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Attorneys for Defendant
FARMGIRL FLOWERS INC.

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF ALAMEDA

CARLOS AGUILAR, MARIA ALCAZAR,
LIZVETTE SALGADO and ELPIDIA
ALCAZAR individually, and on behalf of all
others similarly situated,

Plaintiffs,

vs.

FARMGIRL FLOWERS INC., a California
Corporation; CHRISTINA STEMBEL; DOES
1 through 50, inclusive,

Defendants.

) Case No. RG21107981

)
) Assigned for All Purposes To:
) Judge: Evelio Grillo
) Dept: 21

) **STIPULATION AND SETTLEMENT OF**
) **CLASS ACTION CLAIMS**

) Action Filed: August 5, 2021
)
)

STIPULATION AND SETTLEMENT OF
CLASS ACTION CLAIMS

1 This Stipulation and Settlement of Class Action Claims (“Agreement”) is made by and
2 between Plaintiffs Carlos Aguilar, Maria Alcazar, Lizvette Salgado and Elpidia Alcazar (collectively,
3 “Plaintiffs”), in their individual capacities and on behalf of the Class Members and Aggrieved
4 Employees, on the one hand, and Defendant Farmgirl Flowers Inc. (“Defendant”), on the other hand,
5 after Plaintiffs and Defendant engaged in formal discovery, engaged in informal discovery,
6 participated in a full day of mediation, and negotiated this Agreement at arms-length. Plaintiffs and
7 Defendant are referred to in this Agreement collectively as the “Parties,” or individually as a “Party.”
8 Capitalized terms used herein shall have the meanings set forth in Article I or as defined elsewhere
9 in this Agreement.

10 For the consideration set forth herein, including, but not limited to, a release of claims by the
11 Participating Class Members and a general release of claims by Plaintiffs, Defendant agrees to pay a
12 settlement amount of One Million Dollars and Zero Cents (\$1,000,000.00) (the “Settlement
13 Amount”) as set forth herein.

14 Now, therefore, it is stipulated and agreed by and among the undersigned Parties, subject to
15 the approval of the Court pursuant to the California Rules of Court, that the Settlement of the Action
16 shall be effectuated subject to the following terms and conditions.

17 **ARTICLE I**

18 **DEFINITIONS**

19 Unless otherwise defined herein, the following terms used in this Agreement shall have the
20 meanings ascribed to them as set forth below:

21 a. “Action” means the putative class action lawsuit filed by Plaintiffs against Defendant
22 on August 5, 2021, in Alameda County Superior Court, Case No. RG21107981, which was later
23 amended. On October 12, 2021, Plaintiffs filed a First Amended Complaint to add a cause of action
24 under California’s Private Attorneys General Act (“PAGA”). The Action alleges the following
25 claims: (1) failure to pay wages for all hours worked; (2) failure to pay overtime wages, (3) failure
26 to provide mandatory meal and rest breaks, (4) unreimbursed business expenses, (5) violation of the
27 California WARN Act, (6) failure to provide accurate wage statements, (7) failure to pay waiting
28

1 time penalties, (8) violations of the Unfair Competition Law, Calif. Bus. & Prof. Code §§17200 *et*.
2 *seq.* (“UCL”), and (9) civil penalties for alleged Labor Code violations under PAGA.

3 b. “Aggrieved Employees” means all current and former non-exempt hourly employees
4 of Defendant Farmgirl Flowers Inc. in California at any time during the PAGA Period.

5 c. “Agreement” means this Stipulation and Settlement of Class Action Claims,
6 including any attached Exhibit(s).

7 d. “Attorneys’ Fees and Costs” means reasonable attorneys’ fees for Class Counsel’s
8 litigation and resolution of this Action (not to exceed one-third of the Gross Settlement Amount),
9 and Class Counsel’s expenses and costs reasonably incurred in connection with this Action.

10 e. “Check-Cashing Period” means the period of 180 days after the date each of the
11 Individual Settlement Payment checks are issued.

12 f. “Claims and Allegations at Issue” means all of the claims and allegations asserted in
13 (i) the First Amended Complaint filed by Plaintiffs against Defendant on October 12, 2021; (ii) the
14 Complaint filed by Plaintiffs against Defendant on August 5, 2021; (iii) the letter sent to the LWDA
15 on behalf of Plaintiffs against Defendant dated July 27, 2021; and (iv) any claims or allegations that
16 could have been asserted under any applicable Industrial Welfare Commission (“IWC”) Wage Order
17 based on the facts, claims or theories expressly pleaded in the Action.

18 g. “Class” means all current and former non-exempt hourly employees who are or were
19 employed by Defendant in California at any time during the Class Period, excluding those putative
20 class members who previously signed separation agreements with general releases.

21 h. “Class Counsel” means the attorneys for the Class and the Class Members, who are:

22 Brian D. Chase
23 Ian M. Silvers
24 BISNAR | CHASE LLC
25 1301 Dove Street, Suite 120
26 Newport Beach, CA 92660
27 T: (949) 752-2999
28 E: bchase@bisnarchase.com
isilvers@bisnarchase.com; and

i. “Class List” means a list based on Defendant Farmgirl Flowers Inc.’s business records

1 that identifies each Class Member's name, last known home or mailing address, Social Security
2 number or, as applicable, other taxpayer identification number, the number of Qualifying
3 Workweeks worked during the Class Period (calculated by Defendant and sent to the Settlement
4 Administrator), and the number of Qualifying Pay Periods worked during the PAGA Period
5 (calculated by Defendant and sent to the Settlement Administrator).

6 j. "Class Members" means all current and former non-exempt hourly employees of
7 Defendant Farmgirl Flowers Inc. in California during the Class Period, excluding those putative class
8 members who previously signed separation agreements with general releases.

9 k. "Class Notice" means the Court approved Notice of Class Action Settlement and
10 Hearing Date for Final Court Approval, to be mailed to Class Members in English and Spanish in
11 the form, without material variation (unless as modified as directed by the Court), attached as **Exhibit**
12 **A**.

13 l. "Class Period" means August 5, 2017, through the date of preliminary approval or
14 105 days after the signing of parties' Memorandum of Understanding dated April 4, 2023, whichever
15 is sooner.

16 m. "Class Representative" means the named Plaintiffs in the operative complaint in this
17 Action seeking Court approval to serve as Class Representatives.

18 n. "Court" means the Alameda County Superior Court, where the Action is currently
19 pending.

20 o. "Defendant" means Farmgirl Flowers Inc.

21 p. "Defense Counsel" means counsel for Defendant, who are:

22 Alison L. Tsao
23 Marianne C. Koepf
24 CDF LABOR LAW LLP
25 600 Montgomery Street, Suite 440
26 San Francisco, California 94111
27 T: (415) 981-3233
28 E: atsao@cdflaborlaw.com
mkoepf@cdflaborlaw.com

q. "Effective Date" of this Settlement means the later of the following: (i) if there are
no objections to the Settlement, then the sixty-first (61st) day after service of notice of entry of the

1 Judgment entered by the Court; (ii) if there are objections to the Settlement, and if an appeal, review
2 or writ is not sought from the Judgment, the sixty-first (61st) day after service of notice of entry of
3 the Judgment; or (iii) if an appeal, review or writ is sought from the Judgment, the date upon which
4 all appellate and/or other proceedings resulting from the appeal, review or writ have been finally
5 terminated in such a manner as to permit the Judgment to take effect in substantially the form
6 described herein.

7 r. “Final Fairness and Approval Hearing” means the hearing to be conducted by the
8 Court to determine whether to finally approve and implement the Settlement pursuant to the terms
9 of this Agreement.

10 s. “Final Order” means the final order signed by the Court following the Final Fairness
11 and Approval Hearing in accordance with the terms herein, approving this Agreement.

12 t. “Gross Settlement Amount” means the settlement amount of One Million Dollars and
13 Zero Cents (\$1,000,000.00) which Defendant Farmgirl Flowers Inc., shall pay in connection with
14 this Settlement, by way of a common fund, which shall be inclusive of all Individual Settlement
15 Payments, Attorneys’ Fees and Costs, the Enhancement Payments, Settlement Administration Costs,
16 and the LWDA Payment. Employer’s Share of Payroll Taxes shall be paid separately and in addition
17 to the Gross Settlement Amount.

18 u. “Employer’s Share of Payroll Taxes” means Defendant Farmgirl Flowers Inc.’s
19 portion of payroll taxes, including, but not limited to FICA and FUTA, on the portion of the
20 Individual Settlement Payments that constitutes wages. The Employer’s Share of Payroll Taxes shall
21 be submitted by Defendant Farmgirl Flowers Inc., to the Settlement Administrator in addition to the
22 Gross Settlement Amount.

23 v. “Enhancement Payment” means a monetary award subject to Court approval of up to
24 Ten Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents (\$10,000.00) that will be paid to each Plaintiff pursuant to
25 Section 3.06(e) of this Agreement.

26 w. “Individual Class Settlement Payment” means each Participating Class Member’s pro
27 rata share of the Net Settlement Amount calculated according to the number of Workweeks the Class
28 Member worked during the Class Period.

1 x. “Individual PAGA Settlement Payment” means each Aggrieved Employee’s pro rata
2 share of 25% of the PAGA Penalties, calculated according to the number of Pay Periods the
3 Aggrieved Employee worked during the PAGA Period.

4 y. “LWDA” means the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency.

5 z. “LWDA Payment” means the portion of the PAGA Payment payable to the LWDA.

6 aa. “Motion for Final Approval” means Plaintiffs’ submission of a written motion,
7 including any evidence as may be required for the Court to conduct an inquiry into the fairness of
8 the Settlement Agreement as set forth in this Agreement, to conduct a Final Fairness and Approval
9 Hearing, and to enter a Final Order in this Action.

10 bb. “Motion for Preliminary Approval” means Plaintiffs’ written motion, including any
11 evidence as may be required for the Court to grant preliminary approval of the Settlement
12 Agreement, including as required by Rule 3.769 of the California Rules of Court.

13 cc. “Net Settlement Amount” means the Gross Settlement Amount less the amount
14 allocated to Settlement Administration Costs, Attorneys’ Fees and Costs, Enhancement Payments,
15 and the PAGA Payment.

