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10 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
 11 SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

12 PAPPY’S BARBER SHOPS, INC. and
 13 PAPPY’S BARBER SHOP POWAY,
 14 INC., Individually and Behalf of All
 Others Similarly Situated,

15 Plaintiffs,

16 vs.

17 FARMERS GROUP, INC., FARMERS
 18 INSURANCE COMPANY, INC., and
 19 TRUCK INSURANCE EXCHANGE,
 20

21 Defendants.

Case No.: **'20CV0907 CAB BLM**
CLASS ACTION

COMPLAINT FOR DECLARATORY
 JUDGMENT, BREACH OF
 CONTRACT AND UNFAIR
 BUSINESS PRACTICES

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28

I. NATURE OF THE ACTION.....3

II. JURISDICTION AND VENUE.....5

III. PARTIES.....6

 A. Plaintiffs6

 B. Defendants.....6

IV. FACTUAL BACKGROUND7

 A. The COVID-19 Pandemic7

 B. Governments Across the Country Order Everyone to “Stay at home” and Non-essential Businesses to Close8

 C. The Losses From These Business Closures are Covered Business Interruptions Under Farmers’ Insurance Policies.....9

 D. Farmers’ Denial of Plaintiffs’ and other Policyholders’ Insurance Claims14

V. CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS.....17

VI. CAUSES OF ACTION21

COUNT I Declaratory Judgment – Business Income Coverage.....21

COUNT II Breach Of Contract – Business Income Coverage.....23

COUNT III Declaratory Judgment – Civil Authority Coverage.....24

COUNT IV Breach Of Contract – Civil Authority Coverage.....26

COUNT V Declaratory Judgment – Extra Expense Coverage27

COUNT VI Breach Of Contract – Extra Expense Coverage28

COUNT VII Unfair Business Practices Under Bus. & Prof. Code §17200, *et seq.*.....29

VII. PRAYER FOR RELIEF.....32

VIII. JURY DEMAND33

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1 Plaintiffs Pappy’s Barber Shops, Inc. and Pappy’s Barber Shop Poway, Inc.
2 (“Pappy’s Barber Shop” or “Plaintiffs”), on behalf of themselves and all others
3 similarly situated, bring this class action against defendants Farmers Group, Inc.,
4 Farmers Insurance Company, Inc. and Truck Insurance Exchange (collectively,
5 “Defendants” or “Farmers”), and allege as follows based on personal knowledge as
6 to themselves and upon information and belief as to other matters based on their
7 counsel’s investigation. Plaintiffs believe additional evidentiary support exists for
8 their allegations, given an opportunity for discovery.

9 **I. NATURE OF THE ACTION**

10 1. Plaintiffs and other businesses nationwide purchased commercial
11 property insurance to protect their business if they had to temporarily shut down. They
12 reasonably believed their policies would help protect their businesses in the unlikely
13 event the government ever ordered them to stop or severely restrict operations (in
14 connection with a pandemic or any other Covered Cause of Loss). However, after
15 collecting billions of dollars in premiums, Farmers and other insurers are now
16 categorically refusing to pay these legitimate claims for business interruption
17 coverage claims.

18 2. California and the vast majority of states across the country have entered
19 civil authority orders requiring residents to “stay-at-home” or “shelter-in-place” and
20 suspending or severely limiting business operations of non-essential businesses that
21 interact with the public and/or provide social gathering places (collectively, the
22 “COVID-19 Civil Authority Orders”).

23 3. These broad COVID-19 Civil Authority Orders have been financially
24 devastating for most non-essential businesses, especially salons, restaurants, retail
25 stores, entertainment venues, and other small, medium, and large businesses who have
26 been forced to close, furlough employees, and submit to a sudden shutdown of
27 operations and cash flow that threatens their survival.

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1 4. Many businesses purchased insurance to protect against losses from
2 catastrophic events like the current unforeseen COVID-19 pandemic through all-risk
3 commercial property insurance policies. These policies promise to indemnify the
4 policyholder for actual business losses incurred when business operations are
5 involuntarily suspended, interrupted, curtailed, or when access to the premises is
6 prohibited because of direct physical loss or damage to the property, or by a civil
7 authority order that restricts or prohibits access to the property. This coverage,
8 commonly known as “business interruption coverage,” is standard in most all-risk
9 commercial property insurance policies.

10 5. Despite the provision of business interruption coverage in these policies,
11 Farmers is denying its obligation to pay for business income losses and other covered
12 expenses incurred by policyholders for the physical loss and damage to the insureds’
13 property arising from the COVID-19 Civil Authority Orders.

14 6. Plaintiffs bring this action on behalf of a Nationwide Class and a
15 California Sub-Class (defined below) of policyholders who purchased standard
16 Farmers commercial property insurance policies which provide for business income
17 loss and extra expense coverage and do not exclude coverage for pandemics, and who
18 have suffered losses due to measures put into place by a COVID-19 Civil Authority
19 Order.

20 7. This action seeks a declaratory judgment that Farmers is contractually
21 obligated to pay business interruption losses incurred due to Plaintiffs’ and other Class
22 members’ compliance with COVID-19 Civil Authority Orders. In addition, Plaintiffs
23 seek damages, attorneys’ fees and costs, and any other relief that this Court deems
24 equitable and just, arising out of Farmers’ breach of contract and wrongful conduct.

25 8. Specifically, Plaintiffs, individually and on behalf of the Nationwide
26 Class and California Sub-Class bring claims for: (1) declaratory judgment regarding
27 business income coverage pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §2201; (2) breach of contract

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1 regarding business income coverage; (3) declaratory judgment regarding civil
2 authority coverage pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §2201; (4) breach of contract regarding civil
3 authority coverage; (5) declaratory judgment regarding extra expense coverage
4 pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §2201; (6) breach of contract regarding extra expense coverage;
5 and (7) unfair business practices under Business & Professions Code §17200 *et seq.*

6 **II. JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

7 9. This Court has original jurisdiction over this action under 28 U.S.C.
8 §1332(a) as well as the Class Action Fairness Act of 2005, 28 U.S.C. §1332(d)(2), as
9 to the named Plaintiffs and every member of the Nationwide Class and California
10 Sub-Class, because both of the proposed Classes contain more than 100 members, the
11 aggregate amount in controversy exceeds \$5 million, and Class members reside in
12 California and are therefore diverse from Farmers. The Court has supplemental
13 jurisdiction over Plaintiffs' state law claims pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1367(a).

14 10. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Plaintiffs because Plaintiffs
15 submit to the Court's jurisdiction for the purpose of this Complaint. This Court has
16 personal jurisdiction over Farmers because it does a substantial amount of business in
17 California, including in this District, is authorized to conduct business in California,
18 including in this District, and/or has intentionally availed itself of the laws and
19 markets of this District through the use, promotion, sale, marketing, and/or
20 distribution of its products and services at issue in this Complaint. Defendants'
21 liability to Plaintiffs, the Nationwide Class and California Sub-Class arises from and
22 relates to Defendants' conduct within the state of California. As set forth herein,
23 Defendants acted within California to sell various business insurance policies within
24 the state of California. Thus, Defendants have purposefully availed themselves of the
25 benefits and protections of the state of California in conducting their unlawful
26 enterprise, which purposeful availment constitutes sufficient minimum contacts with
27 the state of California that the exercise of personal jurisdiction over Defendants with
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1 regard to the claims of Plaintiffs, the Nationwide Class and California Sub-Class, and
2 does not violate Due Process.

3 11. Venue is proper in this District pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1391(b), because
4 a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to the claims occurred in this
5 District. Venue is also proper under 18 U.S.C. §1965(a), because Farmers transacts a
6 substantial amount of its business in this District. Alternatively, venue is proper under
7 28 U.S.C. §1391(b)(3) because this Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendants.

