

Sarkis Sirmabekian [SBN 278588]
SIRMABEKIAN LAW FIRM, PC
3435 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 1710
Los Angeles, California 90010
Telephone: (818) 473-5003
Facsimile: (818) 476-5619
Email: contact@slawla.com

Attorney for Plaintiff and the Proposed Class

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

FRANZ CHAVEZ HIDALGO, an individual; on
behalf of himself and all others similarly situated;

Plaintiff,

v.

OROZCO'S AUTO SERVICE, INC., a California
Corporation; SERVANDO OROZCO, an
individual; CINDY OROZCO, an individual; and
DOES 1 to 100, inclusive;

Defendants.

Case Number: 22STCV21211

[Honorable Stuart M. Rice; Department 1]

**DECLARATION OF SARKIS
SIRMABEKIAN, ESQ. IN SUPPORT OF
PLAINTIFF'S UNOPPOSED MOTION
FOR PRELIMINARY APPROVAL OF
CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT**

*[Filed concurrently with Plaintiff's Notice of
Motion and Motion for Preliminary Approval;
and [Proposed] Order]*

Hearing:

Date: March 10, 2023

Time: 10:30 a.m.

Dept.: 1

Complaint Filed: June 29, 2022

I, SARKIS SIRMABEKIAN, declare as follows:

1. I am an attorney licensed to practice law in the State of California and co-counsel to the named Plaintiff FRANZ CHAVEZ HIDALGO ("Plaintiff") in the above-captioned matter.
2. This Declaration is submitted in support of Plaintiff's Unopposed Motion for Preliminary Approval of Class Action Settlement. The following facts are within my personal knowledge and, if called as a witness herein, I can and will competently testify hereto.
3. Class Counsel almost exclusively prosecutes wage and hour actions (including class actions) on behalf of hard-working California employees. Class Counsel, either on its own or with co-

counsel, have served or are currently serving as Plaintiff's counsel of record in numerous different wage and hour class action cases. Thus, Class Counsel has extensive experience in similar litigation.

4. Furthermore, Class Counsel has trial experience, and has extensive wage and hour experience in litigation, law and motion, deposition, and discovery.
5. As counsel for Plaintiff, I have been intimately involved in every aspect of this case from inception to the present.
6. This matter was initially filed on April 2, 2021 as a single plaintiff lawsuit alleging wage and hour violations against Defendants. However, the Parties later agreed to settle the case as a class action lawsuit.
7. On June 29, 2022, Plaintiff filed its class-action complaint against Defendants in the Superior Court of the State of California, County of Los Angeles, alleging violations of California wage and hour law. The operative Complaint alleges causes of action for: 1. Violation of Private Attorney General Act ("PAGA"); 2. Failure to Pay Minimum Wage (Class Claim; Cal. Lab. Code §§ 1182.12, 1194, 1197 & 1198, et seq.); 3. Failure to Pay Overtime Compensation (Class Claim; Cal. Lab. Code §§ 1198 & 510, et seq.); 4. Failure to Pay Meal Period Compensation (Class Claim; Cal. Lab. Code §§ 226.7, 512(a) & 1198 et seq.); 5. Failure to Pay Rest Period Compensation (Class Claim; Cal. Lab. Code §§ 226.7 & 1198 et seq.); 6. Failure to Furnish Accurate Wage and Hour Statements (Class Claim; Cal. Lab. Code § 226); 7. Failure to Maintain Accurate Payroll Records (Class Claim; Cal. Lab. Code §§ 226(a), 1174(d) and 1198, et seq.); 8. Failure to Pay Wages Upon Discharge (Class Claim; Cal. Lab. Code §§ 201 & 202, et seq.); 9. Failure to Indemnify (Class Claim; Cal. Lab. Code § 2802); and 10. Unfair Competition (Class Claim; Business and Professions Code § 17200 et seq.);
8. On October 26, 2022, Defendants OROZCO'S AUTO SERVICE, INC., SERVANDO OROZCO, and CINDY OROZCO filed a Notice of Appearance.
9. On May 11, 2022, the Parties participated in private mediation before mediator Nikki Tolt, Esq. of ACT Mediation (the "Mediator"), a well know, well versed, and respected mediator of wage and hour class actions.

- 1 10. The Parties came to an agreement following the mediation, in which the Parties stipulated to
2 the material terms of the Settlement Agreement now before this Court. Attached hereto as
3 **“EXHIBIT 1”** is a true and correct copy of the “Class Action and PAGA Settlement
4 Agreement and Class Notice”, fully executed on August 19, 2022 (“Settlement Agreement”).
5 The settlement discussions during and after mediation were conducted at arm’s length, and the
6 settlement is the result of an informed and detailed analysis of Defendants’ potential liability
7 of total exposure in relation to the costs and risks associated with continued litigation.
- 8 11. Based on the data produced pursuant to informal discovery, as well as Class Counsel’s own
9 independent investigation and evaluation and the Mediator’s efforts, Class Counsel believe
10 that the settlement with Defendants for the consideration and on the terms set forth in this
11 Settlement Agreement is fair, reasonable, and adequate and is in the best interest of the Class
12 Members in light of all known facts and circumstances, including the risk of significant delay
13 and uncertainty associated with litigation, various defenses asserted by Defendants, and
14 numerous potential appellate issues.
- 15 12. Class Counsel is not aware of any class, representative or other collective action in any other
16 court in this or any other jurisdiction that asserts claims similar to those asserted in this action
17 on behalf of a class or group of individuals some or all of whom would also be members of the
18 class defined in this action.
- 19 13. Plaintiff and Defendants agreed to the foregoing settlement in exchange for a Gross Settlement
20 Amount of \$130,000.00, to be paid by Defendants in full satisfaction of all claims arising from
21 the Action.
- 22 14. The Gross Settlement Amount includes: (1) all Individual Settlement Payments to Participating
23 Class Members ; (2) the Class Representative Service Payment, (3) Claims Administration
24 Expenses, (4) PAGA penalties in the amount of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) of which
25 75% or Seven Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$7,500.00) will be paid to the Labor
26 Workforce Development Agency (“LWDA”) and 25% or Two Thousand Five Hundred
27 Dollars (\$2,500.00) to Participating Class Members, and (5) Class Counsel Fees and Cost.
28

1 15. In addition to the Gross Settlement Amount, Defendants have agreed to pay Plaintiff and his
2 counsel an additional sum of \$20,000.00 (“Individual Settlement Amount”) to resolve
3 Plaintiff’s claim for wrongful termination, in Case No. 21STCV12681 (this amount is separate,
4 and in addition to the Gross Settlement Amount). All other claims will be extinguished through
5 approval of settlement of this Action.

6 16. The Proposed Class is numerous and ascertainable. The proposed Settlement Class consists of
7 “all persons employed by OAS in California and classified as current and former hourly non-
8 exempt employees who worked for OAS during the period from April 2, 2017 through the date
9 of Preliminary Approval of this Settlement.”.

10 17. There are common questions of law and fact including, but not limited to, the following:
11 Whether Defendants failed to pay the minimum wage; Whether Defendants failed to
12 compensate for all hours worked; Whether Defendants failed to provide meal periods or pay
13 meal period premiums in lieu thereof; Whether Defendants failed to provide rest periods or
14 pay meal period premiums in lieu thereof; Whether Defendants failed to provide proper wage
15 statements to Class Members; Whether Defendants failed to furnish accurate wage and hour
16 statements; Whether Defendants failed to pay Class Members’ wages upon termination, giving
17 rise to waiting time penalties; Whether Defendants failed to pay overtime to Class Members;
18 Whether Defendants engaged in unfair or unlawful business practices; and Whether
19 Defendants failed to comply with Private Attorneys General Act.

20 18. Plaintiff’s claims are typical of the class claims. Plaintiff alleges that Defendants maintained
21 company-wide employment practices that deprived Class Members of minimum wages,
22 overtime wages, meal period compensation and/or rest period compensation.

23 19. Plaintiff’s allegations present common legal and factual questions of, inter alia, whether
24 Defendants applied the same policies and/or practices regarding the foregoing to all class
25 members; whether those policies and/or practices or their implementation resulted in violations
26 of various laws; whether Defendants’ conduct was intentional; and whether Class Members
27 are entitled to penalties. These questions could be resolved by using Defendants’ payroll
28 records, testimony from Class Members, and testimony from corporate representatives.

1 20. Plaintiff and Plaintiff's Counsel will adequately represent the interests of the proposed class.

2 In the present case, Plaintiff's interests are coextensive with the interests of the Class. Plaintiff
3 has already demonstrated his ability to advocate for the interests of the Class by initiating this
4 litigation and obtaining a fair settlement on behalf of himself and Class Members. Likewise,
5 the Sirmabekian Law Firm, PC have expended considerable time and effort on this case and
6 will continue to do so through final approval.

7 21. The Settlement was the product of a mediation session with a well-respected mediator and
8 negotiations over the terms of the Settlement. The negotiations were adversarial, conducted at
9 arm's length and took into account all relevant factors, present and potential.

10 22. Plaintiff's Counsel conducted significant investigation of the facts and law during the
11 prosecution of this action. In particular, Plaintiff's Counsel assessed the value of the class
12 claims using production by Defendants of applicable policies and procedures and a sampling
13 of data relevant to class claims. Plaintiff's Counsel analyzed all facts, theories, data, documents
14 and information on which the Action is based to determine the merits of the class claims.

15 23. Further, Plaintiff's Counsel interviewed and investigated the claims alleged in this lawsuit by
16 speaking to Class Members, conducting interviews and gathering necessary declarations
17 needed for class certification, and obtained time and payroll records to assess damages before
18 mediation.

19 24. Accordingly, Plaintiff's Counsel fully understood the strengths and weaknesses of the class
20 claims before the parties reached the Settlement.

21 25. Plaintiff FRANZ CHAVEZ HIDALGO assisted counsel in gathering the evidence necessary
22 to prosecute the class claims, met with Class Counsel to prepare for mediation, maintained
23 regular contact with counsel, and reviewed the Settlement to make sure it was fair to the class.

24 26. No action would likely have been taken by Class Members individually, and no compensation
25 would have been recovered for them, but for Plaintiff's service on behalf of the Class Members.

26 27. Moreover, the amount of the incentive award was not negotiated until after the parties agreed
27 to the Gross Settlement Amount.
28

1 28. Plaintiff's Counsel calculated Defendants' total potential exposure assuming Plaintiff
2 prevailed on all aspects of his claims at trial but weighed the value against the chance of
3 succeeding at class certification and trial.

4 29. Plaintiff's Counsel estimate of the total amount of damages, monetary penalties or other relief
5 that the class could reasonably expect to be awarded at trial, taking into account the likelihood
6 of prevailing and other risk totals. These estimates were carefully weighed against the
7 continued risk of proceeding to trial on the merits and failing to prevail on claims. These
8 estimates were further carefully weighed against the likelihood of the Court granting
9 certification to some or all of Plaintiff's claims. Plaintiff, along with the advice of his counsel,
10 weighed the benefits of putting money into the pockets of several hundred California
11 employees within several months, with the cost and risk of continued litigation, and the
12 possibility of appeal.