16 dd. “Objection” means the Class Member’s timely submission of a written objection
17 notice to the Class Settlement, which must explain the reason for the objection and be signed by the
18 Class Member.

19 ee. “Operative Complaint” means the First Amended Complaint filed by Plaintiffs
20 against Defendant on October 12, 2021 in the Action.

21 ff. “PAGA” means the California Private Attorneys General Act of 2004, which is
22 codified in California Labor Code §§ 2698, *et seq.*

23 gg. “PAGA Payment” means the amount payable from the Gross Settlement Amount to
24 resolve the PAGA claim alleged in the Action, of which seventy-five percent (75%) shall be paid to
25 the LWDA and twenty-five percent (25%) shall be paid to Aggrieved Employees.

26 hh. “PAGA Period” means the period from August 10, 2020, through the date of
27 preliminary approval or 105 days after the signing of parties’ Memorandum of Understanding dated
28 April 4, 2023, whichever is sooner.

1 ii. “Participating Class Member” means a Class Member who does not timely request to
2 be excluded from the Settlement and will therefore receive a share of the Net Settlement Amount.

3 jj. “Preliminary Approval Date” means the date the Court preliminarily approves the
4 Settlement in accordance with the terms of this Agreement.

5 kk. “Preliminary Approval Order” means the order the Court enters approving and
6 authorizing the mailing of the Notice Packet by the Settlement Administrator, setting the date of the
7 Final Fairness and Approval Hearing and granting preliminary approval of the Settlement set forth
8 in this Agreement, among other things.

9 ll. “Qualifying Pay Periods” means any pay period during which an Aggrieved
10 Employee worked at least one day for Defendant Farmgirl Flowers Inc. as a non-exempt hourly
11 employee in California during the PAGA Period.

12 mm. “Qualifying Workweeks” means any week during which a Class Member worked at
13 least one day for Defendant Farmgirl Flowers Inc. as a non-exempt hourly employee in California
14 during the Class Period.

15 nn. “Released Class Claims” means the claims being released as described in Section
16 4.01, below.

17 oo. “Released PAGA Claims” means the claims being released as described in Section
18 4.02, below.

19 pp. “Released Parties” are defined in Section 4.01, below.

20 qq. “Request for Exclusion “ means the Class Member’s timely submission of a written
21 request to be excluded from the Class Settlement signed by the Class Member, which need only
22 include their name, last four digits of his/her Social Security Number (to verify identity), identify the
23 case as Aguilar v. Farmgirl Flowers and generally state that they request exclusion from the class
24 and do not wish to participate in the settlement, or words to that effect.

25 rr. “Settlement” means the final resolution and disposition of the Action pursuant to this
26 Agreement.

27 ss. “Settlement Administration Costs” means all costs (not to exceed \$20,000.00)
28 incurred by the Settlement Administrator in administering the Settlement, including, but not limited

1 to, the following: (i) printing, mailing and re-mailing (if necessary) of Class Notices to Class
2 Members in English and Spanish; (ii) preparing and submitting to Participating Class Members and
3 government entities all appropriate tax filings and forms; (iii) computing the amount of and
4 distributing Individual Settlement Payments, the Enhancement Award, Attorneys' Fees and Costs,
5 and the LWDA Payment; (iv) processing and validating Requests for Exclusions and Notices of
6 Objection; (v) establishing a Qualified Settlement Fund ("QSF"), as defined by the Internal Revenue
7 Code; and (vi) calculating and remitting to the appropriate government agencies all employer and
8 employee payroll tax obligations arising from the Settlement and preparing and submitting filings
9 required by law in connection with the payments required by the Settlement.

10 tt. "Settlement Administrator" means CPT Group, Inc. which will be responsible for the
11 administration of the Settlement pursuant to the terms of this Agreement.

12 ARTICLE II

13 CONTINGENT NATURE OF THE AGREEMENT

14 Section 2.01: Stipulation to Class Certification for Settlement Purposes

15 The Parties agree that the Action will be stayed until the requests for preliminary and final
16 approval of the Settlement are either granted or denied, except to proceed with those motions.
17 Because the Parties have stipulated to the certification of the Class with respect to all causes of action
18 alleged in the Operative Complaint for settlement purposes only, this Agreement requires preliminary
19 and final approval by the Court. Defendant does not consent to certification of the Class for any
20 purpose other than to effectuate the Settlement of the Action. Accordingly, the Parties enter into this
21 Agreement on a conditional basis. This Agreement is contingent upon the approval and certification
22 by the Court.

23 Section 2.02: Continued Best Efforts to Obtain Court Approval of Settlement

24 The Parties and their respective counsel shall take all steps that may be requested by the Court
25 relating to the approval and implementation of the Settlement in accordance with the terms of this
26 Agreement and shall use their respective best efforts to obtain Court approval and to implement this
27 Agreement. If the Court does not grant the Motion for Preliminary Approval and/or the Motion for
28 Final Approval and instead addresses issues/concerns with the filed motion, the Parties agree to meet

1 and confer to address the Court's concerns. If the Parties are unable to reach a resolution, the Parties
2 agree to seek the assistance of mediator Lou Marlin to resolve the dispute.

3 **Section 2.03: Effect of Non-Occurrence of Effective Date**

4 If the Effective Date does not occur, the Parties agree as follows:

- 5 (a) Any conditional certification of the Class will be vacated and Plaintiffs,
6 Defendant, and the Class will be returned to their positions with respect to the
7 Action as if this Agreement had not been entered into. Any Settlement
8 Administration costs incurred to that point will be split by the Parties.
9 However, if Defendant exercises its option to terminate this Settlement (as
10 addressed in Section 3.04(c)), Defendant shall be responsible for the full
11 amount of Settlement Administration Costs incurred up to the date of
12 termination.
- 13 (b) Any orders of the Court preliminarily or finally approving certification of any
14 class contemplated by this Agreement shall be null, void, and vacated, and
15 shall not be used or cited thereafter by any person or entity.
- 16 (c) The fact that the Parties were willing to stipulate to certification for the
17 purposes of this Agreement shall have no bearing on, nor be admissible in
18 connection with, the issue of certification of the Class with respect to any
19 cause of action alleged in the Action.
- 20 (d) The fact of the settlement terms reflected in this Agreement and the fact that
21 Defendant did not oppose the certification of a Class under this Agreement or
22 that the Court preliminarily approved the certification of the Class shall not be
23 used or cited thereafter by any person or entity in any manner whatsoever,
24 including without limitation any contested proceeding relating to the
25 certification of any class.
- 26 (e) This Agreement shall be deemed null and void, shall be of no force or effect
27 whatsoever, and shall not be referred to or used for any purpose whatsoever
28 (except as addressed in this Section regarding costs and agreements).

1 **ARTICLE III**

2 **PROCEDURE FOR APPROVAL AND IMPLEMENTATION OF SETTLEMENT**

3 The procedure for obtaining Court approval of and implementing this Agreement shall be as
4 follows:

5 **Section 3.01: Preliminary Approval and Conditional Class Certification**

6 Within 60 days of this Stipulation and Settlement of Class Action Claims being executed by
7 all Parties, Plaintiffs will submit the Motion for Preliminary Approval along with this Agreement to
8 the Court for preliminary approval pursuant to Rule 3.769 of the California Rules of Court. Plaintiffs'
9 Motion for Preliminary Approval will request an order conditionally certifying the Class. The Motion
10 for Preliminary Approval will request a hearing date for the Final Fairness and Approval Hearing to
11 be included in the Preliminary Approval Order. Defendants will not oppose the Motion for
12 Preliminary Approval. At least three (3) business days prior to submission of Plaintiffs' Motion for
13 Preliminary Approval, Plaintiffs' counsel will prepare and deliver to Defense Counsel a draft of the
14 Motion for Preliminary Approval papers for counsel's review, including a draft of the notice,
15 memorandum in support, and any supporting declarations. Any proposed changes or revisions shall
16 be incorporated by Class Counsel to the extent Class Counsel deems them reasonable. However, if
17 Class Counsel chooses not to incorporate Defendant's requested changes or revisions, Defendant
18 reserves the right to file and objection and/or opposition to Plaintiff's Motion for Preliminary
19 Approval of the parties' Settlement.

20 **Section 3.02: The Settlement Administrator**

21 The Parties have chosen CPT Group, Inc. to administer the Settlement pursuant to this
22 Agreement and to act as the Settlement Administrator. The Settlement Administrator shall perform
23 all functions required under this Agreement and take necessary steps to effectuate the Settlement,
24 including, but not limited to, the following: distributing and responding to inquiries about the Class
25 Notice; determining the validity of any Requests for Exclusion and/or notice of Objection;
26 calculating the Net Settlement Amount and the Individual Settlement Payments; issuing the
27 Individual Settlement Payment checks and distributing them to Participating Class Members and
28 Aggrieved Employees; issuing the PAGA Payment to the LWDA; and issuing payment to Class

1 Counsel for Attorneys' Fees and Costs, to Plaintiffs for their Enhancement Awards, and to the
2 appropriate taxing authorities for the Employer's Share of Payroll Taxes, which will be paid by
3 Defendant Farmgirl Flowers Inc., separately and in addition to the Gross Settlement Amount. The
4 Settlement Administrator shall provide Class Counsel with estimated average of the recovery for the
5 Class Members, and the high and low ranges. To protect Class Members' privacy rights, the
6 Settlement Administrator shall maintain any and all Class Member identifying information provided
7 to it by Defendant Farmgirl Flowers Inc. ("Class Data") in confidence, use the Class Data only for
8 purposes of this Settlement and for no other purpose, and restrict access to the Class Data to
9 Administrator employees who need access to the Class Data to effectuate the terms of this
10 Agreement. The Settlement Administrator has a continuing duty to immediately notify Defense
11 Counsel if it discovers the confidentiality of the Class Data has been breached.

12 **Section 3.03: Notice to Class Members**

13 No later than fifteen (15) days after the Preliminary Approval Date, Defendant Farmgirl
14 Flowers Inc. will provide the Settlement Administrator the Class List.