8 **III. PARTIES**

9 **A. Plaintiffs**

10 12. Plaintiff Pappy’s Barber Shops, Inc. is a California corporation with its
11 principal place of business in San Diego, California. Pappy’s Barber Shops, Inc. has
12 been in business for 10 years, is owned by Marc Bennett, and is located at 6528 El
13 Cajon Blvd., San Diego, California 92115, in the college area of San Diego. Plaintiff
14 Pappy’s Barber Shops, Inc. was forced to close entirely on March 19, 2020 due to the
15 applicable COVID-19 Civil Authority Orders.

16 13. Plaintiff Pappy’s Barber Shop Poway, Inc. is a California corporation
17 with its principal place of business in San Diego, California. Pappy’s Barber Shop
18 Poway, Inc. has been in business since August 2019, is owned by Marc Bennett, and
19 is located at 13334 Poway Road, Poway, California 92064. Plaintiff Pappy’s Barber
20 Shop Poway, Inc. was forced to close entirely on March 19, 2020 due to the applicable
21 COVID-19 Civil Authority Orders.

22 **B. Defendants**

23 14. Defendant Farmers Group, Inc. is a California corporation with its
24 headquarters and principal place of business in Los Angeles, California. Farmers also
25 does business as Farmers Underwriters Association, and owns the service marks
26 “Farmers Insurance Group of Companies” and “Farmers Insurance Group.”

27 15. Defendant Farmers Insurance Company, Inc. is a Kansas corporation
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1 with its principal place of business in Woodland Hills, California. It owns
2 subsidiaries, directly and indirectly, that issue, among other things, property
3 insurance.

4 16. Defendant Truck Insurance Exchange is a California corporation with its
5 principal place of business in Woodland Hills, California. It is a subsidiary of Farmers
6 and is duly qualified and licensed to issue insurance in the State of California and
7 other states

8 17. Farmers issued Policy No. 60664-84-35 to Pappy’s Barber Shop for the
9 policy period of February 1, 2020 through February 1, 2021 (“Plaintiffs’ Farmers
10 Policy”).

11 **IV. FACTUAL BACKGROUND**

12 **A. The COVID-19 Pandemic**

13 18. COVID-19 is an infectious disease caused by a recently discovered novel
14 coronavirus known as SARS-CoV-2 ("Coronavirus" or "COVID-19"). The first
15 instances of the disease spreading to humans were diagnosed in or around December
16 2019.

17 19. On January 30, 2020, the World Health Organization (“WHO”) declared
18 that the Coronavirus outbreak constituted a public health emergency of international
19 concern.

20 20. On March 11, 2020, the WHO declared Coronavirus a worldwide
21 pandemic.

22 21. On March 13, 2020, President Trump declared the COVID-19
23 pandemic to be a national emergency.

24 22. On March 16, 2020, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
25 (“CDC”) and national Coronavirus Task Force issued guidance to the American
26 public advising individuals to adopt social distancing measures.

27 23. As of May 14, 2020, the number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 is
28

1 over 4 million worldwide, with nearly 300,000 deaths,¹ with the United States dealing
 2 with nearly 1.4 million confirmed cases and over 82,000 reported deaths – more than
 3 any other country in the world.²

4 **B. Governments Across the Country Order Everyone to “Stay at**
 5 **home” and Non-essential Businesses to Close**

6 24. On March 4, 2020, California Governor Gavin Newsom declared a state
 7 of emergency and on March 12, 2020, issued an executive order directing California
 8 residents to cancel large non-essential gatherings.

9 25. On March 16, 2020, San Diego’s mayor, Kevin Faulconer issued
 10 Executive Order No. 2020-1, prohibiting any gathering of 50 or more people and
 11 discouraging all non-essential gatherings of any size. On April 30, 2020, the Mayor
 12 issued Executive Order 2020-3, extending the executive order until May 31, 2020.³

13 26. On March 19, 2020, Gov. Newsom issued Executive Order N-33-20,
 14 requiring “all individuals living in the State of California to stay home or at their place
 15 of residence except as needed” for essential service and engage in strict social
 16 distancing. The Order incorporated by reference California Government Code §8665,
 17 which provides that “[a]ny person . . . who refuses or willfully neglects to obey any
 18 lawful order . . . issued as provided in this chapter, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor
 19 and, upon conviction thereof, shall be punishable by a fine of not to exceed one
 20 _____

21
 22 ¹ See *Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) Situation Report – 113*, World Health
 23 Organization, [https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/coronaviruse/situation-](https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/coronaviruse/situation-reports/20200512-covid-19-sitrep-113.pdf?sfvrsn=feac3b6d_2)
 24 [reports/20200512-covid-19-sitrep-113.pdf?sfvrsn=feac3b6d_2](https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/coronaviruse/situation-reports/20200512-covid-19-sitrep-113.pdf?sfvrsn=feac3b6d_2) (last visited May 14,
 25 2020).

26 ² See *Cases in the U.S.*, Center for Disease Control and Prevention,
 27 <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/cases-updates/cases-in-us.html> (last
 28 visited May 14, 2020).

³ See *City of Executive Order No. 2020-3 By the Mayor*, the City of San Diego,
[https://www.sandiego.gov/sites/default/files/mkf_executive_order_2020-04-30-](https://www.sandiego.gov/sites/default/files/mkf_executive_order_2020-04-30-2020_3.pdf)
[2020_3.pdf](https://www.sandiego.gov/sites/default/files/mkf_executive_order_2020-04-30-2020_3.pdf) (last visited May 14, 2020).

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1 thousand dollars (\$1,000) or by imprisonment for not to exceed six months or by both
2 such fine and imprisonment.” *Id.*

3 27. All California businesses not deemed essential, including Pappy’s
4 Barber Shop, were ordered to close their doors.

5 28. Other states around the Country have implemented similar orders,
6 requiring large scale business closures and imposing other limitations on businesses
7 that prevent them from operating or limit their operations.

8 29. For example, on March 16, 2020, New York Governor Andrew Cuomo,
9 New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy and Connecticut Governor Ned Lamont ordered
10 the closure of all gyms, movie theaters, bars and casinos. They also ordered all
11 restaurants to close except for take-out and delivery orders.

12 30. Altogether, 49 state governments have enacted at least one civil authority
13 order prohibiting or severely limiting restaurants and other non-essential businesses.
14 In addition to California, all but six states have enacted a COVID-19 Civil Authority
15 Order, including “stay-at-home” or “shelter-in-place” orders; 35 states have closed all
16 non-essential businesses with other states taking measures to limit business
17 operations. All 50 states have closed schools, and all but one state (South Dakota)
18 has closed restaurants and bars for services other than take-out and delivery.

19 **C. The Losses From These Business Closures are Covered Business**
20 **Interruptions Under Farmers’ Insurance Policies**

21 31. The insurance policies Farmers issued to Plaintiffs and other Class
22 members are standard commercial property polices that cover loss or damage to the
23 covered premises resulting from all risks other than those expressly excluded.

24 32. Plaintiffs’ Farmers Policy, as well as the policies of other Class
25 members, is a standard form used by Farmers for all insureds with applicable
26 coverage.

27 33. Among the coverages provided by Plaintiffs’ Farmers Policy was
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1 business interruption coverage, which, generally, indemnifies Plaintiffs for lost
2 income and profits if their business is shut down.

