 510, 1194 and 1198)**

28 **(Alleged by PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS against all DEFENDANTS)**

1 92. PLAINTIFF, and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS, reallege and
2 incorporate by this reference, as though fully set forth herein, the prior paragraphs of this
3 Complaint.

4 93. PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS bring a claim
5 for DEFENDANT's willful and intentional violations of the California Labor Code and the
6 Industrial Welfare Commission requirements for DEFENDANT's failure to pay these employees
7 for all overtime worked, including, work performed in excess of eight (8) hours in a workday,
8 and/or twelve (12) hours in a workday, and/or forty (40) hours in any workweek.

9 94. Pursuant to Cal. Lab. Code § 204, other applicable laws and regulations, and public
10 policy, an employer must timely pay its employees for all hours worked.

11 95. Cal. Lab. Code § 510 provides that employees in California shall not be employed
12 more than eight (8) hours per workday and/or more than forty (40) hours per workweek unless
13 they receive additional compensation beyond their regular wages in amounts specified by law.

14 96. Cal. Lab. Code § 1194 establishes an employee's right to recover unpaid wages,
15 including minimum and overtime compensation and interest thereon, together with the costs of
16 suit. Cal. Lab. Code § 1198 further states that the employment of an employee for longer hours
17 than those fixed by the Industrial Welfare Commission is unlawful.

18 97. During the CLASS PERIOD, PLAINTIFF and CALIFORNIA CLASS Members
19 were required by DEFENDANT to work for DEFENDANT and were not paid for all the time
20 they worked, including overtime work.

21 98. DEFENDANT's uniform pattern of unlawful wage and hour practices manifested,
22 without limitation, applicable to the CALIFORNIA CLASS as a whole, as a result of
23 implementing a uniform policy and practice that failed to accurately record overtime worked by
24 PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members and denied accurate compensation to
25 PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS for overtime worked,
26 including, the overtime work performed in excess of eight (8) hours in a workday, and/or twelve
27 (12) hours in a workday, and/or forty (40) hours in any workweek.

1 99. In committing these violations of the California Labor Code, DEFENDANT
2 inaccurately recorded overtime worked and consequently underpaid the overtime worked by
3 PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members. DEFENDANT acted in an illegal
4 attempt to avoid the payment of all earned wages, and other benefits in violation of the California
5 Labor Code, the Industrial Welfare Commission requirements and other applicable laws and
6 regulations.

7 100. As a direct result of DEFENDANT's unlawful wage practices as alleged herein,
8 PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS did not receive the correct
9 overtime compensation for their time worked for DEFENDANT.

10 101. Cal. Lab. Code § 515 sets out various categories of employees who are exempt
11 from the overtime requirements of the law. None of these exemptions are applicable to
12 PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS. Further, PLAINTIFF and the
13 other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS are not subject to a valid collective bargaining
14 agreement that would preclude the causes of action contained herein this Complaint. Rather,
15 PLAINTIFF brings this Action on behalf of himself and the CALIFORNIA CLASS based on
16 DEFENDANT's violations of non-negotiable, non-waivable rights provided by the State of
17 California.

18 102. During the CLASS PERIOD, PLAINTIFF and the other members of the
19 CALIFORNIA CLASS were paid less for overtime worked than they were entitled to,
20 constituting a failure to pay all earned wages.

21 103. DEFENDANT failed to accurately pay PLAINTIFF and the other members of the
22 CALIFORNIA CLASS overtime wages for the time they worked which was in excess of the
23 maximum hours permissible by law as required by Cal. Lab. Code §§ 510, 1194, & 1198, even
24 though PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS were regularly
25 required to work, and did in fact work overtime, and did in fact work overtime as to which
26 DEFENDANT failed to accurately record and pay as evidenced by DEFENDANT's business
27 records and witnessed by employees.

1 104. By virtue of DEFENDANT's unlawful failure to accurately pay all earned
2 compensation to PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS for the true
3 amount of overtime they worked, PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA
4 CLASS have suffered and will continue to suffer an economic injury in amounts which are
5 presently unknown to them, and which will be ascertained according to proof at trial.

6 105. DEFENDANT knew or should have known that PLAINTIFF and the other
7 members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS were undercompensated for their time worked.
8 DEFENDANT systematically elected, either through intentional malfeasance or gross
9 nonfeasance, to not pay them for their labor as a matter of uniform company policy, practice and
10 procedure, and DEFENDANT perpetrated this systematic scheme by refusing to pay
11 PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS the correct overtime wages
12 for their overtime worked.

13 106. In performing the acts and practices herein alleged in violation of California labor
14 laws, and refusing to compensate the members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS for all time worked
15 and provide them with the requisite compensation, DEFENDANT acted and continues to act
16 intentionally, oppressively, and maliciously toward PLAINTIFF and the other members of the
17 CALIFORNIA CLASS with a conscious of and utter disregard for their legal rights, or the
18 consequences to them, and with the despicable intent of depriving them of their property and
19 legal rights, and otherwise causing them injury in order to increase company profits at the
20 expense of these employees.

21 107. Therefore, PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS
22 request recovery of overtime wages, according to proof, interest, statutory costs, as well as the
23 assessment of any statutory penalties against DEFENDANT, in a sum as provided by the
24 California Labor Code and/or other applicable statutes. To the extent overtime compensation is
25 determined to be owed to the CALIFORNIA CLASS Members who have terminated their
26 employment, DEFENDANT'S conduct also violates Labor Code §§ 201 and/or 202, and
27 therefore these individuals are also be entitled to waiting time penalties under Cal. Lab. Code §
28 203, which penalties are sought herein. DEFENDANT's conduct as alleged herein was willful,

1 intentional, and not in good faith. Further, PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS
2 Members are entitled to seek and recover statutory costs.

3 **FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

4 **Failure To Provide Required Meal Periods**

5 **(Cal. Lab. Code §§ 226.7 & 512)**

6 **(Alleged by PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS against all DEFENDANTS)**

7 108. PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS, reallege and
8 incorporate by this reference, as though fully set forth herein, the prior paragraphs of this
9 Complaint.

10 109. During the CLASS PERIOD, DEFENDANT failed to provide all the legally
11 required off-duty meal breaks to PLAINTIFF and the other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members as
12 required by the applicable Wage Order and Labor Code. The nature of the work performed by
13 PLAINTIFF and CALIFORNIA CLASS Members did not prevent these employees from being
14 relieved of all of their duties for the legally required off-duty meal periods. As a result of their
15 rigorous work schedules, PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members were often
16 not fully relieved of duty by DEFENDANT for their meal periods. Additionally,
17 DEFENDANT's failure to provide PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS Members with
18 legally required meal breaks prior to their fifth (5th) hour of work is evidenced by
19 DEFENDANT's business records. Further, DEFENDANT failed to provide PLAINTIFF and
20 CALIFORNIA CLASS Members with a second off-duty meal period in some workdays in which
21 these employees were required by DEFENDANT to work ten (10) hours of work. As a result,
22 PLAINTIFF and other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS forfeited meal breaks without
23 additional compensation and in accordance with DEFENDANT's strict corporate policy and
24 practice.

25 110. DEFENDANT further violated California Labor Code §§ 226.7 and the applicable
26 IWC Wage Order by failing to compensate PLAINTIFF and CALIFORNIA CLASS Members
27 who were not provided a meal period, in accordance with the applicable Wage Order, one
28

1 additional hour of compensation at each employee's regular rate of pay for each workday that a
2 meal period was not provided.

3 111. As a proximate result of the aforementioned violations, PLAINTIFF and
4 CALIFORNIA CLASS Members have been damaged in an amount according to proof at trial,
5 and seek all wages earned and due, interest, penalties, expenses and costs of suit.

6 **FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

7 **Failure To Provide Required Rest Periods**

8 **(Cal. Lab. Code §§ 226.7 & 512)**

9 **(Alleged by PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS against all DEFENDANTS)**

10 112. PLAINTIFF, and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS, reallege and
11 incorporate by this reference, as though fully set forth herein, the prior paragraphs of this
12 Complaint.

13 113. From time to time, PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members were
14 required to work in excess of four (4) hours without being provided ten (10) minute rest periods.
15 Further, these employees were denied their first rest periods of at least ten (10) minutes for some
16 shifts worked of at least two (2) to four (4) hours, a first and second rest period of at least ten
17 (10) minutes for some shifts worked of between six (6) and eight (8) hours, and a first, second
18 and third rest period of at least ten (10) minutes for some shifts worked of ten (10) hours or more.
19 PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members were also not provided with one-hour
20 wages *in lieu* thereof. As a result of their rigorous work schedules, PLAINTIFF and other
21 CALIFORNIA CLASS Members were periodically denied their proper rest periods by
22 DEFENDANT and DEFENDANT's managers. In addition, DEFENDANT failed to compensate
23 PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members for their rest periods as required by the
24 applicable Wage Order and Labor Code. As a result, DEFENDANT's failure to provide
25 PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS Members with all the legally required paid rest
26 periods is evidenced by DEFENDANT's business records.

27 114. DEFENDANT further violated California Labor Code §§ 226.7 and the applicable
28 IWC Wage Order by failing to compensate PLAINTIFF and CALIFORNIA CLASS Members

1 who were not provided a rest period, in accordance with the applicable Wage Order, one
2 additional hour of compensation at each employee's regular rate of pay for each workday that
3 rest period was not provided.

4 115. As a proximate result of the aforementioned violations, PLAINTIFF and
5 CALIFORNIA CLASS Members have been damaged in an amount according to proof at trial,
6 and seek all wages earned and due, interest, penalties, expenses and costs of suit.

7 **SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

8 **Failure To Reimburse Employees For Required Expenses**

9 **(Cal. Lab. Code §§ 2802)**

10 **(Alleged by PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS against all DEFENDANTS)**

11
12 116. PLAINTIFF, and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS, reallege and
13 incorporate by this reference, as though fully set forth herein, the prior paragraphs of this
14 Complaint.

15 117. Cal. Lab. Code § 2802 provides, in relevant part, that:

16 An employer shall indemnify his or her employee for all necessary expenditures or
17 losses incurred by the employee in direct consequence of the discharge of his or her
18 duties, or of his or her obedience to the directions of the employer, even though
unlawful, unless the employee, at the time of obeying the directions, believed them
to be unlawful.

19 118. From time to time during the CLASS PERIOD, DEFENDANT violated Cal. Lab.
20 Code § 2802, by failing to indemnify and reimburse PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS
21 members for required expenses incurred in the discharge of their job duties for DEFENDANT's
22 benefit. DEFENDANT failed to reimburse PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS
23 members for expenses which included, but were not limited to, their personal cell phones as a
24 result of and in furtherance of their job duties, including but not limited to receiving and/or
25 responding to work-related communications and performing work-related duties. Specifically,
26 PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members were required by DEFENDANT to use
27 their personal cell phones and purchase required uniforms to execute their essential job duties on
28 behalf of DEFENDANT. DEFENDANT's uniform policy, practice and procedure was to not

1 reimburse PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS members for expenses resulting from
2 using their personal cell phones for DEFENDANT within the course and scope of their
3 employment for DEFENDANT. These expenses were necessary to complete their principal job
4 duties. DEFENDANT is estopped by DEFENDANT's conduct to assert any waiver of this
5 expectation. Although these expenses were necessary expenses incurred by PLAINTIFF and the
6 CALIFORNIA CLASS members, DEFENDANT failed to indemnify and reimburse
7 PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS members for these expenses as an employer is
8 required to do under the laws and regulations of California.