13 30. Defendants disputed the statistical analysis prepared by Plaintiff and also asserted that their
14 meal period policies were compliant with California law and that it did not prevent employees
15 from taking their timely meal periods. Defendants further contended that any analysis of
16 alleged unpaid overtime and unreimbursed business expenses would require an individualized
17 inquiry of each employee to determine whether there was any liability, such that class
18 certification would not be proper for these claims.

19 31. Furthermore, Plaintiff realizes penalties are extremely discretionary, and are subject to
20 immense reduction by the Court, based on various factors that are different with each court. It
21 is additionally important to note that Defendants will claim penalties are derivative of the
22 alleged failure to pay overtime wages and reimbursement of overtime wages described above.
23 Should Plaintiff fail to prevail on their claims for damages, then the class would not be entitled
24 to penalties. This decreases the chances of ultimately obtaining an award of penalties, and
25 factored into Plaintiff's analysis of weighing risks and benefits of settlement at this juncture.

26 32. Defendants will further contend that wage statement penalties were not the result of a
27 "knowing and intentional failure" by Defendants to comply with Cal. Lab. Code § 226(a) as
28 required by the statute, and that the employees did not suffer injury for purposes of recovering

1 penalties as required under *Cal. Lab. Code §226(e)(2)(B)(i) and (ii)*. Defendants will further
2 contend that the alleged failure to timely pay final wages was derivative of the claims that are
3 in dispute, such that there was not a willful showing that the employer knew of its obligation
4 and intentionally refused to act.

5 33. In this case, Plaintiff's Counsel heavily discounted the PAGA claim based on the risk that
6 Defendants would convince the Court to dramatically reduce the PAGA penalties because
7 Defendants made efforts to comply with wage and hour laws through its employee handbook
8 and there was no evidence that Defendants acted with reckless disregard regarding the alleged
9 claims.

10 34. However, even if the Court did not reduce the award based on discretionary factors, Defendants
11 could argue that the "subsequent violations" under PAGA only start to accrue after employers
12 receive notice through a citation from the Labor Commissioner.

13 35. The gross settlement amount Defendants shall have to pay in connection with this Settlement
14 is \$130,000.00. Class Counsel considers this to be an excellent settlement for class members,
15 when taking into account all issues and risks related to liability and class certification, and also
16 considering the case law regarding fair, reasonable, and adequate settlements.

17 36. Plaintiff's Counsel believes that mail is the best practicable method of providing notice
18 compared to alternatives, like email or by publication since the last known address provides
19 the most complete set of records available to reach Class members (i.e., phone numbers and
20 email addresses may not be available for all Class Members). In addition, the option to skip
21 trace by the Settlement Administrator improves the overall effectiveness of mailing the Notice
22 Packet to Class Members.

23 37. Further, and pursuant to the Settlement Agreement, the Parties stipulate to class certification
24 for purposes of this Settlement only.

25 38. Class Counsel does not have any financial interest in the Claims Administrator or otherwise
26 have a relationship with the Claims Administrator that could create a conflict of interest.

1 I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing
2 declaration is true and correct. Executed February 10, 2023, at Los Angeles, California.

3
4 By: 
5 Sarkis Sirmabekian, Esq.
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28

EXHIBIT 1

[MODEL] CLASS ACTION AND PAGA SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT AND CLASS NOTICEⁱ

This Class Action and PAGA Settlement Agreement (“Agreement”) is made by and between plaintiff Franz Chavez Hidalgo (“Plaintiff”) and defendant Orozco’s Auto Service, Inc., Servando Orozco, and Cindy Orozco (“OAS”). The Agreement refers to Plaintiff and OAS collectively as “Parties,” or individually as “Party.”

1. DEFINITIONS.

- 1.1. “Action” means the Plaintiff’s lawsuit alleging wage and hour violations against OAS captioned *Franz Chavez Hidalgo v. Orozco’s Auto Service, Inc., a California Corporation, et al.* initiated on June 29, 2022 and pending in Superior Court of the State of California, County of Los Angeles, Case No. 22STCV21211.
- 1.2. “Administrator” means Phoenix Settlement Administrators, the neutral entity the Parties have agreed to appoint to administer the Settlement.
- 1.3. “Administration Expenses Payment” means the amount the Administrator will be paid from the Gross Settlement Amount to reimburse its reasonable fees and expenses in accordance with the Administrator’s “not to exceed” bid submitted to the Court in connection with Preliminary Approval of the Settlement.
- 1.4. “Aggrieved Employee” means [e.g., a person employed by OAS in California and classified as a current and former hourly non-exempt employee who worked for OAS during the PAGA Period].
- 1.5. “Class” means [define class e.g., all persons employed by OAS in California and classified as current and former hourly non-exempt employees who worked for OAS during the Class Period].
- 1.6. “Class Counsel” means Sirmabekian Law Firm, PC.
- 1.7. “Class Counsel Fees Payment” and “Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment” mean the amounts allocated to Class Counsel for reimbursement of reasonable attorneys’ fees and expenses, respectively, incurred to prosecute the Action.
- 1.8. “Class Data” means Class Member identifying information in OAS’s possession including the Class Member’s name, last-known mailing address, Social Security number, , and number of Class Period Workweeks and PAGA Pay Periods.
- 1.9. “Class Member” or “Settlement Class Member” means a member of the Class, as either a Participating Class Member or Non-Participating Class Member (including a Non-Participating Class Member who qualifies as an Aggrieved Employee).
- 1.10. “Class Member Address Search” means the Administrator’s investigation and

search for current Class Member mailing addresses using all reasonably available sources, methods and means including, but not limited to, the National Change of Address database, skip traces, and direct contact by the Administrator with Class Members.

- 1.11. “Class Notice” means the COURT APPROVED NOTICE OF CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT AND HEARING DATE FOR FINAL COURT APPROVAL, to be mailed to Class Members in English [with a Spanish translation, if applicable] in the form, without material variation, attached as Exhibit A and incorporated by reference into this Agreement.
- 1.12. “Class Period” means the period from April 2, 2017 through the date of Preliminary Approval of this Settlement.ⁱⁱ
- 1.13. “Class Representative” means the named Plaintiff in the operative complaint in the Action seeking Court approval to serve as a Class Representative.
- 1.14. “Class Representative Service Payment” means the payment to the Class Representative for initiating the Action and providing services in support of the Action.
- 1.15. “Court” means the Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles.
- 1.16. “OAS” means named Defendants Orozco’s Auto Service, Inc., Servando Orozco, and Cindy Orozco.
- 1.17. “Defense Counsel” means Artiano & Associates, APC.
- 1.18. “Effective Date” means the date by when both of the following have occurred: (a) the Court enters a Judgment on its Order Granting Final Approval of the Settlement; and (b) the Judgment is final. The Judgment is final as of the latest of the following occurrences: (a) if no Participating Class Member objects to the Settlement, the day the Court enters Judgment; (b) if one or more Participating Class Members objects to the Settlement, the day after the deadline for filing a notice of appeal from the Judgment; or if a timely appeal from the Judgment is filed, the day after the appellate court affirms the Judgment and issues a remittitur.
- 1.19. “Final Approval” means the Court’s order granting final approval of the Settlement.
- 1.20. “Final Approval Hearing” means the Court’s hearing on the Motion for Final Approval of the Settlement.
- 1.21. “Final Judgment” means the Judgment Entered by the Court upon Granting Final Approval of the Settlement.
- 1.22. “Gross Settlement Amount” means \$130,000.00 which is the total amount OAS agrees to pay under the Settlement except as provided in Paragraph 9 below. The

Gross Settlement Amount will be used to pay Individual Class Payments, Individual PAGA Payments, the LWDA PAGA Payment, Class Counsel Fees, Class Counsel Expenses, Class Representative Service Payment and the Administrator's Expenses.

- 1.23. "Individual Class Payment" means the Participating Class Member's pro rata share of the Net Settlement Amount calculated according to the number of Workweeks worked during the Class Period.
- 1.24. "Individual PAGA Payment" means the Aggrieved Employee's pro rata share of 25% of the PAGA Penalties calculated according to the number of Workweeks worked during the PAGA Period.
- 1.25. "Judgment" means the judgment entered by the Court based upon the Final Approval.
- 1.26. "LWDA" means the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency, the agency entitled, under Labor Code section 2699, subd. (i).
- 1.27. "LWDA PAGA Payment" means the 75% of the PAGA Penalties paid to the LWDA under Labor Code section 2699, subd. (i).
- 1.28. "Net Settlement Amount" means the Gross Settlement Amount, less the following payments in the amounts approved by the Court: Individual PAGA Payments, the LWDA PAGA Payment, Class Representative Service Payment, Class Counsel Fees Payment, Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment, and the Administration Expenses Payment. The remainder is to be paid to Participating Class Members as Individual Class Payments.
- 1.29. "Non-Participating Class Member" means any Class Member who opts out of the Settlement by sending the Administrator a valid and timely Request for Exclusion.
- 1.30. "PAGA Pay Period" means any Pay Period during which an Aggrieved Employee worked for OAS for at least one day during the PAGA Period.
- 1.31. "PAGA Period" means the period from April 2, 2020 through the date of Preliminary Approval of this Settlement.ⁱⁱⁱ
- 1.32. "PAGA" means the Private Attorneys General Act (Labor Code §§ 2698. et seq.).
- 1.33. "PAGA Notice" means Plaintiff's 1/27/2021 letter to OAS and the LWDA providing notice pursuant to Labor Code section 2699.3, subd.(a).
- 1.34. "PAGA Penalties" means the total amount of PAGA civil penalties to be paid from the Gross Settlement Amount, allocated 25% to the Aggrieved Employees (\$2,500.00) and the 75% to LWDA (\$7,500.00) in settlement of PAGA claims.

- 1.35. “Participating Class Member” means a Class Member who does not submit a valid and timely Request for Exclusion from the Settlement.
- 1.36. “Plaintiff” means Franz Chavez Hidalgo, the named plaintiff in the Action.
- 1.37. “Preliminary Approval” means the Court’s Order Granting Preliminary Approval of the Settlement.
- 1.38. "Preliminary Approval Order" means the proposed Order Granting Preliminary Approval and Approval of PAGA Settlement.
- 1.39. “Released Class Claims” means the claims being released as described in Paragraph 6.2 below.
- 1.40. “Released PAGA Claims” means the claims being released as described in Paragraph 6.2 below.
- 1.41. “Released Parties” means: OAS and each of its former and present directors, officers, shareholders, owners, [members], attorneys, insurers, predecessors, successors, assigns [subsidiaries] [affiliates].
- 1.42. “Request for Exclusion” means a Class Member’s submission of a written request to be excluded from the Class Settlement signed by the Class Member.
- 1.43. "Response Deadline" means [e.g., 60] days after the Administrator mails Notice to Class Members and Aggrieved Employees, and shall be the last date on which Class Members may: (a) fax, email, or mail Requests for Exclusion from the Settlement, or (b) fax, email, or mail his or her Objection to the Settlement. Class Members to whom Notice Packets are resent after having been returned undeliverable to the Administrator shall have an additional 14 calendar days beyond the Response Deadline has expired.
- 1.44. “Settlement” means the disposition of the Action effected by this Agreement and the Judgment.
- 1.45. “Workweek” means any week during which a Class Member worked for OAS for at least one day, during the Class Period.^{iv}

2. RECITALS.

- 2.1. On 4/2/2021, Plaintiff commenced a Complaint at Stanley Mosk Courthouse for his individual claims and representative claims under the Private Attorneys General Act, Case No. 21STCV12681.
- 2.2. On 6/29/2021, Plaintiff commenced this Action by filing a Complaint alleging causes of action against OAS for class action wage and hour claims and claims under the Private Attorneys General Act. [The 6/29/2021 Complaint is the operative complaint in the Action (the “Operative Complaint.”)] OAS denies the allegations in the Operative

Complaint, denies any failure to comply with the laws identified in in the Operative Complaint and denies any and all liability for the causes of action alleged.