3 34. Pappy’s Barber Shop’s Businessowners Special Property Coverage
4 Form, Form BP 00 02 01 97, provides coverage as follows:

5 **1. Business Income**

6 We will pay for the actual loss of Business Income you
7 sustain due to the necessary suspension of your
8 “operations” during the “period of restoration”. The
9 suspension must be caused by direct physical loss of or
10 damage to property at the described premises. The loss or
11 damage must be caused by or result from a Covered Cause
12 of Loss.

13 * * *

14 We will only pay for loss of Business Income that you
15 sustain during the “period of restoration” and that occurs
16 within 12 consecutive months after the date of direct
17 physical loss or damage.

18 **2. Extended Business Income**

19 If the necessary suspension of your “operations” produces
20 a Business Income loss payable under this policy, we will
21 pay for the actual loss of Business Income you incur during
22 the period that:

23 (a) Begins on the date property except finished stock is
24 actually repaired, rebuilt or replaced and “operations” are
25 resumed; and

26 (b) Ends on the earlier of:

27 (i) The date you could restore your “operations”, with
28 reasonable speed, to the level which would generate the
Business Income amount that would have existed if no
direct physical loss or damage had occurred; or

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(ii) 30 consecutive days after the date determined in(2)(a)above.

35. Pappy’s Barber Shop’s Businessowners Special Property Coverage Form, Form BP 00 02 01 97, provided Civil Authority coverage as follows:

i. Civil Authority

We will pay for the actual loss of Business Income you sustain and necessary Extra Expense caused by action of civil authority that prohibits access to the described premises due to direct physical loss of or damage to property, other than at the described premises, caused by or resulting from any Covered Cause of Loss.

The coverage for Business Income will begin 72 hours after the time of that action and will apply for a period of up to three consecutive weeks after coverage begins.

The coverage for necessary Extra Expense will begin immediately after the time of that action and ends:

- (1) 3 consecutive weeks after the time of that action; or
 - (2) When your Business Income coverage ends;
- whichever is later.

The definitions of Business Income and Extra Expense contained in the Business Income and Extra Expense Additional Coverages also apply to this Civil Authority Additional Coverage. The Civil Authority Additional Coverage is not subject to the Limits of Insurance.

36. In addition, Pappy’s Barber Shop’s Businessowners Special Property Coverage Form, Form BP 00 02 01 97, provided coverage as follows:

g. Extra Expense

- (1) We will pay necessary Extra Expense you incur during the “period of restoration” that you would not have incurred if there had been no direct physical loss or damage to

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property at the described premises. The loss or damage must be caused by or result from a Covered Cause of Loss. With respect to loss of or damage to personal property in the open or personal property in a vehicle, the described premises include the area within 100 feet of the site at which the described premises are located.

With respect to the requirements set forth in the preceding paragraph, if you occupy only part of the site at which the described premises are located, your premises means:

- (a) The portion of the building which you rent, lease or
- (b) Any area within the building or on the site at which the described premises are located, if that area services, or is used to gain access to, the described premises. Extra Expense means expense incurred: To avoid or minimize the suspension of business and to continue “operations”: At the described premises; or At replacement premises or at temporary locations, including relocation expenses, and costs to equip and operate the replacement or temporary locations. To minimize the suspension of business if you cannot continue “operations”.

37. Under Pappy’s Barber Shop’s Businessowners Special Property Coverage Form, Form BP 00 02 01 97, Business Income is defined as:

- (i) Net Income (Net Profit or Loss before income taxes) that would have been earned or incurred if no physical loss or damage has occurred, but not including any Net Income that would likely have been earned as a result of an increase in the volume of business due to favorable business conditions caused by the impact of the Covered Cause of Loss on customers or on other businesses; and
- (ii) Continuing normal operating expenses incurred, including payroll.

5. Exclusions

38. The interruption of Plaintiffs’ and other Class members’ businesses was

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1 not caused by any of the exclusions set forth in the applicable policies, including
2 Plaintiffs’ Farmers Policy.

3 39. Pappy’s Barber Shop policy contains a Mold and Microorganism
4 Exclusion, which purports to exclude “[a]ny loss, cost or expense arising out the
5 abating, testing for monitoring, cleaning up, removing, containing, treating,
6 detoxifying, neutralizing, remediating or disposing of, or in any way responding to or
7 assessing the effect of ‘mold’ or ‘microorganism’, by any insured or by any other
8 person or entity.”

9 40. Plaintiffs’ Mold and Microorganism Exclusion does not exclude
10 Plaintiffs’ losses because the efficient proximate cause of its losses was precautionary
11 measures taken by the state to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in the future, not
12 because coronavirus was found on or around Plaintiffs’ insured properties.

13 41. Pappy’s Barber Shop policy also contains an Exclusion of Loss Due to
14 Virus or Bacteria, which excludes “loss or damage caused by or resulting from any
15 virus, bacterium or other microorganism that induces or is capable of inducing
16 physical distress, illness or disease.”

17 42. Plaintiffs’ Exclusion of Loss Due to Virus or Bacteria provision does not
18 exclude Plaintiffs’ losses because the efficient proximate cause of losses was
19 precautionary measures taken by the state to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in the
20 future, not because coronavirus was found on or around Plaintiffs’ insured properties.

21 43. Plaintiffs’ policy also contains a Limited Coverage for Fungi, Wet Rot,
22 Dry Rot, and Bacteria provision, which excludes from coverage:

23 (a) The enforcement of any ordinance or law which requires
24 demolition, repair, replacement, reconstruction, remodeling
25 or remediation of property due to contamination by
26 “pollutants” or due to the presence, growth, proliferation,
27 spread or any activity of “fungi”, wet or dry rot or bacteria;
28 or

(b) The costs associated with the enforcement of any

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1 ordinance or law which requires any insured or others to test
2 for, monitor, clean up, remove, contain, treat, detoxify or
3 neutralize, or in any way respond to, or assess the effects of
“pollutants”, “fungi”, wet or dry rot or bacteria.

4 44. Plaintiffs’ Limited Coverage for Fungi, Wet Rot, Dry Rot, and Bacteria
5 provision in their policy does not exclude Plaintiffs’ losses because the efficient
6 proximate cause of losses was precautionary measures taken by the state to prevent
7 the spread of COVID-19 in the future, not because coronavirus was found on or
8 around Plaintiffs’ insured properties.

9 45. Plaintiffs and all Class members have suffered a direct physical loss of
10 and damage to their property because they have been unable to use their property for
11 its intended purpose.

12 **D. Farmers’ Denial of Plaintiffs’ and other Policyholders’ Insurance**
13 **Claims**

14 46. On April 1, 2020, Plaintiffs requested insurance coverage from Farmers.
15 Farmers notified Plaintiffs that same day it was denying their claim for business
16 interruption losses. Farmers issued a formal denial letter two days later on April 3,
17 2020.

18 47. Farmers denied Plaintiffs’ claims without any inspection or review of
19 either of Pappy’s Barber Shop’s physical locations or documents concerning their
20 business activities in 2020.

21 48. Farmers has thereby waived any right to inspect those premises, deny
22 coverage for any reason related to conditions at those locations, or raise any defense
23 related to conditions at those locations or facts specific to Plaintiffs.

24 49. The speed with which Farmers denied Plaintiffs’ claims indicates that
25 Farmers could not have engaged in a good faith or reasonable investigation of the
26 claims which included assessment of facts or issues relevant to Plaintiffs.

27 50. Farmers accepted the premiums paid by Plaintiffs with no intention of
28

1 providing lost business income, physical damage, civil authority, or other applicable
 2 coverage for claims like those submitted by Plaintiffs and the proposed Class
 3 members and which were denied by Farmers.

4 51. Farmers' rejection of Plaintiffs' claims was part of Farmers' policy to
 5 limit its losses during this pandemic, despite the fact that the Policies provide
 6 coverage for losses due to loss of use of property and from closure orders issued by
 7 civil authorities (among other coverage).