9 119. PLAINTIFF therefore demands reimbursement for expenditures or losses incurred
10 by them and the CALIFORNIA CLASS members in the discharge of their job duties for
11 DEFENDANT, or their obedience to the directions of DEFENDANT, with interest at the
12 statutory rate and costs under Cal. Lab. Code § 2802.

13 **SEVENTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

14 **Failure To Provide Accurate Itemized Statements**

15 **(Cal. Lab. Code § 226)**

16 **(Alleged by PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS against all DEFENDANTS)**

17 120. PLAINTIFF, and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS, reallege and
18 incorporate by this reference, as though fully set forth herein, the prior paragraphs of this
19 Complaint.

20 121. Cal. Labor Code § 226 provides that an employer must furnish employees with an
21 "accurate itemized" statement in writing showing:

- 22 a. Gross wages earned,
- 23 b. (2) total hours worked by the employee, except for any employee whose
24 compensation is solely based on a salary and who is exempt from payment of
25 overtime under subdivision (a) of Section 515 or any applicable order of the
26 Industrial Welfare Commission,
- 27 c. the number of piece-rate units earned and any applicable piece rate if the employee
28 is paid on a piece-rate basis,

- d. all deductions, provided that all deductions made on written orders of the employee may be aggregated and shown as one item,
- e. net wages earned,
- f. the inclusive dates of the period for which the employee is paid,
- g. the name of the employee and his or her social security number, except that by January 1, 2008, only the last four digits of his or her social security number of an employee identification number other than social security number may be shown on the itemized statement,
- h. the name and address of the legal entity that is the employer, and
- i. all applicable hourly rates in effect during the pay period and the corresponding number of hours worked at each hourly rate by the employee.

122. When DEFENDANT did not accurately record PLAINTIFF'S and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members' missed meal and rest breaks, or were paid inaccurate missed meal and rest break premiums, or were not paid for all hours worked, DEFENDANT violated Cal. Lab. Code § 226 in that DEFENDANT failed to provide PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members with complete and accurate wage statements which failed to show, among other things, all deductions, the accurate gross wages earned, net wages earned, the total hours worked and all applicable hourly rates in effect during the pay period and the corresponding amount of time worked at each hourly rate, and correct rates of pay for penalty payments or missed meal and rest periods.

123. In addition to the foregoing, DEFENDANTS failed to provide itemized wage statements to PLAINTIFF and members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS that complied with the requirements of California Labor Code Section 226.

124. DEFENDANT knowingly and intentionally failed to comply with Cal. Lab. Code § 226, causing injury and damages to PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS. These damages include, but are not limited to, costs expended calculating the correct wages for all missed meal and rest breaks and the amount of employment taxes which were not properly paid to state and federal tax authorities. These damages are difficult to estimate.

1 Therefore, PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS may elect to
2 recover liquidated damages of fifty dollars (\$50.00) for the initial pay period in which the
3 violation occurred, and one hundred dollars (\$100.00) for each violation in a subsequent pay
4 period pursuant to Cal. Lab. Code § 226, in an amount according to proof at the time of trial (but
5 in no event more than four thousand dollars (\$4,000.00) for PLAINTIFF and each respective
6 member of the CALIFORNIA CLASS herein).

7 **EIGHTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

8 **Failure To Pay Wages When Due**

9 **(Cal. Lab. Code § 203)**

10 **(Alleged by PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS against all DEFENDANTS)**

11 125. PLAINTIFF, and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS, reallege and
12 incorporate by this reference, as though fully set forth herein, the prior paragraphs of this
13 Complaint.

14 126. Cal. Lab. Code § 200 provides that:

15 As used in this article:

- 16 (d) "Wages" include all amounts for labor performed by employees of every
17 description, whether the amount is fixed or ascertained by the standard of time,
18 task, piece, Commission basis, or other method of calculation.
19 (e) "Labor" includes labor, work, or service whether rendered or performed under
20 contract, subcontract, partnership, station plan, or other agreement if the to be
21 paid for is performed personally by the person demanding payment.

22 127. Cal. Lab. Code § 201 provides, in relevant part, that "If an employer discharges
23 an employee, the wages earned and unpaid at the time of discharge are due and payable
24 immediately."

25 128. Cal. Lab. Code § 202 provides, in relevant part, that:

26 If an employee not having a written contract for a definite period quits his or her
27 employment, his or her wages shall become due and payable not later than 72 hours
28 thereafter, unless the employee has given 72 hours previous notice of his or her intention
to quit, in which case the employee is entitled to his or her wages at the time of quitting.
Notwithstanding any other provision of law, an employee who quits without providing a
72-hour notice shall be entitled to receive payment by mail if he or she so requests and
designates a mailing address. The date of the mailing shall constitute the date of payment
for purposes of the requirement to provide payment within 72 hours of the notice of
quitting.

1 129. There was no definite term in PLAINTIFF'S or any CALIFORNIA CLASS
2 Members' employment contract.

3 130. Cal. Lab. Code § 203 provides:

4 If an employer willfully fails to pay, without abatement or reduction, in accordance with
5 Sections 201, 201.5, 202, and 205.5, any wages of an employee who is discharged or who
6 quits, the wages of the employee shall continue as a penalty from the due date thereof at
 the same rate until paid or until an action therefor is commenced; but the wages shall not
 continue for more than 30 days.

7 131. The employment of PLAINTIFF and many CALIFORNIA CLASS Members
8 terminated, and DEFENDANT has not tendered payment of wages to these employees who
9 missed meal and rest breaks, as required by law.

10 132. Therefore, as provided by Cal Lab. Code § 203, on behalf of himself and the
11 members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS whose employment has, PLAINTIFF demands up to
12 thirty (30) days of pay as penalty for not paying all wages due at time of termination for all
13 employees who terminated employment during the CLASS PERIOD and demands an accounting
14 and payment of all wages due, plus interest and statutory costs as allowed by law.

15 **NINTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

16 **VIOLATION OF THE PRIVATE ATTORNEYS GENERAL ACT**

17 **(Cal. Lab. Code §§2698 et seq.)**

18 **(Alleged by PLAINTIFF against all Defendants)**

19 133. PLAINTIFF realleges and incorporates by this reference, as though fully set forth
20 herein, the prior paragraphs of this Complaint.

21 134. PAGA is a mechanism by which the State of California itself can enforce state
22 labor laws through the employee suing under the PAGA who does so as the proxy or agent of
23 the state's labor law enforcement agencies. An action to recover civil penalties under PAGA is
24 fundamentally a law enforcement action designed to protect the public and not to benefit private
25 parties. The purpose of the PAGA is not to recover damages or restitution, but to create a means
26 of "deputizing" citizens as private attorneys general to enforce the Labor Code. In enacting
27 PAGA, the California Legislature specified that "it was ... in the public interest to allow
28 aggrieved employees, acting as private attorneys general to recover civil penalties for Labor

Code violations ..." (Stats. 2003, ch. 906, § 1). Accordingly, PAGA claims cannot be subject to arbitration.

135. PLAINTIFF, and such persons that may be added from time to time who satisfy the requirements and exhaust the administrative procedures under the Private Attorney General Act, bring this individual and Representative Action on behalf of the State of California with respect to himself and all current and former non-exempt employees who worked for DEFENDANT in California during the time period of April 25, 2023, until the present (the "AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES").

136. On April 25, 2024, PLAINTIFF gave written notice by certified mail to the Labor and Workforce Development Agency (the "Agency") and the employer of the specific provisions of this code alleged to have been violated as required by Labor Code § 2699.3. See Exhibit #1, attached hereto and incorporated by this reference herein. The statutory waiting period for PLAINTIFF to add these allegations to the Complaint has expired. As a result, pursuant to Section 2699.3, PLAINTIFF may now commence an individual and representative civil action under PAGA pursuant to Section 2699 as the proxy of the State of California with respect to all AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES as herein defined.

The policies, acts and practices heretofore described were and are an unlawful business act or practice because DEFENDANTS (a) failed to pay PLAINTIFF and AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES minimum wages and overtime wages, (b) failed to provide PLAINTIFF and AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES legally required meal and rest breaks, (c) failed to pay PLAINTIFF and AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES at the correct regular rate of pay, (d) failed to pay PLAINTIFF and AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES for all time worked, and (e) failed to timely pay wages, all in violation of the applicable Labor Code sections listed in Labor Code §2699.5, including but not limited to Labor Code §§ 201, 201.3, 202, 203, 204, 210, 218.5, 218.6, 221, 226, 226.2, 226.3, 226.7, 227.3, 246, 510, 512, 558, 1174(d), 1174.5, 1194, 1197, 1197.1, 1197.14, 1198, 1198.5, 1199, 2802, and 2804 and the applicable Industrial Wage Order(s), and thereby gives rise to statutory penalties as a result of such conduct. PLAINTIFF hereby seeks recovery of civil penalties as prescribed by the Labor Code Private Attorney General Act of 2004

as the representative of the State of California for the illegal conduct perpetrated on PLAINTIFF and the other AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, PLAINTIFF pray for a judgment against each DEFENDANT, jointly and severally, as follows:

1. On behalf of the CALIFORNIA CLASS:

- a. That the Court certify the First Cause of Action asserted by the CALIFORNIA CLASS as a class action pursuant to Cal. Code of Civ. Proc. § 382;
- b. An order temporarily, preliminarily and permanently enjoining and restraining DEFENDANT from engaging in similar unlawful conduct as set forth herein;
- c. An order requiring DEFENDANT to pay all overtime wages and all sums unlawfully withheld from compensation due to PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS; and
- d. Restitutionary disgorgement of DEFENDANT's ill-gotten gains into a fluid fund for restitution of the sums incidental to DEFENDANT's violations due to PLAINTIFF and to the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS.

2. On behalf of the CALIFORNIA CLASS:

- a. That the Court certify the Second, Third, Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, Seventh, and Eighth Causes of Action asserted by the CALIFORNIA CLASS as a class action pursuant to Cal. Code of Civ. Proc. § 382;
- b. Compensatory damages, according to proof at trial, including compensatory damages for overtime compensation due to PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS, during the applicable CLASS PERIOD plus interest thereon at the statutory rate;
- c. Meal and rest period compensation pursuant to Cal. Lab. Code §§ 226.7, 512 and the applicable IWC Wage Order;
- d. The greater of all actual damages or fifty dollars (\$50) for the initial pay period in which a violation occurs and one hundred dollars (\$100) per each member of the

CALIFORNIA CLASS for each violation in a subsequent pay period, not exceeding an aggregate penalty of four thousand dollars (\$4,000), and an award of costs for violation of Cal. Lab. Code § 226

e. The wages of all terminated employees from the CALIFORNIA CLASS as a penalty from the due date thereof at the same rate until paid or until an action therefore is commenced, in accordance with Cal. Lab. Code § 203.

f. The amount of the expenses PLAINTIFF and each member of the CALIFORNIA CLASS incurred in the course of their job duties, plus interest, and costs of suit.