15 Within ten (10) calendar days of receiving the Class List from Defendant Farmgirl Flowers
16 Inc., the Settlement Administrator will send Class Members, by first-class mail, at their last known
17 addresses, the Court approved Class Notice. The Class Notice will include a calculation of each Class
18 Member's estimated share of the Net Settlement Amount. Class Members will have forty-five (45)
19 days from the date of mailing of the Class Notice to postmark objections or Requests for Exclusion.
20 Prior to the initial mailing, the Settlement Administrator will check all Class Member addresses
21 against the National Change of Address database and shall update any addresses before mailing.
22 Class Members shall not be required to submit claim forms in order to receive their share of the Net
23 Settlement Amount.

24 If a Class Notice is returned with a forwarding address, the Settlement Administrator shall
25 re-mail the Class Notice to the forwarding address. With respect to each Class Member whose Notice
26 is returned to the Settlement Administrator as undeliverable, the Settlement Administrator shall
27 promptly attempt to obtain a valid mailing address by performing a skip trace or mass search on a
28 database such as LexisNexis based on set criteria and, if another address is identified, shall mail the

1 Notice Packet to the newly identified address. It is the intent of the Parties that reasonable means be
2 used to locate Class Members and that the Settlement Administrator be given discretion to take steps
3 in order to facilitate notice of the Settlement and delivery of the Individual Settlement Payments to
4 the Participating Class Members.

5 If a Class Member's Notice is re-mailed, the Class Member shall have ten (10) days from the
6 re-mailing, or forty-five (45) days from the date of the initial mailing, whichever is later, to postmark
7 objections or requests for exclusion. If the Class Notice is re-mailed, the Settlement Administrator
8 will note for its own records and notify Class Counsel and Defense Counsel as part of a weekly status
9 report provided to the Parties.

10 In the event a Class Notice remains undeliverable seventy (70) days after its initial mailing,
11 the Settlement Administrator will not mail the Class Member's Individual Settlement Payment. The
12 Settlement Administrator will hold the Class Member's Individual Settlement Payment during the
13 Check-Cashing Period on behalf of the Class Member. If, at the conclusion of the Check-Cashing
14 Period, the Class Member's Notice and Individual Settlement Payment remain undeliverable, the
15 Settlement Administrator will send the funds from those checks to the State of California's State
16 Controller Unclaimed Property Fund with an identification of the amount of unclaimed funds
17 attributable to each such Class Member. The Settlement Administrator shall comply with the timing
18 and procedural requirements of the State Controller's office with respect to the handling of uncashed
19 checks attributed to Class Members.

20 No later than thirty (30) court days prior to the Final Fairness and Approval Hearing, the
21 Settlement Administrator shall provide Class Counsel and Defense Counsel with a declaration
22 attesting to completion of the notice process, including any attempts to obtain valid mailing addresses
23 for and re-sending of any returned Notice Packets, as well as the number of requests for exclusion
24 and objections that the Settlement Administrator received.

25 If the Final Fairness and Approval Hearing is continued for any reason, the Settlement
26 Administrator will update its website for this matter to note the new date, time, and location of the
27 Final Fairness and Approval Hearing.

28

1 **Section 3.04: Responses to Notice**

2 **a. Settlement Terms Bind All Class Members Who Do Not Submit a Timely**
3 **Request for Exclusion**

4 Any Class Member who does not affirmatively opt out of the Settlement by submitting a
5 timely Request for Exclusion will be bound by all of its terms including those pertaining to the
6 Released Class Claims and Released PAGA Claims, as well as any Final Order that may be entered
7 by the Court if it grants final approval of the Settlement. However, any Aggrieved Employee who
8 opts out of the Settlement will still be releasing the PAGA Released Claims.

9 **b. Class Member Disputes**

10 If a Class Member/Aggrieved Employee disputes the Individual Settlement Payment
11 Amount or basis thereof, the Class Member/Aggrieved Employee may produce evidence to the
12 Settlement Administrator for the Class/PAGA Period. In order for the dispute to be considered,
13 s/he must follow the directions on the Notice of Class Action Settlement.

14 Written notice of the dispute must be received by the Settlement Administrator within 45
15 calendar days of the mailing of the Notice, or 10 calendar days of any re-mailing of the Notice,
16 whichever is later (as addressed above). The date of mailing of the Notice by the Settlement
17 Administrator to the Class Member, and the date the notice of dispute was postmarked, shall be
18 conclusively determined according to the records of the Settlement Administrator. Upon the timely
19 receipt of any dispute, the Settlement Administrator will notify Defense Counsel in writing (email
20 constitutes a writing for this purpose) of the dispute within three (3) business days of receipt and let
21 Class Counsel know generally that an individual has disputed the Individual Settlement Amount, or
22 basis thereof, without providing full details of the dispute. Defendant's records will be presumed
23 determinative, absent evidence to rebut Defendant's records, but the Settlement Administrator will
24 evaluate the evidence submitted by the Class Member and make the final decision as to the validity
25 of such evidence.

26 **c. Requests for Exclusion from Class Members**

27 By entering into this Agreement, Plaintiffs agree that they will not request exclusion from the
28 Class. Class Members who wish to exclude themselves (opt-out of) from the Class Settlement must

1 send the Administrator by mail, a Request for Exclusion that must be signed by the Class Member
2 or his or her authorized representative, include the last four digits of his/ Social Security Number (to
3 verify his/her identity) and identify the case as Aguilar v. Farmgirl Flowers postmarked by no later
4 than forty-five (45) days after the date the Settlement Administrator initially mails the Notice Packet
5 to the Class Members (or ten (10) days after the Settlement Administrator re-mails the Notice to the
6 Class Member, whichever is later). The Class Notice shall contain instructions on how to validly
7 exclude oneself from the Class and this Settlement, but the Request for Exclusion must just state that
8 they request exclusion from the class and do not wish to participate in the settlement, or words to
9 that effect. The date of the initial mailing of the Class Notice, and the date the signed Request for
10 Exclusion was postmarked, shall be conclusively determined according to the records of the
11 Settlement Administrator. Any Class Member who timely and validly submits a Request for
12 Exclusion will not be entitled to any Individual Settlement Payment from the Net Settlement Amount,
13 will not be bound by the terms and conditions of this Agreement, and will not have any right to
14 object, appeal, or comment thereon. However, even if Class Members validly opt out of the
15 Settlement, they will still be entitled to a portion of the employees' share of the PAGA Payment if
16 the Class Member also qualifies as an Aggrieved Employee. The Parties agree that the Court's
17 approval of the Settlement Payment, inclusive of the settlement and release pertaining to the PAGA
18 claim, shall be entitled to res judicata, issue preclusion, and claim preclusion effect to the fullest
19 extent of the law.

20 Any Class Member who fails to timely submit a Request for Exclusion shall automatically
21 be deemed a Class Member whose rights and claims with respect to the issues raised in the Action
22 are determined by the Court's Final Order, and by the other rulings in the Action. Thus, said Class
23 Member's rights to pursue any claims covered by the Action and/or released in this Agreement will
24 be extinguished.

25 Defendant has the unilateral right to void this Agreement in the event more than seven percent
26 (7%) of Class Members opt out of the Settlement. Defendant must notify Class Counsel and the
27 Court whether it is exercising this right to void no later than fourteen (14) days after the end of the
28 class notice period and the Settlement Administrator notifies the Parties of the total number of valid

1 Request for Exclusion Forms it has received. If Defendant exercises this option, it must pay for any
2 costs incurred by the Settlement Administrator.

3 **d. Objections to Settlement**

4 Class Members may object to the Settlement by submitting to the Settlement Administrator)
5 his or her notice of Objection or by appearing at the Final Fairness and Approval Hearing to explain
6 their objection(s). In order for a Class Member to object to this Agreement, or any term of it, the
7 Class Member must not submit a Request for Exclusion notice (*i.e.*, must not opt out). The Objection
8 notice must include the Class Member's full name, address and telephone number, and a written
9 statement of the grounds of objection, and be signed by the objecting Class Member or his or her
10 attorney, along with all supporting papers for the objection as applicable (such as documents showing
11 that the number of workweeks calculated is incorrect). Settlement Class Members who fail to make
12 objections in the manner specified above shall be deemed to have waived any objections and shall
13 be foreclosed from making any objections (whether by appeal or otherwise) to the Settlement.

14 The notice of Objection and supporting papers must be sent to the Settlement Administrator
15 by mail/fax no later than forty-five (45) days after the Class Notice was initially mailed to the Class
16 Members (or ten (10) days after the Settlement Administrator re-mails the Notice to the Class
17 Member, whichever is later). The date of the initial mailing of the Class Notice, and the date the
18 signed notice of Objection was postmarked, shall be conclusively determined according to the
19 records of the Settlement Administrator. The Settlement Administrator shall send any notice of
20 Objection it receives to Defense Counsel and Class Counsel within three (3) business days of receipt.

21 The Court retains final authority with respect to the consideration and admissibility of any
22 Class Member objections.

23 **e. Encouragement of Class Members**

24 The Parties, Class Counsel, and Defense Counsel shall not, directly or indirectly, through any
25 person, encourage or solicit any Class Member to exclude himself or herself from this Settlement
26 (opt out) or to object to the Settlement. However, nothing in this Agreement shall bar or prohibit
27 any Party, Class Counsel, or Defense Counsel from responding to questions from Class Members
28 concerning this Settlement.

1 **Section 3.05: Final Fairness and Approval Hearing**

2 The Final Fairness and Approval Hearing shall be held before the Court in order to (1) review
3 this Agreement and determine whether the Court should grant final approval pursuant to the Motion
4 for Final Approval, and (2) consider any timely objections made pursuant to Section 3.04(d), above,
5 and any responses from the Parties to such objections. At the Final Fairness and Approval Hearing,
6 the Parties shall ask the Court to grant final approval of this Agreement and shall submit to the Court
7 a proposed Final Order and Judgment.

8 **Section 3.06: Settlement Payment Procedures**

9 **a. Funding the Settlement Amount**

10 In exchange for the releases set forth in this Agreement and subject to the terms and
11 conditions set forth herein, Farmgirl Flowers Inc., agrees to pay the Gross Settlement Amount
12 (“GSA”) of One Million Dollars and Zero Cents (\$1,000,000.00) on a non-reversionary basis. The
13 Gross Settlement Amount includes Individual Settlement Payments to Participating Class Members
14 and Aggrieved Employees, Settlement Administration Costs, Attorneys’ Fees and Costs,
15 Enhancement Payments, and the LWDA Payment. The Employer’s Share of Payroll Taxes will be
16 paid by Defendant Farmgirl Flowers Inc., separate from and in addition to the Gross Settlement
17 Amount.