8 52. Although industry trade groups have argued that insurance companies do
 9 not have the funds to pay claims related to the Coronavirus and will require
 10 government assistance, the reality is that insurers are simply trying to minimize their
 11 exposure. Collectively, the U.S. property-casualty insurance industry has about \$800
 12 billion in surplus, the industry term for assets minus liabilities.⁴

13 53. Farmers collected more than \$20 billion in insurance premiums for
 14 property related insurance in 2018 alone.⁵ Notwithstanding this, they appear to be
 15 categorically denying claims brought by businesses ordered to close following the
 16 Coronavirus. This strategy, and their public requests for government assistance,
 17 suggest that their true goal is minimizing payments by any means necessary.

18 54. Farmers' wrongful denials of Plaintiffs' claims were not isolated
 19 incidents. Rather, on information and belief, Farmers has engaged in the same
 20 misconduct with claims submitted by numerous Farmers' insureds who have suffered
 21 losses related to the Coronavirus pandemic and submitted claims which were
 22

23
 24 ⁴ Leslie Scism, *The Legal Fight Between Insurers and Businesses is Expanding*,
 25 Wall Street Journal, (April 29, 2020), available at <https://www.wsj.com/articles/the-legal-fight-between-insurers-and-businesses-is-expanding-11588166775?mod=searchresults&page=1&pos=3> (last visited May 14, 2020).

26 ⁵ See *Facts + Statistics – Industry overview*, Insurance Information Institute,
 27 available at <https://www.iii.org/fact-statistic/facts-statistics-industry-overview> (last
 28 visited May 14, 2020).

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1 categorically denied.

2 55. Plaintiffs’ claims and those of the proposed Class all arise from a single
3 course of conduct by Farmers: its systematic and blanket refusal to provide any
4 coverage for business losses related to the COVID-19 pandemic and the related
5 actions taken by civil authorities to suspend business operations.

6 56. Farmers’ wrongful conduct has caused significant damage, and if left
7 unchecked will continue to cause significant damage, to Plaintiffs and the other
8 members of the proposed Class.

9 57. Farmers’ categorical treatment, failure to investigate in good faith, and
10 denial of Plaintiffs’ and the Class members’ claims appears to be part of a broader
11 strategy being employed by the insurance industry generally, to broadly deny claims
12 for business interruption coverage related to the Coronavirus pandemic, as has been
13 widely reported by the media and resulted in numerous lawsuits brought by businesses
14 against property insurance companies throughout the country.

15 58. Many small businesses that maintain commercial policies with business
16 interruption coverage will have significant uninsured losses absent declaratory relief
17 from this Court. Indeed, even if state and local governments re-open, small businesses
18 will almost certainly still be under social-distancing mandates, and salons such as
19 Pappy’s Barber Shop, will continue to experience diminishing revenues.

20 59. A declaratory judgment is necessary to determine that the business
21 income loss and extra expense coverage provided in standard Farmers commercial
22 property insurance policies applies to the suspension, curtailment, and interruption of
23 business operations resulting from Civil Authority Orders, and to prevent Plaintiffs
24 and similarly situated Class members from being denied critical coverage for which
25 they have paid premiums.

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1 **V. CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS**

2 60. Pursuant to Federal Rules of Civil Procedure (“Fed. R. Civ. P.”)
3 23(a),(b)(2), and (b)(3) Plaintiffs bring their claims on behalf of themselves and on
4 behalf of all other persons similarly situated, and seek to represent the following
5 “Nationwide Class” and “California Sub-Class”:

6 61. The Nationwide Class is defined as:
7 All persons and entities who have entered into a standard
8 commercial property insurance policy with a Farmers
9 insurance carrier to insure property in the United States,
10 where such policy provides for business income loss and
11 extra expense coverage and does not exclude coverage for
12 pandemics, and who have suffered losses due to measures
13 put in place by a COVID-19 Civil Authority Order.

14 62. The California Sub-Class is defined as:
15 All persons and entities who have entered into a standard
16 commercial property insurance policy with a Farmers
17 insurance carrier to insure property in California, where
18 such policy provides for business income loss and extra
19 expense coverage and does not exclude coverage for
20 pandemics, and who have suffered losses due to measures
21 put in place by a COVID-19 Civil Authority Order.

22 63. Excluded from each of the Classes are the Defendants, their employees,
23 officers, directors, legal representatives, heirs, successors, and wholly or partly owned
24 subsidiaries or affiliated companies; Class Counsel and their employees; and the
25 judicial officers and their immediate family members and associated court staff
26 assigned to this case.

27 64. Plaintiffs reserve the right to modify, expand, or amend the definitions
28 of the proposed Classes after discovery and before the Court determines whether class
certification is appropriate.

65. Class certification of Plaintiffs’ claims is appropriate because Plaintiffs

1 can prove the elements of their claims on a class-wide basis using the same evidence
2 as would prove those elements in individual actions alleging the same claims.

3 **Numerosity: Rule 23(a)(1)**

4 66. This action satisfies the requirements of Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(a)(1). The
5 Classes number at least in the hundreds and consist of geographically dispersed
6 business entities who are insured for business interruption losses. Farmers sells many
7 insurance policies nationwide and in the State of California and, therefore, joinder of
8 the Class members is impracticable.

9 67. The identity of Class members is ascertainable, as the names and
10 addresses of all Class members can be identified in Farmers' or their agents' books
11 and records. Plaintiffs anticipate providing appropriate notice to the certified Classes
12 in compliance with Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(c)(2)(A) and/or (B), to be approved by the
13 Court after class certification, or pursuant to court order under Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(d).

14 **Typicality: Rule 23(a)(3)**

15 68. This action satisfies the requirements of Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(a)(3) because
16 Plaintiffs' claims are typical of the claims of each of the Class members, as all Class
17 members were and are similarly affected and their claims arise from the same standard
18 policy provisions entered into with Farmers. Each Class members' insurance policy
19 contains the same form providing coverage for business income loss. None of the
20 forms exclude coverage due to a governmental action intended to reduce the effect of
21 the ongoing global pandemic. As a result, a declaratory judgment as to the rights and
22 obligations under Plaintiffs' policy will address the rights and obligations of all Class
23 members.

24 **Adequacy: Rule 23(a)(4)**

25 69. Plaintiffs will fairly and adequately represent and protect the interests of
26 the Class and California Sub-Class members. Plaintiffs have retained counsel
27 competent and experienced in complex class action litigation, including insurance
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1 coverage and other consumer protection litigation. Plaintiffs intend to prosecute this
2 action vigorously. Neither Plaintiffs nor their counsel have interests that conflict with
3 the interests of the other Class members.

4 **Commonality and Predominance: Rule 23(a)(2)**

5 70. This action satisfies the requirements of Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(a)(2) because
6 there are questions of law and fact that are common to each of the Classes. These
7 common questions predominate over any questions affecting only individual Class
8 members. The questions of law and fact common to the Classes include, but are not
9 limited to:

10 (a) Whether there is an actual controversy between Plaintiffs
11 and Farmers as to the rights, duties, responsibilities and obligations of the parties
12 under the business interruption coverage provisions in standard commercial property
13 insurance policies;

14 (b) Whether measures to reduce the spread of the COVID-19
15 pandemic are excluded from Plaintiffs’ and Class members’ standard commercial
16 property insurance policies;

17 (c) Whether the measures put in place by civil authorities to
18 stop the spread of COVID-19 caused physical loss or damage to the covered
19 commercial property;

20 (d) Whether Farmers has breached the insurance policies with
21 business interruption coverage by denying or intending to deny claims for coverage;

22 (e) Whether Farmers’ violations of the standard commercial
23 property insurance policies were committed intentionally, recklessly, or negligently
24 and;

25 (f) Whether Plaintiffs and Class members suffered damages as
26 a result of Farmers’ breach.