3. On behalf of the PLAINTIFF, the State of California and with respect to all AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES: Recovery of civil penalties as prescribe by the Labor Code Private Attorneys General Act of 2004;

4. On all claims:

a. An award of interest, including prejudgment interest at the legal rate;

b. Such other and further relief as the Court deems just and equitable; and

c. An award of penalties, attorneys' fees, and costs of suit, as allowable under the law, including, but not limited to, pursuant to Labor Code § 218.5, § 226, and/or § 1194.

DATED: July , 2024

ZAKAY LAW GROUP, APLC

By: _____

Shani O. Zakay

Attorney for PLAINTIFF

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DEMAND FOR A JURY TRIAL

PLAINTIFF demands a jury trial on issues triable to a jury.

DATED: July , 2024

ZAKAY LAW GROUP, APLC

By: _____
Shani O. Zakay
Attorney for PLAINTIFF

EXHIBIT 1



April 25, 2024

Via Online Filing to LWDA and Certified Mail to Defendant

Labor and Workforce Development Agency

Online Filing

SILVER FARM LABOR, INC.

c/o Abel Flores

3981 Thorton Rd.

Merced, CA 95348

Sent via Certified Mail and Return Receipt No. 9589 0710 5270 0298 7739 73

Re: Notice of Violations of California Labor Code Sections 201, 201.3, 202, 203, 204, 210, 218.5, 218.6, 221, 226, 226.2, 226.3, 226.7, 227.3, 246, 510, 512, 558, 1174(d), 1174.5, 1194, 1197, 1197.1, 1197.14, 1198, 1198.5, 1199, 2802, 2804, and Violation of Applicable Industrial Welfare Commission Wage Order(s), and Pursuant to California Labor Code Section 2699.5

Dear Sir/Madam:

Our offices represent Plaintiff MIGUEL RAMIREZ (“Plaintiff”) and other aggrieved employees in a proposed lawsuit against Defendant Silver Farms Labor, Inc., (“Defendant”). Plaintiff was employed by Defendant in California from 2012 through November of 2023 but more recently from February 2019 to November 2023, as a non-exempt employee, paid on an hourly basis, and entitled to payment of all wages and the legally required meal and rest breaks. Defendant, however, unlawfully failed to record and pay Plaintiff and other aggrieved employees for all of their time worked, and for all of their meal breaks and rest breaks. Further, Defendant failed to timely pay Plaintiff and other aggrieved employees for earned wages.

As a consequence of the aforementioned violations, Plaintiff further contends that Defendant failed to provide accurate wage statements to him and other aggrieved employees, which among other violations of California Labor Code section 226(a). Said conduct, in addition to the foregoing Labor Code §§ 201, 201.3, 202, 203, 204, 210, 218.5, 218.6, 221, 226, 226.2, 226.3, 226.7, 227.3, 246, 510, 512, 558, 1174(d), 1174.5, 1194, 1197, 1197.1, 1197.14, 1198, 1198.5, 1199, 2802, and 2804, violates the applicable Industrial Welfare Commission Wage Order(s), and is therefore actionable under California Labor Code section 2699.3.

Plaintiff seeks to represent a group of aggrieved employees defined as all current and former non-exempt employees who worked for Defendant in California during the relevant claim period.

A true and correct copy of the proposed Complaint is attached hereto. The Complaint (i) identifies the alleged violations, (ii) details the facts and theories which support the alleged violations, (iii) details the specific work performed by Plaintiff, (iv) sets forth the people/entities, dates, classifications, violations, events, and actions which are at issue to the extent known to the Plaintiff, and (v) sets forth the illegal practices used by Defendant, is attached hereto. This

information provides notice to the Labor and Workforce Development Agency of the facts and theories supporting the alleged violations for the agency's reference. Plaintiff therefore incorporates the allegations of the attached Complaint into this letter as if fully set forth herein. If the agency needs any further information, please do not hesitate to ask.

To the extent that entities and/or individuals are named and charged with violations of the Labor Code—making them liable on an individual basis as permitted by numerous Labor Code Sections including, but not limited to 558, 558.1, and 1197.1—Plaintiff reserves any and all rights to add, substitute, or change the name of employer entities and/or individuals responsible for the violations at issue.

Any further amendments and changes to this notice shall relate back to the date of this notice. Consequently, Defendant is on notice that Plaintiff continues his investigation, with the full intent to amend and/or change this notice, to add any undiscovered violations of any of the provisions of the California Labor Code—to the extent that are applicable to this case—and to change and/or add the identities of any entities and/or individuals responsible for the violations contained herein.

This notice is provided to enable Plaintiff to proceed with the Complaint against Defendant as authorized by California Labor Code section 2695, *et seq.* The lawsuit consists of other aggrieved employees. As counsel, our intention is to vigorously prosecute the claims as alleged in the Complaint, and to procure civil penalties as provided by the Private Attorney General Act of 2004 on behalf of Plaintiff and all aggrieved California employees.

Your earliest response to this notice is appreciated. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at the above number and address.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Shani O. Zakay', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Shani O. Zakay
Attorney for Plaintiff

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shani@zakaylaw.com

Attorneys for PLAINTIFF

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF STANISLAUS

MIGUEL RAMIREZ, an individual, on behalf
of himself, and on behalf of all persons similarly
situated,

Plaintiffs,

v.

SILVER FARM LABOR, INC. dba SILVER
FARMS INC. LABOR CONTRACTING, a
California corporation; and DOES 1-50,
Inclusive,

Defendant.

Case No:

CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT FOR:

- 1) UNFAIR COMPETITION IN VIOLATION OF CAL. BUS. & PROF. CODE §17200 *et seq*;
- 2) FAILURE TO PAY MINIMUM WAGES IN VIOLATION OF CAL. LAB. CODE §§ 1194, 1197 & 1197.1;
- 3) FAILURE TO PAY OVERTIME WAGES IN VIOLATION OF CAL. LAB. CODE §§ 510, *et seq*;
- 4) FAILURE TO PROVIDE REQUIRED MEAL PERIODS IN VIOLATION OF CAL. LAB. CODE §§ 226.7 & 512 AND THE APPLICABLE IWC WAGE ORDER;
- 5) FAILURE TO PROVIDE REQUIRED REST PERIODS IN VIOLATION OF CAL. LAB. CODE §§ 226.7 & 512 AND THE APPLICABLE IWC WAGE ORDER;

- 1 6) FAILURE TO REIMBURSE EMPLOYEES
2 FOR REQUIRED EXPENSES IN
3 VIOLATION OF CAL. LAB. CODE § 2802;
4 7) FAILURE TO PROVIDE ACCURATE
5 ITEMIZED STATEMENTS IN
6 VIOLATION OF CAL. LAB. CODE § 226;
7 8) FAILURE TO PROVIDE WAGES WHEN
8 DUE IN VIOLATION OF CAL. LAB.
9 CODE §§ 201, 202 AND 203.

10 **DEMAND FOR A JURY TRIAL**

11 PLAINTIFF MIGUEL RAMIREZ (“PLAINTIFF”), an individual, on behalf of himself and
12 all other similarly situated current and former employees, allege on information and belief, except
13 for his own acts and knowledge which are based on personal knowledge, the following:

14 **PRELIMINARY ALLEGATIONS**

15 1. Defendant SILVER FARM LABOR, INC. (“Defendant”) is a California
16 corporation that at all relevant times mentioned herein conducted and continues to conduct
17 substantial and regular business throughout California.

18 2. DEFENDANT is a labor contracting company throughout the state of California,
19 including the county of Stanislaus, where PLAINTIFF worked.

20 3. PLAINTIFF was employed by DEFENDANT in California most recently from
21 February 2019 to through November of 2023 as a non-exempt employee, paid on an hourly basis,
22 and entitled to the legally required meal and rest periods and payment of minimum and overtime
23 wages due for all time worked.

24 4. PLAINTIFF brings this Class Action on behalf of himself and a California class,
25 defined as all persons who are or previously were employed by Defendant Silver Farm Labor,
26 Inc., and classified as non-exempt employees (the “CALIFORNIA CLASS”) at any time during
27 the period beginning four (4) years prior to the filing of this Complaint and ending on the date as
28 determined by the Court (the “CLASS PERIOD”). The amount in controversy for the aggregate
claim of the CALIFORNIA CLASS Members is under five million dollars (\$5,000,000.00).

5. PLAINTIFF brings this Class Action on behalf of himself and a CALIFORNIA
CLASS in order to fully compensate the CALIFORNIA CLASS for their losses incurred during

1 the CLASS PERIOD caused by DEFENDANT's uniform policy and practice which failed to
2 lawfully compensate these employees. DEFENDANT's uniform policy and practice alleged
3 herein was an unlawful, unfair, and deceptive business practice whereby DEFENDANT retained
4 and continues to retain wages due to PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA
5 CLASS. PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS seek an injunction
6 enjoining such conduct by DEFENDANT in the future, relief for the named PLAINTIFF and the
7 other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS who have been economically injured by
8 DEFENDANT's past and current unlawful conduct, and all other appropriate legal and equitable
9 relief.

10 6. The true names and capacities, whether individual, corporate, subsidiary,
11 partnership, associate or otherwise of DEFENDANTS DOES 1 through 50, inclusive, are
12 presently unknown to PLAINTIFF who therefore sues these DEFENDANTS by such fictitious
13 names pursuant to Cal. Civ. Proc. Code § 474. PLAINTIFF will seek leave to amend this
14 Complaint to allege the true names and capacities of Does 1 through 50, inclusive, when they are
15 ascertained. PLAINTIFF is informed and believes, and based upon that information and belief
16 alleges, that the DEFENDANTS named in this Complaint, including DOES 1 through 50,
17 inclusive, are responsible in some manner for one or more of the events and happenings that
18 proximately caused the injuries and damages hereinafter alleged.

19 7. The agents, servants and/or employees of the Defendant and each of them acting
20 on behalf of the Defendant acted within the course and scope of his, her or its authority as the
21 agent, servant and/or employee of the Defendant, and personally participated in the conduct
22 alleged herein on behalf of the Defendant with respect to the conduct alleged herein.
23 Consequently, the acts of each Defendant are legally attributable to the other Defendants and all
24 Defendants are jointly and severally liable to PLAINTIFF and the other members of the
25 CALIFORNIA CLASS, for the loss sustained as a proximate result of the conduct of the
26 Defendants' agents, servants and/or employees.

27 8. DEFENDANT was PLAINTIFF'S employers or persons acting on behalf of the
28 PLAINTIFF'S employer, within the meaning of California Labor Code § 558, who violated or

1 caused to be violated, a section of Part 2, Chapter 1 of the California Labor Code or any provision
2 regulating hours and days of work in any order of the Industrial Welfare Commission and, as
3 such, are subject to civil penalties for each underpaid employee, as set forth in Labor Code § 558,
4 at all relevant times.

5 9. DEFENDANT was PLAINTIFF'S employers or persons acting on behalf of
6 PLAINTIFF'S employer either individually or as an officer, agent, or employee of another person,
7 within the meaning of California Labor Code § 1197.1, who paid or caused to be paid to any
8 employee a wage less than the minimum fixed by California state law, and as such, are subject to
9 civil penalties for each underpaid employee.

