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9 Attorneys for Plaintiffs  
10 Cindy and Timothy Abshire,  
11 Alan and Monica Butts,  
12 Nomadness Corporation, and the  
13 Mammoth Lakes Business Coalition

14 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**  
15 **EASTERN DISTRICT CALIFORNIA**

16 CINDY ABSHIRE; TIMOTHY  
17 ABSHIRE; ALAN BUTTS;  
18 MONICA BUTTS; NOMADNESS  
19 CORPORATION, a California  
20 corporation; and THE MAMMOTH  
21 LAKES BUSINESS COALITION,  
22 an unincorporated membership  
23 association;

24 *plaintiffs,*

25 v.

26 GAVIN NEWSOM, in his capacity  
27 as Governor of the State of  
28 California; XAVIER BACCERA,  
in his capacity as California  
Attorney General; MARK GHALY,  
in his capacity as the Health and  
Human Services Director for the  
State of California; TOMAS  
ARAGON, in his capacities as  
Director of the California State  
Department of Health and as State  
Public Health Officer for the State  
of California; JENNIFER KREITZ,

Case No.

**COMPLAINT**

**SUBSTANTIVE DUE PROCESS  
(14<sup>th</sup> Amendment)**

**PROCEDURAL DUE PROCESS  
(14<sup>th</sup> Amendment)**

**EQUAL PROTECTION  
(14<sup>th</sup> Amendment)**

**UNCOMPENSATED TAKINGS  
(5<sup>th</sup> Amendment)**

**COMMERCE CLAUSE  
(Art. 1, Section 8)**

**JURY TRIAL DEMANDED**

1 in her capacity as the Chair of the  
2 Board of Supervisors of Mono  
3 County, California; RHONDA  
4 DUGGAN in her capacity as a  
5 Member of the Board of  
6 Supervisors of Mono County,  
7 California; BOB GARDNER in his  
8 capacity as a Member of the Board  
9 of Supervisors of Mono County,  
10 California; JOHN PETERS, in his  
11 capacity as a Member of the Board  
12 of Supervisors of Mono County,  
13 California; STACY CORLESS, in  
14 her capacity as a Member of the  
15 Board of Supervisors of Mono  
16 County, California; THOMAS  
17 BOO, in his capacities as Public  
18 Health officer for Mono County and  
19 the Town of Mammoth Lakes,  
20 California; ROB PATTERSON, in  
21 his capacity as a Finance Director  
22 of the Town of Mammoth Lakes,  
23 California; BEN MANNING in his  
24 capacity as a Revenue Specialist of  
25 the Town of Mammoth Lakes,  
26 California; KIM GETCHELL in her  
27 capacity as a Revenue Specialist of  
28 the Town of Mammoth Lakes,  
California; JENNA DUNCAN in  
her capacity as a Revenue Specialist  
of the Town of Mammoth Lakes,  
California; DANIEL HOLLER in  
his capacity as Town Manager of  
the Town of Mammoth Lakes;  
BILL SAUSER in his capacity as a  
Mayor of the Town of Mammoth  
Lakes, California; LYNDA  
SALCIDO in her capacity as a  
Mayor Pro Tem of the Town of  
Mammoth Lakes, California; JOHN  
WENTWORTH in his capacity as a  
Member of the Town Council of the  
Town of Mammoth Lakes,  
California; KIRK STAPP in his  
capacity as a Member of the Town  
Council of the Town of Mammoth  
Lakes, California; SARAH REA in  
her capacity as a Member of the  
Town Council of the town of

1 Mammoth Lakes, California; and  
2 DOES 1-10 inclusive,

3 *defendants.*

4  
5  
6  
7 1. Plaintiffs, through undersigned counsel, pursuant to Rule 8 of the Federal Rules  
8 of Civil Procedure, submit the following as a Complaint in this matter.

9 **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

10 2. This action asserts claims pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983. The court has  
11 jurisdiction over this civil action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and 1337. Declaratory relief is  
12 authorized on the facts alleged pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2201. Injunctive relief is authorized  
13 pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1343(a).

14 3. Venue of this civil action in the Judicial District for the Eastern District of  
15 California is proper pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391 (b) (1) and (2). Defendants maintain offices,  
16 exercise their authority in their official capacities, and have taken the actions at issue in this  
17 matter in the Judicial District for the Eastern District of California.

18  
19 **NATURE OF THE ACTION**

20 4. Plaintiffs bring this action to seek relief from ongoing arbitrary restrictions  
21 imposed and enforced by defendants which violate the fundamental liberties of plaintiffs and  
22 the citizens of the State of California and the United States and threaten them with irreparable  
23 harm.

24 5. In California, a typical cold and flu season generally runs from October through  
25 March, although the associated seasonal viruses are detected year-round in the United States.  
26 The exact timing and duration of flu seasons can vary, but influenza activity often begins to  
27 increase in October. Most of the time flu activity peaks between December and February, and  
28

1 drops to minimal levels in the early Spring.<sup>1</sup> Pneumonia is often caused by the viruses  
2 associated with influenza and a cold.<sup>2</sup>

3 6. Near the end of 2019 during its cold and flu season, doctors in China were  
4 observing cases of pneumonia of unknown cause in Wuhan City, Hubei Province. In early  
5 January 2020, a novel coronavirus was isolated and, through testing conducted on suspected  
6 cases, was identified as the cause of the pneumonia. The novel coronavirus has been given the  
7 designation of SARS-Cov-2 (severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2). Initial  
8 Chinese government reports were that there was no clear evidence of the virus easily passing  
9 from person to person.

10 7. The Chinese government soon found the virus was spreading and implemented  
11 a series of large-scale interventions to control the epidemic. Beginning in March 2020, in  
12 response to the spread of the novel coronavirus and COVID-19, Defendant Gavin Newsom, in  
13 his official capacity as Governor of the State of California, imposed emergency Orders  
14 pursuant to the authority granted him by California law. The emergency Orders issued by  
15 Defendant Newsom and the restrictions implemented pursuant to such Orders are  
16 unprecedented in their scope and duration. Plaintiffs have, in addition, been subjected to  
17 Orders and enforcement measures implemented under color of state law by Mono County,  
18 California and by the Town of Mammoth Lakes.

19 8. The Orders and restrictions implemented and enforced by defendants in  
20 response to COVID-19 have imposed widespread partial population lockdowns, broadly-based  
21 and open-ended business closures and restrictions, and pervasive and ongoing restrictions on  
22 the right of the people to travel, associate, and assemble to pursue otherwise lawful spiritual,  
23 political, economic and social ends. These restrictions are unprecedented in the history of  
24 public health measures.

25 9. While arguably justified in their inception as temporary measures imposed in  
26 the face of limited information, evidence and analysis available since at least May 2020

27  
28 <sup>1</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/symptoms/flu-vs-covid19.htm>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/pneumonia/causes.html>

1 establish that the Orders and restrictions at issue in this matter cannot be justified as narrowly  
2 tailored to protect public health and have, in fact, resulted in other significant, negative health  
3 outcomes, including lower childhood vaccination rates, worsening cardiovascular disease  
4 outcomes, fewer cancer screenings and deteriorating mental health, leading to greater excess  
5 mortality in years to come. Given the failure of defendants to evaluate and weigh against the  
6 positive effects of the Order and restrictions at issue the significant, the long term negative  
7 health and economic consequences of such orders and restrictions, continued enforcement of  
8 the Orders and restrictions at issue in this matter would be arbitrary and capricious and would  
9 violate the fundamental rights of plaintiffs and the people of the State of California under the  
10 Fourteenth Amendment to travel, associate, pursue lawful professions, engage in lawful  
11 business enterprises, and seek gainful employment.

12 10. The Orders and restrictions at issue in this matter were implemented solely  
13 through executive action and without affording plaintiffs and the people of State of California  
14 notice and an opportunity to be heard in violation of their right to procedural due process  
15 under the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution.

16 11. The Orders and restrictions at issue in this matter are based on arbitrary and  
17 irrational classifications in violation of the right to equal protection guaranteed by the  
18 Fourteenth Amendment. The Orders and restrictions are based on arbitrary classifications of  
19 activities as “essential or “non-essential” that are not rationally related to promoting public  
20 health, promote the interests of favored groups without reference to the impact of the activities  
21 in question on the transmission of COVID-19, and shift the burden of the response to COVID-  
22 19 to a limited class of persons and businesses.

23 12. The Orders and restrictions at issue in this matter have interfered with distinct  
24 investment-based expectations in private property without compensation and have thereby  
25 effected uncompensated takings in violation of the Fifth Amendment to the United States  
26 Constitution.

27 13. The Orders and restrictions at issue in this matter unreasonably burden  
28 interstate commerce in violation of Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the Constitution.

1           14. Plaintiffs have been seriously harmed by the Orders and restrictions at issue in  
2 this matter and are threatened with irreparable harm if the Orders and restrictions at issue are  
3 not enjoined.

4           15. Plaintiffs are businesses located in the Town of Mammoth Lakes within Mono  
5 County serving the general public. Plaintiff Mammoth Lakes Business Coalition (the  
6 “Coalition”) is a membership association of dining and lodging establishments in the Town of  
7 Mammoth Lakes, and in Mono County, California.

8           16. Plaintiffs have been damaged by the arbitrary and ever-changing Orders and  
9 restrictions at issue. The Orders at issue in this matter initially prohibited plaintiffs from  
10 providing lodging. This restriction threatened to bankrupt plaintiffs. The restriction on lodging  
11 was then lifted, but was soon reimposed, once again threatening plaintiffs’ ability to stay in  
12 business and depriving plaintiffs of the benefit of their investment in measures implemented to  
13 prevent the spread of COVID-19 upon reopening. Although plaintiffs’ businesses are now  
14 able to operate on a limited basis, they are limited to providing lodging at a substantially  
15 reduced capacity and are losing lodging business to nearby communities and are suffering  
16 from community officials who under color of law are willing to dedicate limited resources to  
17 investigate every possible instance of an operator providing lodging to winter sports  
18 enthusiasts wanting to engage in health-essential outdoor activities available in the Mammoth  
19 community. In additional, property owners are being prohibited from advertising that their  
20 properties may be or are available for future rental notwithstanding the future impact of Covid-  
21 19. Moreover, under the legal authority under which they purport to act, defendants are able to  
22 reinstate any previously imposed Orders and restrictions if preliminary and permanent  
23 injunctive relief is not granted.

24           17. Plaintiffs have also been subjected to arbitrary, irrational, and discriminatory  
25 enforcement by the Town of Mammoth Lakes and Mono County, California in violation of  
26 their right to equal protection under the Fourteenth Amendment. the Town of Mammoth Lakes  
27 and Mono County intentionally, irrationally and arbitrarily issued closure and reduced capacity  
28

1 orders and regulations as to certain plaintiffs while overlooking violations by similarly situated  
2 businesses.

3 18. Defendants' violations of plaintiffs' fundamental rights have inflicted  
4 substantial financial losses upon plaintiffs, unreasonably infringed upon plaintiffs' liberty  
5 interests, resulted in uncompensated takings, and will result in irreparable harm to plaintiffs if  
6 enforcement of the Orders and restrictions at issue in this matter is not enjoined.

7 **PARTIES**

8 19. Plaintiff Cindy Abshire who is and was at all relevant times engaged in owning  
9 property for personal use and for providing short term lodging to customers in the Town of  
10 Mammoth Lakes, Mono County, California.

11 20. Plaintiff Timothy Abshire who is and was at all relevant times engaged in  
12 owning property for personal use and for providing short term lodging to customers in the  
13 Town of Mammoth Lakes, Mono County, California.

14 21. Plaintiff Alan Butts who is and was at all relevant times engaged in beneficially  
15 owning property for personal use and for and providing short term lodging to customers in the  
16 Town of Mammoth Lakes, Mono County, California.

17 22. Plaintiff Monica Butts who is and was at all relevant times engaged in  
18 beneficially owning property for personal use and for and providing short term lodging to  
19 customers in the Town of Mammoth Lakes, Mono County, California.

20 23. Plaintiff Nomadness Corporation ("Nomadness") is a California corporation  
21 which is and was at all relevant times engaged in managing, operating, and providing lodging  
22 services to customers, under contract with property owners, from a office location in  
23 Mammoth Lakes, Mono County, California.

24 24. Plaintiff Mammoth Lakes Business Coalition (the "Coalition") is a membership  
25 association of businesses providing dining and lodging establishments in the Town of  
26 Mammoth Lakes and Mono County, California. The Coalition is named as a representative of  
27 the interests of its members. Some members of the Coalition have received citations or been  
28

1 subject to other enforcement actions or threats thereof, and all are subject to enforcement of  
2 the defendants' orders and regulations.

3 25. Defendant Gavin Newsom is the Governor of the State of California. The  
4 California Constitution vests the “supreme executive power of the State” in the Governor, who  
5 “shall see that the law is faithfully executed.” Cal. Const. Art. V, § 1. Governor Newsom is  
6 named in his official capacity.

7 26. Defendant Xavier Becerra is the Attorney General of California. Attorney  
8 General Becerra is named in his official capacity.

9 27. Defendant Mark Ghaly is the Health and Human Services Director for the State  
10 of California. The Director of the California Health and Human Services Department is  
11 responsible for overall management and control of the Health and Human Services  
12 Department. Cal. Govt. Code § 12800 (b). Defendant Ghaly is named in his official capacity.

13 28. Defendant Tomas Aragon is Director of the California State Department of  
14 Public Health, and is the State Public Health Officer for the State of California. The State  
15 Department of Public Health is a subdivision of the California Department of Health and  
16 Human Services. The California State Department of Public Health is responsible for the  
17 enforcement of California health and safety laws and regulations. Defendant Aragon is named  
18 in his official capacities.

19 29. The term “State Defendants” as used hereinafter shall refer collectively to  
20 defendants Gavin Newsom, Xavier Bacerra, Mark Ghaly and Tomas Aragon.