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Superiority of Class Action: Rule 23(b)(3)

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71. This action satisfies the requirements of Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(b)(3). A class action is superior to other available methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of the rights of the Class members. The joinder of individual Class members is impracticable because of the large number of Class members who purchased commercial property insurance policies from Farmers.

72. Because a declaratory judgment as to the rights and obligations under the uniform insurance policies will apply to all Class members, most or all Class members would have no rational economic interest in individually controlling the prosecution of specific actions. The burden imposed on the judicial system by individual litigation, and to Farmers, by even a small fraction of the Class members, would be enormous.

73. In comparison to piecemeal litigation, class action litigation presents far fewer management difficulties, conserves the resources of both the judiciary and the parties, and protects the rights of each Class member more effectively. The benefits to the parties, the Court, and the public from class action litigation substantially outweigh the expenses, burdens, inconsistencies, economic infeasibility, and inefficiencies of individual litigation. Class adjudication is superior to other alternatives under Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(b)(3)(D). Class treatment will also avoid the substantial risk of inconsistent factual and legal determinations on the many issues in this lawsuit.

74. Rule 23 provides the Court with the authority and flexibility to maximize the efficiencies and benefits of the class mechanism and reduce management challenges. The Court may, on motion of Plaintiffs or on its own determination, certify nationwide and statewide classes for claims sharing common legal questions; use the provisions of Rule 23(c)(4) to certify particular claims, issues, or common questions of law or of fact for class-wide adjudication; certify and adjudicate bellwether class claims; and use Rule 23(c)(5) to divide any class into Sub-Classes.

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1 75. There are no individualized factual or legal issues for the court to resolve
2 that would prevent this case from proceeding as a class action. Class action treatment
3 will allow those who are similarly situated to litigate their claims in the manner that
4 is most efficient and economical for the parties and the court. Plaintiffs are unaware
5 of any difficulties that are likely to be encountered in the management of this action
6 that would preclude its maintenance as a class action.

7 **Rule 23(b)(2) Certification**

8 76. This action satisfies the requirements of Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(b)(2). The
9 prosecution of separate actions by individual Class members would create a risk of
10 inconsistent or varying adjudication with respect to individual Class members that
11 would establish incompatible standards of conduct for the Defendants.

12 77. In addition, the prosecution of separate actions by individual Class
13 members would create a risk of adjudications with respect to them that would, as a
14 practical matter, be dispositive of the interests of other Class members not parties to
15 the adjudications, or substantially impair or impede their ability to protect their
16 interests.

17 78. Defendants have also acted or refused to act on grounds generally
18 applicable to the Class as a whole, thereby making appropriate final declaratory and/or
19 injunctive relief with respect to the members of the Class as a whole.

20 **VI. CAUSES OF ACTION**

21 **COUNT I**

22 **Declaratory Judgment – Business Income Coverage**
23 **(On Behalf of the Nationwide Class and California Sub-Class)**

24 79. Plaintiffs hereby reallege and incorporate by reference the allegations
25 contained in the paragraphs above, as if fully set forth herein.

26 80. Plaintiffs bring this Count individually and on behalf of the other
27 members of the Nationwide Class and California Sub-Class.

28 81. Plaintiffs’ Farmers Policy, as well as those of the other Class members,

1 is a contract under which Farmers was paid premiums in exchange for its contractual
2 agreement to pay Plaintiffs', and the other Class members', losses for claims covered
3 by the policy.

4 82. As part of standard business interruption coverage, Farmers agreed to
5 pay for insureds' loss of Business Income sustained due to the necessary suspension
6 of its operations during the "period of restoration." Farmers also agreed to pay its
7 insureds' actual loss of Business Income sustained due to the necessary "suspension
8 of [their] operations" during the "period of restoration" caused by direct physical loss
9 or damage. "Business Income" under the policies means the "Net Income (Net Profit
10 or Loss before income taxes) that would have been earned or incurred," as well as
11 "[c]ontinuing normal operating expenses incurred, including payroll."

12 83. The COVID-19 Civil Authority Orders caused direct physical loss and
13 damage to Plaintiffs' and the other Class members' Covered Properties, requiring
14 suspension of operations at the Covered Properties. Accordingly, losses caused by the
15 COVID-19 Civil Authority Orders triggered the Business Income provision of
16 Plaintiffs' and the other Class members' Farmers policies.

17 84. Plaintiffs and other Class members have complied with all applicable
18 provisions of the policies and/or those provisions have been waived by Farmers or
19 Farmers is estopped from asserting them. Yet Farmers has abrogated its insurance
20 coverage obligations pursuant to the policies' clear and unambiguous terms and has
21 wrongfully and illegally refused to provide the coverage to which Plaintiffs and Class
22 members are entitled.

23 85. Farmers has denied Plaintiffs' and other Class members' claims for
24 business interruption losses caused by COVID-19 Civil Authority Orders on a
25 uniform and class-wide basis without individual bases or investigations, so the Court
26 can render declaratory judgment regardless of whether a particular Class member has
27 filed a claim.

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86. An actual case or controversy exists regarding Plaintiffs’ and the other

87. Class members’ rights and Farmers’ obligations under the policies to pay for losses incurred by Plaintiffs and the other Class members in connection with the business interruption caused by COVID-19 Civil Authority Orders.

88. Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §2201, Plaintiffs and other Class members seek a declaratory judgment from this Court as follows:

(i) Plaintiffs’ and the other Class members’ Business Income losses incurred due to COVID-19 Civil Authority Orders are insured losses under their Farmers policies; and

(ii) Farmers is obligated to pay Plaintiffs and other Class members for the full amount of their Business Income losses (up to the maximum allowable amount under the policies) incurred in connection with the COVID-19 Civil Authority Orders during the period of restoration and the necessary interruption of their businesses stemming therefrom.

COUNT II

**Breach Of Contract – Business Income Coverage
(On Behalf of the Nationwide Class and California Sub-Class)**

89. Plaintiffs hereby reallege and incorporate by reference the allegations contained in the paragraphs above, as if fully set forth herein.

90. Plaintiffs bring this Count individually and on behalf of the other members of the Nationwide Class and California Sub-Class.

91. Plaintiffs’ Farmers Policy, as well as those of other Class members, is a contract under which Farmers was paid premiums in exchange for its promise to pay Plaintiffs’, and the other Class members’, losses for claims covered by the policies.

92. As part of standard business interruption coverage, Farmers agreed to pay for insureds’ actual loss of Business Income sustained due to the necessary suspension of its operations during the “period of restoration.” Farmers also agreed to pay its insureds’ actual loss of Business Income sustained due to the necessary

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1 “suspension of [their] operations” during the “period of restoration” caused by direct
2 physical loss or damage. “Business Income” under the policies means the “Net
3 Income (Net Profit or Loss before income taxes) that would have been earned or
4 incurred,” as well as “[c]ontinuing normal operating expenses incurred, including
5 payroll.”

6 93. The COVID-19 Civil Authority Orders caused direct physical loss and
7 damage to Plaintiffs’ and the other Class members’ Covered Properties, requiring
8 suspension of operations at the Covered Properties. Accordingly, losses caused by the
9 COVID-19 Civil Authority Orders triggered the Business Income provision of
10 Plaintiffs’ and the other Class members’ Farmers policies.