- 2.3. Pursuant to Labor Code section 2699.3, subd.(a), Plaintiff gave timely written notice to OAS and the LWDA by sending the PAGA Notice.
- 2.4. On May 11, 2022, [the Parties participated in an all-day mediation presided over by Nikki Tolt which led to this Agreement to settle the Action.
- 2.5. Prior to mediation, Plaintiff obtained, through informal discovery, Plaintiff obtained the total number of PAGA Members , current and former, total number of pay periods, a sampling of payroll records, timesheets and pay stubs for 20% of the PAGA members picked at random, and other wage and hour documents. Plaintiff's investigation was sufficient to satisfy the criteria for court approval set forth in *Dunk v. Foot Locker Retail, Inc.* (1996) 48 Cal.App.4th 1794, 1801 and *Kullar v. Foot Locker Retail, Inc.* (2008) 168 Cal.App.4th 116, 129-130 ("*Dunk/Kullar*").
- 2.6. The Court has not granted class certification.
- 2.7. Case No. 21STCV12681 will be dismissed with prejudice upon final approval of this Action.

3. MONETARY TERMS.

- 3.1. Gross Settlement Amount. Except as otherwise provided by Paragraph 9 below, OAS promises to pay \$130,000.00 and no more as the Gross Settlement Amount [and to separately pay any and all employer payroll taxes owed on the Wage Portions of the Individual Class Payments.] OAS has no obligation to pay the Gross Settlement Amount (or any payroll taxes) prior to the deadline stated in Paragraph 6.1 of this Agreement.^v The Administrator will disburse the entire Gross Settlement Amount without asking or requiring Participating Class Members or Aggrieved Employees to submit any claim as a condition of payment. None of the Gross Settlement Amount will revert to OAS.
- 3.2. Individual Settlement Amount. In addition to the Gross Settlement Amount, Defendants have agreed to pay Plaintiff and his counsel an additional sum of \$20,000.00 ("Individual Settlement Amount") to resolve Plaintiff's claim for wrongful termination, in Case No. 21STCV12681 (this amount is separate, and in addition to the Gross Settlement Amount). All other claims will be extinguished through approval of settlement of this Action.
- 3.3. Payments from the Gross Settlement Amount. The Administrator will make and deduct the following payments from the Gross Settlement Amount, in the amounts specified by the Court in the Final Approval:

- 3.3.1. To Plaintiff: Class Representative Service Payment to the Class Representative of not more than \$5,000.00 (in addition to any Individual Class Payment [and any Individual PAGA Payment] the Class Representative is entitled to receive as a Participating Class Member). OAS will not oppose Plaintiff's request for a Class Representative Service Payment that does not exceed this amount. As part of the motion for Class Counsel Fees Payment and Class Litigation Expenses Payment, Plaintiff will seek Court approval for any Class Representative Service Payments no later than [16 court] days prior to the Final Approval Hearing. If the Court approves a Class Representative Service Payment less than the amount requested, the Administrator will retain the remainder in the Net Settlement Amount. The Administrator will pay the Class Representative Service Payment using IRS Form 1099. Plaintiff assumes full responsibility and liability for employee taxes owed on the Class Representative Service Payment.
- 3.3.2. To Class Counsel: A Class Counsel Fees Payment of not more than 33.33%, which is currently estimated to be \$43,333.33 and a Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment of not more than \$5,000.00. OAS will not oppose requests for these payments provided that do not exceed these amounts. Plaintiff and/or Class Counsel will file a motion for Class Counsel Fees Payment and Class Litigation Expenses Payment no later than [16 court] days prior to the Final Approval Hearing. If the Court approves a Class Counsel Fees Payment and/or a Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment less than the amounts requested, the Administrator will allocate the remainder to the Net Settlement Amount. Released Parties shall have no liability to Class Counsel or any other Plaintiff's Counsel arising from any claim to any portion any Class Counsel Fee Payment and/or Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment. The Administrator will pay the Class Counsel Fees Payment and Class Counsel Expenses Payment using one or more IRS 1099 Forms. Class Counsel assumes full responsibility and liability for taxes owed on the Class Counsel Fees Payment and the Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment and holds OAS harmless, and indemnifies OAS, from any dispute or controversy regarding any division or sharing of any of these Payments.
- 3.3.3. To the Administrator: An Administrator Expenses Payment not to exceed \$6,500.00 except for a showing of good cause and as approved by the Court. To the extent the Administration Expenses are less or the Court approves payment less than \$6,500.00, the Administrator will retain the remainder in the Net Settlement Amount.
- 3.3.4. To Each Participating Class Member: An Individual Class Payment calculated by (a) dividing the Net Settlement Amount by the total number of Workweeks worked by all Participating Class Members during the Class Period and (b) multiplying the result by each Participating Class Member's Workweeks.
- 3.3.4.1. Tax Allocation of Individual Class Payments. 33.33% of each Participating Class Member's Individual Class Payment will be allocated to settlement of wage claims (the "Wage Portion"). The Wage Portions are

subject to tax withholding and will be reported on an IRS W-2 Form. The 66.66% of each Participating Class Member's Individual Class Payment will be allocated to settlement of claims for [e.g., interest and penalties] (the "Non-Wage Portion").^{vi} The Non-Wage Portions are not subject to wage withholdings and will be reported on IRS 1099 Forms. Participating Class Members assume full responsibility and liability for any employee taxes owed on their Individual Class Payment.

- 3.3.4.2. Effect of Non-Participating Class Members on Calculation of Individual Class Payments. Non-Participating Class Members will not receive any Individual Class Payments. The Administrator will retain amounts equal to their Individual Class Payments in the Net Settlement Amount for distribution to Participating Class Members on a pro rata basis.
- 3.3.5. To the LWDA and Aggrieved Employees: PAGA Penalties in the amount of \$10,000.00 to be paid from the Gross Settlement Amount, with 75% (\$7,500.00) allocated to the LWDA PAGA Payment and 25% (\$2,500.00) allocated to the Individual PAGA Payments.
- 3.3.5.1. The Administrator will calculate each Individual PAGA Payment by (a) dividing the amount of the Aggrieved Employees' 25% share of PAGA Penalties \$2,500.00 by the total number of PAGA Period Pay Periods worked by all Aggrieved Employees during the PAGA Period and (b) multiplying the result by each Aggrieved Employee's PAGA Period Pay Periods. Aggrieved Employees assume full responsibility and liability for any taxes owed on their Individual PAGA Payment.
- 3.3.5.2. If the Court approves PAGA Penalties of less than the amount requested, the Administrator will allocate the remainder to the Net Settlement Amount. The Administrator will report the Individual PAGA Payments on IRS 1099 Forms.

4. SETTLEMENT FUNDING AND PAYMENTS.

- 4.1. Class Workweeks and Aggrieved Employee Pay Periods. Based on a review of its records to date, OAS estimates there are 124 Class Members who collectively worked a total of 6972 Workweeks, and 72 of Aggrieved Employees who worked a total 1697 of PAGA Pay Periods.

Class Data. Not later than 15 days after the Court grants Preliminary Approval of the Settlement, OAS will simultaneously deliver the Class Data to the Administrator, in the form of a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet. To protect Class Members' privacy rights, the Administrator must maintain the Class Data in confidence, use the Class Data only for purposes of this Settlement and for no other purpose, and restrict access to the Class Data to Administrator employees who need access to the Class Data to effect and perform under this Agreement. OAS has a continuing duty to immediately notify Class Counsel if it discovers that the Class Data omitted class member identifying information

and to provide corrected or updated Class Data as soon as reasonably feasible. Without any extension of the deadline by which OAS must send the Class Data to the Administrator, the Parties and their counsel will expeditiously use best efforts, in good faith, to reconstruct or otherwise resolve any issues related to missing or omitted Class Data.

- 4.2. Funding of Gross Settlement Amount. OAS shall fully fund the Gross Settlement Amount, and also fund the amounts necessary to fully pay OAS's share of payroll taxes by transmitting the funds to the Administrator no later than [14] days after the Effective Date.
- 4.3. Payments from the Gross Settlement Amount. Within [14] days after OAS funds the Gross Settlement Amount, the Administrator will mail checks for all Individual Class Payments, all Individual PAGA Payments, the LWDA PAGA Payment, the Administration Expenses Payment, the Class Counsel Fees Payment, the Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment, and the Class Representative Service Payment. Disbursement of the Class Counsel Fees Payment, the Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment and the Class Representative Service Payment shall not precede disbursement of Individual Class Payments and Individual PAGA Payments.
 - 4.3.1. The Administrator will issue checks for the Individual Class Payments and/or Individual PAGA Payments and send them to the Class Members via First Class U.S. Mail, postage prepaid. The face of each check shall prominently state the date (not less than 180 days after the date of mailing) when the check will be voided. The Administrator will cancel all checks not cashed by the void date. The Administrator will send checks for Individual Settlement Payments to all Participating Class Members (including those for whom Class Notice was returned undelivered). The Administrator will send checks for Individual PAGA Payments to all Aggrieved Employees including Non-Participating Class Members who qualify as Aggrieved Employees (including those for whom Class Notice was returned undelivered). The Administrator may send Participating Class Members a single check combining the Individual Class Payment and the Individual PAGA Payment. Before mailing any checks, the Settlement Administrator must update the recipients' mailing addresses using the National Change of Address Database.
 - 4.3.2. The Administrator must conduct a Class Member Address Search for all other Class Members whose checks are returned undelivered without USPS forwarding address. Within [7] days of receiving a returned check the Administrator must re-mail checks to the USPS forwarding address provided or to an address ascertained through the Class Member Address Search. The Administrator need not take further steps to deliver checks to Class Members whose re-mailed checks are returned as undelivered. The Administrator shall promptly send a replacement check to any Class Member whose original check was lost or misplaced, requested by the Class Member prior to the void date.
 - 4.3.3. For any Class Member whose Individual Class Payment check or Individual PAGA Payment check is uncashed and cancelled after the void date, the

Administrator shall transmit the funds represented by such checks [to the California Controller's Unclaimed Property Fund in the name of the Class Member thereby leaving no "unpaid residue" subject to the requirements of California Code of Civil Procedure Section 384, subd. (b).]

- 4.3.4. The payment of Individual Class Payments and Individual PAGA Payments shall not obligate OAS to confer any additional benefits or make any additional payments to Class Members (such as 401(k) contributions or bonuses) beyond those specified in this Agreement.