21 30. Defendants Jennifer Kreitz, Rhonda Duggan, Bob Gardner, John Peters and  
22 Stacy Corless are members of the Board of Supervisors for Mono County, California (“Board  
23 of Supervisors”). The Board of Supervisors is the legislative and executive authority for  
24 county government for Mono County, California (“Mono County”). As such, the Board of  
25 Supervisors is the highest policy-making authority for Nevada County. Defendants Jennifer  
26 Kreitz, Rhonda Duggan, Bob Gardner, John Peters and Stacy Corless are named in their  
27 official capacities.

28



1           31.     The term “Supervisor Defendants” as used hereinafter shall refer collectively to  
2 defendants Jennifer Kreitz, Rhonda Duggan, Bob Gardner, John Peters and Stacy Corless.

3           32.     Defendant Thomas Boo is the Public Health Officer for Mono County and the  
4 Town of Mammoth Lakes. Defendant Boo is named in his official capacities.

5           33.     The term “County Defendants” as used hereinafter shall refer collectively to the  
6 Supervisor Defendants and Defendant Boo.

7           34.     Defendant Rob Patterson is Finance Department for the Town of Mammoth  
8 Lakes, and defendants Ben Manning, Kim Getchell, and Jenna Duncan are Revenue  
9 Specialists for the Town.<sup>3</sup> Defendants Rob Patterson, Ben Manning, Kim Getchell, and Jenna  
10 Duncan are named in their official capacities.

11          35.     The term “Finance Defendants” as used hereinafter shall refer collectively to  
12 defendants Rob Patterson, Ben Manning, Kim Getchell, and Jenna Duncan.

13          36.     Defendant Daniel Holler is Town Manager for the Town of Mammoth Lakes.  
14 Defendant Daniel Holler is named in his official capacity.

15          37.     Defendants Bill Sauser, Lynda Salcido, John Wentworth, Kirk Stapp, and Sarah  
16 Rea are members of the Town Council of the Town of Mammoth Lakes. Defendants Bill  
17 Sauser, Lynda Salcido, John Wentworth, Kirk Stapp, and Sarah Rea are named in their official  
18 capacities.

19          38.     The term “Council Defendants” as used hereinafter shall refer collectively to  
20 the defendants Bill Sauser, Lynda Salcido, John Wentworth, Kirk Stapp, and Sarah Rea.

21          39.     The term “Town Defendants” as used hereinafter shall refer collectively to the  
22 Council Defendants, the Finance Defendants and Defendant Daniel Holler.

23  
24           **EFFORTS TO STOP THE SPREAD OF THE CORNAVIRUS IN AND FROM CHINA**  
25           **AND ADDRESS ACCOMPANYING ECONOMIC EFFECTS**

26          40.     The strictest control measures were applied in Wuhan with a complete  
27 lockdown of the population. Starting at 10 a.m. on 23 January 2020, Wuhan city officials

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<sup>3</sup> <https://www.townofmammothlakes.ca.gov/Directory.aspx?did=7>

1 prohibited all transport in and out of the city of 9 million residents. Within the rest of China,  
2 the interventions included nationwide traffic restrictions in the form of increased checkpoints  
3 at road junctions to reduce the number of people travelling and self-isolation of the population  
4 at home to reduce outside activities. Hundreds of millions of Chinese residents had to reduce  
5 or stop their inter-city travel and intra-city activities due to these measures. The World Health  
6 Organization (WHO) indicated that the lockdown of 11 million people is unprecedented in  
7 public health history and it certainly was not a recommendation made by the WHO.

8 41. On January 31, 2020, the United States restricted entry of persons who had  
9 been in China.

10 42. On about February 6, 2020, in the province of Hubei, non-essential enterprises  
11 were ordered not to reopen before February 14, 2020. By the end of February, the number of  
12 cases of coronavirus infection in Wuhan had been greatly reduced. The last confirmed locally  
13 transmitted case of the virus was on March 24, 2020, and authorities began lifting the  
14 lockdown on about March 29, 2020. People were not allowed to leave the City until April 8,  
15 2020.

16 43. On March 16, 2020, President Donald Trump announced a 15 day plan to "slow  
17 the spread" of the coronavirus pandemic. The Dow Jones Industrial Average experienced its  
18 worst point drop in history. On March 27, 2020, the President signed the \$2.2 trillion  
19 Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. On March 30, the President  
20 extended the guidelines to slow the coronavirus until April 30, 2020. On April 24, 2020, the  
21 President signed the \$484 billion Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement  
22 Act. These Acts provided small businesses with a forgivable loan if they maintained employee  
23 payroll for eight weeks, and provided unemployed persons with greatly enhanced  
24 unemployment benefits. The CARES Act established a 120-day eviction moratorium for  
25 evictions based on non-payment of rent for certain covered properties. which moratorium  
26 formally ended on July 25, 2020.

27 44. On December 28, 2020, the President signed the Consolidated Appropriations  
28 Act of 2021 which extended the Federal eviction moratorium by one month, included \$25

1 billion in rent relief, and provided COVID-19 relief payments. The \$25 billion in rent relief  
2 was directed to the states to disperse as they see fit.

3 45. On January 6, 2021, the City of Shijiazhuang, the capital of Hebei Province  
4 near Beijing, China, went into a three-day lockdown as the city experienced China's largest  
5 COVID-19 outbreak in months. Officials planned to administer nucleic acid (RT-PCR)  
6 COVID-19 tests to the entire population of 11 million people during this period. On January  
7 9, 2021, it was reported that 354 positive cases had been found and isolated. With aggressive  
8 contact tracing, more than 11,000 individuals were placed in designated COVID hospitals,  
9 quarantine hotels, and dormitories, or quarantined in their apartments. Residential complexes  
10 with COVID-positive cases implemented disinfection operations in common areas. By  
11 January 12, the number placed into quarantine facilities had risen to over 20,000. To further  
12 contain the spread of COVID-19, the lockdown was extended another seven days. It is  
13 expected that the strict measures would remain in place and there would be another two to  
14 three rounds of testing before movement restrictions would be lifted.

15  
16 **CALIFORNIA'S DECLARATION OF A STATE OF EMERGENCY AND**  
17 **SUBSEQUENT ORDERS**

18 46. On or about March 4, 2020, Defendant Newsom proclaimed a State of  
19 Emergency in response to the spread of COVID-19.<sup>4</sup> Defendant Newsom's emergency  
20 proclamation was issued pursuant to Section 8625 of the California Government Code.

21 47. Since the March declaration of a state of emergency, Defendant Newsom has  
22 issued numerous emergency Orders pursuant to the authority granted him by California law  
23 under the declaration of a state of emergency. The emergency Orders issued by Defendant  
24 Newsom and the restrictions implemented pursuant to such Orders are unprecedented in their  
25 scope and duration.

26  
27 \_\_\_\_\_  
28 <sup>4</sup> As of the date of this filing, the Proclamation of a State of Emergency can be found online at:  
<https://www.gov.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/3.4.20-Coronavirus-SOE-Proclamation.pdf>.

1           48.     On March 16, 2020, Defendant Newsom issued Executive Order N-28-20  
2 issued, halting evictions, foreclosures, and utility shutoffs for or Californians affected by  
3 COVID-19, through May 31, 2020, which was extended.

4           49.     On March 19, 2020, Defendant Newsom, invoking the authority granted him  
5 under sections 8567, 8627 and 8655 of the California Government Code, issued Executive  
6 Order N-33-20, directing all residents to “immediately heed” the State Public Health Officer’s  
7 directives. The Order further directed all Californians to stay home “except as needed to  
8 maintain continuity of operations of the federal critical infrastructure sectors.” The Order was  
9 issued “to protect the public health”, “mitigate the impact of COVID-19”, “bend the curve, and  
10 disrupt the spread of the virus.” The Stay-At-Home Order remains in effect.

11           50.     On or about March 19, 2020, Sonia Angell, who was then serving as the  
12 California State Public Health Officer, acting pursuant to the authority conferred by Governor  
13 Newsom’s Orders, issued an Order which designated a list of “Essential Critical Infrastructure  
14 Workers.” The Order incorporated by reference the U.S. Government’s 16 critical  
15 infrastructure sectors whose assets, systems, and networks, whether physical or virtual, are  
16 considered so vital to the United States that their incapacitation or destruction would have a  
17 debilitating effect on security, economic security, public health or safety, or any combination  
18 thereof. The Order provided that “Californians working in these 16 critical infrastructure  
19 sectors [would] continue their work because of the importance of these sectors to Californians’  
20 health and well-being.” All other businesses and organizations were ordered either to cease all  
21 operations or to operate under substantial restrictions. Persons not employed in the 16 critical  
22 infrastructure areas were required to stay home except as necessary to obtain necessities such  
23 food, prescriptions, and healthcare.

24           51.     On May 4, 2020, Defendant Newsom, again acting pursuant to emergency  
25 powers under state law, issued Executive Order N-60-20. This Order permitted businesses to  
26 begin reopening in stages, as determined by the State Public Health Officer. It also directed the  
27 State Public Health Officer to develop criteria to determine “whether and how . . . local health  
28

1 officers may . . . issue directives less restrictive than measures . . . implemented on a statewide  
2 basis pursuant to the statewide directives of the State Public Health Officer.”

3 52. On May 7, 2020, State Public Health Officer Angell issued an Order permitting  
4 the gradual reopening of businesses and activities in California in stages. The Order provided  
5 for four stages of gradual reopening, with the final stage, Stage 4, consisting of an end to all  
6 stay-at-home orders and a full reopening of businesses.

7 53. On August 3, 2020, the CDPH issued updated guidance on opening schools to  
8 in-person instruction, including a section on cleaning and disinfecting touched surfaces at  
9 schools and on school buses.<sup>5</sup>

10 54. On August 28, 2020, Erica Pan, who was then the Acting State Public Health  
11 Officer, implemented a statewide Order that abandoned the previous, staged re-opening plan  
12 promulgated in the May 7, 2020 Order.<sup>6</sup> The August 28, 2020 Order remains in effect at the  
13 time of the filing of the Complaint with a September 30, 2020 modification to include an  
14 “equity” component.

15 55. The August 28, 2020 Order dictates that counties be classified according to a  
16 new plan entitled “Blueprint for a Safer Economy” under which a color-coded “tier” system  
17 would be used. Under this system, each county is placed in one of four tiers, Purple, Red,  
18 Orange, and Yellow, ranging from most to least restrictive. Unlike the previous staged  
19 reopening plan under the May 7, 2020 Order, the current “tier” system under the August 28,  
20 2020 Order does not provide any criteria under which California’s businesses and economy  
21 would be permitted to fully reopen. Under the August 28, 2020 Order, under the respective  
22 tiers, restaurants are required to 1.) cease all indoor dining (Purple tier); 2.) limit indoor dining  
23 capacity to 25% (Red tier); or 3.) limit indoor dining capacity to 50 % (Orange and Yellow  
24 tiers). In no instance could restaurants open at full capacity for indoor dining under any of the  
25 tiers.

26  
27  
28 <sup>5</sup> <https://files.covid19.ca.gov/pdf/guidance-schools.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> <https://covid19.ca.gov/safer-economy/>

1           56. Defendant Newsom has indicated his intent to implement these tiered  
2 restrictions for an indefinite period of time, publicly stating that “This Blueprint is statewide,  
3 stringent and slow....We have made notable progress over recent weeks, but the disease is still  
4 too widespread across the state. COVID-19 will be with us for a long time and we all need to  
5 adapt. We need to live differently. And we need to minimize exposure for our health, for our  
6 families and for our communities.” The current statewide Orders therefore include no  
7 provision for fully reopening the economy and by their terms continue for an indefinite period  
8 into the future.

9           57. On August 31, 2020, Defendant Newsom signed the Tenant, Homeowner, and  
10 Small Landlord Relief and Stabilization Act (AB 3088), which bans evictions of tenants who  
11 cannot pay rent due to COVID-19 hardship through February 1, 2021, If the COVID-19  
12 hardship occurs between September 1, 2020 and January 31, 2021, tenants must pay at least  
13 25% of rent due to avoid eviction.

14           58. On September 4, 2020, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)  
15 and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) published regulations temporarily  
16 halting residential evictions for qualified persons to prevent further spread of COVID-19,  
17 effective September 4, 2020 through December 31, 2020.

18           59. On November 19, 2020, the Erica Pan, who was then acting as the State Public  
19 Health Officer, issued a Limited Stay at Home Order that directs residents in counties in the  
20 Widespread (Purple) tier, which includes Mono County, to stop non-essential activities  
21 between 10 p.m. and 5 a.m.

22           60. On December 3, 2020, the Erica Pan, who was then acting as the State Public  
23 Health Officer, issued a Regional Stay Home Order that would be triggered for at least three  
24 weeks if a region's adult Intensive Care Unit (ICU) bed capacity drops below the threshold of  
25 15 percent. Mono County was assigned into the Southern California region with 10 other  
26 counties.

1           61.     The Southern California region was formed by combining Mutual Aid Regions  
2 I and VI.<sup>7</sup> Mutual Aid Region I consists of Orange County (population 3.2 million), Los  
3 Angeles County (population 10 million), Ventura County (population 0.85 million), Santa  
4 Barbara County (population 0.45 million), and San Luis Obispo County (population 0.28  
5 million). Mutual Aid Region II consists of San Diego County (population 3.3 million),  
6 Imperial County (population 0.18 million), Riverside County (population 2.5 million), San  
7 Bernardino County (population 2.2 million), Inyo County (population 0.018 million), and  
8 Mono County (population 0.014 million). The population of Mono County is merely 0.14% of  
9 the population of Los Angeles County.

10           62.     Mono County is about 300 miles north of the City of Los Angeles (also in the  
11 Southern California region), and about 140 miles southeast of the City of South Lake Tahoe.  
12 South Lake Tahoe is in El Dorado County, which is assigned to the Greater Sacramento  
13 region.

14           63.     The Regional Stay at Home Order ordered, "[e]xcept as otherwise required by  
15 law, no hotel or lodging entity in California shall accept or honor out of state reservations for  
16 non-essential travel, unless the reservation is for at least the minimum time period required for  
17 quarantine and the persons identified in the reservation will quarantine in the hotel or lodging  
18 entity until after that time period has expired."<sup>8</sup> The order also states, "[t]o promote and  
19 protect the physical and mental well-being of people in California, outdoor recreation facilities  
20 may continue to operate. Those facilities may not sell food or drink for on-site consumption."