11 94. Plaintiffs and the other Class members have complied with all applicable
12 provisions of their policies and/or those provisions have been waived by Farmers
13 and/or Farmers is estopped from asserting them. Yet Farmers has abrogated its
14 insurance coverage obligations under the policies’ clear and unambiguous terms. By
15 denying coverage for any Business Income loss incurred by Plaintiffs or other Class
16 members as a result of the COVID-19 Civil Authority Orders, Farmers has breached
17 its coverage obligations under the policies.

18 95. As a result of Farmers’ breaches of contract, Plaintiffs and other Class
19 members have sustained substantial damages for which Farmers is liable in an amount
20 to be established at trial.

21 **COUNT III**
22 **Declaratory Judgment – Civil Authority Coverage**
23 **(On Behalf of the Nationwide Class and California Sub-Class)**

24 96. Plaintiffs hereby reallege and incorporate by reference the allegations
25 contained in the paragraphs above, as if fully set forth herein.

26 97. Plaintiffs brings this Count individually and on behalf of the other
27 members of the Nationwide Class and California Sub-Class.

28 98. Plaintiffs’ Farmers Policy, as well as those of other Class members, is a

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1 contract under which Farmers was paid premiums in exchange for its promise to pay
2 Plaintiffs’, and other Class members’, losses for claims covered by the policy.

3 99. Plaintiffs’ Farmers Policy provided for “Civil Authority” coverage,
4 which promises to pay “the actual loss of Business Income you sustain and necessary
5 Extra Expense caused by action of civil authority that prohibits access to the described
6 premises due to direct physical loss of or damage to property, other than at the
7 described premises, caused by or resulting from any Covered Cause of Loss.”
8 Accordingly, the COVID-19 Civil Authority Orders triggered the Civil Authority
9 provision under Plaintiffs’ and the other Class members’ Farmers policies.

10 100. Plaintiffs and Class members have complied with all applicable
11 provisions of the policies and/or those provisions have been waived by Farmers and/or
12 Farmers is estopped from asserting them. Yet Farmers has abrogated its insurance
13 coverage obligations under the policies’ clear and unambiguous terms and has
14 wrongfully and illegally refused to provide coverage to which Plaintiffs and Class
15 members are entitled.

16 101. Farmers has denied claims related to COVID-19 on a uniform and class
17 wide basis without individual bases or investigations, so the Court can render
18 declaratory judgment regardless of whether a particular Class member has filed a
19 claim.

20 102. An actual case or controversy exists regarding Plaintiffs’ and other Class
21 members’ rights and Farmers’ obligations under the policies to reimburse Plaintiffs
22 and other Class members for the full amount of covered Civil Authority losses
23 incurred by Plaintiffs and other Class members in connection with COVID-19 Civil
24 Authority Orders and the necessary interruption of their businesses stemming
25 therefrom.

26 103. Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §2201, Plaintiffs and other Class members seek a
27 declaratory judgment from this Court declaring the following:
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(i) Plaintiffs’ and other Class members’ Civil Authority losses incurred in connection with COVID-19 Civil Authority Orders and the necessary interruption of their businesses stemming therefrom are insured losses under their policies; and

(ii) Farmers is obligated to pay Plaintiffs and other Class members for the full amount of their Civil Authority losses (up to the maximum allowable amount under the policies) incurred in connection with the COVID-19 Civil Authority Orders and the necessary interruption of their businesses stemming therefrom.

COUNT IV
Breach Of Contract – Civil Authority Coverage
(On Behalf of the Nationwide Class and California Sub-Class)

104. Plaintiffs hereby reallege and incorporate by reference the allegations contained in the paragraphs above, as if fully set forth herein.

105. Plaintiffs bring this Count individually and on behalf of the other members of the Nationwide Class and California Sub-Class.

106. Plaintiffs’ Farmers Policy, as well as those of other Class members, is a contract under which Farmers was paid premiums in exchange for its promise to pay Plaintiffs’, and the other Class Members’, losses for claims covered by the policy.

107. Plaintiffs’ Farmers Policy provided for “Civil Authority” coverage, which promises to pay “the actual loss of Business Income you sustain and necessary Extra Expense caused by action of civil authority that prohibits access to the described premises due to direct physical loss of or damage to property, other than at the described premises, caused by or resulting from any Covered Cause of Loss.” Accordingly, the COVID-19 Civil Authority Orders triggered the Civil Authority provision under Plaintiffs’ and the other Class members’ Farmers policies.

108. Plaintiffs and the other Class members have complied with all applicable provisions of the policies and/or those provisions have been waived by Farmers

1 and/or Farmers is estopped from asserting them. Yet Farmers has abrogated its
2 insurance coverage obligations under the policies’ clear and unambiguous terms. By
3 denying coverage for any business losses incurred by Plaintiffs and other Class
4 members in connection with the COVID-19 Civil Authority Orders, Farmers has
5 breached its coverage obligations under the policies.

6 109. As a result of Farmers’ breaches of contract, Plaintiffs and other Class
7 members have sustained substantial damages for which Farmers is liable in an
8 amount to be established at trial.

9 **COUNT V**
10 **Declaratory Judgment – Extra Expense Coverage**
11 **(On Behalf of the Nationwide Class and California Sub-Class)**

12 110. Plaintiffs hereby reallege and incorporate by reference the allegations
13 contained in the paragraphs above, as if fully set forth herein.

14 111. Plaintiffs bring this Count individually and on behalf of the other
15 members of the Nationwide Class and the California Sub-Class.

16 112. Plaintiffs’ Farmers Policy, as well as those of other Class Members, is a
17 contract under which Farmers was paid premiums in exchange for its promise to pay
18 Plaintiffs’, and other Class members’, losses for claims covered by the policies.

19 113. Plaintiffs’ Farmers Policy provided that Farmers would pay necessary
20 Extra Expense that its insureds incur during the “period of restoration” that the
21 insureds would not have incurred if there had been no direct physical loss or damage
22 to the described premises. “Extra Expense” means expenses “[t]o avoid or minimize
23 the suspension of business and to continue ‘operations,’” and to repair or replace
24 property. Due to the COVID-19 Civil Authority Orders, Plaintiffs and other Class
25 members incurred Extra Expense at their Covered Properties.

26 114. Plaintiffs and other Class members have complied with all applicable
27 provisions of the policies and/or those provisions have been waived by Farmers and/or
28 Farmers is estopped from asserting them. Yet Farmers has abrogated its insurance

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1 coverage obligations under the policies’ clear and unambiguous terms and has
2 wrongfully and illegally refused to provide coverage to which Plaintiffs and Class
3 members are entitled.

4 115. Farmers has denied claims related to COVID-19 on a uniform and class-
5 wide basis without individual bases or investigations, so the Court can render
6 declaratory judgment regardless of whether a particular Class member has filed a
7 claim.

8 116. An actual case or controversy exists regarding Plaintiffs’ and other Class
9 members’ rights and Farmers’ obligations under the policies to reimburse Plaintiffs
10 and the other Class members for the full amount of Extra Expense losses incurred by
11 Plaintiffs and Class members in connection with COVID-19 Civil Authority Orders
12 and the necessary interruption of their businesses stemming therefrom.

13 117. Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §2201, Plaintiffs and other Class members seek a
14 declaratory judgment from this Court declaring the following:

15 (i) Plaintiffs’ and other Class members’ Extra Expense
16 losses incurred in connection with the COVID-19 Civil
17 Authority Orders and the necessary interruption of their
18 businesses stemming therefrom are insured losses under
their policies; and

19 (ii) Farmers is obligated to pay Plaintiffs and other Class
20 members for the full amount of their Extra Expenses losses
21 (up to the maximum allowable amount under the policies)
22 in connection with the COVID- 19 Civil Authority Orders
and the necessary interruption of their businesses stemming
therefrom.