6. RELEASES OF CLAIMS. Effective on the date when OAS fully funds the entire Gross Settlement Amount and funds all employer payroll taxes owed on the Wage Portion of the Individual Class Payments, Plaintiff, Class Members, and Class Counsel will release claims against all Released Parties as follows:

- 6.1 Plaintiff's Release. Plaintiff and his or her respective former and present spouses, representatives, agents, attorneys, heirs, administrators, successors, and assigns generally, release and discharge Released Parties from all claims, transactions, or occurrences [that occurred during the Class Period], including, but not limited to: (a) all claims that were, or reasonably could have been, alleged, based on the facts contained, in the Operative Complaint and (b) all PAGA claims that were, or reasonably could have been, alleged based on facts contained in the Operative Complaint, Plaintiff's PAGA Notice, [or ascertained during the Action and released under 6.2, below]. ("Plaintiff's Release.") Plaintiff's Release does not extend to any claims or actions to enforce this Agreement, or to any claims for vested benefits, unemployment benefits, disability benefits, social security benefits, workers' compensation benefits that arose at any time, or based on occurrences outside the Class Period. Plaintiff acknowledges that Plaintiff may discover facts or law different from, or in addition to, the facts or law that Plaintiff now knows or believes to be true but agrees, nonetheless, that Plaintiff's Release shall be and remain effective in all respects, notwithstanding such different or additional facts or Plaintiff's discovery of them.

- 6.1.1 Plaintiff's Waiver of Rights Under California Civil Code Section 1542. For purposes of Plaintiff's Release, Plaintiff expressly waives and relinquishes the provisions, rights, and benefits, if any, of section 1542 of the California Civil Code, which reads:

A general release does not extend to claims that the creditor or releasing party does not know or suspect to exist in his or her favor at the time of executing the release, and that if known by him or her would have materially affected his or her settlement with the debtor or Released Party.

6.2 Release by Participating Class Members Who Are Not Aggrieved Employees:

All Participating Class Members, on behalf of themselves and their respective former and present representatives, agents, attorneys, heirs, administrators, successors, and assigns, release Released Parties from (i) all claims that were alleged, or reasonably could have been alleged, based on the Class Period facts stated in the Operative Complaint [and ascertained in the course of the Action] [including, e.g., “(a) any and all claims involving any alleged failure to pay minimum wage; etc.]. Except as set forth in Section 6.3 of this Agreement, Participating Class Members do not release any other claims, including claims for vested benefits, wrongful termination, violation of the Fair Employment and Housing Act, unemployment insurance, disability, social security, workers’ compensation, or claims based on facts occurring outside the Class Period.

6.3 Release by Non-Participating Class Members Who Are Aggrieved Employees:

All Non-Participating Class Members who are Aggrieved Employees are deemed to release, on behalf of themselves and their respective former and present representatives, agents, attorneys, heirs, administrators, successors, and assigns, the Released Parties from all claims for PAGA penalties that were alleged, or reasonably could have been alleged, based on the PAGA Period facts stated in the Operative Complaint[,] [and] the PAGA Notice [and ascertained in the course of the Action][including, e.g., “(a) any and all claims involving any alleged failure to pay minimum wage; etc.].

7. **MOTION FOR PRELIMINARY APPROVAL.** The Parties agree to jointly prepare and file a motion for preliminary approval (“Motion for Preliminary Approval”) that complies with the Court’s current checklist for Preliminary Approvals.

7.1 OAS’s Declaration in Support of Preliminary Approval. Within 7 days of the full execution of this Agreement, OAS will prepare and deliver to Class Counsel a signed Declaration from OAS and Defense Counsel disclosing all facts relevant to any actual or potential conflicts of interest with the Administrator and Cy Pres Recipient. In their Declarations, Defense Counsel and OAS shall aver that they are not aware of any other pending matter or action asserting claims that will be extinguished or adversely affected by the Settlement.

7.2 Plaintiff’s Responsibilities. Plaintiff will prepare and deliver to Defense Counsel all documents necessary for obtaining Preliminary Approval, including: (i) a draft of the notice, and memorandum in support, of the Motion for Preliminary Approval that includes an analysis of the Settlement under *Dunk/Kullar* and a request for approval of the PAGA Settlement under Labor Code Section 2699, subd. (f)(2)); (ii) a draft proposed Order Granting Preliminary Approval and Approval of PAGA Settlement; (iii) a draft proposed Class Notice; (iv) a signed declaration from the Administrator attaching its “not to exceed” bid for administering the Settlement and attesting to its willingness to serve; competency; operative procedures for protecting the security of Class Data; amounts of insurance coverage for any data breach, defalcation of funds or other misfeasance; all facts relevant to any actual or potential conflicts of interest with Class Members [and/or the proposed Cy Pres]; and the nature and extent of any financial relationship with Plaintiff, Class Counsel or Defense Counsel; (v) a signed declaration

from Plaintiff confirming willingness and competency to serve and disclosing all facts relevant to any actual or potential conflicts of interest with Class Members, [and/or] the Administrator [and/or the proposed Cy Pres]; (v) a signed declaration from each Class Counsel firm attesting to its competency to represent the Class Members; its timely transmission to the LWDA of all necessary PAGA documents (initial notice of violations (Labor Code section 2699.3, subd. (a)), Operative Complaint (Labor Code section 2699, subd. (l)(1)), this Agreement (Labor Code section 2699, subd. (l)(2)); (vi) a redlined version of the parties' Agreement showing all modifications made to the Model Agreement ready for filing with the Court; and (vii) all facts relevant to any actual or potential conflict of interest with Class Members, the Administrator and/or the Cy Pres Recipient. In their Declarations, Plaintiff and Class Counsel Declaration shall aver that they are not aware of any other pending matter or action asserting claims that will be extinguished or adversely affected by the Settlement.

7.3 Responsibilities of Counsel. Class Counsel and Defense Counsel are jointly responsible for expeditiously finalizing and filing the Motion for Preliminary Approval no later than [30] days after the full execution of this Agreement; obtaining a prompt hearing date for the Motion for Preliminary Approval; and for appearing in Court to advocate in favor of the Motion for Preliminary Approval. Class Counsel is responsible for delivering the Court's Preliminary Approval to the Administrator.

7.4 Duty to Cooperate. If the Parties disagree on any aspect of the proposed Motion for Preliminary Approval and/or the supporting declarations and documents, Class Counsel and Defense Counsel will expeditiously work together on behalf of the Parties by meeting in person or by telephone, and in good faith, to resolve the disagreement. If the Court does not grant Preliminary Approval or conditions Preliminary Approval on any material change to this Agreement, Class Counsel and Defense Counsel will expeditiously work together on behalf of the Parties by meeting in person or by telephone, and in good faith, to modify the Agreement and otherwise satisfy the Court's concerns.

8. SETTLEMENT ADMINISTRATION.

8.1 Selection of Administrator. The Parties have jointly selected Phoenix Settlement Administrators to serve as the Administrator and verified that, as a condition of appointment, Phoenix Settlement Administrators agrees to be bound by this Agreement and to perform, as a fiduciary, all duties specified in this Agreement in exchange for payment of Administration Expenses. The Parties and their Counsel represent that they have no interest or relationship, financial or otherwise, with the Administrator other than a professional relationship arising out of prior experiences administering settlements.

8.2 Employer Identification Number. The Administrator shall have and use its own Employer Identification Number for purposes of calculating payroll tax withholdings and providing reports state and federal tax authorities.

8.3 Qualified Settlement Fund. The Administrator shall establish a settlement fund that meets the requirements of a Qualified Settlement Fund (“QSF”) under US Treasury Regulation section 468B-1.

8.4 Notice to Class Members.

8.4.1 No later than three (3) business days after receipt of the Class Data, the Administrator shall notify Class Counsel that the list has been received and state the number of Class Members, PAGA Members, Workweeks, and Pay Periods in the Class Data.

8.4.2 Using best efforts to perform as soon as possible, and in no event later than [14] days after receiving the Class Data, the Administrator will send to all Class Members identified in the Class Data, via first-class United States Postal Service (“USPS”) mail, the Class Notice substantially in the form attached to this Agreement as Exhibit A. The first page of the Class Notice shall prominently estimate the dollar amounts of any Individual Class Payment and/or Individual PAGA Payment payable to the Class Member, and the number of Workweeks and PAGA Pay Periods (if applicable) used to calculate these amounts. Before mailing Class Notices, the Administrator shall update Class Member addresses using the National Change of Address database.

8.4.3 Not later than [3] business days after the Administrator’s receipt of any Class Notice returned by the USPS as undelivered, the Administrator shall re-mail the Class Notice using any forwarding address provided by the USPS. If the USPS does not provide a forwarding address, the Administrator shall conduct a Class Member Address Search, and re-mail the Class Notice to the most current address obtained. The Administrator has no obligation to make further attempts to locate or send Class Notice to Class Members whose Class Notice is returned by the USPS a second time.

8.4.4 The deadlines for Class Members’ written objections, Challenges to Workweeks and/or Pay Periods, and Requests for Exclusion will be extended an additional [14] days beyond the [60] days otherwise provided in the Class Notice for all Class Members whose notice is re-mailed. The Administrator will inform the Class Member of the extended deadline with the re-mailed Class Notice.

8.4.5 If the Administrator, OAS or Class Counsel is contacted by or otherwise discovers any persons who believe they should have been included in the Class Data and should have received Class Notice, the Parties will expeditiously meet and confer in person or by telephone, and in good faith, in an effort to agree on whether to include them as Class Members. If the Parties agree, such persons will be Class Members entitled to the same rights as other Class Members, and the Administrator will send, via email or overnight delivery, a Class Notice requiring them to exercise options under this Agreement not later than [14] days after

receipt of Class Notice, or the deadline dates in the Class Notice, which ever are later.

8.5 Requests for Exclusion (Opt-Outs).

8.5.1 Class Members who wish to exclude themselves (opt-out of) the Class Settlement must send the Administrator, by fax, email, or mail, a signed written Request for Exclusion not later than [60] days after the Administrator mails the Class Notice (plus an additional [14] days for Class Members whose Class Notice is re-mailed). A Request for Exclusion is a letter from a Class Member or his/her representative that reasonably communicates the Class Member's election to be excluded from the Settlement and includes the Class Member's name, address and email address or telephone number. To be valid, a Request for Exclusion must be timely faxed, emailed, or postmarked by the Response Deadline.

8.5.2 The Administrator may not reject a Request for Exclusion as invalid because it fails to contain all the information specified in the Class Notice. The Administrator shall accept any Request for Exclusion as valid if the Administrator can reasonably ascertain the identity of the person as a Class Member and the Class Member's desire to be excluded. The Administrator's determination shall be final and not appealable or otherwise susceptible to challenge. If the Administrator has reason to question the authenticity of a Request for Exclusion, the Administrator may demand additional proof of the Class Member's identity. The Administrator's determination of authenticity shall be final and not appealable or otherwise susceptible to challenge.