21           64.     On December 5, 2020, the Southern California region's ICU capacity dropped  
22 below the threshold to 13.1 percent, triggering a three-week Regional Stay at Home order for  
23 the Southern California region including Mono County. Defendant Newsom issued the Stay-  
24 at-Home order for the Southern California region beginning at 11:59 pm on December 6,  
25 2020. All gatherings with members of other households were prohibited.

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27 \_\_\_\_\_  
<sup>7</sup> California Public Health and Medical Emergency Operations Manual, pages 40 and 49.

28 <sup>8</sup> <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/Regional-Stay-at-Home-Order.aspx>

1           65.     On December 6, 2020, Erica Pan, who was then acting as the State Public  
2 Health Officer, issued a supplemental order increasing the operation of grocery stores to 35%  
3 of capacity and presenting clarifications to the Regional Stay at Home Order.

4           66.     On December 10, 2020, a Stay-at-Home order for the Greater Sacramento  
5 region was ordered to begin at 11:59 pm. On January 2, 2021, the Stay-at-Home order for the  
6 Greater Sacramento region was extended.

7           67.     On December 18, 2020, Defendant Newsom attempted to explain ICU capacity  
8 in a video, stating: “when you see 0%, that doesn’t mean there’s no capacity, no one’s allowed  
9 into an ICU. It means we’re now in our surge phase, which is about 20% additional capacity  
10 that we can make available through the ICU system. I don’t want people to be alarmed by  
11 that, except I do want to raise the alarm bell about what we all must do individually and  
12 collectively to address this rate of growth.”<sup>9</sup>

13           68.     On December 21, 2020, Erica Pan, who was then acting as the State Public  
14 Health Officer issued a Supplemental Order that directs counties under the Regional Stay  
15 Home Order, which includes Mono County, to stop non-essential retail activities between 10  
16 p.m. and 5 a.m.

17           69.     In response to media inquiries about how ICU bed availability be at zero  
18 percent when hospitals are reporting that beds are available, the CDPH responded with an  
19 algorithm used to adjust actual ICU capacities measures for each of the five regions.<sup>10</sup> “If a  
20 region [in California] is utilizing more than 30% of its ICU beds for COVID-19 positive  
21 patients, then its available ICU capacity is adjusted downward by 0.5% for each 1% over the  
22 30% threshold,” according to the CDPH. Dr. Mark Ghaly reportedly stated, “When we have  
23 seen hospitals with ICU capacity used up for COVID above 30% we consider ... that region’s  
24

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25 <sup>9</sup> [https://www.pe.com/2020/12/18/what-public-health-leaders-mean-by-0-icu-beds-  
26 available/amp/](https://www.pe.com/2020/12/18/what-public-health-leaders-mean-by-0-icu-beds-available/amp/) and [https://abc7.com/california-icu-capacity-by-region-bay-area-covid-gov-  
27 newsom-update-beds/8879527/](https://abc7.com/california-icu-capacity-by-region-bay-area-covid-gov-newsom-update-beds/8879527/) at 00:55.

28 <sup>10</sup> [https://www.bakersfield.com/ap/national/how-can-california-have-0-icu-capacity-and-1-  
300-available-icu-beds/article\\_4488fd1d-0ce0-500e-9464-17ab1cc06fd1.html](https://www.bakersfield.com/ap/national/how-can-california-have-0-icu-capacity-and-1-300-available-icu-beds/article_4488fd1d-0ce0-500e-9464-17ab1cc06fd1.html) and  
[https://katv.com/news/nation-world/what-you-need-to-know-about-icu-capacity-in-the-united-  
states](https://katv.com/news/nation-world/what-you-need-to-know-about-icu-capacity-in-the-united-states)



1 ICU capacity really ill-prepared to serve and support individuals with other sorts of urgent and  
2 emergent needs, like heart attacks, strokes, other trauma.”<sup>11</sup>

3 70. Based on the adjustment algorithm, for a region having an actual ICU bed  
4 availability of 20% with 50% of the ICU beds being used for COVID-19 positive patients, it  
5 appears that the CDHP would adjust the bed availability to 10%, which would invoke  
6 application of the Regional Stay-at-Home Order to the region. Similarly, for a region having  
7 an actual ICU bed availability of 15% with 60% of the ICU beds being used for COVID-19  
8 positive patients, it appears that the CDHP would adjust the bed availability to 0%. For ICU  
9 bed availability numbers, great care must be taken to state, if it can be determined, whether a  
10 number is based on actual ICU bed availability or adjusted ICU bed availability. Further,  
11 statements about zero percent ICU bed availability without accompanying disclosure of the  
12 actual bed availability, may be unduly alarming, if not blatantly misleading. For example, San  
13 Diego County, which is in the Southern California region, has reported throughout the  
14 pandemic of at least 10% current ICU bed capacity, and a licensed ICU bed capacity of several  
15 percent more.<sup>12</sup> On January 22, 2021, in a case involving a church in San Diego County, the  
16 United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit issued an opinion with an alarming first  
17 sentence as follows, “[t]he State of California is facing its darkest hour in its fight against the  
18 COVID-19 pandemic, with case counts so high that **intensive care unit capacity is at 0% in**  
19 **most of Southern California**” (emphasis added). See, SOUTH BAY UNITED  
20 PENTECOSTAL CHURCH v. GAVIN NEWSOM, No. 20-56358. The Ninth Circuit failed to  
21 clarify whether the 0% ICU capacity is actual capacity, adjusted capacity, type unknown, or, if  
22 the actual capacity even matters.

23  
24  
25  
26 <sup>11</sup> <https://www.mercurynews.com/2020/12/29/how-can-california-have-0-icu-capacity-and-1300-available-icu-beds/>  
27 <sup>12</sup>

28 [https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/hhsa/programs/phs/community\\_epidemiology/dc/2019-nCoV/status.html](https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/hhsa/programs/phs/community_epidemiology/dc/2019-nCoV/status.html)

1           71.     On about December 28, 2020, California began using a region's projected ICU  
2 capacity in four weeks for determining whether to lift the Regional Order after three weeks  
3 from the trigger date.

4           72.     On December 29, 2020, Defendant Ghaly announced that the Southern  
5 California's Regional Stay Home Order, which includes Mono County, will remain in effect  
6 until further notice due to a surge in COVID-19 hospitalization and a lack of ICU capacity.

7           73.     On December 30, 2020, the Mammoth Lakes Chamber of Commerce sent a  
8 letter to Defendant Newsom about the devastating economic challenges caused by his Stay at  
9 Home Order and, based on its unique geographic location in the Eastern Sierra, local hospital  
10 availability (no currently admitted patients as a result of COVID-19), open businesses in the  
11 neighboring State of Nevada, and other reasons, requested to conduct area businesses safely in  
12 the purple tier and allow natural cash flow to sustain business rather than insufficient public  
13 funding, and to remove Mono County from the Southern California region to a region  
14 appropriate with its demographics and geography.

15           74.     On January 6, 2021, the CDPH issued a Travel Advisory stating, "[e]xcept in  
16 connection with essential travel, Californians should avoid non-essential travel to any part of  
17 California more than 120 miles from one's place of residence, or to other states or countries,"  
18 and "non-essential travelers from other states or countries are strongly discouraged from  
19 entering California." In a footnote, the Advisory indicates, "'Non-essential travel' includes  
20 travel that is considered tourism or recreational in nature."<sup>13</sup>

21           75.     The advisory that Californians "should" avoid non-essential travel is clearly  
22 only a recommendation and not a mandatory prohibition. Thus, the Travel Advisory does not  
23 prohibit non-essential travel to any point more than 120 miles from one's place of residence,  
24 nor does it prohibit non-essential travelers from other states.

25           76.     On January 12, 2021, the Stay-at-Home order for the Greater Sacramento  
26 region was lifted based on its projected ICU capacity. As of January 16, 2021, the ICU  
27 availability in the Greater Sacramento region was 6.2%, on January 20 it was 8.3%, and on

28 \_\_\_\_\_  
<sup>13</sup> <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/Travel-Advisory.aspx>

1 January 24 it was 11.9%.<sup>14</sup> The City of Sacramento is the Capitol of the State of California,  
2 and the current residence of the California Governor. Most of the counties in the Greater  
3 Sacramento region, including El Dorado County, are now in the purple tier. In contrast, early  
4 on January 23, 2021, the ICU availability in the Bay Area region was 6.5%, but on January 23  
5 it was changed to 23.4%, with the region remaining under the restrictions of the Regional  
6 Stay-at-Home Order.

7 77. On January 14, 2021, the CDPH issued guidance on the reopening of in-person  
8 instruction in schools. The guidance includes a section (pages 25 – 27), on the cleaning and  
9 disinfection of surfaces at schools and on buses. The guidance states that staff should clean  
10 frequently-touched surfaces at school and on school buses daily. Frequently touched surfaces  
11 in the school include shared tables, desks, or chairs.<sup>15</sup>

12 78. On January 23, 2021, Bay Area media reported, "before Friday, it had been a  
13 week since California health leaders last provided specific ICU capacity percentages, the key  
14 data point Newsom's administration has said would help determine which regions remain  
15 under his mandated stay at home order. All week, the state would not provide the numbers,  
16 only writing in email updates vaguely [sic] saying three regions: the Bay Area, Southern  
17 California and San Joaquin Valley remain under the order, their four week ICU capacity  
18 projections do not meet criteria to exit."<sup>16</sup> Without using and reporting the data used to  
19 implement and continue its actions restricting the activities of California residents, the State  
20 had no basis for its arbitrary continuation of its Orders and restrictions.

21 79. On January 24, 2021, the State on its website showed an ICU capacity of 0%  
22 for the Southern California region.<sup>17</sup> On January 25, the CDPH announced the end to the  
23 Regional Stay at Home Order for the Southern California region and two other regions. The  
24

25  
26 <sup>14</sup> <https://covid19.ca.gov/stay-home-except-for-essential-needs/>

27 <sup>15</sup> [https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/CDPH%20Document%20Library/COVID-19/Consolidated\\_Schools\\_Guidance.pdf](https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/CDPH%20Document%20Library/COVID-19/Consolidated_Schools_Guidance.pdf)

28 <sup>16</sup> <https://www.kron4.com/news/bay-area/bay-area-sees-significant-jump-in-icu-bed-capacity/>

<sup>17</sup> [About COVID-19 restrictions - Coronavirus COVID-19 Response \(ca.gov\)](#)

1 CDPH released a 4-week ICU projection of 33.3% for the Southern California region.<sup>18</sup> The  
2 action returned all counties to the rules and framework of the Blueprint for a Safer Economy.

3 80. On its website, the California State Parks gave this information during the  
4 Regional Stay at Home Order: "While the Regional Stay at Home Order is asking Californians  
5 to stay home as much as possible and for certain sectors to close, the state recognizes that  
6 outdoor activity is critical for mental health and physical health. As such, we welcome you to  
7 recreate in the outdoors provided that you stay local, plan ahead to find out what is open, wear  
8 a face covering, practice physical distancing and avoid gatherings with people outside the  
9 immediate household."<sup>19</sup>

10 81. On information and belief, during the COVID-19 pandemic, the State of  
11 California, Mono County, and/or the Town of Mammoth Lakes, have not implemented road  
12 blocks enforcing prohibitions of non-essential travel on its roads or highways to limit the  
13 spread of COVID-19.

14  
15 **LOCAL HEALTH ORDERS AND RESTRICTIONS IN RESPONSE TO**  
16 **CORNAVIRUS**

17 82. On March 15, 2020, Defendant Boo, as the Mono County Health Officer,  
18 declared a local health emergency due to the imminent and proximate threat to public health of  
19 the introduction of a novel coronavirus (COVID-19) in Mono County, and on March 17, 2020,  
20 the Mono County Board of Supervisors ratified the County Health Officer's declaration of  
21 emergency, which declaration remains in effect.

22 83. On March 17, 2020, Defendant Boo, as the Mono County Health Officer issued  
23 orders prohibiting all non-essential public gatherings, closing all bars, breweries, and wine-  
24 tasting venues with customer contact, limited restaurants to drive-through, pick-up, or  
25 delivery, and closed indoor and outdoor seated dining, closed health club and gyms, directed  
26 that theatres, bowling alleys, and other indoor recreation venues should close.

27  
28 <sup>18</sup> [www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/OPA/Pages/NR21-030.aspx](http://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/OPA/Pages/NR21-030.aspx)

<sup>19</sup> [https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page\\_id=30350](https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=30350)

1           84.     On March 18, 2020, the Mammoth Lakes Town Council declared a local  
2 emergency regarding COVID- 19, and the declaration of emergency remains in effect.

3           85.     On March 21, 2020, Defendant Boo, as the Mono County Health Officer,  
4 issued an order allowing "the use of hotels and other facilities for emergency service workers,  
5 essential service workers, for displaced residents needing shelter, for traveler safety, and other  
6 response and mitigation efforts related to COVID-19,"

7           86.     In March 2020, Steve Barwick, as the Mono County Administrative Officer,  
8 issued a memorandum on the subject of limiting use of short-term rentals asserting that the  
9 Governor's Stay at Home order of March 19, 2020, and County Health Officer's Order of  
10 March 21, 2020, "clarifying that Order do not extend exemptions for property owners to  
11 provide employees for hotels, or by extension, any short-term rental services, for any other  
12 purposes."

13           87.     On April 1, 2020, Defendant Boo, as the Mono County Health Officer issued an  
14 order directing that hotels, motels, short-term rentals, vacation rentals, timeshares,  
15 campgrounds, RV parks, and other lodging facilities not operate except to provide shelter to  
16 the homeless population; to persons who have been displaced due to living with someone who  
17 is isolated or quarantined due to COVID- 19; persons who need to isolate or quarantine  
18 themselves due to COVID- 19; and essential workers performing functions to maintain critical  
19 infrastructure.