10 10. DEFENDANT's uniform policies and practices alleged herein were unlawful,
11 unfair, and deceptive business practices whereby DEFENDANT retained and continues to retain
12 wages due to PLAINTIFF and other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS.

13 11. PLAINTIFF and other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS seek an injunction
14 enjoining such conduct by DEFENDANT in the future, relief for the named PLAINTIFF and
15 other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS who has been economically injured by
16 DEFENDANT's past and current unlawful conduct, and all other appropriate legal and equitable
17 relief.

18 **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

19 12. This Court has jurisdiction over this Action pursuant to California Code of Civil
20 Procedure, Section 410.10 and California Business & Professions Code, Section 17203. This
21 action is brought as a Class Action on behalf of PLAINTIFF and similarly situated employees of
22 DEFENDANT pursuant to Cal. Code of Civ. Proc. § 382.

23 13. Venue is proper in this Court pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure,
24 Sections 395 and 395.5, because DEFENDANT operates in locations across California, employs
25 the CALIFORNIA CLASS across California, including in this County, and committed the
26 wrongful conduct herein alleged in this County against the CALIFORNIA CLASS.

27 ///

28 ///

THE CONDUCT

14. In violation of the applicable sections of the California Labor Code and the requirements of the Industrial Welfare Commission (“IWC”) Wage Order, DEFENDANT as a matter of company policy, practice, and procedure, intentionally, knowingly, and systematically failed to provide legally compliant meal and rest periods, failed to accurately compensate PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS for missed meal and rest periods, failed to pay PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS for all time worked, failed compensate PLAINTIFF for off-the-clock work, failed to pay PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS overtime at the correct regular rate of pay, failed to compensate PLAINTIFF and other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS meal rest premiums at the regular rate, failed to reimburse PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members for business expenses, and failed to issue to PLAINTIFF and the members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS with accurate itemized wage statements showing, among other things, all applicable hourly rates in effect during the pay periods and the corresponding amount of time worked at each hourly rate, and an accurate amount of “total hours worked”. DEFENDANT’s uniform policies and practices are intended to purposefully avoid the accurate and full payment for all time worked as required by California law which allows DEFENDANT to illegally profit and gain an unfair advantage over competitors who comply with the law. To the extent equitable tolling operates to toll claims by the CALIFORNIA CLASS against DEFENDANT, the CLASS PERIOD should be adjusted accordingly.

A. Meal Period Violations

15. Pursuant to the Industrial Welfare Commission Wage Orders, DEFENDANT was required to pay PLAINTIFF and CALIFORNIA CLASS Members for all their time worked, meaning the time during which an employee is subject to the control of an employer, including all the time the employee is suffered or permitted to work. From time to time during the CLASS PERIOD, DEFENDANT required PLAINTIFF and CALIFORNIA CLASS Members to work without paying them for all the time they were under DEFENDANT’s control. Specifically, DEFENDANT required PLAINTIFF to work while clocked out during what was supposed to be

1 PLAINTIFF's off-duty meal break. Indeed, there were many days where PLAINTIFF did not
2 even receive a partial lunch. As a result, the PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS
3 Members forfeited minimum wage and overtime compensation by regularly working without their
4 time being accurately recorded and without compensation at the applicable minimum wage and
5 overtime rates. DEFENDANT's uniform policy and practice not to pay PLAINTIFF and other
6 CALIFORNIA CLASS Members for all time worked is evidenced by DEFENDANT's business
7 records.

8 16. From time to time during the CLASS PERIOD, as a result of their rigorous work
9 schedules and DEFENDANT's inadequate staffing practices, PLAINTIFF and other
10 CALIFORNIA CLASS Members are from time to time unable to take thirty (30) minute off duty
11 meal breaks and were not fully relieved of duty for their meal periods. PLAINTIFF and other
12 CALIFORNIA CLASS Members are required to perform work as ordered by DEFENDANT for
13 more than five (5) hours during some shifts without receiving a meal break. Moreover,
14 DEFENDANT did not provide a second meal period after the tenth hour of work, and did not
15 provide the required meal period premiums. PLAINTIFF and other members of the
16 CALIFORNIA CLASS never received a one-hour premium for late, missed, or interrupted meal
17 periods. The nature of the work performed by PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS
18 Members does not qualify for the limited and narrowly construed "on-duty" meal period
19 exception. When they were provided with meal periods, PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA
20 CLASS Members were, from time to time, required to remain on duty and on call. Specifically,
21 DEFENDANT would instruct PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members they
22 could not leave the premises during their meal breaks. Further, DEFENDANT from time to time
23 required PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members to maintain cordless
24 communication devices in order to receive and respond to work-related communications during
25 what was supposed to be their off-duty meal breaks. DEFENDANT's failure to provide
26 PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS Members with legally required meal breaks is
27 evidenced by DEFENDANT's business records. PLAINTIFF and other members of the
28

1 CALIFORNIA CLASS therefore forfeit meal breaks without additional compensation and in
2 accordance with DEFENDANT's strict corporate policy and practice.

3 **B. Rest Period Violations**

4 17. From time to time during the CLASS PERIOD, PLAINTIFF and other
5 CALIFORNIA CLASS Members were also required to work in excess of four (4) hours without
6 being provided ten (10) minute rest periods as a result of their rigorous work requirements and
7 DEFENDANT's inadequate staffing. Further, for the same reasons, these employees were denied
8 their first rest periods of at least ten (10) minutes for some shifts worked of at least two (2) to four
9 (4) hours from time to time, a first and second rest period of at least ten (10) minutes for some
10 shifts worked of between six (6) and eight (8) hours from time to time, and a first, second and
11 third rest period of at least ten (10) minutes for some shifts worked of ten (10) hours or more from
12 time to time. When they were provided with rest breaks, PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA
13 CLASS Members were, from time to time, required to remain on duty and/or on call. Further,
14 DEFENDANT from time to time required PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS
15 Members to maintain cordless communication devices in order to receive and respond to work-
16 related communications during what was supposed to be their off-duty rest breaks. PLAINTIFF
17 and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members were also not provided with one-hour wages *in lieu*
18 thereof. As a result of their rigorous work schedules and DEFENDANT's inadequate staffing,
19 PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members were from time to time denied their
20 proper rest periods by DEFENDANT and DEFENDANT's managers.

21 **C. Unreimbursed Business Expenses**

22 18. DEFENDANT as a matter of corporate policy, practice, and procedure,
23 intentionally, knowingly, and systematically failed to reimburse and indemnify the PLAINTIFF
24 and the other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members for required business expenses incurred by the
25 PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members in direct consequence of discharging
26 their duties on behalf of DEFENDANT. Under California Labor Code Section 2802, employers
27 are required to indemnify employees for all expenses incurred in the course and scope of their
28 employment. Cal. Lab. Code § 2802 expressly states that "an employer shall indemnify his or her

1 employee for all necessary expenditures or losses incurred by the employee in direct consequence
2 of the discharge of his or her duties, or of his or her obedience to the directions of the employer,
3 even though unlawful, unless the employee, at the time of obeying the directions, believed them
4 to be unlawful."

5 19. In the course of their employment, DEFENDANT required PLAINTIFF and other
6 CALIFORNIA CLASS Members to use their personal cell phones as a result of and in furtherance
7 of their job duties, including but not limited to receiving and/or responding to work-related
8 communications and performing work-related duties. However, DEFENDANT unlawfully failed
9 to reimburse PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members for the use of their personal
10 cell phones. Specifically, DEFENDANT would require PLAINTIFF to update DEFENDANT
11 once a job was completed and would give new job assignments all on PLAINTIFF'S personal
12 cell phone. DEFENDANT also failed to reimburse PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA
13 CLASS Members for the purchase of required uniforms. As a result, in the course of their
14 employment with DEFENDANT, the PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members
15 incurred unreimbursed business expenses that included, but were not limited to, costs related to
16 the use of their personal cell phones.

17 **D. Wage Statement Violations**

18 20. California Labor Code Section 226 required an employer to furnish its employees
19 and accurate itemized wage statement in writing showing (1) gross wages earned, (2) total hours
20 worked, (3) the number of piece-rate units earned and any applicable piece-rate, (4) all deductions,
21 (5) net wages earned, (6) the inclusive dates of the period for which the employee is paid, (7) the
22 name of the employee and only the last four digits of the employee's social security number or an
23 employee identification number other than a social security number, (8) the name and address of
24 the legal entity that is the employer, and (9) all applicable hourly rates in effect during the pay
25 period and the corresponding number of hours worked at each hourly rate by the employee.

26 21. From time to time during the CLASS PERIOD, when PLAINTIFF and other
27 CALIFORNIA CLASS Members missed meal and rest breaks, or were paid inaccurately for
28 missed meal and rest period premiums, or were not paid for all hours worked, DEFENDANT also

1 failed to provide PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members with complete and
2 accurate wage statements which failed to show, among other things, all deductions, the total hours
3 worked and all applicable hourly rates in effect during the pay period and the corresponding
4 amount of time worked at each hourly rate, correct rates of pay for penalty payments or missed
5 meal and rest periods and the name and address of the legal entity that is the employer .

6 22. In addition to the foregoing, DEFENDANT, from time to time, failed to provide
7 PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS Members with wage statements that comply with
8 Cal. Lab. Code § 226.

9 23. As a result, DEFENDANT issued PLAINTIFF and other members of the
10 CALIFORNIA CLASS with wage statements that violate Cal. Lab. Code § 226. Further,
11 DEFENDANT's violations are knowing and intentional, were not isolated due to an unintentional
12 payroll error due to clerical or inadvertent mistake.

13 **E. Off-the-Clock Work Resulting in Minimum Wage and Overtime Violations**

14 24. During the CLASS PERIOD, from time-to-time DEFENDANT failed and
15 continues to fail to accurately pay PLAINTIFF and other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS
16 for all hours worked.

17 25. During the CLASS PERIOD, from time-to-time DEFENDANT required
18 PLAINTIFF and other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS to perform pre-shift or post-shift
19 work, including but not limited to, submitting to Covid-19 health screenings and spending time
20 performing keyholder duties by opening and closing the shop door. This resulted in PLAINTIFF
21 and other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS having to work while off-the-clock.

22 26. DEFENDANT directed and directly benefited from the undercompensated off-the-
23 clock work performed by PLAINTIFF and the other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members.

24 27. DEFENDANT controlled the work schedules, duties, and protocols, applications,
25 assignments, and employment conditions of PLAINTIFF and the other members of the
26 CALIFORNIA CLASS.

27 28. DEFENDANT was able to track the amount of time PLAINTIFF and the other
28 members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS spent working; however, DEFENDANT failed to

document, track, or pay PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS all wages earned and owed for all the work they performed.

29. PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS were non-exempt employees, subject to the requirements of the California Labor Code.

30. DEFENDANT's policies and practices deprived PLAINTIFF and the other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members of all minimum regular, overtime, and double time wages owed for the off-the-clock work activities. Because PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS typically worked over forty (40) hours in a workweek, and more than eight (8) hours per day, DEFENDANT's policies and practices also deprived them of overtime pay.

31. DEFENDANT knew or should have known that PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS off-the-clock work was compensable under the law.

