

FILED

KERN COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT

04/18/2025

BY Fogerson, Vickie
DEPUTY

MATERN LAW GROUP, PC
 Matthew J. Matern (SBN 159798)
 Email: mmatern@maternlawgroup.com
 Matthew W. Gordon (SBN 267971)
 mgordon@maternlawgroup.com
 Julia Z. Wells (SBN 314242)
 jwells@maternlawgroup.com
 2101 E. El Segundo Blvd., Ste. 403
 El Segundo, California 90245
 Tel: (310) 531-1900 / Fax: (310) 531-1901

Attorneys for Plaintiff RHINA BEATRIZ
 CARRILLO, and DEJANEE RODGERS
 individually and on behalf of all others similarly
 situated

(continued on next page)

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

COUNTY OF KERN

RHINA BEATRIZ CARRILLO, individually,
 and on behalf of others similarly situated

Plaintiff,

vs.

WM. BOLTHOUSE FARMS, INC., a Michigan
 corporation; BOLT HOUSE FARMS, an
 unknown business form; BOLTHOUSE
 FARMS CUYAMA CUYAMA, an unknown
 business form; BOLTHOUSE FARMS KERN
 COUNTY, an unknown business form; MA
 MEDINA FARM LABOR SERVICES, INC., a
 California corporation; and DOES 1 through
 50, inclusive,

Defendants

And consolidated action:

OSCAR ARREOLA, individually, and on
 behalf of others similarly situated,

Plaintiff,

vs.

WM. BOLTHOUSE FARMS, INC.; a
 Michigan corporation; and DOES 1 through
 100, inclusive,

Defendants

Case No. BCV-19-101199 (Lead Case)
 [Non-Lead Cases: BCV-19-101525;
 BCV-21-100621-BCB]

CLASS ACTION

[Assigned for All Purposes to the
 Honorable Hon. Bernard C. Barmann, Jr.,
 Division H]

**~~PROPOSED~~ ORDER GRANTING
 MOTION FOR PRELIMINARY
 APPROVAL OF CLASS AND
 REPRESENTATIVE ACTION
 SETTLEMENT**

Date: April 18, 2025

Time: 8:30 a.m.

Division: H

Action Filed: April 30, 2019

Trial Date: Vacated

~~PROPOSED~~ ORDER GRANTING MOTION FOR
 PRELIMINARY APPROVAL OF CLASS AND
 REPRESENTATIVE ACTION SETTLEMENT

JUSTICE LAW CORPORATION

Douglas Han (SBN 232858)

dhan@justicelawcorp.com

Shunt Tatavos-Gharajeh (SBN 272164)

statavos@justicelawcorp.com

Haig Hogdanian (SBN 334699)

hhogdanian@justicelawcorp.com

751 N. Fair Oaks Ave, Suite 101

Pasadena, CA 91103

Tel: (818) 230-7502

Fax: (818) 230-7259

Attorneys for Plaintiff OSCAR ARREOLA

~~**[PROPOSED]**~~ ORDER

Plaintiffs Rhina Beatriz Carrillo, Oscar Arreola and Dejanee Rodgers’s (“Plaintiffs”) Motion for Preliminary Approval of Class and Representative Action Settlement came on regularly for hearing on April 18, 2025. Having reviewed the motion, and all supporting declarations and exhibits thereto, including the Class Action and PAGA Settlement Agreement (“Settlement Agreement”) and good cause appearing therefore, the Court hereby finds and orders as follows:

1. This Order pertains to a global class and Private Attorneys General Act (“PAGA”) settlement of the following four putative class and/or representative actions filed against Defendants WM. Bolthouse Farms, Inc. (“Bolthouse”) and MA Medina Farm Labor Services, Inc. (“Medina”) which have been consolidated into the above-captioned action (“Action”):

- *Rhina Beatriz Carrillo v. WM. Bolthouse Farms, Inc.*, Kern County Superior Court Case No. BCV-19-101199;
- *Oscar Arreola v. WM. Bolthouse Farms, Inc.*, Kern County Superior Court Case No. BCV-19-101525;
- *Rhina Beatriz Carrillo v. WM. Bolthouse Farms, Inc.*, Kern County Superior Court Case No. BCV-20-100649; and
- *Dejanee Rodgers v. WM. Bolthouse Farms, Inc.*, Kern County Superior Court Case No. BCV-21-100621.

2. The Court finds on a preliminary basis that the settlement memorialized in the Settlement Agreement appears to be fair, adequate, and reasonable, to fall within the range of reasonableness, to be the product of arm’s-length and informed negotiations, and to treat all Settlement Class Members fairly, and therefore meets the requirements for preliminary approval.

3. The Court provisionally certifies for settlement purposes only the following Class: “All persons in the Bolthouse Subclass or the Medina Subclass.”

a. The “Bolthouse Subclass” means all persons who were directly employed as a non-exempt employee by WM. Bolthouse Farms, Inc. and/or either of the Split Companies within the State of California at any time during the Class Period (April 30, 2015 through May 26, 2024), excluding anyone who entered into a release agreement with Bolthouse, and/or any one

1 of the Split Companies, that covers the claims released in this Settlement.

