

DANIEL F. GAINES, ESQ. SBN 251488
daniel@gaineslawfirm.com
ALEX P. KATOFISKY, ESQ. SBN 202754
alex@gaineslawfirm.com
EVAN S. GAINES, ESQ. SBN 287668
evan@gaineslawfirm.com
GAINES & GAINES, APLC
27200 Agoura Rd., Suite 101
Calabasas, CA 91301
Telephone: (818) 703-8985
Facsimile: (818) 703-8984

Attorneys for Plaintiff Maria De La Paloma Vargas, on behalf of herself and all “aggrieved employees” pursuant to Labor Code § 2698 *et seq.*

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
FOR THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

MARIA DE LA PALOMA VARGAS, on
behalf of herself and all “aggrieved
employees” pursuant to Labor Code § 2698
et seq.,

Plaintiffs,

v.

SOUTH CENTRAL LOS ANGELES
REGIONAL CENTER FOR
DEVELOPMENTALLY DISABLED
PERSONS, INC., a California corporation,
and DOES 1 through 10, inclusive,

Defendants.

Case No. 21STCV25409

Assigned to the Hon. Laura A. Seigle, Dept. 48

**STIPULATION AND [PROPOSED] ORDER
APPROVING SETTLEMENT OF PRIVATE
ATTORNEYS GENERAL ACT CLAIMS,
AND DISMISSING ACTION WITH
PREJUDICE**

Action Filed: July 12, 2021

STIPULATION

IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED BY AND BETWEEN THE PARTIES AS FOLLOWS:

1. On July 21, 2020, Plaintiff complied with the requirements set forth in Labor Code § 2698 *et seq.*, the Labor Code Private Attorneys General Act (hereinafter, “PAGA”) by sending a letter, by online submission to the Labor and Workforce Development Agency (“LWDA”) and by certified mail to Defendant, setting forth the facts and theories of the violations alleged against Defendant. (Declaration of Daniel F. Gaines [“Gaines Decl.”] at ¶ 6; Exhibit “A” to Gaines Decl.).

2. After Plaintiff provided notice through the LWDA letter, the Parties then entered into a series of agreements to toll the statute of limitations on the claims alleged in Plaintiff’s LWDA letter while the Parties’ attempted a mediation. (Gaines Decl. at ¶ 7).

3. Defendant provided requested discovery informally to Plaintiff’s counsel to ascertain the size of the aggrieved employee group, the number of affected pay periods at issue among them, and the strength of Plaintiff’s claims. (Gaines Decl. at ¶ 8).

4. Being fully apprised of the value and strength of Plaintiff’s claims, the parties participated in a mediation with Steve Pearl, Esq. on June 22, 2021 in an attempt to resolve the claims asserted in the Action. (Gaines Decl. at ¶ 9).

5. The parties engaged in arm’s-length negotiations and reached a resolution of the PAGA claims asserted in the action. Based on the information and documents obtained through informal discovery and during mediation, Plaintiff assessed the maximum value of the PAGA claims (without stacking) to be approximately \$335,600 (at the rate of a \$100 penalty for 3,356 pay periods at issue for approximately 89 aggrieved employees during the applicable time frame). (Gaines Decl. at ¶ 10).

6. After the Parties’ reached a settlement, Plaintiff filed her Representative Action Complaint on July 12, 2021, seeking penalties pursuant to Labor Code § 2699(f) for violations of Labor Code §§ 201, 202, 204, 226(a), 226.7, 510, 512, 1194, and 2802 and pursuant to Labor Code § 2699(a) for violations of Labor Code §§ 210, 226.3, 226.8, and 558. (Gaines Decl. at ¶ 11).

1 6. The amount of the settlement is \$250,000 which represents over 74% of the
2 maximum recoverable discretionary penalties and includes an apportionment of attorneys' fees and
3 costs and an enhancement payment to Plaintiff Vargas. (Gaines Decl. at ¶ 12).

4 7. The settlement amount represents a fair compromise of the claims. (Gaines Decl. at
5 ¶ 13).

6 8. Based on their extensive experience litigating over 200 representative actions,
7 counsel for Plaintiff believes the settlement here is fair and reasonable and warrants approval by
8 the Court. (Gaines Decl. at ¶¶ 2-5; Exhibit "B" to Gaines Decl.).

9 9. The parties request that the Court enter the accompanying order, approving their
10 settlement (attached to the Gaines Declaration as Exhibit "C"), as permitted by Labor Code §
11 2699(1), and dismissing this Action with prejudice. (Gaines Decl. at ¶ 14).