32. As a result, PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS forfeited wages due to them for all hours worked at DEFENDANT's direction, control, and benefit for the time spent working while off-the-clock, including but not limited to, time spent submitting to Covid-19 health screenings and performing keyholder duties. DEFENDANT's uniform policy and practice to not pay PLAINTIFF and the members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS wages for all hours worked in accordance with applicable law is evidenced by DEFENDANT's business records.

F. Regular Rate Violation – Overtime, Double Time, Meal and Rest Period Premiums, and Redeemed Sick Pay

33. From time to time during the CLASS PERIOD, DEFENDANT failed and continues to fail to accurately calculate and pay PLAINTIFF and the other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members for their overtime and double time hours worked, meal and rest period premiums, and redeemed sick pay. As a result, PLAINTIFF and the other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members forfeited wages due to them for working overtime without compensation at the correct overtime and double time rates, meal and rest period premiums, and redeemed sick pay rates. DEFENDANT's uniform policy and practice not to pay the CALIFORNIA CLASS Members at

1 the correct rate for all overtime and double time worked, meal and rest period premiums, and sick
2 pay in accordance with applicable law is evidenced by DEFENDANT's business records.

3 34. State law provides that employees must be paid overtime at one-and-one-half times
4 their "regular rate of pay." PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members were
5 compensated at an hourly rate plus incentive pay that was tied to specific elements of an
6 employee's performance in addition to shift differentials.

7 35. The second component of PLAINTIFF'S and other CALIFORNIA CLASS
8 Members' compensation was DEFENDANT's non-discretionary incentive program that paid
9 PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members incentive wages based on their
10 performance for DEFENDANT. The non-discretionary bonus program provided all employees
11 paid on an hourly basis with bonus compensation when the employees met the various
12 performance goals set by DEFENDANT.

13 36. However, from time to time, when calculating the regular rate of pay in those pay
14 periods where PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members worked overtime, double
15 time, paid meal and rest period premium payments, and/or redeemed sick pay, and earned non-
16 discretionary bonuses, DEFENDANT failed to accurately include the non-discretionary bonus
17 compensation as part of the employee's "regular rate of pay" and/or calculated all hours worked
18 rather than just all non-overtime hours worked. Management and supervisors described the
19 incentive/bonus program to potential and new employees as part of the compensation package.
20 As a matter of law, the incentive compensation received by PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA
21 CLASS Members must be included in the "regular rate of pay." The failure to do so has resulted
22 in a systematic underpayment of overtime and double time compensation, meal and rest period
23 premium payments, and redeemed sick pay to PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS
24 Members by DEFENDANT. Specifically, California Labor Code Section 246 mandates that paid
25 sick time for non-exempt employees shall be calculated in the same manner as the regular rate of
26 pay for the workweek in which the non-exempt employee uses paid sick time, whether or not the
27 employee actually works overtime in that workweek. DEFENDANT's conduct, as articulated
28 herein, by failing to include the incentive compensation as part of the "regular rate of pay" for

1 purposes of sick pay compensation was in violation of Cal. Lab. Code § 246 the underpayment of
2 which is recoverable under Cal. Lab. Code Sections 201, 202, 203, and/or 204.

3 37. In violation of the applicable sections of the California Labor Code and the
4 requirements of the Industrial Welfare Commission (“IWC”) Wage Order, DEFENDANT as a
5 matter of company policy, practice, and procedure, intentionally and knowingly failed to
6 compensate PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS at the correct rate
7 of pay for all overtime and double time worked, meal and rest period premiums, and redeemed
8 sick pay as required by California law which allowed DEFENDANT to illegally profit and gain
9 an unfair advantage over competitors who complied with the law. To the extent equitable tolling
10 operates to toll claims by the CALIFORNIA CLASS Members against DEFENDANT, the
11 CLASS PERIOD should be adjusted accordingly.

12 **G. Violations for Untimely Payment of Wages**

13 38. Pursuant to California Labor Code section 204, PLAINTIFF and the
14 CALIFORNIA CLASS members were entitled to timely payment of wages during their
15 employment. PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS members, from time to time, did not
16 receive payment of all wages, including, but not limited to, overtime wages, minimum wages,
17 meal period premium wages, and rest period premium wages within permissible time period.

18 39. Pursuant to Cal. Lab. Code § 201, “If an employer discharges an employee, the
19 wages earned and unpaid at the time of discharge are due and payable immediately.” Pursuant to
20 Cal. Lab. Code § 202, if an employee quits his or her employment, “his or her wages shall become
21 due and payable not later than 72 hours thereafter, unless the employee has given 72 hours
22 previous notice of his or her intention to quit, in which case the employee is entitled to his or her
23 wages at the time of quitting.” PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS Members were, from
24 time to time, not timely provided the wages earned and unpaid at the time of their discharge and/or
25 at the time of quitting, in violation of Cal. Lab. Code §§ 201 and 202.

26 40. As such, PLAINTIFF demands up to thirty days of pay as penalty for not timely
27 paying all wages due at time of termination for all CALIFORNIA CLASS Members whose
28 employment ended during the CLASS PERIOD.

1 **H. Unlawful Deductions**

2 41. DEFENDANT, from time-to-time unlawfully deducted wages from PLAINTIFF
3 and CALIFORNIA CLASS Members' pay without explanations and without authorization to do
4 so or notice to PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS Members. As a result,
5 DEFENDANTS violated Labor Code § 221.

6 **I. Timekeeping Manipulation**

7 42. During the CLASS PERIOD, DEFENDANT, from time-to-time, did not have an
8 immutable timekeeping system to accurately record and pay PLAINTIFF and other members of
9 the CALIFORNIA CLASS for the actual time PLAINTIFF and other members of the
10 CALIFORNIA CLASS worked each day, including regular time, overtime hours, sick pay, meal
11 and rest breaks. As a result, DEFENDANT was able to and did in fact, unlawfully, and
12 unilaterally alter the time recorded in DEFENDANT's timekeeping system for PLAINTIFF and
13 other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS in order to avoid paying these employees for all
14 hours worked, applicable overtime compensation, applicable sick pay, missed meal breaks and
15 missed rest breaks.

16 43. As a result, PLAINTIFF and other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS, from
17 time-to-time, forfeited time worked by working without their time being accurately recorded and
18 without compensation at the applicable pay rates.

19 44. The mutability of the timekeeping system also allowed DEFENDANT to alter
20 employee time records by recording fictitious thirty (30) minute meal breaks in DEFENDANT's
21 timekeeping system so as to create the appearance that PLAINTIFF and other members of the
22 CALIFORNIA CLASS clocked out for thirty (30) minute meal break when in fact the employees
23 were not at all times provided an off-duty meal break. This practice is a direct result of
24 DEFENDANT's uniform policy and practice of denying employees uninterrupted thirty (30)
25 minute off-duty meal breaks each day or otherwise compensate them for missed meal breaks.

26 45. As a result, PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS
27 forfeited wages due them for all hours worked at DEFENDANT's direction, control and benefit
28 for the time the timekeeping system was inoperable. DEFENDANT's uniform policy and

practice to not pay PLAINTIFF and the members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS wages for all hours worked in accordance with applicable law is evidenced by DEFENDANT'S business records.

J. Unlawful Rounding Practices

46. During the CALIFORNIA CLASS PERIOD, DEFENDANTS did not have in place an immutable timekeeping system to accurately record and pay PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members for the actual time these employees worked each day, including overtime hours. Specifically, DEFENDANTS had in place an unlawful rounding policy and practice that resulted in PLAINTIFF and CALIFORNIA CLASS Members being undercompensated for all of their time worked. As a result, DEFENDANTS were able to and did in fact unlawfully, and unilaterally round the time recorded in DEFENDANTS' timekeeping system for PLAINTIFF and the members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS in order to avoid paying these employees for all their time worked, including the applicable overtime compensation for overtime worked. As a result, PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members, from time to time, forfeited compensation for their time worked by working without their time being accurately recorded and without compensation at the applicable overtime rates.

47. Further, the mutability of DEFENDANTS' timekeeping system and unlawful rounding policy and practice resulted in PLAINTIFF and CALIFORNIA CLASS Members' time being inaccurately recorded. As a result, from time to time, DEFENDANTS' unlawful rounding policy and practice caused PLAINTIFF and CALIFORNIA CLASS Members to perform work as ordered by DEFENDANTS for more than five (5) hours during a shift without receiving an off-duty meal break.

K. Sick Pay Violations

48. Cal. Labor Code Section 246 (a)(1) mandates that "An employee who, on or after July 1, 2015, works in California for the same employer for 30 or more days within a year from the commencement of employment is entitled to paid sick days as specified in this section." Further, Cal. Labor Code Sections 246(b)-(d) provide for the sick day accrual requirements. From time to time, DEFENDANT failed to have a policy or practice in place that provided PLAINTIFF

1 and other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS with sick days and/or paid sick leave. As of
2 January 1, 2024, Defendants failed to adhere to the law in that they failed to provide and allow
3 employees to use at least 40 hours or five days of paid sick leave per year.

4 49. California Labor Code Section 246(i) requires an employer to furnish its
5 employees with written wage statements setting forth the amount of paid sick leave available.
6 From time to time, DEFENDANT violated Cal. Lab. Code § 246 by failing to furnish PLAINTIFF
7 and other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS with wage statements setting forth the amount
8 of paid sick leave available.

9 **CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS**

10 50. PLAINTIFF brings this Class Action on behalf of himself, and a California class
11 defined as all persons who are or previously were employed by DEFENDANT Silver Farms
12 Labor, Inc. and classified as non-exempt employees (the “CALIFORNIA CLASS”) at any time
13 during the period beginning four (4) years prior to the filing of this Complaint and ending on the
14 date as determined by the Court (the “CLASS PERIOD”). The amount in controversy for the
15 aggregate claim of the CALIFORNIA CLASS Members is under five million dollars
16 (\$5,000,000.00).

17 51. PLAINTIFF and the other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members have uniformly been
18 deprived of wages and penalties from unpaid wages earned and due, including but not limited to
19 unpaid minimum wages, unpaid overtime compensation, unpaid meal and rest period premiums,
20 illegal meal and rest period policies, failed to reimburse for business expenses, failed compensate
21 for off-the-clock work, failure to provide accurate itemized wage statements, failure to maintain
22 required records, and interest, statutory and civil penalties, attorney’s fees, costs, and expenses.

23 52. The members of the class are so numerous that joinder of all class members is
24 impractical.

25 53. Common questions of law and fact regarding DEFENDANT’s conduct, including
26 but not limited to, off-the-clock work, unpaid meal and rest period premiums, failure to
27 accurately calculate the regular rate of pay for overtime compensation, failure to accurately
28 calculate the regular rate of compensation for missed meal and rest period premiums, failure to

1 provide legally compliant meal and rest periods, failure to reimburse for business expenses,
2 failure to provide accurate itemized wage statements accurate, and failure to ensure they are paid
3 at least minimum wage and overtime, exist as to all members of the class and predominate over
4 any questions affecting solely any individual members of the class. Among the questions of law
5 and fact common to the class are:

- 6 a. Whether DEFENDANT maintained legally compliant meal period policies and
7 practices;
- 8 b. Whether DEFENDANT maintained legally compliant rest period policies and
9 practices;
- 10 c. Whether DEFENDANT failed to pay PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS
11 Members accurate premium payments for missed meal and rest periods;
- 12 d. Whether DEFENDANT failed to pay PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS
13 Members accurate overtime wages;
- 14 e. Whether DEFENDANT failed to pay PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS
15 Members at least minimum wage for all hours worked;
- 16 f. Whether DEFENDANT failed to compensate PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA
17 CLASS Members for required business expenses;
- 18 g. Whether DEFENDANT issued legally compliant wage statements;
- 19 h. Whether DEFENDANT committed an act of unfair competition by systematically
20 failing to record and pay PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA
21 CLASS for all time worked;
- 22 i. Whether DEFENDANT committed an act of unfair competition by systematically
23 failing to record all meal and rest breaks missed by PLAINTIFF and other
24 CALIFORNIA CLASS Members, even though DEFENDANT enjoyed the benefit
25 of this work, required employees to perform this work and permits or suffers to
26 permit this work;
- 27
- 28

j. Whether DEFENDANT committed an act of unfair competition in violation of the UCL, by failing to provide the PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS with the legally required meal and rest periods.