18 The GSA will be payable in two installments according to the following payment scheduled:

19 Payment 1: \$500,000.00, plus the Employer’s Share of Payroll Taxes for the taxable portion
20 of Individual Settlement Payments attributed to Payment 1, paid to the Settlement Administrator
21 within 15 days of the Effective Date of the Settlement.

22 Payment 2: \$500,000, plus the Employer’s Share of Payroll Taxes for the taxable portion of
23 Individual Settlement Payments attributed to Payment 2, paid to the Settlement Administrator within
24 120 days after the Effective Date of the Settlement.

25 In no event shall Defendant be required to pay more than the GSA, other than as provided in
26 this Section (employer’s share of payroll taxes) and Section 3.06(b) (if the escalator clause is
27 triggered).

28 There will be two distributions made from the settlement proceeds, one from each Payment

described in this Section above. The first payment distribution shall be made within ten (10) calendar days after the Settlement Administrator receives Payment 1 from Defendant and shall include one-half of the Attorneys' Fees awarded to Plaintiffs' counsel by the Court, all of the Costs awarded to Plaintiffs' counsel by the Court, all Enhancement Awards, and the Settlement Administrator costs. The remainder after subtracting these payments will be distributed to the Settlement Class Members. To extent practicable in light of the potential funds available for distribution to Settlement Class Members, they will receive approximately 50% of their Individual Class Settlement Payment from Payment 1. The second payment distribution will be made within ten (10) days after the Settlement Administrator receives Payment 2 from Defendant and shall consist of the second half of the Attorneys' Fees awarded to Plaintiff's counsel and the PAGA Payment. The remainder after subtracting these payments will be distributed to the Settlement Class Members and the Aggrieved Employee Group. Settlement Class Members will receive the approximately 50% remainder of their Individual Class Settlement Payment from Payment 2. The Aggrieved Employees will receive their Individual PAGA Settlement Payment from Payment 2.

b. Escalator Clause

This Settlement is premised on the settlement class size consisting of 742 settlement class members between August 5, 2017 and January 31, 2023 (excluding putative class members who previously signed separation agreements containing general releases). If the actual number of settlement class members at issue exceeds 742 by more than 7% (excluding putative class members who previously signed separation agreements containing general releases) as of the date of preliminary approval of the settlement or 105 days from the date the Parties signed their Memorandum of Understanding dated April 4, 2023, whichever is earlier, the amount of the GSA will increase by 1% in proportion for those settlement class members above 7%. In other words, if the number of settlement class members exceeds 794 individuals (for example to 801), excluding putative class members who previously signed separation agreements with general releases, then the amount of the GSA would be increased by 1% per each percentage increase of settlement class members over 794 individuals.

1 **c. Payment of Attorneys' Fees and Costs**

2 Class Counsel shall apply for an award of attorneys' fees of up to one-third (33 and 1/3%) of
3 the Gross Settlement Amount, which is Three Hundred Thirty-Three Thousand Three Hundred
4 Thirty-Three Dollars and Thirty-Three Cents (\$333,333.33). In addition, subject to Court approval,
5 Class Counsel shall be entitled to an award of reasonable costs associated with Class Counsel's
6 prosecution of the Action not to exceed Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00). Such application for
7 attorneys' fees and costs shall be heard by the Court at the Final Fairness and Approval Hearing.
8 Defendants will not object to or oppose Plaintiffs' application for these amounts. Class Counsel shall
9 be paid any Court-awarded attorneys' fees and costs as provided in this Section. The Court's
10 approval of attorneys' fees and/or costs in an amount less than that requested by Class Counsel shall
11 not invalidate this Agreement.

12 The Attorneys' Fees and Costs approved by the Court shall encompass all work performed
13 and all costs and expenses related to the investigation, prosecution, and settlement of the Action
14 incurred through the Effective Date. To the extent that the Court approves less than the amounts of
15 attorneys' fees and/or costs that Class Counsel requests, the difference between the requested and
16 awarded amounts will be reallocated to the Net Settlement Amount.

17 **d. Payment of Settlement Administration Costs**

18 The Settlement Administration Costs shall be paid out of the Gross Settlement Amount and
19 shall not constitute payment to any Participating Class Member. Class Counsel will submit an
20 application for Court approval for an allocation of Settlement Administration Costs no greater than
21 Twenty Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents (\$20,000.00). Defendant will not object to or oppose
22 Plaintiffs' application for this amount. To the extent there are unused funds of this cost allocation,
23 such funds will be reallocated to the Net Settlement Amount. The Settlement Administration costs
24 shall be paid in accordance with this Section.

25 **e. Payment of Enhancement Payments to Plaintiffs**

26 Subject to Court approval, each Plaintiff shall receive an Enhancement Payment of up to Ten
27 Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents (\$10,000.00) for their services as class representatives and in
28 exchange for a general release of Plaintiffs' claims. Defendant will not oppose this request. The

1 Enhancement Payment will be paid from the Gross Settlement Amount and is not allocated as
2 payment to any Participating Class Member. Plaintiffs shall be paid the Court-awarded Enhancement
3 Payment in accordance with this Section. To the extent that the Court approves less than the amount
4 of the Enhancement Payments that Plaintiffs have requested, the difference between the requested
5 and awarded amount will be reallocated to the Net Settlement Amount.

6 Because it is the intent of the Parties that the Enhancement Payment represents payment to
7 Plaintiffs for services performed on behalf of the Class Members and not to be considered wages, the
8 Settlement Administrator will not withhold any taxes from the Enhancement Payment. The
9 Enhancement Payment will be reported on an IRS Form 1099, which the Settlement Administrator
10 will provide to each Plaintiff and to the pertinent taxing authorities as required by law.

11 **f. LWDA Payment**

12 In consideration of claims alleged under PAGA, Class Counsel will request that the Court
13 approve allocation of Fifty Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents (\$50,000.00) of the Gross Settlement
14 Amount as PAGA penalties. Seventy-five percent (75%), or Thirty-Seven Thousand Five Hundred
15 Dollars (\$37,500.00), of this amount will be paid to the LWDA, and twenty-five percent (25%), or
16 Twelve Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$12,500.00) will be allocated to the Net Settlement Amount
17 for distribution to Aggrieved Employees. Defendant will not oppose this request for allocation and
18 distribution of payments under this Section 3.06(f). The Court's adjustment, if any, of the amount
19 allocated as PAGA penalties will not invalidate this Agreement, as long as the Gross Settlement
20 Amount does not exceed \$1,000,000.00 (excluding Defendant's share of the payroll taxes applicable
21 to the Net Settlement Amount allocated to wages) and subject to Section 3.06(b) above and final
22 approval of the Settlement is granted.

23 **g. PAGA Payments to Aggrieved Employees**

24 If a Class Member requests exclusion from the Settlement, the Class Member is still entitled
25 to his or her share of the employees' portion of the PAGA Payment if he/she is an Aggrieved
26 Employee, which will be determined on a pro rata basis based upon the number of pay periods that
27 the Aggrieved Employee worked during the PAGA Period. The Parties agree that the Court's
28 approval of the Settlement Payment, inclusive of the settlement and release pertaining to the PAGA

claim, shall be entitled to res judicata, issue preclusion, and claim preclusion effect to the fullest extent of the law.

h. Individual Settlement Payments to Participating Class Members

The Parties agree that the Net Settlement Amount shall be used to fund Individual Class Settlement Payments and Individual PAGA Settlement Payments (collectively, "Individual Settlement Payments"). The Parties agree that the Net Settlement Amount shall be divided between all Participating Class Members in proportion to the number of Qualifying Workweeks for each Class Member. To calculate the amount each Participating Class Member will receive, the Net Settlement Amount will be divided by the total number of Qualifying Workweeks worked by all Participating Class Members during the Class Period to determine the base dollar amount per Qualifying Workweek. The Settlement Administrator shall then multiply the number of Qualifying Workweeks for each Participating Class Member by the base dollar amount. In addition, all Aggrieved Employees shall receive a pro rata share of the portion of the PAGA Payment allocated to Aggrieved Employees based on their Qualifying Pay Periods during the PAGA Period. The Settlement Administrator shall disperse Individual Settlement Payments to Participating Class Members in compliance with Section 3.06 (a) above.

Each Individual Settlement Payment will represent wages, penalties, expenses and interest allocated using the following formula: twenty (20%) allocated to wages (with legally required tax withholding) and eighty percent (80%) allocated to penalties, expenses and interest.

Based on the information contained in the Class List, the Settlement Administrator shall calculate: (a) the Net Settlement Amount, (b) the Individual Settlement Payment for each Participating Class Member based on the formula specified above, (c) the amount of the Individual Settlement Payments to be allocated to wages and interest and penalties based on the formula specified above, (d) Defendant Farmgirl Flowers Inc.'s share of the payroll taxes applicable to the Net Settlement Amount allocated to wages; and (e) the employee tax withholding amount based on the allocation of each Individual Settlement Payment to wages.

Individual Settlement Payments allocated to wages will be reduced by applicable employee withholdings, and the Settlement Administrator will issue a Form W-2 for the wage portion of the

1 Individual Settlement Payments. The Settlement Administrator will issue a Form 1099 for the
2 interest, expenses and penalty portions of the Individual Settlement Payments.

3 Participating Class Members shall have 180 days from the date their Individual Settlement
4 Payment checks are dated to cash their settlement checks.

5 **i. Distribution of the Gross Settlement Amount**

6 The Settlement Administrator will distribute the Individual Settlement Payments to
7 Participating Class Members in accordance with Section 3.06(a) above. If Individual Settlement
8 Payments are returned to the Settlement Administrator as undeliverable, the Settlement
9 Administrator shall promptly attempt to obtain a valid mailing address by performing a skip trace or
10 a mass search on a database such as LexisNexis based on set criteria and, if another address is
11 identified, shall mail the check to the newly identified address. If the Settlement Administrator is
12 unable to obtain a valid mailing address or if any funds representing Individual Settlement Payments
13 remain uncashed upon the expiration of the Check-Cashing Period, the Settlement Administrator will
14 deliver the monies represented by the check to the State of California's State Controller Unclaimed
15 Property Fund with an identification of the amount of unclaimed funds attributable to each Class
16 Member.