12 **IT IS SO STIPULATED.**

13 Dated: July 14, 2021

14 For Plaintiff:

For Defendant:

15
16 GAINES & GAINES, APLC

SOLTMAN, LEVITT, FLAHERTY &
WATTLES LLP

17
18 By: Daniel F. Gaines
19 DANIEL F. GAINES

By: Tina M. Jacquez
TINA M. JACQUEZ

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

ORDER

The Court, having reviewed the parties' Private Attorneys General Act (Labor Code § 2698 et. seq.) Settlement Agreement (the "Settlement" or "Settlement Agreement") attached as Exhibit "C" to the concurrently-filed Declaration of Daniel F. Gaines, together with the Stipulation of the Parties and the Declaration of Daniel F. Gaines and exhibits attached thereto, hereby ORDERS:

1. The Court finds the Settlement was entered into in good faith, that the settlement is fair, reasonable and adequate, and that the settlement satisfies the standards and applicable requirements for approval of PAGA representative actions under California law.

2. The Court approves the penalties to be paid to the aggrieved employees and the State of California as set forth in the Settlement, pursuant to Labor Code § 2699(1). The Court further approves all payments to be made to Plaintiff's counsel and Plaintiff Vargas based on the terms of the Settlement.

3. This Action is hereby DISMISSED WITH PREJUDICE.

4. Upon entry of this Order, the Parties shall effectuate all terms of the Settlement based on the provisions and timelines set forth in the Settlement Agreement.

5. This Court shall retain jurisdiction with respect to all matters related to the administration and consummation of the Settlement, including but not limited to all matters related to the settlement and the determination of all controversies relating thereto.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated: _____

JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT

1 **PROOF OF SERVICE AND CERTIFICATION**

2 I am employed in the County of Los Angeles, State of California. I am over the age of 18 and not a party to
3 the within action; my business address is 27200 Agoura Road, Suite 101, Calabasas, CA 91301

4 _____ (For messenger) my business address is:

5 On July 19, 2021, I served the foregoing document described **STIPULATION AND [PROPOSED] ORDER**
6 **APPROVING SETTLEMENT OF PRIVATE ATTORNEYS GENERAL ACT CLAIMS, AND DISMISSING**
7 **ACTION WITH PREJUDICE** on the interested parties in this action by placing a true copy thereof enclosed in sealed
8 envelopes addressed as follows:

Tina M. Jacquez, Esq. SOLTMAN, LEVITT, FLAHERTY & WATTLES LLP 90 E. Thousand Oaks Blvd., Suite 300 Thousand Oaks, CA 91360	Joseph Tojarieh, Esq. TOJARIEH LAW FIRM, PC 10250 Constellation Blvd., Suite 100 Los Angeles, CA 90067 jft@tojariehlaw.com via e-mail only
---	---

11 X (BY ☒ U.S. MAIL/ BY ☐ CERTIFIED MAIL, RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED) The sealed envelope was
12 mailed with postage thereon fully prepaid. I am "readily familiar" with the firm's practice of collection
13 and processing correspondence for mailing. It is deposited with United States postal service on that same
14 day in the ordinary course of business. I am aware that on motion of party served, service is presumed
15 invalid if postal cancellation date or postage meter date is more that one day after date of deposit for
16 mailing in affidavit.

17 _____ (BY FEDERAL EXPRESS OR OTHER OVERNIGHT SERVICE) I deposited the sealed envelope in a box or
18 other facility regularly maintained by the express service carrier or delivered the sealed envelope to an
19 authorized carrier or driver authorized by the express carrier to receive documents.

20 _____ (BY FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION) On _____, at _____, at Calabasas, California, I served the above-
21 referenced document on the above-stated addressee by facsimile transmission pursuant to Rule 2008 of
22 the California Rules of Court. The telephone number of the sending facsimile machine was (818)703-
23 8984 and the telephone number(s) of the receiving facsimile machine was (916) 920-4402. A
24 transmission report was properly issued by the sending facsimile machine, and the transmission was
25 reported as complete and without error. Copies of the facsimile transmission cover sheet and the
26 transmission report are attached to this proof of service.

27 _____ (BY PERSONAL DELIVERY) By causing a true copy of the within document(s) to be personally hand-
28 delivered to the office(s) of the addressee(s) set forth above, on the date set forth above.

_____ (BY ELECTRONIC SERVICE) The above-stated document was submitted for service by electronic
transmission via email on the counsel of record listed above.

I certify that the above document was printed on recycled paper.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on July 19, 2021, at Calabasas, California.

Beatriz Franco
BEATRIZ FRANCO