54. PLAINTIFF is a member of the CALIFORNIA CLASS and suffered damages as a result of DEFENDANT's conduct and actions alleged herein.

55. PLAINTIFF'S claims are typical of the claims of the CALIFORNIA CLASS, and PLAINTIFF have the same interests as the other members of the class.

56. PLAINTIFF will fairly and adequately represent and protect the interests of the CALIFORNIA CLASS Members.

57. PLAINTIFF retained able class counsel with extensive experience in class action litigation.

58. Further, PLAINTIFF'S interests are coincident with, and not antagonistic to, the interest of the other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members.

59. There is a strong community of interest among PLAINTIFF and the members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS to, inter alia, ensure that the combined assets of DEFENDANT are sufficient to adequately compensate the members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS for the injuries sustained.

60. The questions of law and fact common to the CALIFORNIA CLASS Members predominate over any questions affecting only individual members, including legal and factual issues relating to liability and damages.

61. A class action is superior to other available methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of this controversy because joinder of all class members is impractical. Moreover, since the damages suffered by individual members of the class may be relatively small, the expense and burden of individual litigation makes it practically impossible for the members of the class individually to redress the wrongs done to them. Without class certification and determination of declaratory, injunctive, statutory, and other legal questions within the class format, prosecution of separate actions by individual members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS will create the risk of:

- 1 a. Inconsistent or varying adjudications with respect to individual members of the
2 CALIFORNIA CLASS which would establish incompatible standards of conduct
3 for the parties opposing the CALIFORNIA CLASS; and/or,
4 b. Adjudication with respect to individual members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS
5 which would as a practical matter be dispositive of the interests of the other
6 members not party to the adjudication or substantially impair or impeded their
7 ability to protect their interests.

8 62. Class treatment provides manageable judicial treatment calculated to bring an
9 efficient and rapid conclusion to all litigation of all wage and hour related claims arising out of
10 the conduct of DEFENDANT.

11 **FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION**

12 **Unlawful Business Practices**

13 **(Cal. Bus. And Prof. Code §§ 17200, *et seq.*)**

14 **(Alleged by PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS against all DEFENDANTS)**

15 63. PLAINTIFF, and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS, reallege and
16 incorporate by this reference, as though fully set forth herein, the prior paragraphs of this
17 Complaint.

18 64. DEFENDANT is a “person” as that term is defined under Cal. Bus. And Prof.
19 Code § 17021.

20 65. California Business & Professions Code §§ 17200, *et seq.* (the “UCL”) defines
21 unfair competition as any unlawful, unfair, or fraudulent business act or practice. Section 17203
22 authorizes injunctive, declaratory, and/or other equitable relief with respect to unfair competition
23 as follows:

24 Any person who engages, has engaged, or proposes to engage in unfair competition may
25 be enjoined in any court of competent jurisdiction. The court may make such orders or
26 judgments, including the appointment of a receiver, as may be necessary to prevent the
27 use or employment by any person of any practice which constitutes unfair competition, as
28 defined in this chapter, or as may be necessary to restore to any person in interest any
money or property, real or personal, which may have been acquired by means of such
unfair competition. (Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17203).

1 66. By the conduct alleged herein, DEFENDANT has engaged and continues to
2 engage in a business practice which violates California law, including but not limited to, the
3 applicable Wage Order(s), the California Code of Regulations and the California Labor Code
4 including Sections 201, 202, 203, 204, 210, 226.7, 510, 512, 558, 1194, 1197, 1197.1, 1198, and
5 2802, for which this Court should issue declaratory and other equitable relief pursuant to Cal.
6 Bus. & Prof. Code § 17203 as may be necessary to prevent and remedy the conduct held to
7 constitute unfair competition, including restitution of wages wrongfully withheld.

8 67. By the conduct alleged herein, DEFENDANT's practices were unlawful and unfair
9 in that these practices violated public policy, were immoral, unethical, oppressive unscrupulous
10 or substantially injurious to employees, and were without valid justification or utility for which
11 this Court should issue equitable and injunctive relief pursuant to Section 17203 of the California
12 Business & Professions Code, including restitution of wages wrongfully withheld.

13 68. By the conduct alleged herein, DEFENDANT's practices were deceptive and
14 fraudulent in that DEFENDANT's uniform policy and practice failed to provide the legally
15 mandated meal and rest periods and the required amount of compensation for missed meal and
16 rest periods, failed to pay minimum and overtime wages owed, and failed to reimburse all
17 necessary business expenses incurred, due to a systematic business practice that cannot be
18 justified, pursuant to the applicable Cal. Lab. Code, and Industrial Welfare Commission
19 requirements in violation of Cal. Bus. Code §§ 17200, *et seq.*, and for which this Court should
20 issue injunctive and equitable relief, pursuant to Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17203, including
21 restitution of wages wrongfully withheld.

22 69. By the conduct alleged herein, DEFENDANT's practices were also unlawful,
23 unfair, and deceptive in that DEFENDANT's employment practices caused PLAINTIFF and the
24 other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS to be underpaid during their employment with
25 DEFENDANT.

26 70. By the conduct alleged herein, DEFENDANT's practices were also unfair and
27 deceptive in that DEFENDANT's uniform policies, practices and procedures failed to provide
28

1 mandatory meal and/or rest breaks to PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS members as
2 required by Cal. Lab. Code §§ 226.7 and 512.

3 71. Therefore, PLAINTIFF demands on behalf of himself and on behalf of each
4 CALIFORNIA CLASS member, one (1) hour of pay for each workday in which an off-duty meal
5 period was not timely provided for each five (5) hours of work, and/or one (1) hour of pay for
6 each workday in which a second off-duty meal period was not timely provided for each ten (10)
7 hours of work.

8 72. PLAINTIFF further demands on behalf of himself and on behalf of each
9 CALIFORNIA CLASS member, one (1) hour of pay for each workday in which a rest period
10 was not timely provided as required by law.

11 73. By and through the unlawful and unfair business practices described herein,
12 DEFENDANT has obtained valuable property, money and services from PLAINTIFF and the
13 other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS, including earned wages for all time worked, and
14 has deprived them of valuable rights and benefits guaranteed by law and contract, all to the
15 detriment of these employees and to the benefit of DEFENDANT so as to allow DEFENDANT
16 to unfairly compete against competitors who comply with the law.

17 74. All the acts described herein as violations of, among other things, the Industrial
18 Welfare Commission Wage Orders, the California Code of Regulations, and the California Labor
19 Code, were unlawful and in violation of public policy, were immoral, unethical, oppressive, and
20 unscrupulous, were deceptive, and thereby constitute unlawful, unfair, and deceptive business
21 practices in violation of Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code §§ 17200, *et seq.*

22 75. PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS are entitled to,
23 and do, seek such relief as may be necessary to restore to them the money and property which
24 DEFENDANT has acquired, or of which PLAINTIFF and the other members of the
25 CALIFORNIA CLASS have been deprived, by means of the above described unlawful and
26 unfair business practices, including earned but unpaid wages for all time worked.

27 76. PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS are further
28 entitled to, and do, seek a declaration that the described business practices are unlawful, unfair,

1 and deceptive, and that injunctive relief should be issued restraining DEFENDANT from
2 engaging in any unlawful and unfair business practices in the future.

3 77. PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS have no plain,
4 speedy and/or adequate remedy at law that will end the unlawful and unfair business practices of
5 DEFENDANT. Further, the practices herein alleged presently continue to occur unabated. As a
6 result of the unlawful and unfair business practices described herein, PLAINTIFF and the other
7 members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS have suffered and will continue to suffer irreparable
8 legal and economic harm unless DEFENDANT is restrained from continuing to engage in these
9 unlawful and unfair business practices.

10 **SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION**

11 **Failure To Pay Minimum Wages**

12 **(Cal. Lab. Code §§ 1194, 1197 and 1197.1)**

13 **Alleged by PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS against all DEFENDANTS)**

14 78. PLAINTIFF, and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS, reallege and
15 incorporate by this reference, as though fully set forth herein, the prior paragraphs of this
16 Complaint.

17 79. PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS bring a claim
18 for DEFENDANT's willful and intentional violations of the California Labor Code and the
19 Industrial Welfare Commission requirements for DEFENDANT's failure to accurately calculate
20 and pay minimum wages to PLAINTIFF and CALIFORNIA CLASS Members.

21 80. Pursuant to Cal. Lab. Code § 204, other applicable laws and regulations, and public
22 policy, an employer must timely pay its employees for all hours worked.

23 81. Cal. Lab. Code § 1197 provides the minimum wage for employees fixed by the
24 commission is the minimum wage to be paid to employees, and the payment of a less wage than
25 the minimum so fixed is unlawful.

26 82. Cal. Lab. Code § 1194 establishes an employee's right to recover unpaid wages,
27 including minimum wage compensation and interest thereon, together with the costs of suit.
28

1 83. DEFENDANT maintained a uniform wage practice of paying PLAINTIFF and the
2 other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS without regard to the correct amount of time they
3 work. As set forth herein, DEFENDANT's uniform policy and practice was to unlawfully and
4 intentionally deny timely payment of wages due to PLAINTIFF and the other members of the
5 CALIFORNIA CLASS.

6 84. DEFENDANT's uniform pattern of unlawful wage and hour practices manifested,
7 without limitation, applicable to the CALIFORNIA CLASS as a whole, as a result of
8 implementing a uniform policy and practice that denies accurate compensation to PLAINTIFF
9 and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS in regard to minimum wage pay.

10 85. In committing these violations of the California Labor Code, DEFENDANT
11 inaccurately calculated the correct time worked and consequently underpaid the actual time
12 worked by PLAINTIFF and other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS. DEFENDANT acted
13 in an illegal attempt to avoid the payment of all earned wages, and other benefits in violation of
14 the California Labor Code, the Industrial Welfare Commission requirements and other applicable
15 laws and regulations.

16 86. As a direct result of DEFENDANT's unlawful wage practices as alleged herein,
17 PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS did not receive the correct
18 minimum wage compensation for their time worked for DEFENDANT.

19 87. During the CLASS PERIOD, PLAINTIFF and the other members of the
20 CALIFORNIA CLASS were paid less for time worked than they were entitled to, constituting a
21 failure to pay all earned wages.