8.5.3 Every Class Member who does not submit a timely and valid Request for Exclusion is deemed to be a Participating Class Member under this Agreement, entitled to all benefits and bound by all terms and conditions of the Settlement, including the Participating Class Members' Releases under Paragraphs 6.2 and 6.3 of this Agreement, regardless whether the Participating Class Member actually receives the Class Notice or objects to the Settlement.

8.5.4 Every Class Member who submits a valid and timely Request for Exclusion is a Non-Participating Class Member and shall not receive an Individual Class Payment or have the right to object to the class action components of the Settlement. Because future PAGA claims are subject to claim preclusion upon entry of the Judgment, Non-Participating Class Members who are Aggrieved Employees are deemed to release the claims identified in Paragraph 6.4 of this Agreement and are eligible for an Individual PAGA Payment.

8.6 Challenges to Calculation of Workweeks. Each Class Member shall have [60] days after the Administrator mails the Class Notice (plus an additional [14] days for Class Members whose Class Notice is re-mailed) to challenge the number of Class Workweeks and PAGA Pay Periods (if any) allocated to the Class Member in the Class Notice. The Class Member may challenge the allocation by communicating with the

Administrator via fax, email or mail. The Administrator must encourage the challenging Class Member to submit supporting documentation. In the absence of any contrary documentation, the Administrator is entitled to presume that the Workweeks contained in the Class Notice are correct so long as they are consistent with the Class Data. The Administrator's determination of each Class Member's allocation of Workweeks and/or Pay Periods shall be final and not appealable or otherwise susceptible to challenge. The Administrator shall promptly provide copies of all challenges to calculation of Workweeks and/or Pay Periods to Defense Counsel and Class Counsel and the Administrator's determination the challenges.

8.7 Objections to Settlement.

8.7.1 Only Participating Class Members may object to the class action components of the Settlement and/or this Agreement, including contesting the fairness of the Settlement, and/or amounts requested for the Class Counsel Fees Payment, Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment and/or Class Representative Service Payment.

8.7.2 Participating Class Members may send written objections to the Administrator, by fax, email, or mail. In the alternative, Participating Class Members may appear in Court (or hire an attorney to appear in Court) to present verbal objections at the Final Approval Hearing. A Participating Class Member who elects to send a written objection to the Administrator must do so not later than [60] days after the Administrator's mailing of the Class Notice (plus an additional [14] days for Class Members whose Class Notice was re-mailed).

8.7.3 Non-Participating Class Members have no right to object to any of the class action components of the Settlement.

8.8 Administrator Duties. The Administrator has a duty to perform or observe all tasks to be performed or observed by the Administrator contained in this Agreement or otherwise.

8.8.1 Website, Email Address and Toll-Free Number. The Administrator will establish and maintain and use an internet website to post information of interest to Class Members including the date, time and location for the Final Approval Hearing and copies of the Settlement Agreement, Motion for Preliminary Approval, the Preliminary Approval, the Class Notice, the Motion for Final Approval, the Motion for Class Counsel Fees Payment, Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment and Class Representative Service Payment, the Final Approval and the Judgment. The Administrator will also maintain and monitor an email address and a toll-free telephone number to receive Class Member calls, faxes and emails.

8.8.2 Requests for Exclusion (Opt-outs) and Exclusion List. The Administrator will promptly review on a rolling basis Requests for Exclusion to ascertain their

validity. Not later than [5] days after the expiration of the deadline for submitting Requests for Exclusion, the Administrator shall email a list to Class Counsel and Defense Counsel containing (a) the names and other identifying information of Class Members who have timely submitted valid Requests for Exclusion (“Exclusion List”); (b) the names and other identifying information of Class Members who have submitted invalid Requests for Exclusion; (c) copies of all Requests for Exclusion from Settlement submitted (whether valid or invalid).

- 8.8.3 Weekly Reports. The Administrator must, on a weekly basis, provide written reports to Class Counsel and Defense Counsel that, among other things, tally the number of: Class Notices mailed or re-mailed, Class Notices returned undelivered, Requests for Exclusion (whether valid or invalid) received, objections received, challenges to Workweeks and/or Pay Periods received and/or resolved, and checks mailed for Individual Class Payments and Individual PAGA Payments (“Weekly Report”). The Weekly Reports must include provide the Administrator’s assessment of the validity of Requests for Exclusion and attach copies of all Requests for Exclusion and objections received.
- 8.8.4 Workweek and/or Pay Period Challenges. The Administrator has the authority to address and make final decisions consistent with the terms of this Agreement on all Class Member challenges over the calculation of Workweeks and/or Pay Periods. The Administrator’s decision shall be final and not appealable or otherwise susceptible to challenge.
- 8.8.5 Administrator’s Declaration. Not later than [14] days before the date by which Plaintiff is required to file the Motion for Final Approval of the Settlement, the Administrator will provide to Class Counsel and Defense Counsel, a signed declaration suitable for filing in Court attesting to its due diligence and compliance with all of its obligations under this Agreement, including, but not limited to, its mailing of Class Notice, the Class Notices returned as undelivered, the re-mailing of Class Notices, attempts to locate Class Members, the total number of Requests for Exclusion from Settlement it received (both valid or invalid), the number of written objections and attach the Exclusion List. The Administrator will supplement its declaration as needed or requested by the Parties and/or the Court. Class Counsel is responsible for filing the Administrator’s declaration(s) in Court.
- 8.8.6 Final Report by Settlement Administrator. Within [10] days after the Administrator disburses all funds in the Gross Settlement Amount, the Administrator will provide Class Counsel and Defense Counsel with a final report detailing its disbursements by employee identification number only of all payments made under this Agreement. At least [15] days before any deadline set by the Court, the Administrator will prepare, and submit to Class Counsel and Defense Counsel, a signed declaration suitable for filing in Court attesting to its disbursement of all payments required under this Agreement. Class Counsel is responsible for filing the Administrator's declaration in Court.

- 9. CLASS SIZE ESTIMATES [and ESCALATOR CLAUSE]** Based on its records, OAS estimates that, as of the date of this Settlement Agreement, (1) there are 124 Class Members and 6,972 Total Workweeks during the Class period and (2) there were 72 Aggrieved Employees who worked 1,697 Pay Periods during the PAGA Period.^{vii}
- 10. OAS'S RIGHT TO WITHDRAW.** If the number of valid Requests for Exclusion identified in the Exclusion List exceeds 10% of the total of all Class Members, OAS may, but is not obligated, elect to withdraw from the Settlement. The Parties agree that, if OAS withdraws, the Settlement shall be void ab initio, have no force or effect whatsoever, and that neither Party will have any further obligation to perform under this Agreement; provided, however, OAS will remain responsible for paying all Settlement Administration Expenses incurred to that point. OAS must notify Class Counsel and the Court of its election to withdraw not later than [seven] days after the Administrator sends the final Exclusion List to Defense Counsel; late elections will have no effect.
- 11. MOTION FOR FINAL APPROVAL.** Not later than [16] court days before the calendared Final Approval Hearing, Plaintiff will file in Court, a motion for final approval of the Settlement that includes a request for approval of the PAGA settlement under Labor Code section 2699, subd. (l), a Proposed Final Approval Order and a proposed Judgment (collectively "Motion for Final Approval"). Plaintiff shall provide drafts of these documents to Defense Counsel not later than [seven] days prior to filing the Motion for Final Approval. Class Counsel and Defense Counsel will expeditiously meet and confer in person or by telephone, and in good faith, to resolve any disagreements concerning the Motion for Final Approval.
- 11.1 Response to Objections.** Each Party retains the right to respond to any objection raised by a Participating Class Member, including the right to file responsive documents in Court no later than [five] court days prior to the Final Approval Hearing, or as otherwise ordered or accepted by the Court.
- 11.2 Duty to Cooperate.** If the Court does not grant Final Approval or conditions Final Approval on any material change to the Settlement (including, but not limited to, the scope of release to be granted by Class Members), the Parties will expeditiously work together in good faith to address the Court's concerns by revising the Agreement as necessary to obtain Final Approval. The Court's decision to award less than the amounts requested for the Class Representative Service Payment, Class Counsel Fees Payment, Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment and/or Administrator Expenses Payment shall not constitute a material modification to the Agreement within the meaning of this paragraph.
- 11.3 Continuing Jurisdiction of the Court.** The Parties agree that, after entry of Judgment, the Court will retain jurisdiction over the Parties, Action, and the Settlement solely for purposes of (i) enforcing this Agreement and/or Judgment, (ii) addressing

settlement administration matters, and (iii) addressing such post-Judgment matters as are permitted by law.

11.4 Waiver of Right to Appeal. Provided the Judgment is consistent with the terms and conditions of this Agreement, specifically including the Class Counsel Fees Payment and Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment reflected set forth in this Settlement, the Parties, their respective counsel, and all Participating Class Members who did not object to the Settlement as provided in this Agreement, waive all rights to appeal from the Judgment, including all rights to post-judgment and appellate proceedings, the right to file motions to vacate judgment, motions for new trial, extraordinary writs, and appeals. The waiver of appeal does not include any waiver of the right to oppose such motions, writs or appeals. If an objector appeals the Judgment, the Parties' obligations to perform under this Agreement will be suspended until such time as the appeal is finally resolved and the Judgment becomes final, except as to matters that do not affect the amount of the Net Settlement Amount.

11.5 Appellate Court Orders to Vacate, Reverse, or Materially Modify Judgment. If the reviewing Court vacates, reverses, or modifies the Judgment in a manner that requires a material modification of this Agreement (including, but not limited to, the scope of release to be granted by Class Members), this Agreement shall be null and void. The Parties shall nevertheless expeditiously work together in good faith to address the appellate court's concerns and to obtain Final Approval and entry of Judgment, sharing, on a 50-50 basis, any additional Administration Expenses reasonably incurred after remittitur. An appellate decision to vacate, reverse, or modify the Court's award of the Class Representative Service Payment or any payments to Class Counsel shall not constitute a material modification of the Judgment within the meaning of this paragraph, as long as the Gross Settlement Amount remains unchanged.

12. AMENDED JUDGMENT. If any amended judgment is required under Code of Civil Procedure section 384, the Parties will work together in good faith to jointly submit and a proposed amended judgment.

13. ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS.

13.1 No Admission of Liability, Class Certification or Representative Manageability for Other Purposes. This Agreement represents a compromise and settlement of highly disputed claims. Nothing in this Agreement is intended or should be construed as an admission by OAS that any of the allegations in the Operative Complaint have merit or that OAS has any liability for any claims asserted; nor should it be intended or construed as an admission by Plaintiff that OAS's defenses in the Action have merit. The Parties agree that class certification and representative treatment is for purposes of this Settlement only. If, for any reason the Court does grant Preliminary Approval, Final Approval or enter Judgment, OAS reserves the right to contest certification of any class for any reasons, and OAS reserves all available defenses to the claims in the Action, and Plaintiff reserves the right to move for class certification on any grounds available and to contest OAS's defenses. The Settlement, this Agreement and Parties' willingness to

settle the Action will have no bearing on, and will not be admissible in connection with, any litigation (except for proceedings to enforce or effectuate the Settlement and this Agreement).