20           88.     On April 10, 2020, Defendant Holler, as Town Manager, issued a memorandum  
21 to Town Staff, ordering "that the business tax certificate for a lodging property may be  
22 revoked if the property is found to have been rented on a short-term basis in violation of an  
23 order from the Governor or the County Health Officer . . . ."20

24           89.     On April 22, 2020, the Town Council of Mammoth Lakes adopted Urgency  
25 Ordinance No. 20-05 stating that the COVID-19 pandemic "has resulted in a significant  
26 decrease in the Town's primary source of revenue: transient occupancy tax (TOT)," and  
27

28 <sup>20</sup> <https://webapps.mono.ca.gov/COVIDDocs//Directives/TOT%20-%20Municipal%20Code%20Updates%204-10-2020.pdf>

1 amending Municipal Code (MLMC) section 3.12.080 to require monthly remittance (by the  
2 20th) of the TOT filed with "any other . . . information relating to rentals as requested by the  
3 tax collector." Ordinance No. 20-05 further included amendment of MLMC section 5.04.340  
4 to allow revocation of a business's tax certificate if "it appears to the tax collector that a  
5 business is being conducted or has been conducted in a manner that violates one or more  
6 application laws, regulations, and/or orders of governmental authorities (including without  
7 limitation orders of the Mono County Health Officer) . . . ." The tax collector shall provide  
8 written notice to the operator of the apparent violation, and the operator shall be provided with  
9 not less than five days in which to demonstrate the alleged violation did not occur. If the  
10 certificate holder cannot or does not provide evidence satisfactory to the tax collector, the tax  
11 collector may revoke the operator's business tax certificate for a period of one year. The code  
12 section does not define the difference between an apparent violation and an alleged violation,  
13 nor does it define or even hint at a definition of what constitutes satisfactory evidence.  
14 Nevertheless, the apparent violation relates to the manner a business is being conducted or has  
15 been conducted, and a written notice failing to provide a description of the conduct giving rise  
16 to the appearance of a violation is lacking under the requirements of the subject code section.  
17 Further, the only remedy for failing to provide satisfactory evidence is revocation of the  
18 business tax certificate. Also, MLMC section 5.04.340 fails to authorize the tax collector to  
19 issue an administrative citation or impose a fine for failing to provide satisfactory evidence  
20 within the not less than five day demonstration period.

21 90. On May 18, 2020, Defendant Boo, as the Mono County Public Health Officer,  
22 issued an order superseding the Mono County Health Officer Order of April 1, 2020,  
23 clarifying the continuation of the short-term lodging restrictions, and allowing unit  
24 maintenance and repairs by owners. The Order asserts, "7. This Order is made because of the  
25 propensity of the virus to spread person-to-person and also because the virus is **causing**  
26 **physical property loss or damage due to its proclivity to attach to surfaces for prolonged**  
27 **periods of time**" (Emphasis added).<sup>21</sup> Reports show that the language highlighted above arose

28 \_\_\_\_\_  
<sup>21</sup> <https://webapps.mono.ca.gov/COVIDDocs//Directives/Short-Term-Rental-Order-Extension-2020-05-18->

1 from efforts to support business insurance coverage based on health orders.<sup>22</sup> On March 16,  
 2 2020, a proclamation by the Mayor of City of New Orleans includes, "WHEREAS, there is  
 3 reason to believe that COVID-19 may be spread amongst the population by various means of  
 4 exposure, including the propensity to spread person to person and the propensity to attach to  
 5 surfaces for prolonged periods of time, thereby spreading from surface to person and causing  
 6 property loss and damage in certain circumstances; . . . ." <sup>23</sup> The reports quote an attorney  
 7 giving the New Orleans language to an official of the City of Key West, Florida. On March  
 8 21, 2020, the City of Key West issued a State of Local Emergency Directive, stating,  
 9 "WHEREAS, this order is given because of the propensity of the virus to spread person to  
 10 person and also because the virus is causing property damage due to its proclivity to attach to  
 11 surfaces for prolonged periods of time."<sup>24</sup> According to the reports, there is no indication of  
 12 medical or scientific review by Key West officials of the language in the New Orleans  
 13 proclamation, or in the deletion of the language, "thereby spreading from surface to person"  
 14 and "in certain circumstances," in the Key West directive. This language from the Key West  
 15 directive was copied into orders and declarations of numerous other jurisdictions. For  
 16 example, an Order by the City Manager for the City of Aventura, Florida, executed March 24,  
 17 2020, included a finding that, "(C) This Order is given because of the propensity of COVID-19  
 18 virus to spread person to person and also because the virus physically is causing property  
 19 damage due to its proclivity to attach to surfaces for prolonged periods of time."<sup>25</sup>

20 91. All Mono County public health orders issued from May 18, 2020, and  
 21 forward, include the physical property loss and damage provision of quoted above from the  
 22 order of May 18, 2020.

23  
 24  
 25 English.pdf

<sup>22</sup> <https://www.claimsjournal.com/news/national/2020/05/13/297037.htm>

<sup>23</sup> [http://nola.gov/mayor/executive-orders/emergency-declarations/03162020-mayoral-proclamation-to-promulgate-emergency-orders-during-the-state-of-emergency-due-to-co/?utm\\_campaign=City\\_of\\_New\\_Orleans&utm\\_content=&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=govdelivery&utm\\_term=](http://nola.gov/mayor/executive-orders/emergency-declarations/03162020-mayoral-proclamation-to-promulgate-emergency-orders-during-the-state-of-emergency-due-to-co/?utm_campaign=City_of_New_Orleans&utm_content=&utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery&utm_term=)

<sup>24</sup> <https://www.cityofkeywest-fl.gov/DocumentCenter/View/1660/Emergency-Directive-2020-03?bidId=>

<sup>25</sup> <https://www.cityofaventura.com/DocumentCenter/View/2600/DSE-supp-03-24-2020-home>

1           92.     On May 28th, 2020, Defendant Boo, as the Local Health Officer for Mono  
2 County and the Town of Mammoth Lakes, issued an order for the safe operation of  
3 campgrounds and RV parks at 75% of their normal capacity, or with provision of 20 feet  
4 between campsites. The order states, "4. Bathrooms must be closed to guests OR be  
5 frequently and diligently cleaned. This requires cleaning at regular intervals of between 15  
6 minutes and 1 hour in a meticulous, careful and conscientious manner, with the goal of  
7 accomplishing a thorough cleaning and disinfecting. Note that if bathrooms are closed, tent  
8 camping must be prohibited."<sup>26</sup>

9           93.     June 18, 2020, Defendant Boo, as the Local Health Officer for Mono County  
10 and the Town of Mammoth Lakes, issued an order rescinding the health order of Mach 18,  
11 2020, and allowing lodging at hotels and condo/hotels within the Town of Mammoth Lakes at  
12 75% of capacity, and lodging at short-term residential rental units with a 24-hour period  
13 vacancy between each occupancy. Lodging business were required to certify at the County's  
14 self-certification portal on its website.

15           94.     On August 11, 2020, Defendant Boo, as the Local Health Officer for Mono  
16 County and the Town of Mammoth Lakes, issued an order superseding the order of June 18,  
17 2020, with further cleaning and laundry requirements, and reducing hotel occupancy to 70%.  
18 This order only applies to lodging in the Town of Mammoth Lakes.

19           95.     On November 17, 2020, Defendant Holler, as Town Manager/Emergency  
20 Services Director of the Town of Mammoth Lakes, issued an order limiting all short-term  
21 lodging properties to a vacancy factor of thirty percent (30%).

22           96.     On November 18, 2020, Defendant Boo, as the Local Health Officer for Mono  
23 County and the Town of Mammoth Lakes, rescinded the public health order of August 11,  
24 2020.

25           97.     On December 5, 2020, Defendant Boo, as the Local Health Officer for Mono  
26 County and the Town of Mammoth Lakes, issued an order directing that lodging facilities may  
27

28 <sup>26</sup> [https://webapps.mono.ca.gov/COVIDDocs//Directives/Order-Private%20Campgrounds%20and%20RV%20Park%20Guidance\\_2020-05-29.pdf](https://webapps.mono.ca.gov/COVIDDocs//Directives/Order-Private%20Campgrounds%20and%20RV%20Park%20Guidance_2020-05-29.pdf)



1 remain open for purposes such as to provide shelter to the homeless population; to persons  
2 who have been displaced due to living with someone who is isolated or quarantined due to  
3 COVID- 19; persons who need to isolate or quarantine themselves due to COVID- 19;  
4 essential workers performing functions to maintain critical infrastructure, or persons displaced  
5 due to fire. Renting or leasing for other purposes was prohibited.

6 98. By at least December 2020, the Finance Department of the Town of Mammoth  
7 Lakes issued a two page TRANSIENT RENTAL RESTRICTION EXEMPTION CLAIM  
8 FORM. For rentals less than 31 days, the "operator must include the advanced written  
9 approval of rental along with this exemption form for consideration." The form also instructs,  
10 "it is strongly recommended that you secure advanced written approval by the Town Finance  
11 Department. Submission of this exemption form and documentation does not guarantee  
12 approval. The exemption claim from the Transient Rental Restriction shall not be approved  
13 unless this form is completed and the person requesting the exemption presents required  
14 documentation. A copy of the documentation from the person requesting the exemption shall  
15 be attached to each exemption claim." The form is confusing in that one part states "operator  
16 must include the advanced written approval of rental," whereas another part states, "it is  
17 strongly recommended that you secure advanced written approval by the Town Finance  
18 Department." The form does not instruct why a claim with the required documentation would  
19 not be approved by the Finance Department. At the bottom of the form is a statement (bold  
20 underlined all-caps font) that the claim form should be submitted to the town with the monthly  
21 transient occupancy tax (TOT) return submitted by the 20th of each month.

22 99. The statement that the claim form "should" be submitted to the town is clearly  
23 only a recommendation and not a mandatory prohibition. Thus, the statement at the bottom of  
24 the claim form does not require the claim form to be submitted with the TOT return.

25 100. In a joint meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Mono County and the Town  
26 Council of Mammoth Lakes on December 23, 2020, numerous speakers and elected officials  
27 asserted that visitors to the Mammoth Mountain Ski Resort were defying the State's Stay-at-  
28

1 Home Orders by lodging in Bishop and then coming during the day to ski at the Resort, which  
2 remains open during the shutdown.

3 101. On January 7, 2021, Defendant Sauser and Defendant Kreitz forwarded a joint  
4 letter to Defendant Newsom "pleading for" his "support to shift Mono County out of the  
5 enormous Southern California Region." The letter further emphasizes,

6 Throughout the pandemic, Mammoth Hospital, the only hospital in Mono  
7 County, has been able to operate within its capacity, and has yet to experience  
8 any surge in COVID-19 patients. The hospital has developed surge plans and  
9 is ready to support and manage any increase in patients. We have seen a very  
10 small number of people hospitalized throughout the pandemic. Mammoth  
11 Hospital continues to operate in the 'Green' status, meaning they can provide  
12 usual or conventional level of care, and our primary support diversion  
13 hospitals are in Northern Nevada (i.e., Renown Hospital in Reno and Carson  
14 Tahoe Hospital in Carson City), not Southern California . . . . We are now  
15 facing the fact that our business community is suffering unparalleled  
16 economic devastation because of the Regional Stay-at-Home Order that went  
17 into effect December 6, 2020. Our residents' financial survival is dependent  
18 upon a tourism-based economy, for which the winter holiday period is critical.  
19 The financial loss over last winter and this winter holiday season has multiple  
20 businesses on the brink of permanently closing or bankruptcy. Business  
21 closures, job losses and reduced payrolls have impacted owner and thousands  
22 of employees. The status of the Regional Stay-at-Home Order will continue  
23 to devastate local businesses, resulting in higher levels of unemployment and  
24 lost revenues to support local government."

16 The most compassionate approach that balances the risks and benefits of  
17 reaching herd immunity, is to allow those who are at minimal risk of death to  
18 lead their lives normally to build up immunity to the virus through natural  
19 infection, while better protecting those who are at highest risk. We call this  
20 Focused Protection.

19 Adopting measures to protect the vulnerable should be the central aim of  
20 health responses to COVID-19. By way of example, nursing homes should  
21 use staff with acquired immunity and perform PCR testing of other staff and  
22 all visitors. Staff rotation should be minimized. Retired people living at home  
23 should have groceries and other essentials delivered to their home. When  
24 possible, they should meet family members outside rather than inside. A  
25 comprehensive list of measures, including approaches to multigenerational  
26 households, can be implemented, and is well within the scope and capability  
27 of public health professionals.

25 102. The letter goes on to address the conflicting guidance provided by Defendant  
26 Newsom and the State regarding outdoor recreation:

27 We are experiencing the COVID-driven impacts of tourism and visitation  
28 without having the ability to manage and support our visitor's safety. Upon  
releasing the Regional Stay-at-Home Order, you noted that outdoor recreation  
would remain open to support the mental health of the state's residents. While

1 we support this decision, the availability of outdoor recreation, and our  
2 position as a popular escape from urban areas, has put our County and Town  
3 in a difficult position. Mammoth Resorts' ski areas are permitted to continue  
4 operating under strict safety guidelines, and there are many second homes and  
5 vacation properties that draw people to our area. Enforcement of the Regional  
6 Stay-at-Home Order at the local level is quickly outstripping our finite  
7 capacity, despite efforts to discourage visitation. We work closely with public  
8 health officials at the local and state level, enjoy a productive relationship  
9 with Mammoth Resorts' leadership team, meet weekly with local businesses  
10 owners, and host regular virtual community meetings. Our community is well  
11 informed. Our businesses are committed to operate, as they have done since  
12 the start of the pandemic, with the safety of employees, residents, and our  
13 visitors as their utmost concern. However, closed businesses cannot support  
14 enforcement efforts. The State's inability to provide meaningful enforcement  
15 under the existing Regional Stay-at-Home Order to limit travel is creating  
16 growing conflict among our local businesses, local government leaders, and  
17 public health officials. We are experiencing increasing levels of illegal short-  
18 term rental activity to the detriment of establishments striving to comply with  
19 the Regional Stay-at-Home Order. This illegal activity reduces any ability to  
20 enforce safety protocols and cleaning standards.