17 **i. No Credit Toward Benefit Plans**

18 The Individual Settlement Payments made to Participating Class Members under this
19 Agreement, as well as any other payments made pursuant to this Agreement, will not be utilized to
20 calculate any additional benefits under any benefit plans to which any Class Members may be
21 eligible, including, but not limited to: profit-sharing plans, bonus plans, 401(k) plans, stock purchase
22 plans, vacation plans, sick leave plans, PTO plans, and any other benefit plan. Rather, it is the Parties'
23 intent that this Agreement will not affect any rights, contributions, or amounts to which any Class
24 Members may be entitled under any benefit plans.

1 ARTICLE IV

2 RELEASES

3 **Section 4.01: Releases by Participating Class Members and Plaintiffs**

4 a. August 5, 2017 through the date of preliminary approval of the settlement or 105 days
5 from when the Parties' signed their Memorandum of Understanding on April 4, 2023, whichever is
6 earlier, is the "Settlement Class Release Period." During the Settlement Class Release Period,
7 Plaintiffs and Participating Class Members will release the Released Parties (defined in this
8 paragraph below) from all claims under federal, state or local law, that were asserted or could have
9 been asserted based on the facts, claims, and theories expressly pleaded in the First Amended
10 Complaint or any prior Complaints; the facts, claims or theories expressly raised in Plaintiff's notice
11 to the LWDA dated July 27, 2021, regarding Defendant; and/or any facts, claims or theories arising
12 under any applicable IWC Wage Orders, including claims for: (1) failure to pay wages for all hours
13 worked; (2) failure to pay overtime wages, (3) failure to provide mandatory meal and rest breaks, (4)
14 unreimbursed business expenses, (5) violation of the California WARN Act, (6) failure to provide
15 accurate wage statements, (7) failure to pay waiting time penalties, and (8) violations of the Unfair
16 Competition Law, Calif. Bus. & Prof. Code §§17200 *et. seq.* ("UCL") ("Released Class Claims").

17 Plaintiff and Participating Class Members will waive and release the Released Class Claims
18 against Defendant Farmgirl Flowers Inc., together with its current and former owners, officers,
19 directors, managers, employees and agents (collectively, including Defendant, the "Released
20 Parties").

21 **Section 4.02: Release by Aggrieved Employees, Including Plaintiffs**

22 a. August 10, 2020 through the date of preliminary approval of the settlement or 105
23 days after the Parties signed their Memorandum of Understanding, whichever is earlier, is the
24 "PAGA Release Period." In addition to the release set forth in Section 4.01 above, for the PAGA
25 Release Period, Plaintiffs and all Aggrieved Employees shall be deemed to have released the
26 Released Parties of any and all claims and/or causes of action under the PAGA that were asserted or
27 could have been asserted based upon the facts, claims and theories expressly pleaded in the First
28 Amended Complaint and/or any prior Complaints, and/or any facts, claims, or theories set forth in

1 the LWDA Notice against Defendant dated July 27, 2021, including but not limited to, claims for
2 civil penalties for alleged Labor Code violations under the PAGA, including the alleged (1) failure
3 to pay wages for all hours worked; (2) failure to pay overtime wages, (3) failure to provide mandatory
4 meal and rest breaks, (4) unreimbursed business expenses, (5) violation of the California WARN
5 Act, (6) failure to provide accurate wage statements, and (7) failure to pay waiting time penalties
6 (“Released PAGA Claims”). All Aggrieved Employees will receive a portion of the settlement
7 designated as the Aggrieved Employees’ portion of the PAGA Penalty, regardless of if such
8 Aggrieved Employees exclude themselves or opt-out of the Settlement Class. The Parties agree that
9 the Court’s approval of the Settlement Payment, inclusive of the settlement and release pertaining to
10 the PAGA claim, shall be entitled to res judicata, issue preclusion, and claim preclusion effect to the
11 fullest extent of the law.

12 **Section 4.03: General Release by Plaintiffs**

13 For and during the Settlement Class Release Period, Plaintiffs, each of them, for themselves,
14 their heirs, successors, and assigns, waive, release, acquit, and forever discharges the Released
15 Parties from any and all claims, actions, charges, complaints, grievances, and causes of action, of
16 any nature arising from Plaintiffs’ employment with Defendant Farmgirl Flowers Inc., whether
17 known or unknown, which exist or may exist as of the Parties’ execution of this Agreement.

18 Section 1542 of the California Civil Code provides as follows:

19 *“A general release does not extend to claims that the creditor or releasing party*
20 *does not know or suspect to exist in his or her favor at the time of executing the*
21 *release and that, if known by him or her, would have materially affected his or*
22 *her settlement with the debtor or released party.”*

23 Plaintiffs’ general release provided by each of them herein is made with an express waiver and
24 relinquishment of any claim, right, or benefit under California Civil Code § 1542. Plaintiffs, each of
25 them, warrant that they have read this Agreement, including this waiver of California Civil Code §
26 1542, and that Plaintiffs have consulted with or had the opportunity to consult with counsel about
27 this Agreement and specifically about the waiver of § 1542, and that Plaintiffs understand this
28 Agreement and the § 1542 waiver, and so they freely and knowingly enter into this Agreement.

1 Plaintiffs further acknowledge that Plaintiffs later may discover facts different from or in addition to
2 those Plaintiffs now know or believe to be true regarding the matters released or described in this
3 Agreement, and even so Plaintiffs agree that the releases and agreements contained in this Agreement
4 shall remain effective in all respects notwithstanding any later discovery of any different or additional
5 facts.

6 **Section 4.04: Plaintiffs' Employment**

7 It is understood that by entering into this Agreement, the Parties agree that each of the
8 Plaintiffs' employment with Farmgirl Flowers Inc. has ended. It is Defendant's position that it had
9 legitimate, non-discriminatory and non-retaliatory reasons for ending the employment relationship.

10 **Section 4.05: No Additional Attorneys' Fees or Costs**

11 Except for the allocation of attorneys' fees and costs from the Gross Settlement Amount set
12 forth herein, the Parties agree to bear their own attorneys' fees and costs related to this Action.

13 **Section 4.06: Inapplicability of California Labor Code 206.5**

14 The Participating Class Members, including Plaintiffs, shall be deemed to have
15 acknowledged and agreed that there is a bona fide dispute as to their claim for wages and/or penalties
16 and/or any other recovery solely in connection with this Action, and that the payments to them set
17 forth in this Agreement constitute payment of all sums allegedly due to them solely from the claims
18 alleged in the Action. Participating Class Members, including Plaintiffs, shall be deemed to have
19 acknowledged and agreed that Labor Code section 206.5 does not apply to any such payments. That
20 section provides in pertinent part as follows: **"No employer shall require the execution of any
21 release of any claim or right on account of wage due, or to become due, or made as an advance
22 on wages to be earned, unless payment of such wages has been made."** Each Participating Class
23 Member shall be deemed to have made the foregoing Release as if by manually signing it. This
24 section in no way limits the releases set forth in Sections 4.01, 4.02 and 4.03, above.

25 **ARTICLE V**

26 **LIMITATIONS ON USE OF THIS SETTLEMENT**

27 **Section 5.01: No Admission**

28 Defendant disputes the allegations in the Action and contends that, but for this Settlement, a

1 Class should not have been certified in the Action. This Agreement is entered into solely for the
2 purpose of settling highly disputed claims. Nothing in this Agreement is intended nor will be
3 construed as an admission of liability or wrongdoing by Defendant. The Parties enter into this
4 Agreement to resolve the dispute that has arisen between them and to avoid the burden, expense, and
5 risk of continued litigation. In entering into this Agreement, Defendant does not admit—and in fact
6 specifically denies—that it violated any federal, state, or local law; violated any regulations or
7 guidelines promulgated pursuant to any statute or any other applicable laws, regulations, or legal
8 requirements; breached any contract; violated or breached any duty; engaged in any
9 misrepresentation or deception; or engaged in any other unlawful conduct with respect to any and all
10 employees at Defendant Farmgirl Flowers Inc. Neither this Agreement, nor any of its terms or
11 provisions, nor any of the negotiations connected with it, will be construed as an admission or
12 concession by Defendant of any such violations or failures to comply with any applicable law. Except
13 as necessary in a proceeding to enforce the terms of this Agreement, this Agreement and its terms
14 and provisions will not be offered or received as evidence in any action or proceeding to establish
15 any liability or admission on the part of Defendant or the Released Parties or to establish the existence
16 of any condition constituting a violation of, or non-compliance with, federal, state, local, or other
17 applicable law.

18 **Section 5.02: Non-Evidentiary Use**

19 Whether or not the Effective Date occurs, neither this Agreement nor any of its terms nor the
20 Settlement itself will be: (a) construed as, offered, or admitted in evidence as, received as, or deemed
21 to be evidence for any purpose adverse to Defendant or any other of the Released Parties, including
22 but not limited to, evidence of a presumption, concession, indication, or admission by any of the
23 Released Parties of any liability, fault, wrongdoing, omission, concession, or damage; or
24 (b) disclosed, referred to, or offered in evidence against any of the Released Parties in any further
25 proceeding in the Action, except for the purposes of effectuating the Settlement pursuant to this
26 Agreement or for Defendants to establish that a Class Member has resolved any of his or her claims
27 released through this Agreement.
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1 **Section 6.03: Governing Law**

2 This Agreement shall be governed, construed, and interpreted, and the rights of the Parties
3 shall be determined, in accordance with the laws of the State of California, without regard to conflicts
4 of laws.