13.2 Confidentiality Prior to Preliminary Approval. Plaintiff, Class Counsel, OAS and Defense Counsel separately agree that, until the Motion for Preliminary Approval of Settlement is filed, they and each of them will not disclose, disseminate and/or publicize, or cause or permit another person to disclose, disseminate or publicize, any of the terms of the Agreement directly or indirectly, specifically or generally, to any person, corporation, association, government agency, or other entity except: (1) to the Parties' attorneys, accountants, or spouses, all of whom will be instructed to keep this Agreement confidential; (2) counsel in a related matter; (3) to the extent necessary to report income to appropriate taxing authorities; (4) in response to a court order or subpoena; or (5) in response to an inquiry or subpoena issued by a state or federal government agency. Each Party agrees to immediately notify each other Party of any judicial or agency order, inquiry, or subpoena seeking such information. Plaintiff, Class Counsel, OAS and Defense Counsel separately agree not to, directly or indirectly, initiate any conversation or other communication, before the filing of the Motion for Preliminary Approval, any with third party regarding this Agreement or the matters giving rise to this Agreement except to respond only that "the matter was resolved," or words to that effect. This paragraph does not restrict Class Counsel's communications with Class Members in accordance with Class Counsel's ethical obligations owed to Class Members.

13.3 No Solicitation. The Parties separately agree that they and their respective counsel and employees will not solicit any Class Member to opt out of or object to the Settlement, or appeal from the Judgment. Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to restrict Class Counsel's ability to communicate with Class Members in accordance with Class Counsel's ethical obligations owed to Class Members.

13.4 Integrated Agreement. Upon execution by all Parties and their counsel, this Agreement together with its attached exhibits shall constitute the entire agreement between the Parties relating to the Settlement, superseding any and all oral representations, warranties, covenants, or inducements made to or by any Party.

13.5 Attorney Authorization. Class Counsel and Defense Counsel separately warrant and represent that they are authorized by Plaintiff and OAS, respectively, to take all appropriate action required or permitted to be taken by such Parties pursuant to this Agreement to effectuate its terms, and to execute any other documents reasonably required to effectuate the terms of this Agreement including any amendments to this Agreement.

13.6 Cooperation. The Parties and their counsel will cooperate with each other and use their best efforts, in good faith, to implement the Settlement by, among other things, modifying the Settlement Agreement, submitting supplemental evidence and supplementing points and authorities as requested by the Court. In the event the Parties are unable to agree upon the form or content of any document necessary to implement

the Settlement, or on any modification of the Agreement that may become necessary to implement the Settlement, the Parties will seek the assistance of a mediator and/or the Court for resolution.

- 13.7 No Prior Assignments. The Parties separately represent and warrant that they have not directly or indirectly assigned, transferred, encumbered, or purported to assign, transfer, or encumber to any person or entity and portion of any liability, claim, demand, action, cause of action, or right released and discharged by the Party in this Settlement.
- 13.8 No Tax Advice. Neither Plaintiff, Class Counsel, OAS nor Defense Counsel are providing any advice regarding taxes or taxability, nor shall anything in this Settlement be relied upon as such within the meaning of United States Treasury Department Circular 230 (31 CFR Part 10, as amended) or otherwise.
- 13.9 Modification of Agreement. This Agreement, and all parts of it, may be amended, modified, changed, or waived only by an express written instrument signed by all Parties or their representatives, and approved by the Court.
- 13.10 Agreement Binding on Successors. This Agreement will be binding upon, and inure to the benefit of, the successors of each of the Parties.
- 13.11 Applicable Law. All terms and conditions of this Agreement and its exhibits will be governed by and interpreted according to the internal laws of the state of California, without regard to conflict of law principles.
- 13.12 Cooperation in Drafting. The Parties have cooperated in the drafting and preparation of this Agreement. This Agreement will not be construed against any Party on the basis that the Party was the drafter or participated in the drafting.
- 13.13 Confidentiality. To the extent permitted by law, all agreements made, and orders entered during Action and in this Agreement relating to the confidentiality of information shall survive the execution of this Agreement.
- 13.14 Use and Return of Class Data. Information provided to Class Counsel pursuant to Cal. Evid. Code §1152, and all copies and summaries of the Class Data provided to Class Counsel by OAS in connection with the mediation, other settlement negotiations, or in connection with the Settlement, may be used only with respect to this Settlement, and no other purpose, and may not be used in any way that violates any existing contractual agreement, statute, or rule of court. Not later than 90 days after the date when the Court discharges the Administrator's obligation to provide a Declaration confirming the final pay out of all Settlement funds, Plaintiff shall destroy, all paper and electronic versions of Class Data received from OAS unless, prior to the Court's discharge of the Administrator's obligation, OAS makes a written request to Class Counsel for the return, rather than the destructions, of Class Data.

13.15 Headings. The descriptive heading of any section or paragraph of this Agreement is inserted for convenience of reference only and does not constitute a part of this Agreement.

13.16 Calendar Days. Unless otherwise noted, all reference to “days” in this Agreement shall be to calendar days. In the event any date or deadline set forth in this Agreement falls on a weekend or federal legal holiday, such date or deadline shall be on the first business day thereafter.

13.17 Notice. All notices, demands or other communications between the Parties in connection with this Agreement will be in writing and deemed to have been duly given as of the third business day after mailing by United States mail, or the day sent by email or messenger, addressed as follows:

To Plaintiff:
Sirmabekian Law Firm
3435 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 1710
Los Angeles, CA 90010
contact@slawla.com

To OAS:
Artiano & Associates
3828 Carson Street, Suite 102
Torrance, CA 90503
JLeighton@artianolaw.com

13.18 Execution in Counterparts. This Agreement may be executed in one or more counterparts by facsimile, electronically (i.e. DocuSign), or email which for purposes of this Agreement shall be accepted as an original. All executed counterparts and each of them will be deemed to be one and the same instrument if counsel for the Parties will exchange between themselves signed counterparts. Any executed counterpart will be admissible in evidence to prove the existence and contents of this Agreement.

13.19 Stay of Litigation. The Parties agree that upon the execution of this Agreement the litigation shall be stayed, except to effectuate the terms of this Agreement. The Parties further agree that upon the signing of this Agreement that pursuant to CCP section 583.330 to extend the date to bring a case to trial under CCP section 583.310 for the entire period of this settlement process.

[SIGNATURES ON FOLLOWING PAGE]

8/16/2022 Date: _____ DocuSigned by:  Plaintiff	Date: 8/19/2022 Servando Orozco for OAS and himself
8/16/2022 Date: _____ DocuSigned by: Sarkis Sirmabekian Sarkis Sirmabekian, Esq. Sirmabekian Law Firm Counsel for Plaintiff	Date: 8/19/2022 Cindy Orozco for OAS and herself
	Date: 8/19/22 Joanne Leighton, Esq. Artiano & Associates

COURT APPROVED NOTICE OF CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT AND HEARING DATE FOR FINAL COURT APPROVAL

Chavez Hidalgo, Franz Alejandro v. Orosco's Auto Service, Inc. (Los Angeles-21STCV12681)

***The Superior Court for the State of California authorized this Notice. Read it carefully!
It's not junk mail, spam, an advertisement, or solicitation by a lawyer. You are not being sued.***

You may be eligible to receive money from an employee class action lawsuit ("Action") against Orosco's Auto Service, Inc., Servando Orosco, and Cindy Orosco (abbreviate name; "OAS" is used herein as a placeholder) for alleged wage and hour violations. The Action was filed by a[n][former] OAS employee

Franz Alejandro Chavez Hidalgo ("Plaintiff") and seeks payment of (1) back wages [and other relief] for a class of [e.g., hourly] employees ("Class Members") who worked for OAS during the Class Period (_____ to _____); and (2) penalties under the California Private Attorney General Act ("PAGA") for all [e.g., hourly] employees who worked for OAS during the PAGA Period (_____ to _____) ("Aggrieved Employees").

The proposed Settlement has two main parts: (1) a Class Settlement requiring OAS to fund Individual Class Payments, and (2) a PAGA Settlement requiring OAS to fund Individual PAGA Payments and pay penalties to the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency ("LWDA").

Based on OAS's records, and the Parties' current assumptions, **your Individual Class Payment is estimated to be \$_____ (less withholding) and your Individual PAGA Payment is estimated to be \$_____**. The actual amount you may receive likely will be different and will depend on a number of factors. (If no amount is stated for your Individual PAGA Payment, then according to OAS's records you are not eligible for an Individual PAGA Payment under the Settlement because you didn't work during the PAGA Period.)

The above estimates are based on OAS's records showing that **you worked _____ workweeks** during the Class Period and **you worked _____ workweeks** during the PAGA Period. If you believe that you worked more workweeks during either period, you can submit a challenge by the deadline date. See Section 4 of this Notice.

The Court has already preliminarily approved the proposed Settlement and approved this Notice. The Court has not yet decided whether to grant final approval. Your legal rights are affected whether you act or not act. Read this Notice carefully. You will be deemed to have carefully read and understood it. At the Final Approval Hearing, the Court will decide whether to finally approve the Settlement and how much of the Settlement will be paid to Plaintiff and Plaintiff's attorneys ("Class Counsel"). The Court will also decide whether to enter a judgment that requires OAS to make payments under the Settlement and requires Class Members and Aggrieved Employees to give up their rights to assert certain claims against OAS.

If you worked for OAS during the Class Period and/or the PAGA Period, you have two basic options under the Settlement:

(1) **Do Nothing.** You don't have to do anything to participate in the proposed Settlement and be eligible for an Individual Class Payment and/or an Individual PAGA Payment. As a Participating Class Member, though, you will give up your right to assert Class Period wage claims and PAGA Period penalty claims against OAS.

(2) **Opt-Out of the Class Settlement.** You can exclude yourself from the Class Settlement (opt-out) by submitting the written Request for Exclusion or otherwise notifying the Administrator in writing. If you opt-out of the Settlement, you will not receive an Individual Class Payment. You will, however, preserve your right to personally pursue Class Period wage claims against OAS, and, if you are an Aggrieved Employee, remain eligible for an Individual PAGA Payment. You cannot opt-out of the PAGA portion of the proposed Settlement.

OAS will not retaliate against you for any actions you take with respect to the proposed Settlement.

SUMMARY OF YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS AND OPTIONS IN THIS SETTLEMENT

You Don't Have to Do Anything to Participate in the Settlement	If you do nothing, you will be a Participating Class Member, eligible for an Individual Class Payment and an Individual PAGA Payment (if any). In exchange, you will give up your right to assert the wage claims against OAS that are covered by this Settlement (Released Claims).
You Can Opt-out of the Class Settlement but not the PAGA Settlement The Opt-out Deadline is _____	If you don't want to fully participate in the proposed Settlement, you can opt-out of the Class Settlement by sending the Administrator a written Request for Exclusion. Once excluded, you will be a Non-Participating Class Member and no longer eligible for an Individual Class Payment. Non-Participating Class Members cannot object to any portion of the proposed Settlement. See Section 6 of this Notice. You cannot opt-out of the PAGA portion of the proposed Settlement. OAS must pay Individual PAGA Payments to all Aggrieved Employees and the Aggrieved Employees must give up their rights to pursue Released Claims (defined below).
Participating Class Members Can Object to the Class Settlement but not the PAGA Settlement Written Objections Must be Submitted by _____	All Class Members who do not opt-out ("Participating Class Members") can object to any aspect of the proposed Settlement. The Court's decision whether to finally approve the Settlement will include a determination of how much will be paid to Class Counsel and Plaintiff who pursued the Action on behalf of the Class. You are not personally responsible for any payments to Class Counsel or Plaintiff, but every dollar paid to Class Counsel and Plaintiff reduces the overall amount paid to Participating Class Members. You can object to the amounts requested by Class Counsel or Plaintiff if you think they are unreasonable. See Section 7 of this Notice.

