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9 **SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**
10 **FOR THE COUNTY OF STANISLAUS**
11

12 RENEE LOPEZ, on behalf of herself and
all "aggrieved employees" pursuant to
13 Labor Code § 2698 *et seq.*

14 Plaintiff,

15 v.

16 COVENANT LIVING WEST, a California
domestic nonprofit corporation, and DOES
17 1 through 10, inclusive,

18 Defendants.
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CASE NO: CV-21-001160

Assigned to the Hon. Stacy Speiller, Department 22

CLASS ACTION

**[PROPOSED] ORDER GRANTING
PRELIMINARY APPROVAL OF CLASS
ACTION SETTLEMENT**

DATE: January 18, 2023

TIME: 8:30 a.m.

DEPT.: 22

Action Filed: March 5, 2021

1 Plaintiff Renee Lopez's ("Plaintiff" or "Lopez") Unopposed Motion for Preliminary
2 Approval of Class Action Settlement came on for hearing before this Court in Department 22, Judge
3 Stacy Speiller presiding, on January 18, 2023. The Court, having considered the papers submitted
4 in support of the motion and having heard oral argument of the parties, **HEREBY ORDERS THE**
5 **FOLLOWING:**

6 1. The Court grants preliminary approval of the settlement based upon the terms set
7 forth in the Settlement Agreement and Release of Claims ("Settlement") filed with the Court. The
8 settlement appears to be fair, adequate, and reasonable to the Class;

9 2. The Court finds that the settlement falls within the range of reasonableness and
10 appears to be presumptively valid, subject only to any objections that may be raised at the final
11 hearing;

12 3. The Court approves, as to form and content, the Notice of Pendency of Proposed
13 Class Action Settlement and Final Hearing ("Notice"), and also approves the procedure for
14 members of the Class to object to the settlement set forth in the Notice;

15 4. The Court directs the mailing of the Notice by first class mail to the Settlement Class
16 Members in accordance with the schedule set forth below. The Court finds that the dates selected
17 for the mailing and distribution of the Notice, as set forth herein, meet the requirements of due
18 process and provide the best notice practicable under the circumstances and shall constitute due
19 and sufficient notice to all persons entitled thereto;

20 5. It is ordered that the Settlement Class is preliminarily certified for settlement
21 purposes only. The Settlement Class is defined as follows: all persons who are or were employed
22 in California by Defendant as non-exempt employees at any point from March 5, 2017 through
23 September 30, 2022;

24 6. The Court approves and appoints Daniel F. Gaines and Alex P. Katofsky of Gaines
25 & Gaines, APLC as Class Counsel, and grants preliminary approval of an award of attorneys' fees
26 of up to 35% of the Maximum Settlement Amount and documented litigation costs of up to \$20,000
27 to Class Counsel, subject to final approval by the Court following a further motion by Class
28 Counsel;

1 7. The Court approves and appoints Plaintiff Renee Lopez as the Class Representative
2 and grants preliminary approval to a proposed Enhancement Payment in an amount not to exceed
3 \$15,000;

4 8. The Court grants preliminary approval of the allocation of \$80,000 to penalties
5 under the Private Attorneys General Act (Labor Code §§ 2698 et seq.), of which 75% (\$60,000)
6 shall be paid to the LWDA and 25% (\$20,000) shall be included in the Net Settlement Proceeds for
7 payment to Aggrieved Employees;

8 9. The Court hereby approves and appoints Phoenix Class Action Administration
9 Solutions as the Settlement Administrator and grants preliminary approval of the payment of fees
10 and other charges of the Settlement Administrator in an amount not to exceed \$25,000;

11 10. The Court orders the following schedule of dates for the specified actions/further
12 proceedings:

<u>EVENT</u>	<u>TIMING</u>
Last day for Defendant to provide to the Settlement Administrator a list of all Class Members, including their last known addresses, telephone numbers, social security numbers, and their dates of employment in a non-exempt position in California during the Class Period ("Settlement Class Information")	10 calendar days after entry of Court's Order granting preliminary approval of Settlement
Last day for Settlement Administrator to mail Class Notice to Class Members	20 calendar days after entry of Court's Order granting preliminary approval of Settlement
Last day for Class Members to submit a written request for exclusion to the Settlement Administrator	45 calendar days after the initial mailing of the Class Notice to Class Members
Last day for Class Members to submit an Objection to the Settlement Administrator	45 calendar days after the initial mailing of the Class Notice to Class Members
Last day for Class Counsel to file and serve moving papers in support of final settlement approval and request for attorneys' fees and costs	10 calendar days before the final settlement approval hearing date
Last day for Class Counsel to file with the Court and serve declaration by Settlement Administrator specifying the due diligence undertaken with regard to the mailing of the Notice	10 calendar days before the final settlement approval hearing date

<u>EVENT</u>	<u>TIMING</u>
Final settlement approval hearing	_____, 2023, at _____.m. (approximately 90 days after entry of this Order)

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated: _____

JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT