

Electronically Filed
10/29/2025
Superior Court of California
County of Stanislaus
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Clerk of the Court
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[Additional Counsel listed on following page]

**SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
FOR THE COUNTY OF STANISLAUS**

VANESSA GARCIA, LUCRECIA
MENDOZA-RAMIREZ, ESTATE OF CESAR
MENDOZA, SILVESTRE GARIBAY LEMUS,
and JUAN G DE LEON, individually, on behalf
of all others similarly situated, and on behalf of
the State of California and other aggrieved
persons,

Plaintiffs,

vs.

CENTRAL VALLEY CHEESE, INC., a
California corporation; and DOES 1 through 50,
inclusive,

Defendants.

Case No. CV-21-004756

[Assigned for all purposes to the Honorable
John Freeland, Department 23]

CLASS ACTION

**~~[PROPOSED]~~ ORDER GRANTING
PLAINTIFFS' MOTION FOR
PRELIMINARY APPROVAL OF CLASS
ACTION AND PAGA SETTLEMENT**

Date: October 29, 2025
Time: 8:30 a.m.
Department: 23

Complaint Filed: August 31, 2021
Trial Date: None Set

*[Filed and served concurrently with Notice of
Motion and Motion for Preliminary Approval;
Declarations of Dalia Khalili, Arrash T.
Fattahi, James Hawkins, Lucrecia Mendoza-
Ramirez, Vanessa Garcia, Silvestre Garibay
Lemus, Juan G. De Leon; and [Proposed]
Order]*

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23 ESTATE OF CESAR MENDOZA,

24 SILVESTRE GARIBAY LEMUS, and

25 JUAN G DE LEON, individually, and on

26 behalf of all others similarly situated

ORDER

Having considered the Class Action and PAGA Settlement Agreement (“Agreement” or “Settlement”) between Plaintiffs VANESSA GARCIA, LUCRECIA, MENDOZA-RAMIREZ, ESTATE OF CESAR MENDOZA, SILVESTRE GARIBAY LEMUS, and JUAN G DE LEON’s (“Plaintiffs”) and Defendant Central Valley Cheese, Inc. (collectively, the “Parties”), as well as the unopposed Motion for Preliminary Approval of the Class Action and PAGA Settlement, the Declarations of Dalia Khalili, Arrash T. Fattahi, James Hawkins, Plaintiffs Lucrecia Mendoza-Ramirez, Vanessa Garcia, Silvestre Garibay Lemus, and Juan G. De Leon, and all exhibits thereto, including the Class Action and PAGA Settlement Agreement and Class Notice (“Agreement” or “Settlement”), and good cause appearing therefore, the Court hereby finds and orders as follows:

1. The Court finds on a preliminary basis that the Settlement memorialized in the Agreement appears to be fair, adequate, and reasonable, falls within the range of reasonableness, and therefore meets the requirements for preliminary approval.

2. This Order incorporates by reference the definitions in the Settlement Agreement, and all capitalized terms defined therein shall have the same meaning in this Order as set forth in the Settlement Agreement.

3. For settlement purposes only, the Court provisionally certifies the following class (“Class” or “Class Members”):

All current and former non-exempt employees who worked for Central Valley Cheese, Inc. (“Defendant”) at its facility in Turlock, California at any time during the period from August 31, 2017 through September 13, 2023 (“Class Period”).

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

1 5. The Court appoints, for settlement purposes only, Plaintiffs Lucrecia Mendoza-
2 Ramirez, Vanessa Garcia, Cesar Mendoza (whose interests are represented by the Estate of Cesar
3 Mendoza), Silvestre Garibay Lemus, and Juan G. De Leon as the Class Representatives.

4 6. The Court approves, for settlement purposes only, Matern Law Group, PC (including
5 Matthew J. Matern, Dalia Khalili, and Julia Z. Wells), Wilshire Law Firm (including Benjamin H.
6 Haber and Arrash T. Fattahi), and James Hawkins APLC (including James R. Hawkins and Greg
7 Mauro) as Class Counsel.

8 7. The Court appoints ILYM Group, Inc. to act as the Settlement Administrator.

9 8. The Court approves, as to form and content, the proposed Notice of Class Action
10 Settlement and Hearing Date for Final Approval (the “Class Notice”) attached as “**Exhibit A**” to the
11 Agreement. The Court finds that the proposed notice plan is the best means practicable under the
12 circumstances for providing notice to the Class Members, and when completed, shall constitute due
13 and sufficient notice of the class action, proposed settlement, and the final approval hearing to all
14 persons entitled to such notice, in full compliance with due process and the notice requirements of
15 California Code of Civil Procedure § 877.6.