21 The most compassionate approach that balances the risks and benefits of  
22 reaching herd immunity, is to allow those who are at minimal risk of death to  
23 lead their lives normally to build up immunity to the virus through natural  
24 infection, while better protecting those who are at highest risk. We call this  
25 Focused Protection.

26 Adopting measures to protect the vulnerable should be the central aim of  
27 health responses to COVID-19. By way of example, nursing homes should  
28 use staff with acquired immunity and perform PCR testing of other staff and  
all visitors. Staff rotation should be minimized. Retired people living at home  
should have groceries and other essentials delivered to their home. When  
possible, they should meet family members outside rather than inside. A  
comprehensive list of measures, including approaches to multigenerational  
households, can be implemented, and is well within the scope and capability  
of public health professionals.

103. On January 8, 2021, Defendant Rob Patterson as Tax Collector/Finance  
Director of Finance Department of the Town of Mammoth Lakes, sent an email to the  
"Lodging Community" reiterating the restriction on lodging in the Town under the various  
health orders, and informing of capacity limits of 30% of capacity for hotels and similar  
properties, and limits of 10 rental days per unit per month for operators with less than 10  
privately owned properties. Attached to the email was a 1 page updated TRANSIENT  
RENTAL RESTRICTION EXEMPTION CLAIM FORM. The form describes the new  
capacity restrictions, but did not include the documentation requirements nor the advanced  
written approval language.

1           104. On January 9, 2021, Defendant Dr. Boo, as the Local Health Officer for Mono  
2 County and the Town of Mammoth Lakes, issued a clarifying order in light of the DCPH's  
3 January 6, 2021 Travel Advisory, with a new section on quarantining out of state residents.  
4 This order is referenced in the January 8 email from Defendant Rob Patterson, and is identified  
5 in the email with a date of January 7, 2021.

6           105. On January 11, 2021, the City Council of the City of Bishop approved the  
7 sending of a joint letter with the County of Inyo to AIRBNB at the request of Mono County  
8 and the Mammoth Lake Town Council discouraging bookings for lodging in Bishop and Inyo  
9 County.<sup>27</sup>

10           106. On January 20, 2021, Attorneys for the Plaintiffs sent a letter to Defendant  
11 Holler and Town Attorney Andrew Morris, on behalf of the Mammoth Lakes Business  
12 Coalition and the California Constitutional Rights Foundation, providing notice requesting the  
13 Town to stop its extreme enforcement actions violating the businesses' constitutional rights.  
14 The letter informs that the Attorneys had "reviewed several Administrative Citations, issued by  
15 Revenue Specialists in the Town's Finance Department, imposing \$1000 fines, and threatening  
16 further fines of \$1000 per day and revocation of business licenses/certificates. The citations  
17 we reviewed failed to provide adequate notice of the violations and/or failed to assert anything  
18 more than mere suspicions." The letter summarizes the rights violated and concludes with a  
19 demand that the unlawful citations and violations "be rescinded immediately and that fines  
20 imposed pursuant to these citations be discharged at the same time. Failure to do so will bring  
21 legal action."

22           107. On January 25, 2021, on the Town's website under Coronavirus Update, the  
23 posted a news flash stating the "Mono County Public Health Officer Order related to Lodging  
24 Facilities issued on December 5, 2020 and revised on January 9, 2021 is no longer in effect,  
25 but a new order is forthcoming." The news flash state stated Mono County will re-enter the  
26 Tier 1 Widespread (Purple) of the Blueprint for a Safer Economy, with capacity limits of 60%  
27 of capacity for hotels and similar properties, and limits of 18 rental days per unit per month for  
28

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<sup>27</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AW9p7l9oTSg> (at 1:44:20)

1 operators with less than 10 privately owned properties.<sup>28</sup> Short-term lodging facilities are  
2 required to maintain a 24-hour vacancy period between each occupancy. The news flash  
3 quotes Defendant Boo as follows, "in addition to the State's Purple Tier restrictions, as a local  
4 jurisdiction we feel it is incumbent upon us to strive to limit the number of visitors to Mono  
5 County and Mammoth Lakes during this precarious time by imposing tier-based lodging  
6 restrictions and some limits on visitation to our local ski resorts."

7 108. On January 25, 2021, on the Mono County Health Department issued a Press  
8 Release, under the name of Defendant Boo and Stuart Brown of the Unified Command  
9 Emergency Operations Center. The press release had a similar wording as the Town's news  
10 flash, and imposed similar limits on hotels and lodging.<sup>29</sup> The Press Release has the same  
11 quote of Defendant Boo of limiting visitors to Mono County and Mammoth Lakes by  
12 imposing lodging restrictions and limits on visitation to local ski resorts.

13 109. On January 27, 2021, Defendant Rob Patterson as Tax Collector/Finance  
14 Director, sent an email to the "Lodging Community" informing of the end of the Regional  
15 Stay-at Home Order and informing of updated processes effective February 1, 2021. In the  
16 updated processes, visitation and reservations are no longer restricted to essential workers,  
17 stating exemption form are not necessary for reservation starting January 25, 2021, but are  
18 required to be submitted with the TOT tax return due February 22, 2021 for lodging  
19 transactions prior to January 25, 2021. The Town limitation on occupancy for was updated to  
20 70% of capacity for hotels and similar properties, and limits of 21 rental days per unit per  
21 month for operators with less than 10 privately owned properties. Further, in order to reduce  
22 weekend visitation, the 21 rental days per month can only cover 3 weekends per month. One  
23 weekend per month must remain vacant (Friday and Saturday night). This restriction does not  
24

25  
26 <sup>28</sup> [www.townofmammothlakes.ca.gov/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=721](http://www.townofmammothlakes.ca.gov/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=721)

27 <sup>29</sup> [https://webapps.mono.ca.gov/COVIDDocs//PressReleases/PR\\_REGIONAL%20STAY-AT-HOME%20ORDER%20LIFTED%20FOR%20SOUTHERN%20CALIFORNIA%20REGION%20-%20MONO%20COUNTY%20REASSIGNED%20TO%20PURPLE%20TIER\\_1-25-2021.pdf](https://webapps.mono.ca.gov/COVIDDocs//PressReleases/PR_REGIONAL%20STAY-AT-HOME%20ORDER%20LIFTED%20FOR%20SOUTHERN%20CALIFORNIA%20REGION%20-%20MONO%20COUNTY%20REASSIGNED%20TO%20PURPLE%20TIER_1-25-2021.pdf)  
28

1 include stays by the owner. All lodging facilities are required to maintain a 24-hour vacancy  
2 period between each occupancy, including owner stays.

3 110. The Municipal Code of the Town of Mammoth Lakes allows a "a onetime late  
4 payment charge in the amount of twenty-five dollars, plus interest at the maximum rate  
5 permitted by law." See, MLMC section 8.32.100. The Municipal Code also provides, "[t]he  
6 failure of any person to pay the civil fines assessed by an administrative citation within the  
7 time specified on the citation may result in the matter being referred to the town attorney to  
8 file a claim with the applicable court. Alternatively, the town may pursue any other legal  
9 remedy to collect the civil fines, including, but not limited to, a lien pursuant to Section  
10 8.20.120 or special assessment pursuant to Section 8.20.130." Id. The Municipal Code does  
11 not provide for fines or late payments charges of \$1,000 per day for late payment of a civil fine  
12 assessed by an administrative citation.

13  
14 **LOCAL HEALTH ORDERS AND RESTRICTIONS IN RESPONSE TO**  
15 **CORNAVIRUS**

16 111. Plaintiffs have, in addition, been subjected to Orders and enforcement  
17 measures implemented under color of state law by Mono County, California and the Town of  
18 Mammoth, California.

19 112. On January 21, 2021, at about 2 pm, Defendant Getchell emailed a Town of  
20 Mammoth Lakes Administrative Citation, Original Citation Number 033-162-104-00-1, to  
21 Cindy Abshire who resides in San Clemente, California. Under the Code Violation(s) column,  
22 the first listed code violation is "Mono county Public Health Officer Order," and under the  
23 corresponding Description(s) of the Violations column is "Clarification of CDPH 'Regional  
24 Stay-at-Home' Order as Related to Lodging Facilities. The second listed code violation is  
25 "URGENCY ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN COUNCIL," and the corresponding description  
26 of the violation is "ORDINANCE NO. 20-05." The third listed code violation is "MLMC  
27 8.32," and the corresponding description of the violation is "Civil Penalties & Authority." The  
28 box is checked for a 1st violation fine of \$1,000. Boxes are checked for "VIOLATIONS

1 SHALL BE REMEDIED OR OTHERWISE CORRECTED:" and "Immediately." The citation  
2 has a box with the apparently pre-formatted text, "To correct violation(s) and avoid further  
3 citations during the COVID19 pandemic you must:" followed by "PAY THE FINE LISTED  
4 ABOVE TO THE TOWN OF MAMMOTH LAKES BY JANUARY 26, 2021. THE  
5 PROPERTY OWNER OR TRANSIENT RENTAL OPERATOR IS SUBJECT TO A  
6 SEPARATE \$1,000 FINE EACH AND EVERYDAY OF CONTINUED VIOLATION." The  
7 next box has the language, "THIS ADMINISTRATIVE CITATION CONSTITUTES AN  
8 ORDER PROHIBITING THE CONTINUATION OR REPEATED OCCURENCE OF THE  
9 VIOLATION(S) DESCRIBED HEREIN. [X] NOTICE OF NON-CORRECTION of violation.  
10 If this box is checked, you have failed to correct or otherwise remedy the violation within the  
11 correction period and you are ordered to pay the fine." The citation further states, "Notice of  
12 Violation by: [X] Certified Mail."

13 113. The citation has no description of the date of the violation, or the conditions or  
14 actions constituting a violation in the description of the violations. The correction of the  
15 violation apparently consists of paying the fine by January 26, 2021, and a separate \$1,000  
16 fine for each and everyday of continued violation. The continued violation appears to be non-  
17 payment of the fine by January 26, 2021. Further, the citation asserts it is notice of non-  
18 correction of the violation without any previous notice of a violation or opportunity to correct.  
19 Additionally, the citation was not received by certified mail.

20 114. On January 21, 2021, at about 2:30 pm, plaintiff Cindy Abshire received a  
21 telephone call from Defendant Getchell about the citation while driving. Plaintiff Timothy  
22 Abshire, her husband, was a passenger in the vehicle. Plaintiff Cindy Abshire was confused  
23 by the call having no knowledge of the citation, and asked her husband to respond since she  
24 was driving. Plaintiff Timothy Abshire located the citation email on her phone and asked  
25 Defendant Getchell for the amount of the fine and the reason for it. Defendant Getchell stated  
26 she saw reviews on Airbnb and demanded their Airbnb records from the date of December 7,  
27 2020, to the current date. Defendant Getchell stated it looked like there were five infractions,  
28 and each infraction would be \$1,000, but could not tell the amount because she had not

1 reviewed the financial records.

2 115. Plaintiff Timothy Abshire responded that they had paid their license fees and  
3 taxes (TOT) for the month and were not then notified that they were in violation. Defendant  
4 Getchell responded that did not matter and it was their job to stay up to date on the laws and  
5 regulations. Plaintiff Timothy Abshire ended the conversation with Defendant Getchell telling  
6 her he needed to speak with Plaintiff Cindy Abshire, and call her back.

7 116. About 30 minutes later, the Abshires changed driver and passenger positions.  
8 Plaintiff Cindy Abshire called Defendant Getchell asking what she needed from them.  
9 Defendant Getchell responded she needed their financial records from Airbnb by January 26,  
10 2021. Plaintiff Cindy Abshire explained they were on their way to their property in Mammoth  
11 Lakes. Defendant Getchell told her that if their main residence is more than 120 miles away  
12 from their property in Mammoth Lakes, then their trip was a violation and could be an  
13 infraction. Plaintiff Cindy Abshire responded this was a misunderstanding and would provide  
14 her financials as soon as possible, and explained she had been out of work for over nine month  
15 and the fines could be a tipping point causing them to lose the property and other long-lasting  
16 financial effects. Defendant Getchell response was, "Well ma'am, we are in the middle of a  
17 pandemic and this is the law." She further stated that it no concern of hers if they lost their  
18 property.

19 117. After January 26, 2021, Defendant Getchell informed Plaintiff Cindy Abshire  
20 of additional fines of at least \$1,000, for late payment of the original fine(s).

21 118. On December 21, 2020, Plaintiff Defendant Duncan issued an Administrative  
22 Citation for \$1,000 (alleging a 3rd Violation) to Plaintiffs Alan and Monica Butt, who reside in  
23 Glencoe, California, for violating the Mono County Public Health Order by the designation  
24 Clarification of CDPH "Regional Stay-at-Home" Order as Related to Lodging Facilities dated  
25 December 5, 2020. The Defendants have not received a previous violation. The form  
26 indicates a fine of \$100 for a first violation.

27 119. The citation has the following Original Citation Number 8464 12.21.20. Under  
28 the Code Violation(s) column, the first listed code violation is "Mono county Public Health



1 Officer Order," and under the corresponding Description(s) of the Violations column is  
2 "Clarification of CDPH 'Regional Stay-at-Home' Order as Related to Lodging Facilities (dated  
3 December 5, 2020 attached to this citation for reference)." The second listed code violation is  
4 "MLMC 8.32," and the corresponding description of the violation is "Civil Penalties &  
5 Authority." Boxes are checked for "VIOLATIONS SHALL BE REMEDIED OR  
6 OTHERWISE CORRECTED:" and "Immediately." The citation has a box with the text, "To  
7 correct violation(s) and avoid further citations during the COVID19 pandemic you must:  
8 Cease all transient rental advertising and cancel all reservations through the CDPH Regional  
9 Stay at Home Order and for any past or future exemption claims email all exemption  
10 documentation to the finance department: document@townofmammothlakes.ca.gov for review  
11 prior to approval or denial."