5 **Section 6.04: Entire Agreement**

6 This Agreement, including the Exhibit A (Class Notice) referred to herein, which forms an
7 integral part hereof, contains the entire understanding of the Parties with respect to the subject matter
8 contained herein. In case of any conflict between text contained in Articles I through VI of this
9 Agreement and text contained in the Exhibit to this Agreement, the former (*i.e.*, Articles I through
10 VI) shall be controlling, unless the Exhibit is changed by or in response to a Court order. There are
11 no restrictions, promises, representations, warranties, covenants, or undertakings governing the
12 subject matter of this Agreement other than those expressly set forth or referred to herein. This
13 Agreement supersedes all prior agreements and understandings among the Parties with respect to the
14 Settlement of the Action, including correspondence between Class Counsel and Defense Counsel
15 and drafts of prior agreements or proposals.

16 **Section 6.05: Waiver of Compliance**

17 Any failure of any Party, Class Counsel, or Defense Counsel to comply with any obligation,
18 covenant, agreement, or condition set forth in this Agreement may be expressly waived in writing,
19 to the extent permitted under applicable law, by the Party or Parties and their respective counsel
20 entitled to the benefit of such obligation, covenant, agreement, or condition. A waiver or failure to
21 insist upon strict compliance with any representation, warranty, covenant, agreement, or condition
22 shall not operate as a waiver of, or estoppel with respect to, any subsequent or other failure.

23 **Section 6.06: Counterparts and Electronic Signatures**

24 This Agreement, and any amendments hereto, may be executed in any number of
25 counterparts, and any Party and/or their respective counsel may execute any such counterpart, each
26 of which when executed and delivered shall be deemed to be an original. All counterparts taken
27 together shall constitute one instrument. A fax, PDF, or electronic signature on this Agreement shall
28 be as valid as an original signature.

1 **Section 6.07: Meet and Confer Regarding Disputes**

2 Should any dispute arise among the Parties or their respective counsel regarding the
3 implementation or interpretation of this Agreement, Class Counsel and Defense Counsel shall meet
4 and confer in an attempt to resolve such disputes prior to submitting such disputes to the Court.

5 **Section 6.08: Agreement Binding on Successors**

6 This Agreement will be binding upon, and inure to the benefit of, the successors in interest
7 of each of the Parties.

8 **Section 6.09: Cooperation in Drafting**

9 The Parties have cooperated in the negotiation and preparation of this Agreement. This
10 Agreement will not be construed against any Party on the basis that the Party, or the Party's counsel,
11 was the drafter or participated in the drafting of this Agreement.

12 **Section 6.10: Fair and Reasonable Settlement**

13 The Parties believe that this Agreement reflects a fair, reasonable, and adequate settlement of
14 the Action and have arrived at this Agreement through arm's-length negotiation and in the context
15 of adversarial litigation, taking into account all relevant factors, current and potential. The Parties
16 further believe that the Settlement is consistent with public policy, and fully complies with applicable
17 law. The Parties further acknowledge that they are each represented by competent counsel and have
18 had an opportunity to consult with their counsel regarding the fairness and reasonableness of this
19 Settlement.

20 **Section 6.11: Headings**

21 The descriptive heading of any section or paragraph of this Agreement is inserted for
22 convenience of reference only and does not constitute a part of this Agreement and shall not be
23 considered in interpreting this Agreement.

24 **Section 6.12: Notice**

25 Except as otherwise expressly provided in the Agreement, all notices, demands, and other
26 communications under this Agreement must be in writing and addressed as follows:
27
28

1 *To Plaintiffs and the Class:*

2 Brian D. Chase
3 Ian M. Silvers
4 BISNAR | CHASE LLC
5 1301 Dove Street, Suite 120
6 Newport Beach, CA 92660
7 T: (949) 752-2999
8 E: bchase@bisnarchase.com
9 isilvers@bisnarchase.com; and

10 And

11 *To Defendant:*

12 Alison L. Tsao
13 Marianne C. Koepf
14 CDF LABOR LAW LLP
15 600 Montgomery Street, Suite 440
16 San Francisco, California 94111
17 T: (415) 981-3233
18 E: atsao@cdflaborlaw.com
19 mkoepf@cdflaborlaw.com

20 **Section 6.13: Enforcement of Settlement and Continuing Court Jurisdiction**

21 To the extent consistent with class action procedure, this Agreement shall be enforceable by
22 the Court pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure section 664.6 and California Rule of Court
23 3.769(h). The Final Order entered by the Court will not adjudicate the merits of the Action or the
24 liability of the Parties resulting from the allegations of the Action. Its sole purpose is to adopt the
25 terms of the Settlement and to retain jurisdiction over its enforcement. To that end, the Court shall
26 retain continuing jurisdiction over this Action and over all Parties and Class Members, to the fullest
27 extent to enforce and effectuate the terms and intent of this Agreement.

28 **Section 6.14: Mutual Full Cooperation**

29 The Parties agree fully to cooperate with each other to accomplish the terms of this
30 Agreement, including but not limited to execution of such documents, and taking such other action
31 as may reasonably be necessary to implement the terms of this Agreement. The Parties to this
32 Agreement shall use their best efforts, including all efforts contemplated by this Agreement, to
33 effectuate this Agreement and its terms. In the event the Parties are unable to reach agreement on the
34 form or content of any document needed to implement the Settlement (after execution of this

1 agreement), or on any supplemental provisions that may become necessary to effectuate the terms of
2 the Settlement, the Parties agree to seek the assistance of the Court.

3 **Section 6.15: Authorization to Act**

4 Class Counsel represent and warrant that they are authorized by Plaintiffs, and Defense
5 Counsel warrants that they are authorized by Defendant, to take all appropriate action required to
6 effectuate the terms of this Agreement, except for signing documents, including but not limited to
7 this Agreement, that are required to be signed by the Parties. Defendant represents and warrants that
8 the individual executing this Agreement on its behalf has the full right, power, and authority to enter
9 into this Agreement and to carry out the transactions contemplated herein.

10 **Section 6.16: No Reliance on Representations**

11 The Parties have made such investigation of the facts and the law pertaining to the matters
12 described herein and to this Agreement as they deem necessary, and have not relied, and do not
13 rely, on any statement, promise, or representation of fact or law, made by any of the other Parties,
14 or any of their agents, employees, attorneys, or representatives, with regard to any of their rights or
15 asserted rights, or with regard to the advisability of making and executing this Agreement, or with
16 respect to any other matters. No representations, warranties, or inducements, except as expressly
17 set forth herein, have been made to any party concerning this Agreement.

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20 Dated: June²¹, 2023

carlos aguilar

carlos aguilar (Jun 21, 2023 15:46 PDT)

Carlos Aguilar
Plaintiff

22
23 Dated: May____, 2023

Maria Alcazar
Plaintiff

24
25
26 Dated: May____, 2023

Lizvette Salgado
Plaintiff

agreement), or on any supplemental provisions that may become necessary to effectuate the terms of the Settlement, the Parties agree to seek the assistance of the Court.

Section 6.15: Authorization to Act

Class Counsel represent and warrant that they are authorized by Plaintiffs, and Defense Counsel warrants that they are authorized by Defendant, to take all appropriate action required to effectuate the terms of this Agreement, except for signing documents, including but not limited to this Agreement, that are required to be signed by the Parties. Defendant represents and warrants that the individual executing this Agreement on its behalf has the full right, power, and authority to enter into this Agreement and to carry out the transactions contemplated herein.

Section 6.16: No Reliance on Representations

The Parties have made such investigation of the facts and the law pertaining to the matters described herein and to this Agreement as they deem necessary, and have not relied, and do not rely, on any statement, promise, or representation of fact or law, made by any of the other Parties, or any of their agents, employees, attorneys, or representatives, with regard to any of their rights or asserted rights, or with regard to the advisability of making and executing this Agreement, or with respect to any other matters. No representations, warranties, or inducements, except as expressly set forth herein, have been made to any party concerning this Agreement.

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Dated: May __, 2023

Carlos Aguilar
Plaintiff

Dated: May __, 2023

Maria Alcazar
Plaintiff

June
Dated: May 5, 2023

Lizvette

Lizvette Salgado
Plaintiff

1 agreement), or on any supplemental provisions that may become necessary to effectuate the terms of
2 the Settlement, the Parties agree to seek the assistance of the Court.

3 **Section 6.15: Authorization to Act**

4 Class Counsel represent and warrant that they are authorized by Plaintiffs, and Defense
5 Counsel warrants that they are authorized by Defendant, to take all appropriate action required to
6 effectuate the terms of this Agreement, except for signing documents, including but not limited to
7 this Agreement, that are required to be signed by the Parties. Defendant represents and warrants that
8 the individual executing this Agreement on its behalf has the full right, power, and authority to enter
9 into this Agreement and to carry out the transactions contemplated herein.

10 **Section 6.16: No Reliance on Representations**

11 The Parties have made such investigation of the facts and the law pertaining to the matters
12 described herein and to this Agreement as they deem necessary, and have not relied, and do not
13 rely, on any statement, promise, or representation of fact or law, made by any of the other Parties,
14 or any of their agents, employees, attorneys, or representatives, with regard to any of their rights or
15 asserted rights, or with regard to the advisability of making and executing this Agreement, or with
16 respect to any other matters. No representations, warranties, or inducements, except as expressly
17 set forth herein, have been made to any party concerning this Agreement.

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20 Dated: May ____, 2023

Carlos Aguilar
Plaintiff

22
23 Dated: *June 5* May 5, 2023

M. Gloria Alcazar
Maria Alcazar
Plaintiff

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26 Dated: May ____, 2023

Lizvette Salgado
Plaintiff

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June
Dated: May 5, 2023

Elpidia Alcazar
Elpidia Alcazar
Plaintiff

Dated: May ____, 2023

Christina Stembel
CEO of Farmgirl Flowers Inc.

APPROVED AS TO CONTENT AND FORM:

Dated: May 25, 2023

Ian M. Silvers
Ian M. Silvers
BISNAR | CHASE LLP
Attorneys for Plaintiffs

Dated: May ____, 2023

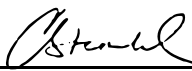
Alison L. Tsao
CDF LABOR LAW LLP
Attorneys for Defendant

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Dated: May____, 2023

Elpidia Alcazar
Plaintiff

Dated: June 2 , 2023


Christina Stembel
CEO of Farmgirl Flowers Inc.