22 88. By virtue of DEFENDANT's unlawful failure to accurately pay all earned
23 compensation to PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS for the true
24 time they worked, PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS have
25 suffered and will continue to suffer an economic injury in amounts which are presently unknown
26 to them, and which will be ascertained according to proof at trial.

27 89. DEFENDANT knew or should have known that PLAINTIFF and the other
28 members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS were under-compensated for their time worked.

1 DEFENDANT systematically elected, either through intentional malfeasance or gross
2 nonfeasance, to not pay employees for their labor as a matter of uniform company policy, practice
3 and procedure, and DEFENDANT perpetrated this systematic scheme by refusing to pay
4 PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS the correct minimum wages
5 for their time worked.

6 90. In performing the acts and practices herein alleged in violation of California labor
7 laws, and refusing to compensate the members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS for all time worked
8 and provide them with the requisite compensation, DEFENDANT acted and continues to act
9 intentionally, oppressively, and maliciously toward PLAINTIFF and the other members of the
10 CALIFORNIA CLASS with a conscious and utter disregard for their legal rights, or the
11 consequences to them, and with the despicable intent of depriving them of their property and
12 legal rights, and otherwise causing them injury in order to increase company profits at the
13 expense of these employees.

14 91. PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS therefore request
15 recovery of all unpaid wages, according to proof, interest, statutory costs, as well as the
16 assessment of any statutory penalties against DEFENDANT, in a sum as provided by the
17 California Labor Code and/or other applicable statutes. To the extent minimum wage
18 compensation is determined to be owed to the CALIFORNIA CLASS Members who have
19 terminated their employment, DEFENDANT's conduct also violates Labor Code §§ 201 and/or
20 202, and therefore these individuals are also be entitled to waiting time penalties under Cal. Lab.
21 Code § 203, which penalties are sought herein on behalf of these CALIFORNIA CLASS
22 Members. DEFENDANT's conduct as alleged herein was willful, intentional and not in good
23 faith. Further, PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members are entitled to seek and
24 recover statutory costs.

25 **THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION**

26 **Failure To Pay Overtime Compensation**

27 **(Cal. Lab. Code §§ 204, 510, 1194 and 1198)**

28 **(Alleged by PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS against all DEFENDANTS)**

1 92. PLAINTIFF, and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS, reallege and
2 incorporate by this reference, as though fully set forth herein, the prior paragraphs of this
3 Complaint.

4 93. PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS bring a claim
5 for DEFENDANT's willful and intentional violations of the California Labor Code and the
6 Industrial Welfare Commission requirements for DEFENDANT's failure to pay these employees
7 for all overtime worked, including, work performed in excess of eight (8) hours in a workday,
8 and/or twelve (12) hours in a workday, and/or forty (40) hours in any workweek.

9 94. Pursuant to Cal. Lab. Code § 204, other applicable laws and regulations, and public
10 policy, an employer must timely pay its employees for all hours worked.

11 95. Cal. Lab. Code § 510 provides that employees in California shall not be employed
12 more than eight (8) hours per workday and/or more than forty (40) hours per workweek unless
13 they receive additional compensation beyond their regular wages in amounts specified by law.

14 96. Cal. Lab. Code § 1194 establishes an employee's right to recover unpaid wages,
15 including minimum and overtime compensation and interest thereon, together with the costs of
16 suit. Cal. Lab. Code § 1198 further states that the employment of an employee for longer hours
17 than those fixed by the Industrial Welfare Commission is unlawful.

18 97. During the CLASS PERIOD, PLAINTIFF and CALIFORNIA CLASS Members
19 were required by DEFENDANT to work for DEFENDANT and were not paid for all the time
20 they worked, including overtime work.

21 98. DEFENDANT's uniform pattern of unlawful wage and hour practices manifested,
22 without limitation, applicable to the CALIFORNIA CLASS as a whole, as a result of
23 implementing a uniform policy and practice that failed to accurately record overtime worked by
24 PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members and denied accurate compensation to
25 PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS for overtime worked,
26 including, the overtime work performed in excess of eight (8) hours in a workday, and/or twelve
27 (12) hours in a workday, and/or forty (40) hours in any workweek.

1 99. In committing these violations of the California Labor Code, DEFENDANT
2 inaccurately recorded overtime worked and consequently underpaid the overtime worked by
3 PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members. DEFENDANT acted in an illegal
4 attempt to avoid the payment of all earned wages, and other benefits in violation of the California
5 Labor Code, the Industrial Welfare Commission requirements and other applicable laws and
6 regulations.

7 100. As a direct result of DEFENDANT's unlawful wage practices as alleged herein,
8 PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS did not receive the correct
9 overtime compensation for their time worked for DEFENDANT.

10 101. Cal. Lab. Code § 515 sets out various categories of employees who are exempt
11 from the overtime requirements of the law. None of these exemptions are applicable to
12 PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS. Further, PLAINTIFF and the
13 other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS are not subject to a valid collective bargaining
14 agreement that would preclude the causes of action contained herein this Complaint. Rather,
15 PLAINTIFF brings this Action on behalf of himself and the CALIFORNIA CLASS based on
16 DEFENDANT's violations of non-negotiable, non-waivable rights provided by the State of
17 California.

18 102. During the CLASS PERIOD, PLAINTIFF and the other members of the
19 CALIFORNIA CLASS were paid less for overtime worked than they were entitled to,
20 constituting a failure to pay all earned wages.

21 103. DEFENDANT failed to accurately pay PLAINTIFF and the other members of the
22 CALIFORNIA CLASS overtime wages for the time they worked which was in excess of the
23 maximum hours permissible by law as required by Cal. Lab. Code §§ 510, 1194, & 1198, even
24 though PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS were regularly
25 required to work, and did in fact work overtime, and did in fact work overtime as to which
26 DEFENDANT failed to accurately record and pay as evidenced by DEFENDANT's business
27 records and witnessed by employees.

1 104. By virtue of DEFENDANT's unlawful failure to accurately pay all earned
2 compensation to PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS for the true
3 amount of overtime they worked, PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA
4 CLASS have suffered and will continue to suffer an economic injury in amounts which are
5 presently unknown to them, and which will be ascertained according to proof at trial.

6 105. DEFENDANT knew or should have known that PLAINTIFF and the other
7 members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS were undercompensated for their time worked.
8 DEFENDANT systematically elected, either through intentional malfeasance or gross
9 nonfeasance, to not pay them for their labor as a matter of uniform company policy, practice and
10 procedure, and DEFENDANT perpetrated this systematic scheme by refusing to pay
11 PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS the correct overtime wages
12 for their overtime worked.

13 106. In performing the acts and practices herein alleged in violation of California labor
14 laws, and refusing to compensate the members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS for all time worked
15 and provide them with the requisite compensation, DEFENDANT acted and continues to act
16 intentionally, oppressively, and maliciously toward PLAINTIFF and the other members of the
17 CALIFORNIA CLASS with a conscious of and utter disregard for their legal rights, or the
18 consequences to them, and with the despicable intent of depriving them of their property and
19 legal rights, and otherwise causing them injury in order to increase company profits at the
20 expense of these employees.

21 107. Therefore, PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS
22 request recovery of overtime wages, according to proof, interest, statutory costs, as well as the
23 assessment of any statutory penalties against DEFENDANT, in a sum as provided by the
24 California Labor Code and/or other applicable statutes. To the extent overtime compensation is
25 determined to be owed to the CALIFORNIA CLASS Members who have terminated their
26 employment, DEFENDANT'S conduct also violates Labor Code §§ 201 and/or 202, and
27 therefore these individuals are also be entitled to waiting time penalties under Cal. Lab. Code §
28 203, which penalties are sought herein. DEFENDANT's conduct as alleged herein was willful,

1 intentional, and not in good faith. Further, PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS
2 Members are entitled to seek and recover statutory costs.

3 **FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

4 **Failure To Provide Required Meal Periods**

5 **(Cal. Lab. Code §§ 226.7 & 512)**

6 **(Alleged by PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS against all DEFENDANTS)**

7 108. PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS, reallege and
8 incorporate by this reference, as though fully set forth herein, the prior paragraphs of this
9 Complaint.

10 109. During the CLASS PERIOD, DEFENDANT failed to provide all the legally
11 required off-duty meal breaks to PLAINTIFF and the other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members as
12 required by the applicable Wage Order and Labor Code. The nature of the work performed by
13 PLAINTIFF and CALIFORNIA CLASS Members did not prevent these employees from being
14 relieved of all of their duties for the legally required off-duty meal periods. As a result of their
15 rigorous work schedules, PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members were often
16 not fully relieved of duty by DEFENDANT for their meal periods. Additionally,
17 DEFENDANT's failure to provide PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS Members with
18 legally required meal breaks prior to their fifth (5th) hour of work is evidenced by
19 DEFENDANT's business records. Further, DEFENDANT failed to provide PLAINTIFF and
20 CALIFORNIA CLASS Members with a second off-duty meal period in some workdays in which
21 these employees were required by DEFENDANT to work ten (10) hours of work. As a result,
22 PLAINTIFF and other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS forfeited meal breaks without
23 additional compensation and in accordance with DEFENDANT's strict corporate policy and
24 practice.

25 110. DEFENDANT further violated California Labor Code §§ 226.7 and the applicable
26 IWC Wage Order by failing to compensate PLAINTIFF and CALIFORNIA CLASS Members
27 who were not provided a meal period, in accordance with the applicable Wage Order, one
28

1 additional hour of compensation at each employee's regular rate of pay for each workday that a
2 meal period was not provided.

3 111. As a proximate result of the aforementioned violations, PLAINTIFF and
4 CALIFORNIA CLASS Members have been damaged in an amount according to proof at trial,
5 and seek all wages earned and due, interest, penalties, expenses and costs of suit.

6 **FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

7 **Failure To Provide Required Rest Periods**

8 **(Cal. Lab. Code §§ 226.7 & 512)**

9 **(Alleged by PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS against all DEFENDANTS)**

10 112. PLAINTIFF, and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS, reallege and
11 incorporate by this reference, as though fully set forth herein, the prior paragraphs of this
12 Complaint.

13 113. From time to time, PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members were
14 required to work in excess of four (4) hours without being provided ten (10) minute rest periods.
15 Further, these employees were denied their first rest periods of at least ten (10) minutes for some
16 shifts worked of at least two (2) to four (4) hours, a first and second rest period of at least ten
17 (10) minutes for some shifts worked of between six (6) and eight (8) hours, and a first, second
18 and third rest period of at least ten (10) minutes for some shifts worked of ten (10) hours or more.
19 PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members were also not provided with one-hour
20 wages *in lieu* thereof. As a result of their rigorous work schedules, PLAINTIFF and other
21 CALIFORNIA CLASS Members were periodically denied their proper rest periods by
22 DEFENDANT and DEFENDANT's managers. In addition, DEFENDANT failed to compensate
23 PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members for their rest periods as required by the
24 applicable Wage Order and Labor Code. As a result, DEFENDANT's failure to provide
25 PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS Members with all the legally required paid rest
26 periods is evidenced by DEFENDANT's business records.

27 114. DEFENDANT further violated California Labor Code §§ 226.7 and the applicable
28 IWC Wage Order by failing to compensate PLAINTIFF and CALIFORNIA CLASS Members

1 who were not provided a rest period, in accordance with the applicable Wage Order, one
2 additional hour of compensation at each employee's regular rate of pay for each workday that
3 rest period was not provided.