12 120. The citation is accompanied by a letter reciting reports of their son working on  
13 the property, and complaints of "loud parties, and occupants staying there who are not  
14 members of the immediate household." The letter further states that a stay-at-home order  
15 states, "you should not travel more than 3 hours from your primary residence. Gencoe [sic] is  
16 located outside of a three hour drive." The letter further states, "If you continue to disobey the  
17 order, we will pull your Business Tax Certificate for 1 year. You would not be able to rent  
18 your units for 1 year once the ban is lifted."

19 121. The letter provides no hint on how the person lodging the complaint determined  
20 the "members of the immediate household." Further, a search of the Stay-at-Home Order can  
21 find no language to the effect that travel more than 3 hours from one's primary residence is not  
22 recommended. The line-of-sight distance between Glencoe, California and Mammoth Lakes is  
23 102 miles.

24 122. During January 2021, several property owners under contract with Plaintiff  
25 Nomadness received citations from Revenue Specialists in the Finance Department of the  
26 Town of Mammoth Lakes. At least one administrative citation was issued after January 25,  
27 2021, when the Regional Stay-at-Home Order was lifted, the news flash on the Town's website  
28 was posted, and the Press Release was issued by the Mono County Health Department. This

1 citation failed to identify a date of an apparent violation and failed to provide a description of  
2 the apparent violation. A notice letter accompanying this citation similarly failed to provide  
3 such details of the apparent violation. The issuance of a citation with the notice letter violates  
4 the 5 days period of MLMC section 5.04.340 for providing sufficient evidence of no violation.  
5 This citation further states, "**THE PROPERTY OWNER OR TRANSIENT RENTAL**  
6 **OPERATOR IS SUBJECT TO A SEPARATE \$1,000 FINE EACH AND EVERYDAY**  
7 **OF CONTINUED VIOLATION"** even though the Regional Stay-at-Home Order had been  
8 lifted and the Mono County Public Health Officer Order, issued on December 5, 2020 and  
9 revised on January 9, 2021, was no longer in effect. Another property owner, in response to  
10 receiving a administrative citation, immediately paid the \$1,000 fines to avoid further daily  
11 fines of \$1,000. Immediately, and well in advance of the 20th of the month deadline of  
12 MLMC section .3.12.080, Nomadness and the property owner provided evidence to the  
13 Town's Revenue Specialist that should be sufficient to show no violation. The evidence  
14 included a completed Transient Rental Restriction Exemption Claim Form. On information  
15 and belief, the property owner has not yet received repayment of the improperly imposed  
16 \$1,000 fine.

17 123. On December 9, 2020, a member of the Plaintiff Coalition received an email  
18 from the Town of Mammoth Lakes informing her of the Town's restrictions on short-term  
19 lodging rentals until December 28, 2020, and that violations would result in \$1,000 fines  
20 and/or loss of the violator's business tax license. The member has not received and citation  
21 and desires to not be identified to avoid attention. The member had lodging guests check-in to  
22 the subject property on December 5, 2020, before Defendant Newsom's Stay-at-Home Order  
23 took effect. The member called the State of California's coronavirus hotline and asked the  
24 representative if the checked-in guests were able to stay. The hotline representative stated that  
25 since the guests had checked-in before the Order went into effect and were also staying for 14  
26 days, which is the quarantine period, they would be allowed to continue their stay. The  
27 member called the telephone number listed in the email from the Town of Mammoth Lakes to  
28 confirm this position that the guest could stay, and left a voicemail for Defendant Patterson.

1 After no response, the member called the telephone number two more times, and on the second  
2 attempt was able to speak with Defendant Patterson. Defendant Patterson responded that the  
3 "stragglers" had been given enough time and needed to be out. The member told Defendant  
4 Patterson that there was no way to enforce that eviction since the member doesn't live there.  
5 Defendant Patterson said to call the guests and let them know that if they don't leave, the Town  
6 can have someone go out and knock on the door to let them know to vacate. The member said  
7 that that seemed a bit extreme, and said they would contact the guests. The member messaged  
8 the guests (as well as involved Airbnb), and the guests responded that since they had checked  
9 in prior to the Order's effective date, and because they were staying for 2 weeks (the  
10 quarantine period), they were exempt. The member did not push the issue any further, and the  
11 guests finished out their stay. The member calculates that, as of January 21, 2021, \$8,725 in  
12 reservations have been canceled in 2020 and 2021 due to enforcement of the Orders and/or  
13 regulations prohibiting lodging for the prospective guests who had reserved the member's  
14 property.

15  
16 **MONO COUNTY AND THE TOWN OF MAMMOTH LAKES HAVE EXPERIENCED**  
17 **RELATIVELY LITTLE IMPACT FROM COVID-19**

18 124. During the ten-month period since Defendant Newsom proclaimed a State of  
19 Emergency, Mono County has experienced relatively little impact from COVID-19.

20 125. Mono County, with a population of approximately 14,000, has on information  
21 and belief, experienced a total of about 875 cases of COVID-19. (The Town of Mammoth  
22 Lakes has a population of approximately 8,000.) In addition, on several occasions the Hospital  
23 and the Town have indicated that the status of Mammoth Hospital is Green, which means the  
24 hospital is able to care for any patients requiring admission.

25 126. Of the total number of COVID-19 cases in Mono County, there have been 4  
26 deaths attributed to the virus since the State of Emergency was proclaimed. On information  
27 and belief, as of January 6, 2021, the ICU capacity of Mammoth Hospital is ten, and there  
28 were no occupied ICU beds with persons infected with COVID-19 or otherwise.

1 127. During the period May 20 through December 6, 2020, plaintiffs rentals,  
2 Coalition members and other lodging in Mono County were at least partially reopened for  
3 lodging. On information and belief, there is no evidence that this resulted in an increase in  
4 COVID-19 cases in Mono County or elsewhere.

5 128. As of the date of the filing of the Complaint in this matter, defendants have  
6 provided no evidence linking the operation of lodging with the transmission of COVID-19 in  
7 Mono County.

8 129. On information and belief, as of the filing of the Complaint, there is no  
9 evidence that a case of COVID-19 can be traced to businesses in the Town of Mammoth  
10 Lakes.

11  
12 **EFFORTS TO CONTAIN COVID-19 BY THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA, MONO**  
13 **COUNTY, AND THE TOWN OF MAMMOTH LAKES, HAVE REPEATEDLY**  
14 **FAILED AND THE CONTINUATION IS IRRATIONAL AND DEVASTATING**

15 130. During the ten-month period since Defendant Newsom proclaimed a State of  
16 Emergency, Los Angeles County and the surrounding urban area has experience an  
17 unprecedented surge in COVID-19 cases. By deeming a large segment of the community as  
18 "essential," the State as created a constant transmission vector for the virus.

19 131. With the advent of the cold and flu season in the State of California, the pools  
20 of infected persons maintained by the persons deemed as essential by the State was  
21 significantly widespread to allow regional ignition of a surge of infections of previously  
22 uninfected person that typically accompanies the season.

23 132. The cold and flu season corresponds with the ski season. After 9 months of  
24 failed measures, the State implemented a Regional Stay-at-Home order that had, during the 1  
25 1/2 month of its imposition, little discernable effect on the spread of the infections beyond the  
26 typical curve of viral infections attributable to the cold and flu season. However, the Regional  
27 Stay-at-Home order was devastating to the financial conditions of the businesses operating in  
28 the Town of Mammoth Lakes.



1                   **(42 U.S.C. § 1983-Fourteenth Amendment Substantive Due Process)**

2           139. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference as if fully restated here the foregoing  
3 allegations.

4           140. The Due Process Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment includes a substantive  
5 component that bars arbitrary wrongful, state action regardless of the fairness of the  
6 procedures employed. *Zinermon v. Bosch*, 494 U.S. 113, 125 (1990).

7           141. The right of citizens to support themselves by engaging in a chosen lawful  
8 occupation or business is deeply rooted in our nation’s legal and cultural history and has long  
9 been recognized as a component of the liberty and property interests protected by the  
10 Fourteenth Amendment. *Truax v. Raich*, 239 U.S. 33, 41 (1915); *Piecknick v. Comm of Pa.*, 36  
11 F.3d 1250, 1259 (3d Cir. 1994) (citing *Green v. McElroy*, 360 U.S. 474, 492 (1959); *Truax*,  
12 239 U.S. at 41); *Medina v. Rudman*, 545 F.2d 244, 250 (1<sup>st</sup> Cir. 1976). *See also Meyer v.*  
13 *Nebraska*, 262 U.S. 390, 399 (1923).

14           142. The Fourteenth Amendment also prohibits government action that arbitrarily  
15 infringes the fundamental liberty interest of citizens to travel, be out and about in public,  
16 associate, and simply be left alone while otherwise acting in a lawful manner. *City of Chicago*  
17 *v. Morales*, 527 U.S. 41, 53-54 (1999); *Aptheker v. Secretary of State*, 378 U.S. 500, 520  
18 (1964); *Kent v. Dulles*, 357 U.S. 116, 126 (1958) (right to travel includes interstate and  
19 intrastate travel) ; *Lutz v. City of York*, 899 F.2d 255, 268 (3d Cir. 1990); *See also*  
20 *Papachristou v. City of Jacksonville*, 405 U.S. 156 (1972).

21           143. The substantive due process component of the Fourteenth Amendment forbids  
22 the government from infringing upon fundamental liberty interests regardless of the process  
23 provided unless the infringement survives review under strict scrutiny. *See, e.g. Memorial*  
24 *Hospital v. Maricopa County*, 415 U.S. 250, 257-258 (1974); *Dunn v. Blumstein*, 405 U.S.  
25 330, 339-341 (1972); *Shapiro v. Thompson*, 394 U.S. 618, 638 (1969), *Maher v. Roe*, 432 U.S.  
26 464, 488 (1977).

1 144. The Orders and restrictions at issue in this matter cannot be sustained even  
2 under the less-exacting standard that the state action in question must be narrowly tailored to  
3 serve a compelling state interest. *Reno v. Flores*, 507 U.S. 292, 301-302 (1993).

4 145. The United States Supreme Court has declared that "even in a pandemic, the  
5 Constitution cannot be put away and forgotten." See, *Roman Catholic Diocese of Brooklyn v.*  
6 *Cuomo*, 592 U.S. \_\_\_\_ , 14 S.Ct. 63, 68 (2020)(per curiam). States and local jurisdictions  
7 have interpreted the 115 year old decision in *Jacobson v. Massachusetts*, 197 U. S. 11 (1905),  
8 and its progeny, as a license to violate constitutional rights of individuals and businesses under  
9 a state's police powers. The *Jacobson* decision involved the mandatory vaccination of an  
10 individual against the smallpox disease.

11 146. The smallpox disease has been described as "the most dreadful scourge of the  
12 human species."<sup>30</sup> See, [www.cdc.gov/smallpox/history/history.html](http://www.cdc.gov/smallpox/history/history.html) The smallpox disease  
13 killed 3 out of every 10 people infected with the disease. Many smallpox survivors were left  
14 with permanent scars over large areas of their body, especially their faces. Some were left  
15 blind. We vigorously assert that the current COVID-19 pandemic is not even remotely  
16 comparable to the scourge of the smallpox disease, and the *Jacobson* decision does not shield  
17 the Town from liability.

18 147. The imposition of partial lockdowns requiring vast segments of the population  
19 to remain at home regardless of their status as a carriers of disease is on its face arbitrary and is  
20 not narrowly tailored to serve a compelling public interest. Remarkably, despite multiple  
21 changes in the Orders, the State Public Health Officer's stay-at-home order of March 19, 2020  
22 remains in effect as of the filing of this Complaint. Such broad-ranging and sweeping  
23 measures have never been previously employed to prevent the spread of disease. Mitigation  
24 efforts in response to the Spanish Flu pandemic—the most deadly pandemic in American  
25 history—did not come close to imposing restrictions comparable to the partial lockdown order  
26 and business closures and restrictions imposed and enforced by defendants. Although this  
27 nation has been faced with many epidemics and pandemics, governments have never

28 \_\_\_\_\_  
<sup>30</sup> [www.cdc.gov/smallpox/history/history.html](http://www.cdc.gov/smallpox/history/history.html)

1 responded with lockdowns of entire populations and shutdowns of significant sectors of the  
2 economy for extended and indefinite periods.

3 148. Neither general lockdown of non-essential enterprise lockdown measures,  
4 wide-ranging business closures, nor prohibitions on public gatherings can be justified as  
5 quarantines. Quarantine orders may be permitted as to infected individuals, but not the public  
6 at large. *Robinson v. State of California*, 370 U.S. 660, 666 (1962). “Before exercising their  
7 full powers to quarantine, state official must show that ‘reasonable ground exists to support the  
8 belief’ that the person so held is infected. *In re Martin*, 83 Cal.App.2d 164, 167 (1948)  
9 (citation and internal quotes omitted). Public health officials must be able to show “probable  
10 cause to believe the person so held has an infectious disease . . . .” *Id.* California courts have  
11 found that “a mere suspicion [of a contagious disease], unsupported by facts giving rise to  
12 reasonable or probable cause, will afford no justification at all for depriving persons of their  
13 liberty and subjecting them to virtual imprisonment under a purported order of quarantine.” *Ex*  
14 *parte Arata*, 52 Cal. App. 380, 383 (1921). The selective lockdown and business closure and  
15 public gathering provisions of the Orders at issue apply broadly to persons, businesses, and  
16 lawful gatherings without any specific showing of infection or of the probability of  
17 transmission.

18 149. Evidence and analysis available since at least May 2020 further establish that  
19 the state actions at issue in this matter—widespread population lockdowns, widespread  
20 business closures and restrictions, and pervasive restrictions on the right of the people to  
21 travel, associate, and assemble to pursue lawful spiritual, political, economic, and social  
22 ends—cannot be justified as rationally necessary to protect public health.