APPROVED AS TO CONTENT AND FORM:

Dated: May____, 2023

Ian M. Silvers
BISNAR | CHASE LLP
Attorneys for Plaintiffs

Dated: June 2 , 2023


Alison L. Tsao
CDF LABOR LAW LLP
Attorneys for Defendant

EXHIBIT A

Carlos Aguilar et. al. v. Farmgirl Flowers, Inc
Superior Court of California for the County of Alameda,
Case No. RG21107981
A court authorized this notice. This is not a solicitation.
This is not a lawsuit against you and you are not being sued.
However, your legal rights may be affected.

TO: ALL INDIVIDUALS WHO WERE EMPLOYED BY FARMGIRL FLOWERS INC.
("DEFENDANT") AS A NON-EXEMPT HOURLY EMPLOYEE IN THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA,
BETWEEN AUGUST 5, 2017 AND [THE EARLIER OF JULY 18, 2023 OR THE DATE OF
PRELIMINARY APPROVAL OF THE SETTLEMENT], EXCLUDING ANY INDIVIDUALS WHO
HAVE PREVIOUSLY SIGNED SEPARATION AGREEMENTS WITH GENERAL RELEASES.

**PLEASE READ THIS NOTICE CAREFULLY. THIS NOTICE REQUIRES YOU TO ACT ON
OR BEFORE [45 DAYS FROM DATE OF MAILING], 2023 WITH RESPECT TO YOUR RIGHTS IN
CONNECTION WITH THE SETTLEMENT OF THE ABOVE-REFERENCED CASE. YOU ARE
NOT BEING SUED.**

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED AS FOLLOWS: A settlement has been reached between the parties in
the lawsuit identified in the caption above on behalf of the following Settlement Class: all current and former
non-exempt, hourly employees of Defendant in California at any time from August 5, 2017 through [the earlier
of July 18, 2023 or the date of preliminary approval of the settlement], excluding any individuals who have
previously signed separation agreements with general releases.

You have received this notice because records indicate that you qualify as a member of the Settlement Class.
This notice is designed to advise you of your rights in connection with the settlement and instruct you what to do
to exercise those rights.

YOUR OPTIONS UNDER THE SETTLEMENT

Summary of Your Legal Rights and Options in this Settlement	
DO NOTHING	You may do nothing in response to this notice. If you do nothing, you will participate in the settlement, you will receive a share of the settlement, and you will release certain claims as described below.
EXCLUDE YOURSELF	Submit a Request for Exclusion. If you submit a timely and valid Request for Exclusion, you will <u>not</u> participate in the class settlement, will <u>not</u> receive a share of the class settlement, and will <u>not</u> release the class claims described below. However, even if you exclude yourself from the class, you will still receive a portion of the PAGA settlement (if you worked at Defendant on or after August 10, 2020) as described below. To submit a Request for Exclusion, follow the instructions below in Section III.
OBJECT	Submit a written objection to the Court.

	If you disagree with the proposed settlement or any of its terms (including if you contest the amount the records show you are due based on the formulas in Section II.C. and II.D), you may submit an objection as addressed below. You will remain a member of the Class and are bound by any rulings regarding the Class. If the Court agrees with your objection, the parties can choose whether to withdraw the settlement or change its terms (or the amount you receive may be adjusted if it has been calculated incorrectly). If the Court rejects your objection, you will still be entitled to participate in the settlement and you will release certain claims as described below. To submit an Objection, follow the instructions below in Section III.
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I. BACKGROUND OF THE CASE

A class-action lawsuit was filed by Plaintiffs Carlos Aguilar, Maria Alcazar, Lizvette Salgado and Elpidia Alcazar (“Plaintiffs”) against Farmgirl Flowers, Inc. (“Defendant”) in the Superior Court of California, County of Alameda, Case No. RG21107981 (the “Action”). The First Amended Complaint in the Action alleges claims for (1) failure to pay wages for all hours worked, (2) failure to pay overtime wages, (3) failure to provide mandatory meal and rest breaks, (4) unreimbursed business expenses, (5) violation of the California WARN Act, (6) failure to provide accurate wage statements, (7) failure to pay waiting time penalties, and (8) violation of California’s Unfair Competition Law. Plaintiffs also alleged a representative claim on behalf of all Aggrieved Employees for violation of the California’s Private Attorneys General Act (“PAGA”).

Defendant denies all of Plaintiffs’ claims as to liability and damages as well as all of Plaintiffs’ class claims and Plaintiffs’ representative claim under PAGA. **No Court has yet ruled on the merits of Plaintiffs’ contentions. The Court has only determined that there is sufficient evidence to suggest that the proposed settlement might be fair, adequate, and reasonable. Any final determination of those issues will be made at the Final Settlement Approval Hearing.** Plaintiffs have vigorously prosecuted this case, and Defendant has vigorously defended it. The Parties have engaged in formal and informal discovery and investigation to assess the relative merits of the claims of the Plaintiffs and class and the defenses to those claims. They then engaged in mediation with an experienced and well-respected class action mediator. With the mediator’s guidance, the parties were able to negotiate a complete settlement of the class. Class Counsel has investigated and researched the facts and circumstances underlying the issues raised in the case and the law applicable. While Class Counsel believes that the claims alleged in this lawsuit have merit, Class Counsel also recognizes that the risk and expense of continued litigation justify settlement. Based on the foregoing, Class Counsel believes the proposed settlement is fair, adequate, reasonable, and in the best interests of Class Members. The parties have since entered into a Stipulation and Settlement of Class Action Claims (the “Agreement”), which has been given preliminary approval by the Court. The Agreement approves of the Settlement Class for the sole purpose of administration of this settlement.

II. SUMMARY OF THE PROPOSED SETTLEMENT

Plaintiffs (who are acting as Class Representatives) and Class Counsel support this settlement. Among the reasons given for support is the inherent risk of trial on the merits, the risk of the court reversing its decision to treat this matter as a class action, and the delays associated with litigation.

The settlement provides for the following:

A. **Settlement Amount:** The total settlement paid by Defendant will be One Million Dollars and Zero Cents (\$1,000,000.00). This total settlement amount will be allocated to (1) the payment of all Individual Settlement Awards to Settlement Class Members and Aggrieved Employees, (2) payment of Class Counsel’s Fees

and Costs awarded by the Court, (3) payment of the Class Representatives' Enhancement Awards approved by the Court, (4) payment of Settlement Administration Costs, (5) the payment to the State of California for a portion of the PAGA claim (i.e. payment to the State of California of \$37,500 of the \$50,000 PAGA Payment), and (6) payment of all federal, state and local taxes payable by the employees on the portion of the Individual Settlement Awards that are designated as wages. Taxes payable by the employer on the portion of the Individual Settlement Awards designated as wages shall be separately paid by Defendant and shall not be paid from the Gross Settlement Amount.

B. Net Settlement Amount: The net amount available for payment of Individual Settlement Payments to Settlement Class Members will be determined after deducting the Class Counsel's Fees and Costs, Class Representative's Enhancement Award, the PAGA Payment, and Settlement Administrator Costs.

C. Individual Settlement Payments: Defendant will pay to each Settlement Class Member an Individual Settlement Payment that will be calculated as follows:

The Net Settlement Amount will be converted into a weekly value by dividing the Net Settlement Amount by the total number of workweeks worked by all of the Settlement Class Members from August 5, 2017 through [the earlier of July 18, 2023 or the date of preliminary approval of the settlement]. The weeks worked during the class period will be derived from the hire and termination dates in Defendant's records to be supplied to the Settlement Administrator. The Individual Settlement Award for each Settlement Class Member will be determined by multiplying the weekly value by the number of weeks the individual Settlement Class Member worked during the class period.

Based on hire and termination dates in Defendant's records, you worked [] weeks during the period of August 5, 2017 through [the earlier of July 18, 2023 or the date of preliminary approval of the settlement]. If no one opts out of the settlement, this will result in an estimated Individual Settlement Payment to you of approximately [\$]. If you disagree with the accuracy of this number of workweeks, you must file an objection as provided below in Section III.C. 20% of this will be allocated to wages (reduced by any legally-mandated deductions for payroll taxes and/or other required withholdings) and 80% of this amount will be allocated to penalties, expenses and interest (for which there will be no deductions). If you do not exclude yourself from participating in the settlement, you will receive two checks (one from each disbursement addressed below) after Final Approval of Settlement by the Court and the checks will be valid for a period of 180 days only. All uncashed checks will be sent to the State Controller Unclaimed Property Fund in the name of the Settlement Class Member.

D. PAGA Payments. Certain claims were asserted in the Action under a statute known as PAGA. The PAGA period is different than the Class Period. The PAGA Period is August 10, 2020 through [the earlier of July 18, 2023 or the date of preliminary approval of the settlement]. Class Members who worked for Defendant during the PAGA Period are called Aggrieved Employees. The proposed settlement allocates \$50,000 to the PAGA Payment. As provided for by statute, 75% of this goes to the State of California and 25% is distributed to Aggrieved Employees. As a result, the amount of Twelve Thousand Five Hundred Dollars and No Cents (\$12,500) will be distribute to individual Aggrieved Employees (the "PAGA Member Settlement Amount").

The PAGA Member Settlement Amount will be converted into a pay period value by dividing the PAGA Member Settlement Amount by the total number of pay periods worked by all of the Aggrieved Employees from August 10, 2020 through [the earlier of July 18, 2023 or the date of preliminary approval of the settlement]. The pay periods worked during the PAGA Period will be derived from the hire and termination dates in Defendant's records to be supplied to the Settlement Administrator. The amount each Aggrieved Employee will receive is determined by multiplying the pay period value by the number of pay periods the individual Aggrieved Employee worked during the PAGA Period.

Based on hire and termination dates in Defendant's records, you worked [] pay periods during the PAGA Period. This results in an estimated individual payment to you from the PAGA Payment of approximately [\$]. As an Aggrieved Employee, you will receive this amount regardless of whether you opted out of the settlement in your capacity as a Class Member. Your check will be sent to you after Final Approval of the

Settlement by the Court and the check will be valid for a period of 180 days only. All uncashed checks will be sent in the employee's name to the State Controller's Office, Unclaimed Property Division.

E. Release: Defendant and its current and former owners, officers, directors, managers, employees and agents are released from any and all claims as defined in the Releases, set forth below in Section IV.A and B.