23 **COUNT VI**
24 **Breach Of Contract – Extra Expense Coverage**
25 **(On Behalf of the Nationwide Class and California Sub-Class)**

26 118. Plaintiffs hereby reallege and incorporate by reference the allegations
27 contained in the paragraphs above, as if fully set forth herein.

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1 119. Plaintiffs bring this Count individually and on behalf of the other
2 members of the Nationwide Class and California Sub-Class.

3 120. Plaintiffs’ Farmers Policy, as well as those of the other Class members,
4 is a contract under which Farmers was paid premiums in exchange for its promise to
5 pay Plaintiffs’, and the other Class members’, losses for claims covered by the policy.

6 121. Plaintiffs’ Farmers Policy provided that Farmers agreed to pay necessary
7 Extra Expense that it incurred during the “period of restoration” that would not have
8 incurred if there had been no direct physical loss or damage to the described premises.
9 “Extra Expense” means expenses “[t]o avoid or minimize the suspension of business
10 and to continue ‘operations,’” and to repair or replace property. Due to the COVID-
11 19 Civil Authority Orders, Plaintiffs and other Class members incurred Extra Expense
12 at their Covered Properties.

13 122. Plaintiffs and other Class members have complied with all applicable
14 provisions of the policies and/or those provisions have been waived by Farmers and/or
15 Farmers is estopped from asserting them. Yet Farmers has abrogated its insurance
16 coverage obligations under the policies’ clear and unambiguous terms.

17 123. By denying coverage for any business losses incurred by Plaintiffs and
18 other Class members in connection with the COVID-19 Civil Authority Orders,
19 Farmers has breached its coverage obligations under the policies.

20 124. As a result of Farmers’ breaches of the policies, Plaintiffs and the other
21 Class members have sustained substantial damages for which Farmers is liable in an
22 amount to be established at trial.

23 **COUNT VII**
24 **Unfair Business Practices Under Bus. & Prof. Code §17200, et seq.**
25 **(On Behalf of Plaintiffs and the California Sub-Class)**

26 125. Plaintiffs hereby reallege and incorporate by reference the allegations
27 contained in the paragraphs above, as if fully set forth herein.

28 126. Plaintiffs bring this Count individually and on behalf of the other

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1 members of the Nationwide Class and California Sub-Class.

2 127. By its conduct, Farmers has engaged in unlawful, unfair, and fraudulent
3 business practices in violation of California Business & Professions Code (“Bus. &
4 Prof. Code”) §17200 *et seq.* (“UCL”)

5 128. Farmers’ conduct violates the “unlawful” prong of the UCL because it
6 violated the letter and spirit of California’s Insurance Code (“Cal. Ins. Code”),
7 including California Insurance Code §790, *et seq.* because Farmers failed or refused
8 to perform a fair, objective, and thorough investigation of the Plaintiffs’ and the
9 California Sub-Class members’ claims. Farmers denied Plaintiffs’ and the California
10 Sub-Class members’ claims as part of Farmers’ policy of categorically denying all
11 business interruption claims related to Coronavirus, and ignored other California
12 requirements concerning the proper and fair evaluation of claims and interpretations
13 of its policies. Farmers’ conduct also constituted breach of contract.

14 129. Farmers’ conduct violates the “unfair” prong of the UCL, including but
15 not limited to Farmers’: (a) categorical and wrongful denial of Plaintiffs’ and the
16 California Sub-Class members’ claims; (b) failure and refusal to perform a fair,
17 objective, good-faith, and thorough investigation of the claims as directed by the
18 California Insurance Code; (c) denial of Plaintiffs’ and the California Sub-Class
19 members’ claims as part of a policy of categorically denying claims related to
20 Coronavirus; and (d) failing to interpret its policies in an equitable manner and/or up
21 to the standards required by California law (including but not limited to Cal. Ins. Code
22 §790 *et seq.*).

23 130. Farmers’ conduct is immoral, unethical, oppressive, unscrupulous,
24 unconscionable, and/or substantially injurious to Plaintiffs and the California Sub-
25 class.

26 131. Farmers’ conduct also violates California public policy, including the
27 policy reflected in Cal. Ins. Code §790 *et seq.* and elsewhere in the California
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1 Insurance Code.

2 132. Farmers’ conduct violates the “fraudulent” prong of the UCL. Among
3 other things, Farmers: (a) promised Plaintiffs and the California Sub-Class coverage
4 that was not provided and that Farmers had no intention of providing; (b) promised to
5 evaluate each claim individually, reasonably, and in good faith, which Farmers did
6 not do with respect to Plaintiffs’ and the California Sub-Class members’ claims, and
7 (c) falsely and misleadingly indicated to Plaintiffs and the California Sub-Class that
8 it was investigating in good faith (and had investigated in good faith) their claims,
9 which Farmers did not do and knew that it did not do. Farmers collected Plaintiffs’
10 and the California Sub-Class members’ premiums in exchange for coverage that was
11 not provided, induced those premiums by promising to evaluate each claim
12 individually, reasonably, and in good faith and did not, and denied Plaintiffs’ and the
13 California Sub-Class members’ claim as part of a policy of categorically denying
14 claims related to Coronavirus as part of a strategy to reduce its insurance payments
15 related to Coronavirus.

16 133. Farmers’ fraudulent and deceptive conduct was false and misleading,
17 had a tendency to deceive reasonable insureds, and did deceive Plaintiffs and the
18 California Sub-Class. Plaintiffs and members of the California Sub-Class reasonably
19 relied on Farmers’ deceptions and omissions, including but not limited to by paying
20 premiums to Farmers.

21 134. By reason of Farmers’ unlawful, unfair, and fraudulent conduct in
22 violation of the UCL, Plaintiffs and members of the California Sub-Class suffered and
23 continue to suffer damages, including but not limited to premiums they have paid to
24 Farmers and the non-receipt of insurance benefits that Farmers owes them.

25 135. Plaintiffs and the California Sub-Class are entitled to restitution from
26 Farmers (with interest thereon), to disgorgement of all Farmers’ profits arising out of
27 its violations of the UCL (with interest thereon), and payment of benefits due to
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1 Plaintiffs and members of the California Sub-Class that Farmers has wrongfully
2 retained through its violations of the UCL.

3 136. Pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure §1021.5, Plaintiffs are
4 entitled to recover their reasonable attorneys’ fees.

5 **VII. PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

6 WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs, individually and on behalf of all similarly situated
7 individuals and entities, pray for relief and judgment against Defendants as follows:

8 A. Determining that this action is a proper class action under one or more
9 provisions of Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23, appointing Plaintiffs
10 to serve as a Class Representatives and appointing its counsel to serve
11 as Class Counsel;

12 B. Issuing a Declaratory Judgment declaring the parties’ rights and
13 obligations under the insurance policy provisions at issue;

14 C. Awarding Plaintiffs and the Classes compensatory damages against
15 Defendants, jointly and severally, for all damages sustained as a result
16 of Defendants’ breach of the policies in an amount to be proven at
17 trial, including interest thereon;

18 D. Awarding Plaintiffs and the Classes pre-judgment and post-judgment
19 interest as well as reasonable attorneys’ fees and expenses incurred in
20 this action; and
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22 E. Awarding such other relief as the Court may deem just and proper.
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1 **VIII. JURY DEMAND**

2 Plaintiffs demand a trial by jury on all issues so triable.

3 Dated: May 14, 2020

4 HAEGGQUIST & ECK, LLP
5 AMBER L. ECK
6 ALREEN HAEGGQUIST
7 ROBERT PRINE

8 

9 By:

10 AMBER L. ECK

11 225 Broadway, Suite 2050
12 San Diego, CA 92101
13 Telephone: (619) 342-8000
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15 Attorneys for Plaintiffs and Proposed Class
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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on May 14, 2020, I authorized the electronic filing of the foregoing with the Clerk of the Court using the CM/ECF system which will send notification of such filing to the e-mail addresses denoted on the Electronic Mail Notice List.

