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JAMES M. KIM, Court Executive Officer
MARIN COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT
By: C. Larson, Deputy

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SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF MARIN

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 26-02

**STANDING ORDER CONCERNING
CLASSIFICATION OF COMPLEX CIVIL
CASES**

In recent months, the Court has identified numerous civil filings that have failed to be properly classified. To remedy these misclassifications, the Court hereby orders as follows:

- 1) All actions which may be provisionally designated as complex litigation pursuant to California Rules of Court, rule 3.400 shall be designated as such on the Civil Case Cover Sheet (Judicial Council Form CM-010).
- 2) Those cases which involve causes of action for construction defect, class action claims, shareholder derivative actions and LLC member derivative actions, as well as insurance coverage claims arising out of claims listed in subdivision (c)(1) through (7) of California Rules of Court, rule 3.400 shall be identified accordingly on the face of the complaint at the time of filing so that such cases may be immediately designated as complex litigation in accordance with California Rules of Court, rule 3.400.
- 3) All actions involving the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) shall be provisionally designated as complex litigation on the Civil Case Cover Sheet (Judicial Council Form CM-010) in addition to any of the actions which may be provisionally designated as complex litigation under the provisions of

California Rules of Court, rule 3.400.

- 4) All actions involving claims under the Private Attorneys General Act (PAGA), Labor Code Section 2698 et seq., as a representative of aggrieved employees, shall be provisionally designated as complex litigation on the Civil Case Cover Sheet (Judicial Council Form CM-010) in addition to any of the actions which may be provisionally designated as complex litigation under the provisions of California Rules of Court, rule 3.400.
- 5) All Judicial Council Coordination Proceedings shall be automatically deemed complex. (Cal. Rules of Court, rule 3.501 & rule 3.712, subd. (c).)
- 6) Any decision of the Court to designate an action as complex litigation pursuant to California Rules of Court, rule 3.403, shall be made by the Presiding Judge. The Court is going to undertake a retrospective review back to June 20, 2023, the date of the implementation of the court's case management system, for proper designation. However, this review will be limited to cases that are currently open in the court's system. All actions that have been misclassified will be retroactively designated as complex litigation in accordance with the above, and all outstanding fees associated with the same will be due and owed by the parties. (See Gov. Code, § 70616, subs. (a) & (b).) Further, the clerk of court shall file an amended Civil Case Cover Sheet (Judicial Council Form CM-010) to properly reflect the reclassification and appropriate designation as complex litigation.
- 7) A defendant may file a counter designation if a plaintiff fails to properly designate the action as complex litigation.
- 8) Intentional misrepresentation or improper classification of a case may result in the imposition of sanctions against parties or their counsel.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated: 6-3, 2026


STEPHEN P. FRECCERO
Presiding Judge