You Can Participate in the _____ Final Approval Hearing	The Court's Final Approval Hearing is scheduled to take place on _____. You don't have to attend but you do have the right to appear (or hire an attorney to appear on your behalf at your own cost), in person, by telephone or by using the Court's virtual appearance platform. Participating Class Members can verbally object to the Settlement at the Final Approval Hearing. See Section 8 of this Notice.
You Can Challenge the Calculation of Your Workweeks/Pay Periods Written Challenges Must be Submitted by _____	The amount of your Individual Class Payment and PAGA Payment (if any) depend on how many workweeks you worked at least one day during the Class Period and how many Pay Periods you worked at least one day during the PAGA Period, respectively. The number Class Period Workweeks and number of PAGA Period Pay Periods you worked according to OAS's records is stated on the first page of this Notice. If you disagree with either of these numbers, you must challenge it by _____. See Section 4 of this Notice.

1. WHAT IS THE ACTION ABOUT?

Plaintiff is a[n] [former] OAS employee. The Action accuses OAS of violating California labor laws by failing to pay [e.g., overtime wages, minimum wages, wages due upon termination and reimbursable expenses] and failing to provide [e.g., meal periods, rest breaks and accurate itemized wage statements]. Based on the same claims, Plaintiff has also asserted a claim for civil penalties under the California Private Attorneys General Act (Labor Code §§ 2698, et seq.) ("PAGA"). Plaintiff is represented by attorneys in the Action:

_____ ("Class Counsel.")

OAS strongly denies violating any laws or failing to pay any wages and contends it complied with all applicable laws.

2. WHAT DOES IT MEAN THAT THE ACTION HAS SETTLED?

So far, the Court has made no determination whether OAS or Plaintiff is correct on the merits.

In the meantime, Plaintiff and OAS hired ☐ an experienced, neutral mediator ☐ a retired judge

☐ _____ (describe alternative means of negotiation)

in an effort to resolve the Action by negotiating an to end the case by agreement (settle the case) rather than continuing the expensive and time-consuming process of litigation. The negotiations were successful. By signing a lengthy written settlement agreement ("Agreement") and agreeing to jointly ask the Court to enter a judgment ending the Action and enforcing the Agreement, Plaintiff and OAS have negotiated a proposed Settlement that is subject to the Court's Final Approval. Both sides agree the proposed Settlement is a compromise of disputed claims. By agreeing to settle, OAS does not admit any violations or concede the merit of any claims.

Plaintiff and Class Counsel strongly believe the Settlement is a good deal for you because they believe that: (1) OAS has agreed to pay a fair, reasonable and adequate amount considering the strength of the claims and the risks and uncertainties of continued litigation; and (2) Settlement is in the best interests of the Class Members and Aggrieved Employees. The Court preliminarily approved the proposed Settlement as fair, reasonable and adequate, authorized this Notice, and scheduled a hearing to determine Final Approval.

3. WHAT ARE THE IMPORTANT TERMS OF THE PROPOSED SETTLEMENT?

1. OAS Will Pay \$ _____ as the Gross Settlement Amount (Gross Settlement). OAS has agreed to deposit the Gross Settlement into an account controlled by the Administrator of the Settlement. The Administrator will use the Gross Settlement to pay the Individual Class Payments, Individual PAGA Payments, Class Representative Service Payment, Class Counsel's attorney's fees and expenses, the Administrator's expenses, and penalties to be paid to the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency ("LWDA"). Assuming the Court grants Final Approval, OAS will fund the Gross Settlement not more than [14] days after the Judgment entered by the Court become final. The Judgment will be final on the date the Court enters Judgment, or a later date if Participating Class Members object to the proposed Settlement or the Judgment is appealed.
2. Court Approved Deductions from Gross Settlement. At the Final Approval Hearing, Plaintiff and/or Class Counsel will ask the Court to approve the following deductions from the Gross Settlement, the amounts of which will be decided by the Court at the Final Approval Hearing:
 - A. Up to \$ _____ (_____ % of the Gross Settlement] to Class Counsel for attorneys' fees and up to \$ _____ for their litigation expenses. To date, Class Counsel have worked and incurred expenses on the Action without payment.
 - B. Up to \$ _____ as a Class Representative Award for filing the Action, working with Class Counsel and representing the Class. A Class Representative Award will be the only monies Plaintiff will receive other than Plaintiff's Individual Class Payment and any Individual PAGA Payment.
 - C. Up to \$ _____ to the Administrator for services administering the Settlement.
 - D. Up to \$ _____ for PAGA Penalties, allocated 75% to the LWDA PAGA Payment and 25% in Individual PAGA Payments to the Aggrieved Employees based on their PAGA Period Pay Periods.

Participating Class Members have the right to object to any of these deductions. The Court will consider all objections.

3. Net Settlement Distributed to Class Members. After making the above deductions in amounts approved by the Court, the Administrator will distribute the rest of the Gross

Settlement (the “Net Settlement”) by making Individual Class Payments to Participating Class Members based on their Class Period Workweeks.

4. Taxes Owed on Payments to Class Members. Plaintiff and OAS are asking the Court to approve an allocation of % _____ of each Individual Class Payment to taxable wages (“Wage Portion”) and % _____ to [e.g., interest, etc.] (“Non-Wage Portion.”). The Wage Portion is subject to withholdings and will be reported on IRS W-2 Forms. [Option 1: (OAS will separately pay employer payroll taxes it owes on the Wage Portion.)] The Individual PAGA Payments are counted as penalties rather than wages for tax purposes. The Administrator will report the Individual PAGA Payments and the Non-Wage Portions of the Individual Class Payments on IRS 1099 Forms.

Although Plaintiff and OAS have agreed to these allocations, neither side is giving you any advice on whether your Payments are taxable or how much you might owe in taxes. You are responsible for paying all taxes (including penalties and interest on back taxes) on any Payments received from the proposed Settlement. You should consult a tax advisor if you have any questions about the tax consequences of the proposed Settlement.

5. Need to Promptly Cash Payment Checks. The front of every check issued for Individual Class Payments and Individual PAGA Payments will show the date when the check expires (the void date). If you don’t cash it by the void date, your check will be automatically cancelled, and the monies
- ☐ will be deposited with the California Controller's Unclaimed Property Fund in your name.
 - ☐ will irrevocably lost to you because they will be paid to a non-profit organization or foundation (“Cy Pres”).

If the monies represented by your check is sent to the Controller’s Unclaimed Property, you should consult the rules of the Fund for instructions on how to retrieve your money.

6. Requests for Exclusion from the Class Settlement (Opt-Outs). You will be treated as a Participating Class Member, participating fully in the Class Settlement, unless you notify the Administrator in writing, not later than _____, that you wish to opt-out. The easiest way to notify the Administrator is to send a written and signed Request for Exclusion by the _____ Response Deadline. The Request for Exclusion should be a letter from a Class Member or his/her representative setting forth a Class Member’s name, present address, telephone number, and a simple statement electing to be excluded from the Settlement. Excluded Class Members (i.e., Non-Participating Class Members) will not receive Individual Class Payments, but will preserve their rights to personally pursue wage and hour claims against OAS.

You cannot opt-out of the PAGA portion of the Settlement. Class Members who exclude themselves from the Class Settlement (Non-Participating Class Members) remain eligible for Individual PAGA Payments and are required to give up their right to assert PAGA claims against OAS based on the PAGA Period facts alleged in the Action.

7. The Proposed Settlement Will be Void if the Court Denies Final Approval. It is possible the Court will decline to grant Final Approval of the Settlement or decline enter a Judgment. It is also possible the Court will enter a Judgment that is reversed on appeal. Plaintiffs and OAS have agreed that, in either case, the Settlement will be void: OAS will not pay any money and Class Members will not release any claims against OAS.
8. Administrator. The Court has appointed a neutral company, _____ (the “Administrator”) to send this Notice, calculate and make payments, and process Class Members’ Requests for Exclusion. The Administrator will also decide Class Member Challenges over Workweeks, mail and re-mail settlement checks and tax forms, and perform other tasks necessary to administer the Settlement. The Administrator’s contact information is contained in Section 9 of this Notice.
9. Participating Class Members’ Release. After the Judgment is final and OAS has fully funded the Gross Settlement [Option 1: (and separately paid all employer payroll taxes)], Participating Class Members will be legally barred from asserting any of the claims released under the Settlement. This means that unless you opted out by validly excluding yourself from the Class Settlement, you cannot sue, continue to sue, or be part of any other lawsuit against OAS or related entities for wages based on the Class Period facts and PAGA penalties based on PAGA Period facts, as alleged in the Action and resolved by this Settlement.

The Participating Class Members will be bound by the following release:

All Participating Class Members, on behalf of themselves and their respective former and present representatives, agents, attorneys, heirs, administrators, successors, and assigns, release Released Parties from (i) all claims that were alleged, or reasonably could have been alleged, based on the Class Period facts stated in the Operative Complaint [and ascertained in the course of the Action] [including, e.g., “(a) any and all claims involving any alleged failure to pay minimum wage; etc.]. Except as set forth in Section 6.3 of the Settlement Agreement, Participating Class Members do not release any other claims, including claims for vested benefits, wrongful termination, violation of the Fair Employment and Housing Act, unemployment insurance, disability, social security, workers’ compensation, or claims based on facts occurring outside the Class Period.^{viii}

10. Aggrieved Employees’ PAGA Release. After the Court’s judgment is final, and OAS has paid the Gross Settlement (and separately paid the employer-side payroll taxes), all Aggrieved Employees will be barred from asserting PAGA claims against OAS, whether or not they exclude themselves from the Settlement. This means that all Aggrieved Employees, including those who are Participating Class Members and those who opt-out of the Class Settlement, cannot sue, continue to sue, or participate in any other PAGA claim against OAS or its related entities based on the PAGA Period facts alleged in the Action and resolved by this Settlement.

The Aggrieved Employees' Releases for Participating and Non-Participating Class Members are as follows:

All Participating and Non-Participating Class Members who are Aggrieved Employees are deemed to release, on behalf of themselves and their respective former and present representatives, agents, attorneys, heirs, administrators, successors, and assigns, the Released Parties, from all claims for PAGA penalties that were alleged, or reasonably could have been alleged, based on the PAGA Period facts stated in the Operative Complaint[,] [and] the PAGA Notice [and ascertained in the course of the Action][including, e.g., (a) any and all claims involving any alleged failure to pay minimum wage; etc.].