23 150. At a press conference on March 19, 2020, Defendant Newsom repeatedly said  
24 the rationale for the March 19, 2020, Order was to “bend the curve” to slow down  
25 transmission of COVID-19 enough to reduce the strain of an expected, large influx of COVID-  
26 19 cases was anticipated to produce.<sup>31</sup> Defendant Newsom predicted a 20 percent

27 <sup>31</sup> March 19, 2020 press briefing available as of October 8, 2020 at:  
28 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8OeyeK8-S5o>. (See also 3/19/20 EO-N-33-20 and Order  
of the State Public Health Officer.)



1 hospitalization rate and 56 percent infection rate in California. Had these predictions proven  
2 accurate, California would have experienced 25.5 million infections, over 5 million total  
3 hospitalizations, nearly 100,000 simultaneous hospitalizations, and a shortfall of 9,336 hospital  
4 beds.<sup>32</sup>

5 151. While the March 19, 2020 Order was arguably reasonable as a short term  
6 measure taken with limited information, epidemiological evidence has long since  
7 demonstrated that there is no rational basis for believing that the sweeping restrictions still in  
8 place are necessary to achieve the goal of bending the curve or combating COVID-19.

9 152. Current hospitalizations, and ICU usage attributable to COVID-19 demonstrate  
10 that the bending of the curve in the Spring of 2020 was minor and did not curtail vast increase  
11 of infections occurring contemporaneously with typical increases in seasonal cold and flu  
12 infections.

13 153. Without minimizing the impact of these cases on the infected individuals, their  
14 families and the community, these numbers are not even in the general vicinity of the  
15 predictions that Defendant Newsom relied upon in issuing the March 19, 2020 Order.

16 154. The factual predicates for the March 19, 2020 Order have proven inaccurate by  
17 orders of magnitude. California did not use the hospital ship provided by the United States  
18 Navy in response to Defendant Newsom's March 4, 2020 letter to President Trump. There has  
19 been no shortfall of hospital beds, ICU units, or ventilators. No COVID-19 patient in  
20 California has been denied needed medical attention because the health care system was  
21 overtaxed.

22 155. As early as April 16, 2020, Defendant Newsom himself stated that the goal of  
23 bending and arguably flattening the curve had been achieved.<sup>33</sup>

24 156. The grossly exaggerated predictions relied on by Defendant Newsom in issuing  
25 the Orders and restrictions at issue appear to have been based on extremely high effective rates

26 \_\_\_\_\_  
27 <sup>32</sup> *Id.*

28 <sup>33</sup> <https://www.rev.com/blog/transcripts/gov-gavin-newsom-california-covid-19-briefing-transcript-april-16>

1 of transmission reported in Wuhan, China, when the virus first emerged. When the effective  
2 rate of transmission falls below a value of 1, an infectious agent is considered not to be  
3 spreading.

4 157. In addition, a number of studies of antibody tests conducted as early as April  
5 2020 have concluded that the virus has spread through the population far more widely than is  
6 indicated by positive test results. While none of these studies is conclusive, they have been  
7 consistent in concluding that the virus has spread through the population at rates from ten to  
8 fifty times greater than the incidence of infection derived from positive test results. Higher  
9 overall rates of transmission means that negative outcomes from COVID-19 -hospitalizations,  
10 ICU use and deaths- are far less frequent as a percentage of total infections than indicated by  
11 calculating the rate of these outcomes as a percentage of positive test results.

12 158. Effective lowering of the transmission and lethality of the virus can be achieved  
13 by less restrictive means that are narrowly tailored to the risks presented by COVID-19. Eight  
14 in ten deaths from COVID-19 occurred to those age 65 or older, and of those deaths, more  
15 than 50% were 85 or older.<sup>34</sup> Those suffering from preexisting conditions such as diabetes,  
16 hypertension, and heart disease also face grossly disproportionate risks from COVID-19.  
17 Measures to protect vulnerable populations combined with appropriate hygiene measures are  
18 sufficient to combat the spread and negative outcomes of COVID-19. This is demonstrated by  
19 the COVID-19 outcomes achieved in Taiwan and Sweden without implementing sweeping  
20 lockdown measures and business closures and restrictions.

21 159. The Orders and wide-ranging restrictions at issue, imposed for extended and  
22 indefinite periods, are not only not narrowly tailored to serve the purpose of promoting public  
23 health, they are also deleterious to public health and therefore arbitrary and irrational. A  
24 rational response to COVID-19 pandemic must necessarily weigh the expected positive health  
25 outcomes of the measures proposed in response to the pandemic against the negative health  
26 outcomes associated with such measures. There is no indication that defendants have

27  
28 <sup>34</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/older-adults.html>.  
Retrieved October 12, 2020

1 undertaken this analysis. Given the undisputed negative health outcomes associated with the  
2 Orders and restrictions at issue, the failure of defendants to weigh the expected positive health  
3 outcomes of the Orders and restrictions at issue against the negative health outcomes of those  
4 Orders and restrictions renders the Orders and restrictions at issue arbitrary and irrational in  
5 violation of the Due Process Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment.

6 160. The irrationality and negative health outcomes associated with the restrictions  
7 at issue are demonstrated by the Great Barrington Declaration, a statement authored by three  
8 respected epidemiologists: Dr. Martin Kulldorf, professor of Medicine at Harvard, Dr. Sunetra  
9 Gupta, professor at Oxford University and Dr. Jay Bhattacharya, professor at Stanford. The  
10 Great Barrington Declaration has since been endorsed by 11,097 medical and public health  
11 scientists and 30,961 medical practitioners.<sup>35</sup> The Great Barrington Declaration merits  
12 quotation in full.

13 As infectious disease epidemiologist and public health scientists we have  
14 grave concerns about the damaging physical and mental health impact of  
15 prevailing COVID-19 policies, and recommend an approach we call Focused  
16 Protection.

17 Coming from both right and left, and around the world, we have devoted our  
18 careers to protecting people. Current lockdown policies are producing  
19 devastating effects on short and long-term public health. The results (to name  
20 a few) include lower childhood vaccination rates, worsening cardiovascular  
21 disease outcomes, fewer cancer screenings and deteriorating mental health-  
22 leading to greater excess mortality in years to come, with the working class  
23 and younger members of society carrying the heaviest burden. Keeping  
24 students out of school is a grave injustice.

25 Keeping these measures in place until a vaccine is available will cause  
26 irreparable damage, with the underprivileged disproportionately harmed.

27 Fortunately, our understanding of the virus is growing. We know that  
28 vulnerability to death from COVID-19 is more than a thousand-fold higher in  
the old and infirm than in the young. Indeed, for children, the threat of  
COVID-19 is less dangerous than many other harms, including influenza.

As immunity builds in the population, the risk of infection to all -including the  
vulnerable- falls. We know that all populations will eventually reach herd  
immunity – i.e. the point at which the rate of new infections is stable – and  
that this can be assisted by (but is not dependent upon) a vaccine. Our goal  
should therefore be to minimize mortality and social harm until we reach herd  
immunity.

<sup>35</sup> <https://gbdeclaration.org/view-signatures/> Retrieved October 23, 2020.

1 The most compassionate approach that balances the risks and benefits of  
2 reaching herd immunity, is to allow those who are at minimal risk of death to  
3 lead their lives normally to build up immunity to the virus through natural  
infection, while better protecting those who are at highest risk. We call this  
Focused Protection.

4 Adopting measures to protect the vulnerable should be the central aim of  
5 health responses to COVID-19. By way of example, nursing homes should  
6 use staff with acquired immunity and perform PCR testing of other staff and  
7 all visitors. Staff rotation should be minimized. Retired people living at home  
8 should have groceries and other essentials delivered to their home. When  
9 possible, they should meet family members outside rather than inside. A  
10 comprehensive list of measures, including approaches to multigenerational  
11 households, can be implemented, and is well within the scope and capability  
12 of public health professionals.

13 Those who are not vulnerable should immediately be allowed to resume life as  
14 normal. Simple hygiene measures, such as hand-washing and staying home  
15 when sick should be practiced by everyone to reduce the herd immunity  
16 threshold. Schools and universities should be open for in-person teaching.  
17 Extracurricular activities, such as sports, should be resumed. Young, low-risk  
18 adults should work normally, rather than from home. Restaurants and  
19 businesses should be open. Arts, music, sport and other cultural activities  
20 should resume. People who are more at risk may participate if they wish,  
21 while society as a whole enjoys the protections conferred on the vulnerable by  
22 those who have built up herd immunity.<sup>36</sup>

23 161. A policy that promotes one positive outcome—the reduction of the negative  
24 effects of COVID-19—without considering the countervailing negative effects of the policy  
25 itself is the very definition of arbitrary, particularly when alternative measures are available  
26 that would effectively promote all desired outcomes. There is no reason to believe that the  
27 negative health outcomes associated with the coercive state actions at issue were considered by  
28 defendants in formulating the Orders, restrictions and enforcement measures at issue in this  
matter.

162. The September 30, 2020 equity metric incorporated in the August 28, 2020  
Order is arbitrary insofar as it requires all counties to submit a plan as a condition to moving to  
a lower tier, i.e., a lower level of restrictions. The required plan has no bearing on whether the  
conditions justifying the exercise of emergency power -the spread of COVID-19 and the  
incidence of the resulting negative health effects- prevail at levels justifying a particular level  
of restrictions.

<sup>36</sup> <https://gbdeclaration.org/> (October 23, 2020).

1           163. The rapidly evolving use of adjustments, algorithm, undisclosed data sources,  
2 delayed updated, and projections based on many speculative factor, such as those used in the  
3 purported determination of adult ICU bed availability, is further indication of the arbitrary  
4 nature of the measures implemented and enforced by the defendants. Further, defendants have  
5 not shown even minimal evidence that the implemented procedures have had a measurable  
6 effect of the spread of the virus over a typical seasonable trajectory of respiratory virus spread  
7 during cold and flu season. Merely choosing desired behaviors to be practiced by the residents  
8 of California, particularly those in vocations not deemed essential, and then finding a scheme  
9 for mandating of those behaviors is further indication of the arbitrary nature of the schemes  
10 being used.

11           164. The indefinite duration of the measures at issue is a further indication that the  
12 measures are arbitrary. Defendant Newsom indicated in public remarks in April 2020 that  
13 living under emergency orders is the new normal for the next 12-18 months.<sup>37</sup> The stay-at-  
14 home Order imposed on March 19, 2020, remains in effect.

15           165. The Orders and restrictions at issue arbitrarily and irrationally subject plaintiffs  
16 and others in the Town of Mammoth to restrictions that bear no rational relationship to the  
17 harm to which the Orders and restrictions are directed. The ability of the healthcare facilities  
18 serving the Town of Mammoth and its environs to deliver needed treatment to those affected  
19 by COVID-19 or other health problems been not been adversely affected by cases of COVID-  
20 19 at any time. However, defendants have subjected plaintiffs and the Town of Mammoth to  
21 the Orders and restrictions at issue by placing it in a large and widely-differentiated geographic  
22 area which has, on average, experienced significantly greater adverse effects from COVID-19  
23 when measured by cases, outcomes, and the impact of COVID-19 on the ability to deliver  
24 needed healthcare to COVID-19 patients and those with other health problems. While  
25 measures implemented by state actors to address problems need not achieve a good or even  
26 reasonable fit with those problems under a rational basis review (which plaintiffs do not  
27 concede is applicable), such measures must bear at least some rational relationship to the

28 \_\_\_\_\_  
<sup>37</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wQW0QGthFV4> Retrieved October 12, 2020.

1 problem. Here, there is no such rational relationship. Defendants have subjected plaintiffs and  
2 others in the Town of Mammoth to restrictions that are entirely useless and serve no purpose  
3 whatsoever.

4 166. The ever-changing requirements imposed on plaintiffs and other businesses and  
5 organizations are a further indication of the arbitrary nature of the measures at issue. Plaintiffs  
6 have been prohibited from lodging, had the restriction lifted subject to conditions, only to have  
7 lodging essentially banned again. Perpetually changing and ever-expanding restrictions  
8 imposed by executive fiat are hallmarks of arbitrary rule.<sup>38</sup>

9 167. Claims that the Town of Mammoth Lakes is limiting visitors by imposing tier-  
10 based lodging restrictions are irrational because the claims are not supported by any evidence,  
11 and is not an effective manner of limiting visitors. Ski enthusiasts are able to procure lodging  
12 in neighboring Inyo County, which is not "striving" to limit visitors under the Purple Tier.  
13 Further, visitors are able to merely drive into the Town, park, and walk about, without any  
14 limits or prohibitions. The Town has no evidence that the lodging restrictions place any  
15 substantive limit on visitors. Further, even if there was evidence, the benefit would not offset  
16 the substantial harms imposed by the lodging restrictions.

17 168. The designation of essential and non-essential businesses, i.e., those allowed to  
18 operate, under the Orders and restrictions at issue is also characterized by arbitrary  
19 distinctions. While some businesses that have been allowed to operate are clearly critical to  
20 human needs during an emergency, other preferred businesses have been allowed to operate  
21 notwithstanding the fact that they pose risks equal to or greater than other businesses deemed  
22 non-essential. In response to lobbying, the State Defendants amended the list of "essential"  
23 businesses to include cannabis retailers. At the same time, plaintiffs have been subjected to  
24 regulations imposed by the County Defendants and the Town Defendants that all but preclude  
25 single household lodging during the Regional Stay-at-Home Order, and substantially limits it  
26 under the current Orders and regulations.

27  
28 \_\_\_\_\_  
<sup>38</sup> Executive Order N-64-20, May 8, 2020



1 ensure the fairness of any deprivation. *See McNabb v. United States*, 318 U.S. 332, 347  
2 (1943). The “involuntary confinement of an individual for any reason, is a deprivation of  
3 liberty which the State cannot accomplish without due process of law.” *O’Connor v.*  
4 *Donaldson*, 422 U.S. 563, 580 (1975).

5 176. Defendants have deprived plaintiffs of their protected liberty and property  
6 interests without providing notice and an opportunity to be heard. Defendants have imposed  
7 Orders and restrictions with the force of law through the exercise of executive power without  
8 providing an opportunity for plaintiffs and other members of the public to contest or challenge  
9 the resulting limitations on their fundamental rights. The Orders and restrictions have been in  
10 place in one form or another for over seven months and remain in effect for an indefinite  
11 period into the future.