2 b. The “Medina Subclass” means all persons who were employed as a non-
3 exempt employee by Medina and placed to work at a Bolthouse location (including either of the
4 Split Companies¹) in California at any time during the Class Period (April 30, 2015 through May
5 26, 2024).

6 4. The Court finds, for settlement purposes only, that the Class meets the
7 requirements for certification under Code of Civil Procedure section 382 in that: (1) the Class is
8 so numerous that joinder is impractical; (2) there are questions of law and fact that are common to
9 all Class Members which predominate over individualized issues; (3) Plaintiffs’ claims are typical
10 of the claims of the Class; (4) Plaintiffs and Plaintiffs’ counsel will fairly and adequately protect
11 the interests of the Class; and (5) a class action is superior to other available methods for the fair
12 and efficient adjudication of the controversy.

13 5. The Court appoints, for settlement purposes only, Rhina Beatriz Carrillo, Oscar
14 Arreola and Dejanee Rodgers as Class Representatives.

15 6. The Court appoints, for settlement purposes only Matthew J. Matern, Matthew W.
16 Gordon and Julia Z. Wells of Matern Law Group, PC and Douglas Han, Shunt Tatavos-Gharajeh
17 and Lizette Rodriguez of Justice Law Corporation as Class Counsel.

18 7. The Court appoints CPT Group, Inc. as the Settlement Administrator.

19 8. The Court approves, as to form and content: (1) the Court Approved Notice of
20 Class And Representative Action Settlement and Hearing Date For Final Court Approval (“Class
21 Notice”) attached as Exhibit A to the Settlement Agreement. The Court directs the mailing, by
22 First-Class U.S. mail, of the Class Notice to Settlement Class Members in accordance with the
23 schedule set forth below and the other procedures described in the Settlement Agreement. The
24 Court finds that the notice plan is the best means practicable under the circumstances for
25 providing notice to the Settlement Class Members, and shall constitute due and sufficient notice
26

27 ¹ Under ¶¶ 1.4 and 2.6 of the Settlement Agreement, in 2024, Bolthouse split into Bolthouse
28 Fresh Foods and General Brands. As a result of the split, certain Bolthouse Subclass Members
became employed by either Generous Brands or Bolthouse Fresh Foods.

of the class action, proposed settlement, and final approval hearing to all persons entitled to such notice, in full compliance with the due process and notice requirements of Code of Civil Procedure section 877.6.

9. The Court further approves the procedures for Settlement Class Members to exclude themselves from or object to the Class Settlement, set forth in the Class Notice and the Settlement Agreement. All Aggrieved Employees will be bound by the Released PAGA Claims if the Settlement is finally approved and cannot opt out of the Settlement Agreement as to the Released PAGA Claims. The procedures and requirements for filing objections in connection with the final approval hearing are intended to ensure the efficient administration of justice and the orderly presentation of any Settlement Class Member's objection to the Settlement, in accordance with the due process rights of all Settlement Class Members. The Court tentatively approves PAGA Penalties of \$150,000 to be paid from the Gross Settlement Amount, 75% of which, or \$112,500 will be paid to the Labor Workforce Development Agency ("LWDA"), with the remaining 25%, or \$37,500 allocated to Individual PAGA Payments).

10. At the Final Approval Hearing, the Court will consider: (a) whether the Settlement should be approved as fair, reasonable, and adequate for the Class; (b) whether a judgment granting final approval of the Settlement should be entered; and (c) whether Plaintiffs' application for Class Representative Service Payments, settlement administration costs, and Class Counsel's attorneys' fees and costs, should be granted.

11. The Parties are ordered to implement the Settlement according to the terms of the Settlement Agreement.

12. The Court orders the following implementation schedule:

Last day for Defendants to provide the Class Data to the Administrator	_____, 2025 (21 calendar days after receipt by Defendants of Order Granting Preliminary Approval)
Last day for Administrator to mail the Class Notice to Class Members	_____, 2025 (14 business days after receipt of the Class Data)

Response Deadline	_____, 2025 (45 calendar days after the Class Notice is initially mailed, subject to extension of an additional 14 days for Class Members whose notice is re-mailed)
Last day to file and serve the Motion for Final Approval of Class and Representative Action Settlement	_____, 2025 (16 court days before the calendared Final Approval Hearing)
Final Approval Hearing	September 9, 2025 at 8:30 a. m. in Division H.

13. The Court expressly reserves the right to continue or adjourn the Final Approval Hearing without further notice to the Settlement Class Members.

14. The Court's preliminary approval of the Settlement is not to be deemed an admission of liability or fault by Defendants, or a finding as to the validity of any claims or defenses asserted in the action.

15. Pending the Final Approval hearing, all proceedings in this Action, other than proceedings necessary to carry out or enforce the terms and conditions of the Settlement and this Order, are stayed. To facilitate administration of the Settlement pending final approval, the Court hereby enjoins Plaintiffs and all members of the Settlement Class from filing or prosecuting any claims, or suits regarding claims released by the Settlement, unless and until such Settlement Class Members have filed valid Requests for Exclusion with the Settlement Administrator.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

DATED: April 18, 2025

 Signed: 4/18/2025 09:07 AM
JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT
Bernard C. Barmann, Jr.