4. HOW WILL THE ADMINISTRATOR CALCULATE MY PAYMENT?

1. Individual Class Payments. The Administrator will calculate Individual Class Payments by (a) dividing the Net Settlement Amount by the total number of Workweeks worked by all Participating Class Members, and (b) multiplying the result by the number of Workweeks worked by each individual Participating Class Member.
2. Individual PAGA Payments. The Administrator will calculate Individual PAGA Payments by (a) dividing \$_____ by the total number of PAGA Pay Periods worked by all Aggrieved Employees and (b) multiplying the result by the number of PAGA Period Pay Periods worked by each individual Aggrieved Employee.
3. Workweek/Pay Period Challenges. The number of Class Workweeks you worked during the Class Period and the number of PAGA Pay Periods you worked during the PAGA Period, as recorded in OAS's records, are stated in the first page of this Notice. You have until _____ to challenge the number of Workweeks and/or Pay Periods credited to you. You can submit your challenge by signing and sending a letter to the Administrator via mail, email or fax. Section 9 of this Notice has the Administrator's contact information.

You need to support your challenge by sending copies of pay stubs or other records. The Administrator will accept OAS's calculation of Workweeks and/or Pay Periods based on OAS's records as accurate unless you send copies of records containing contrary information. You should send copies rather than originals because the documents will not be returned to you. The Administrator will resolve Workweek and/or Pay Period challenges based on your submission and on input from Class Counsel (who will advocate on behalf of Participating Class Members) and OAS's Counsel. The Administrator's decision is final. You can't appeal or otherwise challenge its final decision.

5. HOW WILL I GET PAID?

1. Participating Class Members. The Administrator will send, by U.S. mail, a single check to every Participating Class Member (i.e., every Class Member who doesn't opt-out) including those who also qualify as Aggrieved Employees. The single check will combine the Individual Class Payment and the Individual PAGA Payment.
2. Non-Participating Class Members. The Administrator will send, by U.S. mail, a single Individual PAGA Payment check to every Aggrieved Employee who opts out of the Class Settlement (i.e., every Non-Participating Class Member).

Your check will be sent to the same address as this Notice. If you change your address, be sure to notify the Administrator as soon as possible. Section 9 of this Notice has the Administrator's contact information.

6. HOW DO I OPT-OUT OF THE CLASS SETTLEMENT?

Submit a written and signed letter with your name, present address, telephone number, and a simple statement that you do not want to participate in the Settlement. The Administrator will exclude you based on any writing communicating your request be excluded. Be sure to personally sign your request, identify the Action as _____, and include your identifying information (full name, address, telephone number, approximate dates of employment, and social security number for verification purposes). You must make the request yourself. If someone else makes the request for you, it will not be valid. **The Administrator must be sent your request to be excluded by _____, or it will be invalid.** Section 9 of the Notice has the Administrator's contact information.

7. HOW DO I OBJECT TO THE SETTLEMENT?

Only Participating Class Members have the right to object to the Settlement. Before deciding whether to object, you may wish to see what Plaintiff and OAS are asking the Court to approve. At least _____ days before the _____ Final Approval Hearing, Class Counsel and/or Plaintiff will file in Court (1) a Motion for Final Approval that includes, among other things, the reasons why the proposed Settlement is fair, and (2) a Motion for Fees, Litigation Expenses and Service Award stating (i) the amount Class Counsel is requesting for attorneys' fees and litigation expenses; and (ii) the amount Plaintiff is requesting as a Class Representative Service Award. Upon reasonable request, Class Counsel (whose contact information is in Section 9 of this Notice) will send you copies of these documents at no cost to you. You can also view them on the Administrator's Website _____ (url) or the Court's website _____ (url).

A Participating Class Member who disagrees with any aspect of the Agreement, the Motion for Final Approval and/or Motion for Fees, Litigation Expenses and Service Award may wish to object, for example, that the proposed Settlement is unfair, or that the amounts requested by Class Counsel or Plaintiff are too high or too low. **The deadline for sending written objections to the Administrator is _____.** Be sure to tell the Administrator what you object to, why you object, and any facts that support your objection. Make sure you identify the Action _____ and include your name, current address,

telephone number, and approximate dates of employment for [OAS] and sign the objection. Section 9 of this Notice has the Administrator's contact information.

Alternatively, a Participating Class Member can object (or personally retain a lawyer to object at your own cost) by attending the Final Approval Hearing. You (or your attorney) should be ready to tell the Court what you object to, why you object, and any facts that support your objection. See Section 8 of this Notice (immediately below) for specifics regarding the Final Approval Hearing.

8. CAN I ATTEND THE FINAL APPROVAL HEARING?

You can, but don't have to, attend the Final Approval Hearing on _____ at (time) in Department [7] of the Los Angeles Superior Court, located at 312 North Spring Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012. At the Hearing, the judge will decide whether to grant Final Approval of the Settlement and how much of the Gross Settlement will be paid to Class Counsel, Plaintiff, and the Administrator. The Court will invite comment from objectors, Class Counsel and Defense Counsel before making a decision. You can attend (or hire a lawyer to attend) either personally or virtually via LACourtConnect (<https://www.lacourt.org/lacc/>). Check the Court's website for the most current information.

It's possible the Court will reschedule the Final Approval Hearing. You should check the Administrator's website _____ beforehand or contact Class Counsel to verify the date and time of the Final Approval Hearing.

9. HOW CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION?

The Agreement sets forth everything OAS and Plaintiff have promised to do under the proposed Settlement. The easiest way to read the Agreement, the Judgment or any other Settlement documents is to go to _____ (specify entity) 's website at _____ (url). You can also telephone or send an email to Class Counsel or the Administrator using the contact information listed below, or consult the Superior Court website by going to (<http://www.lacourt.org/casesummary/ui/index.aspx>) and entering the Case Number for the Action, Case No. _____. You can also make an appointment to personally review court documents in the Clerk's Office at the Stanley Mosk Courthouse by calling (213) 830-0800.

DO NOT TELEPHONE THE SUPERIOR COURT TO OBTAIN INFORMATION ABOUT THE SETTLEMENT.

Class Counsel:

Name of Attorney:

Email Address:

Name of Firm:

Mailing Address:

Telephone:

Settlement Administrator:

Name of Company:

Email Address:
 Mailing Address:
 Telephone:
 Fax Number:

10. WHAT IF I LOSE MY SETTLEMENT CHECK?

If you lose or misplace your settlement check before cashing it, the Administrator will replace it as long as you request a replacement before the void date on the face of the original check. If your check is already void

- ☐ you should consult the Unclaimed Property Fund _____ for instructions on how to retrieve the funds
- ☐ you will have no way to recover the money.

11. WHAT IF I CHANGE MY ADDRESS?

To receive your check, you should immediately notify the Administrator if you move or otherwise change your mailing address.

ⁱ This Model Class Action and PAGA Settlement Agreement has been approved by the Court, the Complex litigation judges, and a 2022 Ad Hoc Wage and Hour Committee co-chaired by Judge David Cunningham and Judge Amy Hogue and comprised of 16 attorneys who regularly represent plaintiffs and defendants in wage and hour case. It is written for settlements of single plaintiff wage and hour actions asserting class claims and PAGA claims against a single employer (OAS). The parties will need to revise this form if there are multiple plaintiffs or multiple defendants. For settlements of wage and hour class actions that do not include PAGA claims, please use the Model Class Action Settlement Agreement and Class Notice. THE COURT ASKS ALL COUNSEL USING THIS MODEL AGREEMENT TO ATTACH A REDLINED VERSION TO THEIR MOTIONS FOR APPROVAL SO THAT THE COURT CAN EASILY SEE EXACTLY HOW THE PARTIES HAVE MODIFIED THIS MODEL AGREEMENT.

ⁱⁱ Whether the “date of preliminary approval” yields a fair and adequate payment to Class Members may depend on whether the Class Members, in exchange for their releases of claims, receive consideration for time worked between the date when parties reached a settlement and the date of preliminary approval. The Parties’ *Kullar* analysis must give the Court sufficient information to allow the Court to determine whether the Gross Settlement Amount “represents a reasonable compromise, given the magnitude and apparent merit of the claims being released, discounted by the risks and expenses of attempting to establish and collect on those claims by pursuing the litigation.” (*Luckey v. Superior Court* (2014) 228 Cal.App.4th 81, 94–95, internal quotation marks omitted.)

ⁱⁱⁱ See endnote ii above.

^{iv} The Parties may need to tailor this language to pay periods or shifts depending on the facts of the case.

^v The Parties are free to negotiate a payment plan structure, if appropriate, and payment deadlines may fall earlier as necessary thereto.

^{vi} Note that this is not the only possible appropriate breakdown depending on the claims at issue in the case (e.g. a settlement that is solely a Labor Code Section 226(a) claim.)

^{vii} Insert negotiated terms, if any, addressing the possibility that OAS’s estimates of class size, Workweeks or Pay Periods turn out to be understated such as an ADR clause imposing a duty to engage in good faith negotiations or mediation or an “escalator” clause memorializing OAS’s promise to increase the Gross Settlement Amount in an agreed upon proportion to the percentage by which the calculated class size, Workweeks, or Pay Periods exceeds OAS’s estimates.

^{viii} Releases in Notice should track the releases in the Settlement Agreement.

PROOF OF SERVICE
(§ 1013a, 2015.5 C.C.P.)

STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
) ss.
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES)

I am a citizen of the United States of America; I am over the age of eighteen years and not a party to the within entitled action; my business address is: 3435 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 1710, Los Angeles, California 90010.

On the below-indicated date, I served the following document:

DECLARATION OF SARKIS SIRMABEKIAN, ESQ. IN SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFF'S UNOPPOSED MOTION FOR PRELIMINARY APPROVAL OF CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT

on the interested parties in said action by placing:

___X___ a true and correct copy,

and addressed as set forth on the attached Service List and delivered by one or more of the means set forth below:

☒ **BY ELECTRONIC SERVICE IN LIEU OF SERVICE BY MAIL, EXPRESS MAIL, OVERNIGHT DELIVERY, OR FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION:** In accordance with California Code of Civil Procedure section 1010.6, I caused the document to be sent to the person(s) below at the e-mail address(es) listed below.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the above is true and correct.

EXECUTED: February 10, 2023
At Los Angeles, California

Grigor Gregg Sirmabekian
Grigor Gregg Sirmabekian

[SERVICE LIST ON FOLLOWING PAGE]

SERVICE LIST

Joanne K. Leighton, Esq. [SBN 165378] ARTIANO & ASSOCIATES, APC 3828 Carson Street, Suite 102 Torrance, California 90503 Email: <i>JLeighton@artianolaw.com</i> Email: <i>Tlee@artianolaw.com</i>	<i>Attorneys for Defendants OROZCO'S AUTO SERVICE, INC., SERVANDO OROZCO, and CINDY OROZCO</i>
Labor and Workforce Development Agency Department of Industrial Relations LWDA Attn. PAGA Administrator 1515 Clay Street, Ste. 801 Oakland, California 94612	<i>Labor and Workforce Development Agency ("LWDA") filed/served online at:</i> <i>https://www.dir.ca.gov/Private-Attorneys-General-Act/Private-Attorneys-General-Act.html</i>