12 177. Finance Defendants have issued citations without any description of the  
13 purported violation(s), and require deposit of onerous fines or immediate hardship waiver  
14 approval to obtain an administrative review. Further, Finance Defendants have imposed  
15 extremely punitive late payment penalties for failure to pay the onerous fine within an  
16 extremely short time period of a few days. "Also, the enforcement of "apparent" violations  
17 and the subjective standard of "satisfactory evidence" each render MLMC section 5.04.340 as  
18 vague. In addition, administrative citations and imposition of fines are not authorized by the  
19 subject municipal code section. Imposing fines, or threatening to impose fines, for apparent  
20 violations without evidence, and without informing of the conduct giving rise to the apparent  
21 violations, also violates Plaintiffs procedural due process rights. All of the Town Defendants  
22 bear responsibility for these enforcement actions.

23 178. Under the legal authority under which they purport to act, defendants are able to  
24 reinstate any previously imposed Orders and restrictions if preliminary and permanent  
25 injunctive relief is not granted.

26 179. Plaintiffs have been damaged by the unconstitutional Orders and restrictions  
27 imposed and enforced by defendants.  
28



1 180. Plaintiffs have no adequate remedy at law and will suffer irreparable harm to  
2 their protected liberty and property interests unless the court enjoins enforcement of the  
3 unconstitutional Orders and restrictions imposed by defendants.

4 181. Plaintiffs are entitled to declaratory relief and temporary, preliminary and  
5 permanent injunctive relief invalidating or restraining enforcement of the unconstitutional  
6 Orders and restrictions imposed by defendants.

7 **THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION**

8 **(42 U.S.C. § 1983-Fourteenth Amendment Equal Protection)**

9 182. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference as if fully restated here the foregoing  
10 allegations.

11 183. The Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution requires states to  
12 govern impartially. Classifications that subject similarly situated persons or classes of persons  
13 to differing treatment violate the equal protection guarantee of the Fourteenth Amendment.

14 184. Strict scrutiny applies to classifications that impinge on fundamental rights. *San*  
15 *Antonio Ind. School Dist. v. Rodriguez*, 411 U.S. 1, 17 (1973).

16 185. The Orders and restrictions imposed by defendants impinge on the fundamental  
17 rights of plaintiffs and the people of the State of California to freedom from confinement and  
18 to travel, associate, engage in business and trade, seek gainful employment and generally be  
19 left alone to engage in otherwise lawful pursuits.

20 186. The Orders and restrictions at issue violate plaintiffs' right to due process by  
21 subjecting plaintiffs to arbitrary and irrational classifications. COVID-19 has affected few  
22 individuals in the Town of Mammoth. The ability of the healthcare facilities serving the Town  
23 of Mammoth and its environs to deliver needed treatment to those affected by COVID-19 or  
24 other health problems been not been adversely affected by cases of COVID-19 at any time.  
25 However, defendants have subjected plaintiffs and the Town of Mammoth to the Orders and  
26 restrictions at issue by placing it in a large and widely-differentiated geographic area which  
27 has, on average, experienced significantly greater adverse effects from COVID-19 than the  
28 Town of Mammoth when measured by cases, outcomes, and the impact of COVID-19 on the

1 ability to deliver needed healthcare to COVID-19 patients and those with other health  
2 problems. While classifications need not be precise or even reasonable under rational basis  
3 review (which plaintiffs do not concede is applicable), classifications must be based on  
4 rational criteria. However, there is no rational statistical basis for the classification of the Town  
5 of Monmouth based on statistics for the massive Southern California region.

6 187. The Orders and restrictions imposed by defendants are based on arbitrary  
7 classifications and criteria that are not rationally related to promoting public health, that  
8 promote the interests of favored groups without reference to the impact of the activities in  
9 question on the transmission of COVID-19 and that shift the burden of the response to  
10 COVID-19 to a limited class of persons and businesses.

11 188. The right to equal protection guaranteed by the Fourteenth Amendment is also  
12 violated by enforcement measures that intentionally, and without rational basis, treat persons  
13 or groups differently from others similarly situated. *Vill. of Willowbrook v. Olech*, 528 U.S.  
14 562, 564 (2000) (per curiam); *N. Pacifica LLC v. City of Pacifica*, 526 F.3d 478, 486 (9th Cir.  
15 2008). The County Defendants have violated plaintiffs' right to equal protection by  
16 intentionally enforcing health regulations and the Orders and restrictions at issue differently  
17 against defendants from similarly situated lodging entities.

18 189. Under the legal authority under which they purport to act, defendants are able to  
19 reinstate any previously imposed Orders and restrictions if preliminary and permanent  
20 injunctive relief is not granted.

21 190. Plaintiffs have been damaged by the Orders and restrictions imposed and  
22 enforced by defendants.

23 191. Plaintiffs have no adequate remedy at law and will suffer irreparable harm to  
24 their protected liberty and property interests unless the court enjoins enforcement of the  
25 unconstitutional Orders and restrictions imposed by defendants.

26 192. Plaintiffs are entitled to declaratory relief and temporary, preliminary and  
27 permanent injunctive relief invalidating or restraining enforcement of the unconstitutional  
28 Orders and restrictions imposed by defendants.

**FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

**(42 U.S.C. § 1983-Fifth Amendment)**

1  
2  
3 193. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference as if fully restated here the foregoing  
4 allegations.

5 194. The Takings Clause of the Fifth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution provides  
6 that private property shall not "be taken for public use, without just compensation." U.S.  
7 Const. Amend. V.

8 195. The Fifth Amendment's Takings Clause "was designed to bar Government from  
9 forcing people alone to bear public burdens which, in all fairness and justice, should be borne  
10 by the public as a whole." *Armstrong v. United States*, 364 U.S. 40, 49 (1960).

11 196. Defendants' imposition and enforcement of Orders restricting the operation of  
12 plaintiffs' businesses for an indefinite period and having no stated end date has caused both a  
13 regulatory and physical taking of plaintiffs' property without just compensation. At a  
14 minimum, defendants' Orders and restrictions have effected a partial taking. *See Penn Central*  
15 *Transportation Co. v. New York City*, 438 U.S. 104, 124 (1978). Defendants' unprecedented  
16 and highly disruptive Orders and restrictions have significantly reduced plaintiffs' revenues,  
17 profits and income, resulting in significant uncompensated harm to plaintiffs' distinct,  
18 investment-backed expectations in their businesses. If defendants' unconstitutional Orders and  
19 restrictions are not preliminarily and permanently enjoined, plaintiffs are threatened with the  
20 imminent total loss of their protected property interests in their investments, revenues, profits,  
21 income and the value of their businesses.

22 197. Under the legal authority under which they purport to act, defendants are able to  
23 reinstate any previously imposed Orders and restrictions if preliminary and permanent  
24 injunctive relief is not granted.

25 198. Plaintiffs have been damaged by the unconstitutional Orders and restrictions  
26 imposed and enforced by defendants.

27

28



1 goods and services, and by serving thousands, if not millions, of travelers who visit California  
2 annually from other states and foreign countries.

3 206. The Orders and restrictions imposed and enforced by defendants excessively  
4 burden interstate commerce by precluding plaintiffs and the people of California from  
5 engaging in substantial and wide-ranging economic, business and employment activities.

6 207. Under the legal authority under which they purport to act, defendants are able to  
7 reinstate any previously imposed Orders and restrictions if preliminary and permanent  
8 injunctive relief is not granted.

9 208. Plaintiffs have been damaged by the unconstitutional Orders and restrictions  
10 imposed and enforced by defendants.

11 209. Plaintiffs have no adequate remedy at law and will suffer irreparable harm to  
12 their protected liberty and property interests unless the court enjoins enforcement of the  
13 unconstitutional Orders and restrictions imposed by defendants.

14 210. Plaintiffs are entitled to declaratory relief and temporary, preliminary and  
15 permanent injunctive relief invalidating or restraining enforcement of the unconstitutional  
16 Orders and restrictions imposed by defendants.

17 **PRAYER**

18 Plaintiff prays for an Order awarding the following relief against the State Defendants:

19 A. Preliminary and permanent injunctive relief precluding the enforcement of the  
20 following Orders:

- 21 1. Governor Newsom's March 4, 2020 Emergency Order;
- 22 2. Governor Newsom's March 19, 2020 Emergency Order;
- 23 3. Governor Newsom's May 4, 2020 Emergency Order;
- 24 4. The State Public Health Officer's March 19, 2020 Order;
- 25 5. The State Public Health Officer's August 28, 2020 Order;
- 26 6. Governor Newsom's December 5, 2020 Emergency Order.

27 B. A judicial declaration that the following Orders violate plaintiffs' rights under  
28 the Fourteenth and Fifth Amendments to the United State Constitution:

- 1 1. Governor Newsom’s March 4, 2020 Emergency Order;
- 2 2. Governor Newsom’s March 19, 2020 Emergency Order;
- 3 3. Governor Newsom’s May 4, 2020 Emergency Order;
- 4 4. The State Public Health Officer’s March 19, 2020 Order;
- 5 5. The State Public Health Officer’s August 28, 2020 Order;
- 6 6. Governor Newsom's December 5, 2020 Emergency Order.

7 C. Attorney’s fee and costs;

8 D. All such other relief the court deems just and proper.

9 Plaintiff prays for an Order awarding the following relief against the County

10 Defendants:

11 A. Preliminary and permanent injunctive relief precluding the enforcement of the  
12 following Orders:

- 13 1. Governor Newsom’s March 4, 2020 Emergency Order;
- 14 2. Governor Newsom’s March 19, 2020 Emergency Order;
- 15 3. Governor Newsom’s May 4, 2020 Emergency Order;
- 16 4. Governor Newsom's December 5, 2020 Emergency Order.
- 17 5. The State Public Health Officer’s March 19, 2020 Order;
- 18 6. The State Public Health Officer’s August 28, 2020 Order;
- 19 7. The Mono County Public Health Officer’s March 17, 2020 Order;
- 20 8. The Mono County Public Health Officer’s December 5, 2020 Order;
- 21 9. The Mono County Public Health Officer’s January 9, 2021 Order;
- 22 10. The Mono County Public Health Officer's January 25, 2021 regulations.

23 B. A judicial declaration that the following Orders violate plaintiffs’ rights under  
24 the Fourteenth and Fifth Amendments to the United State Constitution:

- 25 1. Governor Newsom’s March 4, 2020 Emergency Order;
- 26 2. Governor Newsom’s March 19, 2020 Emergency Order;
- 27 3. Governor Newsom’s May 4, 2020 Emergency Order;
- 28 4. Governor Newsom's December 5, 2020 Emergency Order.

- 1                   5.     The State Public Health Officer’s March 19, 2020 Order;
- 2                   6.     The State Public Health Officer’s August 28, 2020 Order;
- 3                   7.     The Mono County Public Health Officer’s March 17, 2020 Order;
- 4                   8.     The Mono County Public Health Officer’s December 5, 2020 Order;
- 5                   9.     The Mono County Public Health Officer’s January 9, 2021 Order;
- 6                   10.    The Mono County Public Health Officer's January 25, 2021 regulations.
- 7           C.     Compensatory damages in the amount \$500,000 or such other amount proven at
- 8     trial;
- 9           D.     Attorney’s fee and costs;
- 10          E.     All such other relief the court deems just and proper.

11  
12           Plaintiff prays for an Order awarding the following relief against the Town

13     Defendants:

14           A.     Preliminary and permanent injunctive relief precluding the enforcement of the

15     following Orders:

- 16                   1.     Governor Newsom’s March 4, 2020 Emergency Order;
- 17                   2.     Governor Newsom’s March 19, 2020 Emergency Order;
- 18                   3.     Governor Newsom’s May 4, 2020 Emergency Order;
- 19                   4.     Governor Newsom's December 5, 2020 Emergency Order.
- 20                   5.     The State Public Heath Officer’s March 19, 2020 Order;
- 21                   6.     The State Public Heath Officer’s August 28, 2020 Order;
- 22                   7.     The Mono County Public Health Officer’s March 17, 2020 Order;
- 23                   8.     The Mono County Public Health Officer’s December 5, 2020 Order;
- 24                   9.     The Mono County Public Health Officer’s January 9, 2021 Order;
- 25                   10.    The Mono County Public Health Officer's January 25, 2021 regulations.
- 26                   11.    The Town Defendants' Ordinance No. 20-05.
- 27                   12.    The Town Defendant's Updated Processes of January 27, 2021.

28

1 B. A judicial declaration that the following Orders violate plaintiffs' rights under  
2 the Fourteenth and Fifth Amendments to the United State Constitution:

- 3 1. Governor Newsom's March 4, 2020 Emergency Order;
- 4 2. Governor Newsom's March 19, 2020 Emergency Order;
- 5 3. Governor Newsom's May 4, 2020 Emergency Order;
- 6 4. Governor Newsom's December 5, 2020 Emergency Order.
- 7 5. The State Public Health Officer's March 19, 2020 Order;
- 8 6. The State Public Health Officer's August 28, 2020 Order;
- 9 7. The Mono County Public Health Officer's March 17, 2020 Order;
- 10 8. The Mono County Public Health Officer's December 5, 2020 Order;
- 11 9. The Mono County Public Health Officer's January 9, 2021 Order;
- 12 10. The Mono County Public Health Officer's January 25, 2021 regulations.
- 13 11. The Town Defendants' Ordinance No. 20-05.
- 14 12. The Town Defendant's Updated Processes of January 27, 2021.

15 C. Compensatory damages in the amount \$500,000 or such other amount proven at  
16 trial;

17 D. Attorney's fee and costs;

18 E. All such other relief the court deems just and proper.

19 **JURY DEMAND**

20 Plaintiffs demand trial by jury.

21  
22 Date: February 1, 2021

BAILEY AND ROMERO

23 

24 \_\_\_\_\_  
25 Steven C. Bailey, Attorney for Plaintiffs Cindy and  
26 Timothy Abshire, Alan and Monica Butts, Nomadness  
27 Corporation, and The Mammoth Lakes Business  
28 Coalition