16 9. The Court approves, as to form and content, the proposed Exclusion Form attached as
17 “**Exhibit B**” to the Agreement.

18 10. The Court approves, as to form and content, the proposed Dispute Form attached as
19 “**Exhibit C**” to the Agreement.

20 11. The Parties are ordered to carry out the Settlement according to the terms of the
21 Agreement. The Settlement is not a concession or admission and shall not be used against Defendant
22 as an admission or indication with respect to any claim of any fault or omission by Defendant. Nor
23 shall it or this Order constitute any finding, decision, or determination of fault, wrongdoing, or
24 misconduct by Defendant. Whether or not the Settlement is finally approved, neither the Settlement,
25 nor any document, statement, proceeding or conduct related to the Settlement, nor any reports or
26 accounts thereof, shall in any event be construed as, offered or admitted into evidence as, received as
27 or deemed to be in evidence for any purpose adverse to the Defendant, including, but not limited to,
28 evidence of a presumption, concession, indication or admission by Defendant of any liability, fault,

wrongdoing, omission, concession, or damage, or to establish the existence of any condition constituting a violation of, or a non-compliance with state, federal, local or other applicable law, except for legal proceedings concerning the implementation, interpretation, or enforcement of the Settlement.

12. The Court orders the following implementation schedule:

Deadline for Defendant to Provide Class Member Data to Settlement Administrator	November 19, 2025
Last day for Settlement Administration to mail Notice Packets to Class Members	December 5, 2025
Response Deadline	January 22, 2025
Last day to file and serve the Motion for Final Approval of Class Action Settlement	February 24, 2026
Final Approval Hearing	March 18, 2026 at 8:30 a.m., Department 23

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Date: 10/29/2025



JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT
John Freeland

PROOF OF SERVICE

I am employed in the County of Los Angeles, State of California. I am over the age of 18 years, and not a party to this action. My business address is 2101 E. El Segundo Boulevard, Suite 403, El Segundo, California 90245.

On October 29, 2025, I served the following document or documents:

[PROPOSED] ORDER GRANTING PLAINTIFFS' MOTION FOR PRELIMINARY APPROVAL OF CLASS ACTION AND PAGA SETTLEMENT

☒ **By e-mail or electronic transmission.** I caused the documents to be sent to the person at the e-mail addresses listed below. I did not receive, within a reasonable time after the transmission, any electronic message or other indication that the transmission was unsuccessful.

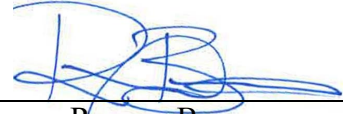
Pascal Benyamini, Esq. Amanda Semaan, Esq. Kristin M. Halsing, Esq. FAEGRE DRINKER BIDDLE & REATH LLP 1800 Century Park East, Suite 1500 Los Angeles, California 90067 Telephone: 310-203-4000 Facsimile: 310-229-1285 E-mail: pascal.benyamini@faegredrinker.com amanda.semaan@faegredrinker.com kristin.halsing@faegredrinker.com	Attorneys for Defendants CENTRAL VALLEY CHEESE, INC.; KAROUN DAIRIES LLC (erroneously sued as KAROUN DAIRIES, INC.); LACTALIS AMERICAN GROUP, INC.; and SORRENTO LACTALIS, INC.
Justin F. Marquez, Esq. Benjamin H. Haber, Esq. Arrash T. Fattahi, Esq. WILSHIRE LAW FIRM 3055 Wilshire Boulevard., 12th Floor Los Angeles, CA 90010 Telephone: (213) 381-9988 Email: justin@wilshirelawfirm.com benjamin@wilshirelawfirm.com afattahi@wilshirelawfirm.com	Attorneys for Plaintiff VANESSA GARCIA
James R. Hawkins, Esq. Greg Mauro, Esq. JAMES HAWKINS APLC 9880 Research Drive, Suite 200 Irvine, California 92618 Telephone: (949) 387-7200 Email: james@jameshawkinsaplc.com greg@jameshawkinsaplc.com	Attorneys for Plaintiffs ESTATE OF CESAR MENDOZA, SILVESTRE GARIBAY LEMUS, and JUAN G DE LEON

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

3 Executed on October 29, 2025, at El Segundo, California.

4 
5 _____
6 Roxana Barcenas