I certify under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed on May 14, 2020.

/s/ Amber L. Eck

AMBER L. ECK

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CIVIL COVER SHEET

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON NEXT PAGE OF THIS FORM.)

I. (a) PLAINTIFFS

PAPPY'S BARBER SHOPS, INC. and PAPPY'S BARBER SHOP POWAY, INC., Individually and Behalf of All Others Similarly Situated

(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff San Diego County (EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)

(c) Attorneys (Firm Name, Address, and Telephone Number) Amber L. Eck (SBN 177882) Haeggquist & Eck, LLP 225 Broadway, Suite 2050 San Diego, CA 92101; Telephone: (619) 342-8000

DEFENDANTS

FARMERS GROUP, INC., FARMERS INSURANCE COMPANY, INC., and TRUCK INSURANCE EXCHANGE,

County of Residence of First Listed Defendant Los Angeles (IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY)

NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE TRACT OF LAND INVOLVED.

Attorneys (If Known)

'20CV0907 CAB BLM

II. BASIS OF JURISDICTION (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

- 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff
2 U.S. Government Defendant
3 Federal Question (U.S. Government Not a Party)
4 Diversity (Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III)

III. CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES (Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff and One Box for Defendant)

Table with columns for Plaintiff (PTF) and Defendant (DEF) citizenship and business location. Includes categories like Citizen of This State, Citizen of Another State, and Foreign Nation.

IV. NATURE OF SUIT (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

Large table with columns: CONTRACT, REAL PROPERTY, CIVIL RIGHTS, TORTS, PRISONER PETITIONS, FORFEITURE/PENALTY, LABOR, IMMIGRATION, BANKRUPTCY, SOCIAL SECURITY, FEDERAL TAX SUITS, OTHER STATUTES. Includes various legal codes and descriptions.

V. ORIGIN (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

- 1 Original Proceeding
2 Removed from State Court
3 Remanded from Appellate Court
4 Reinstated or Reopened
5 Transferred from Another District (specify)
6 Multidistrict Litigation - Transfer
8 Multidistrict Litigation - Direct File

VI. CAUSE OF ACTION

Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under which you are filing (Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity): 28 U.S.C. §1332(d)
Brief description of cause: Declaratory Judgment, Breach of Contract and Unfair Business Practices

VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:

CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION UNDER RULE 23, F.R.Cv.P. DEMAND \$ CHECK YES only if demanded in complaint: JURY DEMAND: Yes No

VIII. RELATED CASE(S) IF ANY

(See instructions): JUDGE DOCKET NUMBER

DATE 05/14/2020 SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD s/Amber L. Eck

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

RECEIPT # AMOUNT APPLYING IFP JUDGE MAG. JUDGE

INSTRUCTIONS FOR ATTORNEYS COMPLETING CIVIL COVER SHEET FORM JS 44

Authority For Civil Cover Sheet

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replaces nor supplements the filings and service of pleading or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. Consequently, a civil cover sheet is submitted to the Clerk of Court for each civil complaint filed. The attorney filing a case should complete the form as follows:

- I.(a) Plaintiffs-Defendants.** Enter names (last, first, middle initial) of plaintiff and defendant. If the plaintiff or defendant is a government agency, use only the full name or standard abbreviations. If the plaintiff or defendant is an official within a government agency, identify first the agency and then the official, giving both name and title.
- (b) County of Residence.** For each civil case filed, except U.S. plaintiff cases, enter the name of the county where the first listed plaintiff resides at the time of filing. In U.S. plaintiff cases, enter the name of the county in which the first listed defendant resides at the time of filing. (NOTE: In land condemnation cases, the county of residence of the "defendant" is the location of the tract of land involved.)
- (c) Attorneys.** Enter the firm name, address, telephone number, and attorney of record. If there are several attorneys, list them on an attachment, noting in this section "(see attachment)".
- II. Jurisdiction.** The basis of jurisdiction is set forth under Rule 8(a), F.R.Cv.P., which requires that jurisdictions be shown in pleadings. Place an "X" in one of the boxes. If there is more than one basis of jurisdiction, precedence is given in the order shown below.
 United States plaintiff. (1) Jurisdiction based on 28 U.S.C. 1345 and 1348. Suits by agencies and officers of the United States are included here.
 United States defendant. (2) When the plaintiff is suing the United States, its officers or agencies, place an "X" in this box.
 Federal question. (3) This refers to suits under 28 U.S.C. 1331, where jurisdiction arises under the Constitution of the United States, an amendment to the Constitution, an act of Congress or a treaty of the United States. In cases where the U.S. is a party, the U.S. plaintiff or defendant code takes precedence, and box 1 or 2 should be marked.
 Diversity of citizenship. (4) This refers to suits under 28 U.S.C. 1332, where parties are citizens of different states. When Box 4 is checked, the citizenship of the different parties must be checked. (See Section III below; **NOTE: federal question actions take precedence over diversity cases.**)
- III. Residence (citizenship) of Principal Parties.** This section of the JS 44 is to be completed if diversity of citizenship was indicated above. Mark this section for each principal party.
- IV. Nature of Suit.** Place an "X" in the appropriate box. If there are multiple nature of suit codes associated with the case, pick the nature of suit code that is most applicable. Click here for: [Nature of Suit Code Descriptions](#).
- V. Origin.** Place an "X" in one of the seven boxes.
 Original Proceedings. (1) Cases which originate in the United States district courts.
 Removed from State Court. (2) Proceedings initiated in state courts may be removed to the district courts under Title 28 U.S.C., Section 1441. When the petition for removal is granted, check this box.
 Remanded from Appellate Court. (3) Check this box for cases remanded to the district court for further action. Use the date of remand as the filing date.
 Reinstated or Reopened. (4) Check this box for cases reinstated or reopened in the district court. Use the reopening date as the filing date.
 Transferred from Another District. (5) For cases transferred under Title 28 U.S.C. Section 1404(a). Do not use this for within district transfers or multidistrict litigation transfers.
 Multidistrict Litigation – Transfer. (6) Check this box when a multidistrict case is transferred into the district under authority of Title 28 U.S.C. Section 1407.
 Multidistrict Litigation – Direct File. (8) Check this box when a multidistrict case is filed in the same district as the Master MDL docket.
PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE IS NOT AN ORIGIN CODE 7. Origin Code 7 was used for historical records and is no longer relevant due to changes in statute.
- VI. Cause of Action.** Report the civil statute directly related to the cause of action and give a brief description of the cause. **Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity.** Example: U.S. Civil Statute: 47 USC 553 Brief Description: Unauthorized reception of cable service
- VII. Requested in Complaint.** Class Action. Place an "X" in this box if you are filing a class action under Rule 23, F.R.Cv.P.
 Demand. In this space enter the actual dollar amount being demanded or indicate other demand, such as a preliminary injunction.
 Jury Demand. Check the appropriate box to indicate whether or not a jury is being demanded.
- VIII. Related Cases.** This section of the JS 44 is used to reference related pending cases, if any. If there are related pending cases, insert the docket numbers and the corresponding judge names for such cases.

Date and Attorney Signature. Date and sign the civil cover sheet.

ClassAction.org

This complaint is part of ClassAction.org's searchable class action lawsuit database and can be found in this post: [Farmers Group Faces Class Action Over Alleged Refusal to Pay Barber Shops' COVID-19 Business Loss Claim](#)