4 115. As a proximate result of the aforementioned violations, PLAINTIFF and
5 CALIFORNIA CLASS Members have been damaged in an amount according to proof at trial,
6 and seek all wages earned and due, interest, penalties, expenses and costs of suit.

7 **SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

8 **Failure To Reimburse Employees For Required Expenses**

9 **(Cal. Lab. Code §§ 2802)**

10 **(Alleged by PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS against all DEFENDANTS)**

11
12 116. PLAINTIFF, and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS, reallege and
13 incorporate by this reference, as though fully set forth herein, the prior paragraphs of this
14 Complaint.

15 117. Cal. Lab. Code § 2802 provides, in relevant part, that:
16 An employer shall indemnify his or her employee for all necessary expenditures or
17 losses incurred by the employee in direct consequence of the discharge of his or her
18 duties, or of his or her obedience to the directions of the employer, even though
unlawful, unless the employee, at the time of obeying the directions, believed them
to be unlawful.

19 118. From time to time during the CLASS PERIOD, DEFENDANT violated Cal. Lab.
20 Code § 2802, by failing to indemnify and reimburse PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS
21 members for required expenses incurred in the discharge of their job duties for DEFENDANT's
22 benefit. DEFENDANT failed to reimburse PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS
23 members for expenses which included, but were not limited to, their personal cell phones as a
24 result of and in furtherance of their job duties, including but not limited to receiving and/or
25 responding to work-related communications and performing work-related duties. Specifically,
26 PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members were required by DEFENDANT to use
27 their personal cell phones and purchase required uniforms to execute their essential job duties on
28 behalf of DEFENDANT. DEFENDANT's uniform policy, practice and procedure was to not

1 reimburse PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS members for expenses resulting from
2 using their personal cell phones for DEFENDANT within the course and scope of their
3 employment for DEFENDANT. These expenses were necessary to complete their principal job
4 duties. DEFENDANT is estopped by DEFENDANT's conduct to assert any waiver of this
5 expectation. Although these expenses were necessary expenses incurred by PLAINTIFF and the
6 CALIFORNIA CLASS members, DEFENDANT failed to indemnify and reimburse
7 PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS members for these expenses as an employer is
8 required to do under the laws and regulations of California.

9 119. PLAINTIFF therefore demands reimbursement for expenditures or losses incurred
10 by them and the CALIFORNIA CLASS members in the discharge of their job duties for
11 DEFENDANT, or their obedience to the directions of DEFENDANT, with interest at the
12 statutory rate and costs under Cal. Lab. Code § 2802.

13 **SEVENTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

14 **Failure To Provide Accurate Itemized Statements**

15 **(Cal. Lab. Code § 226)**

16 **(Alleged by PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS against all DEFENDANTS)**

17 120. PLAINTIFF, and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS, reallege and
18 incorporate by this reference, as though fully set forth herein, the prior paragraphs of this
19 Complaint.

20 121. Cal. Labor Code § 226 provides that an employer must furnish employees with an
21 "accurate itemized" statement in writing showing:

- 22 a. Gross wages earned,
- 23 b. (2) total hours worked by the employee, except for any employee whose
24 compensation is solely based on a salary and who is exempt from payment of
25 overtime under subdivision (a) of Section 515 or any applicable order of the
26 Industrial Welfare Commission,
- 27 c. the number of piece-rate units earned and any applicable piece rate if the employee
28 is paid on a piece-rate basis,

- d. all deductions, provided that all deductions made on written orders of the employee may be aggregated and shown as one item,
- e. net wages earned,
- f. the inclusive dates of the period for which the employee is paid,
- g. the name of the employee and his or her social security number, except that by January 1, 2008, only the last four digits of his or her social security number of an employee identification number other than social security number may be shown on the itemized statement,
- h. the name and address of the legal entity that is the employer, and
- i. all applicable hourly rates in effect during the pay period and the corresponding number of hours worked at each hourly rate by the employee.

122. When DEFENDANT did not accurately record PLAINTIFF'S and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members' missed meal and rest breaks, or were paid inaccurate missed meal and rest break premiums, or were not paid for all hours worked, DEFENDANT violated Cal. Lab. Code § 226 in that DEFENDANT failed to provide PLAINTIFF and other CALIFORNIA CLASS Members with complete and accurate wage statements which failed to show, among other things, all deductions, the accurate gross wages earned, net wages earned, the total hours worked and all applicable hourly rates in effect during the pay period and the corresponding amount of time worked at each hourly rate, and correct rates of pay for penalty payments or missed meal and rest periods.

123. In addition to the foregoing, DEFENDANTS failed to provide itemized wage statements to PLAINTIFF and members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS that complied with the requirements of California Labor Code Section 226.

124. DEFENDANT knowingly and intentionally failed to comply with Cal. Lab. Code § 226, causing injury and damages to PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS. These damages include, but are not limited to, costs expended calculating the correct wages for all missed meal and rest breaks and the amount of employment taxes which were not properly paid to state and federal tax authorities. These damages are difficult to estimate.

1 Therefore, PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS may elect to
2 recover liquidated damages of fifty dollars (\$50.00) for the initial pay period in which the
3 violation occurred, and one hundred dollars (\$100.00) for each violation in a subsequent pay
4 period pursuant to Cal. Lab. Code § 226, in an amount according to proof at the time of trial (but
5 in no event more than four thousand dollars (\$4,000.00) for PLAINTIFF and each respective
6 member of the CALIFORNIA CLASS herein).

7 **EIGHTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

8 **Failure To Pay Wages When Due**

9 **(Cal. Lab. Code § 203)**

10 **(Alleged by PLAINTIFF and the CALIFORNIA CLASS against all DEFENDANTS)**

11
12 125. PLAINTIFF, and the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS, reallege and
13 incorporate by this reference, as though fully set forth herein, the prior paragraphs of this
14 Complaint.

15 126. Cal. Lab. Code § 200 provides that:

16 As used in this article:

- 17 (d) "Wages" include all amounts for labor performed by employees of every
18 description, whether the amount is fixed or ascertained by the standard of time,
19 task, piece, Commission basis, or other method of calculation.
20 (e) "Labor" includes labor, work, or service whether rendered or performed under
contract, subcontract, partnership, station plan, or other agreement if the to be
paid for is performed personally by the person demanding payment.

21 127. Cal. Lab. Code § 201 provides, in relevant part, that "If an employer discharges
22 an employee, the wages earned and unpaid at the time of discharge are due and payable
23 immediately."

24 128. Cal. Lab. Code § 202 provides, in relevant part, that:

25 If an employee not having a written contract for a definite period quits his or her
26 employment, his or her wages shall become due and payable not later than 72 hours
27 thereafter, unless the employee has given 72 hours previous notice of his or her intention
28 to quit, in which case the employee is entitled to his or her wages at the time of quitting.
Notwithstanding any other provision of law, an employee who quits without providing a
72-hour notice shall be entitled to receive payment by mail if he or she so requests and
designates a mailing address. The date of the mailing shall constitute the date of payment

1 for purposes of the requirement to provide payment within 72 hours of the notice of
2 quitting.

3 129. There was no definite term in PLAINTIFF'S or any CALIFORNIA CLASS
4 Members' employment contract.

5 130. Cal. Lab. Code § 203 provides:

6 If an employer willfully fails to pay, without abatement or reduction, in accordance with
7 Sections 201, 201.5, 202, and 205.5, any wages of an employee who is discharged or who
8 quits, the wages of the employee shall continue as a penalty from the due date thereof at
9 the same rate until paid or until an action therefor is commenced; but the wages shall not
10 continue for more than 30 days.

11 131. The employment of PLAINTIFF and many CALIFORNIA CLASS Members
12 terminated, and DEFENDANT has not tendered payment of wages to these employees who
13 missed meal and rest breaks, as required by law.

14 132. Therefore, as provided by Cal Lab. Code § 203, on behalf of himself and the
15 members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS whose employment has, PLAINTIFF demands up to
16 thirty (30) days of pay as penalty for not paying all wages due at time of termination for all
17 employees who terminated employment during the CLASS PERIOD and demands an accounting
18 and payment of all wages due, plus interest and statutory costs as allowed by law.
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1 **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

2 WHEREFORE, PLAINTIFF pray for a judgment against each DEFENDANT, jointly and
3 severally, as follows:

4 1. On behalf of the CALIFORNIA CLASS:

- 5 a. That the Court certify the First Cause of Action asserted by the CALIFORNIA
6 CLASS as a class action pursuant to Cal. Code of Civ. Proc. § 382;
- 7 b. An order temporarily, preliminarily and permanently enjoining and restraining
8 DEFENDANT from engaging in similar unlawful conduct as set forth herein;
- 9 c. An order requiring DEFENDANT to pay all overtime wages and all sums
10 unlawfully withheld from compensation due to PLAINTIFF and the other members
11 of the CALIFORNIA CLASS; and
- 12 d. Restitutionary disgorgement of DEFENDANT's ill-gotten gains into a fluid fund
13 for restitution of the sums incidental to DEFENDANT's violations due to
14 PLAINTIFF and to the other members of the CALIFORNIA CLASS.

15 2. On behalf of the CALIFORNIA CLASS:

- 16 a. That the Court certify the Second, Third, Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, Seventh, and Eighth
17 Causes of Action asserted by the CALIFORNIA CLASS as a class action pursuant
18 to Cal. Code of Civ. Proc. § 382;
- 19 b. Compensatory damages, according to proof at trial, including compensatory
20 damages for overtime compensation due to PLAINTIFF and the other members of
21 the CALIFORNIA CLASS, during the applicable CLASS PERIOD plus interest
22 thereon at the statutory rate;
- 23 c. Meal and rest period compensation pursuant to Cal. Lab. Code §§ 226.7, 512 and
24 the applicable IWC Wage Order;
- 25 d. The greater of all actual damages or fifty dollars (\$50) for the initial pay period in
26 which a violation occurs and one hundred dollars (\$100) per each member of the
27 CALIFORNIA CLASS for each violation in a subsequent pay period, not exceeding
28 an aggregate penalty of four thousand dollars (\$4,000), and an award of costs for

violation of Cal. Lab. Code § 226

e. The wages of all terminated employees from the CALIFORNIA CLASS as a penalty from the due date thereof at the same rate until paid or until an action therefore is commenced, in accordance with Cal. Lab. Code § 203.

f. The amount of the expenses PLAINTIFF and each member of the CALIFORNIA CLASS incurred in the course of their job duties, plus interest, and costs of suit.

3. On all claims:

a. An award of interest, including prejudgment interest at the legal rate;

b. Such other and further relief as the Court deems just and equitable; and

c. An award of penalties, attorneys' fees, and costs of suit, as allowable under the law, including, but not limited to, pursuant to Labor Code § 218.5, § 226, and/or § 1194.

DATED: April 25, 2024

ZAKAY LAW GROUP, APLC

By: 

Shani O. Zakay

Attorney for PLAINTIFF

DEMAND FOR A JURY TRIAL

PLAINTIFF demands a jury trial on issues triable to a jury.

DATED: April 25, 2024

ZAKAY LAW GROUP, APLC

By: 

Shani O. Zakay

Attorney for PLAINTIFF