F. Class Representative: The Class Representatives are Carlos Aguilar, Maria Alcazar, Lizvette Salgado and Elpidia Alcazar. Class Representative shall apply to the Court for a Class Representative Enhancement Award in such amount as the Court determines to be fair and reasonable, at the time of the Final Approval Hearing. The parties' preliminary agreement proposes, and each Class Representative will seek, a payment not to exceed \$10,000 (which is a total in Class Representative Enhancement Awards not to exceed \$40,000).

G. Class Counsel Award and Costs: The attorneys for the class will seek attorneys' fees in the amount of \$333,333.33 (which represents 1/3 of the total settlement amount of \$1,000,000.00). In addition, the attorneys for the class will seek to be paid for all actual costs and expenses incurred by Class Counsel in prosecuting this action, not to exceed \$50,000.

H. Settlement Administrator Costs: Settlement Administrator CPT Group, as part of the settlement, will seek approval from the Court of Settlement Administration Costs not to exceed \$20,000.

III. WHAT ARE YOUR RIGHTS AS A CLASS MEMBER?

Your interests as Settlement Class Member and/or an Aggrieved Employee are represented by the Class Representatives and Class Counsel. Unless you opt-out of the Settlement Class, you are a part of the Settlement Class, you will be bound by the terms of the Agreement and any final judgment that may be entered by the Court, and you will be deemed to have released certain claims against the Defendant as described below. As a member of the Settlement Class you will not be responsible for the payment of attorneys' fees or reimbursement of litigation expenses except as approved of by the Court and deducted from the Settlement Amount, unless you retain your own counsel, in which event you will be responsible for your own attorneys' fees and costs. If you are an Aggrieved Employee and this settlement is approved by the Court, you will receive an additional amount as addressed above from the PAGA Payment, regardless of whether you opt out of the Settlement Class. Your options are addressed in sections III.A.-III.C. below.

A. Do Nothing

You are not required to take any action by reason of receipt of this Notice. If you do nothing, you will receive a portion of the settlement, will remain a member of the Settlement Class, and will be bound by the terms of the settlement and, therefore, you will release your claims as described below.

B. Excluding Yourself from the Settlement

Any person that does not wish to participate in the class settlement may exclude themselves (i.e., "opt-out") by sending a letter to the Settlement administrator at the address below stating your name, that you request to be excluded from the class and do not wish to participate in the settlement (or words to that effect). The letter must be signed, dated, include the last four digits of your Social Security Number (to verify your identity), identify the case as Aguilar v. Farmgirl Flowers and returned to the below by mail/facsimile or by bringing it to the address:

CPT Group, Inc.
50 Corporate Park
Irvine, CA 92606
Fax: 949-419-3446

The letter must be postmarked/fax stamped no later than **[45 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF MAILING]**, 2023 or delivered to the above address by that date. Any person who submits a complete and timely Request for Exclusion shall not be a member of the Settlement Class, shall not receive any portion of the class settlement, may not object to the settlement, and shall receive no payment or benefits from the class settlement (but will still receive his/her portion of the PAGA Payment if he/she is an Aggrieved Employee). Any such person will not release any claims he/she may have against Defendant, except for the PAGA claim.

C. Object to the Settlement or Individual Settlement Allocation

You can object to the settlement, or the number of workweeks/pay periods attributed to you in Section II.C. If you object, you remain a member of the Settlement Class. If the Court approves the settlement, you will still be bound by the terms of the settlement. To object to the terms of the Settlement, you must send a notice to the Settlement Administrator with the required items below). Any notice of objection must be returned to the below by mail/facsimile or by bringing it to the address:

CPT Group, Inc.
50 Corporate Park
Irvine, CA 92606
Fax: 949-419-3446

The notice of objection must be postmarked/fax stamped no later than **[45 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF MAILING]**, 2023 or delivered to the above address by that date. If you object only to the amount of the settlement payment based upon the number of workweeks, please include with your objection notice any documents supporting the basis for your objection. The notice of objection must be mailed/delivered as noted above, and have the following items completed: (1) the full name of the Settlement Class Member; (2) the address and telephone number of the Settlement Class Member; and (3) the basis for the objection. Settlement Class Members who fail to make objections in the manner specified above shall be deemed to have waived any objections and shall be foreclosed from making any objections (whether by appeal or otherwise) to the Settlement.

If you choose to submit an objection to the terms of this settlement, you will continue as a settlement class member either represented by your own counsel or representing yourself, and will be solely responsible for the fees and costs of your attorney (if you retain your own counsel). The Final Approval hearing at which the Court will address and make a ruling regarding any objections, and be asked to approve the settlement will be on **_____, 2023 at _____m.** in Department 21 of the Superior Court of the State of California, County of Alameda, 1225 Fallon Street, Oakland, California 94612, or such other, later date as the court may authorize.

IV. EFFECT OF THE SETTLEMENT

A. Participating Class Members' Released Rights and Claims

Each member of the Settlement Class, who does not submit a timely and proper Request for Exclusion (absent good cause found by the Court), releases Defendant together with its current and former owners, officers, directors, managers, employees and agents ("Released Parties"). Released Claims are defined as all claims under state, federal, or local law (including under PAGA for the time period above), that were asserted or could have been asserted based on the facts, claims or theories expressly pleaded in the Action, including facts, claims or theories raised in the First Amended Complaint or any prior complaints; facts, claims or theories expressly raised

in the notice to the LWDA dated July 27, 2021 regarding Defendant (“LWDA Notice”), or facts, claims or theories arising under any applicable Wage Order, by Plaintiffs including but not limited to claims for: (1) failure to provide required meal breaks; (2) failure to provide required rest breaks; (3) failure to pay overtime wages; (4) failure to pay minimum wages; (5) failure to timely pay wages during employment; (6) failure to timely pay wages upon termination; (7) failure to maintain required payroll records; (8) failure to provide accurate, itemized wage statements; (9) failure to reimburse necessary business expenses; (10) violation of California WARN Act; and (11) violation of California’s unfair competition law (“Class Released Claims”).

B. Aggrieved Employees’ PAGA Release.

After the Court’s judgment is final, and Defendant Farmgirl Flowers Inc. has paid the Gross Settlement Amount, all Aggrieved Employees will be barred from asserting claims under the PAGA against Defendant and the Released Parties, whether or not they exclude themselves from the Settlement, for any and all claims and/or causes of action under PAGA which were asserted or could have been asserted based upon the facts, claims and theories expressly pleaded in the First Amended Complaint or any prior Complaints, and/or any facts, claims or theories set forth in the LWDA Notice against Defendant dated July 27, 2021, including but not limited to, claims for (1) failure to pay wages for all hours worked; (2) failure to pay overtime wages, (3) failure to provide mandatory meal and rest breaks, (4) unreimbursed business expenses, (5) violation of the California WARN Act, (6) failure to provide accurate wage statements, and (7) failure to pay waiting time penalties (“Released PAGA Claims”).

C. Payment to Class Members

Your Individual Settlement Payment will be paid in two disbursements as Defendant will be making two payments for the settlement of \$500,000 each. From the first \$500,000 payment, one-half of the attorney’s fees awarded by the court, all of Plaintiff’s counsel’s costs, all Enhancement Awards, and the settlement administrators costs shall be deducted. The remainder after subtracting these will be distributed to the Settlement Class Members based on the percentage of weeks you worked compared to the total weeks worked as addressed above. The second \$500,000 payment will have the second half of the attorney’s fees awarded deducted and the PAGA Payment, with the rest being distributed to Settlement Class Members and the PAGA Members.

The first payment to you will be sent within approximately 90 days after the court signs the order granting final court approval of this Settlement, provided that all rights to appeals or further appeals are exhausted. The second payment will be approximately 120 days after the first distribution, provided that all rights to appeals or further appeals are exhausted.

III. FINAL SETTLEMENT APPROVAL HEARING

The Court has only determined that there is sufficient evidence to suggest that the proposed settlement might be fair, adequate, and reasonable. Any final determination of those issues will be made at the Final Approval Hearing. The Court will hold a hearing in Department 21 of the Superior Court of the State of California, County of Alameda, 1221 Oak Street, Oakland, CA 94612 on [REDACTED], 2023, at [REDACTED] a.m./p.m.], to determine whether the settlement should be finally approved as fair, reasonable, and adequate. The Court will also be asked to approve Class Counsel’s request for attorneys’ fees and reimbursement of costs, settlement administration costs, and the enhancement awards to be paid to the Class Representatives. Class Counsel’s application for attorneys’ fees and reimbursement of expenses, as well as the Motion for Final Approval, will be on file with the Court before this hearing, and will be available for review.

The hearing may be continued without further notice to the settlement class, but the date will be updated on the Settlement Administrator’s website for this case at [REDACTED]. It is not necessary for you to appear at this hearing unless you have timely filed an objection and wish to be heard.

IV. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The above is a summary of the basic terms of the settlement. For the precise terms and conditions of the settlement, you are referred to the detailed Settlement Agreement and Release, which is on file with the Superior Court of the State of California, County of Alameda. The pleadings and other records in this litigation, including the Settlement Agreement, may be examined online on the Alameda County Superior Court's website, known as 'DomainWeb,' at <https://publicrecords.alameda.courts.ca.gov/PRS/>

After arriving at the website, click the 'Search By Case Number ' link, then enter RG2110798 as the case number and click 'SEARCH.' Images of every document filed in the case may be viewed through the 'Register of Actions' at a minimal charge.

You may also view images of every document filed in the case free of charge by using one of the computer terminal kiosks available at each court location that has a facility for civil filings.

In addition to the above, you may obtain information regarding the final approval of this Settlement and the case documents regarding the settlement on the Settlement Administrator's website at: [REDACTED]. You may also contact Plaintiffs' counsel for further information: Ian Silvers (SBN 247216), Bisnar Chase LLP, 1301 Dove St, #120, Newport Beach, CA 92660; Telephone number (949) 752-2999, or Defendant's counsel, Alison Tsao (SBN 198250) or Marianne Koepf (SBN 191025), 600 Montgomery Street, Suite 440, San Francisco, CA 94111, (415) 981-3233.

PLEASE DO NOT TELEPHONE THE COURT FOR INFORMATION REGARDING THIS SETTLEMENT PROCESS.