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8
9 SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
10 FOR THE COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE

11 EVERETT RUIZ JR., individually, and on
12 behalf of all others similarly situated,

13 Plaintiff,

14 vs.

15 RIVERSIDE STEEL, INC., a California
corporation; GUY YOCOM
16 CONSTRUCTION, INC., a California
corporation; SEASIDE STEEL, INC., a
17 California corporation; and DOES 1 through
50, inclusive,

18 Defendants
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CASE NO.: ~~CVRI2201222~~

CLASS ACTION

COMPLAINT FOR:

1. Failure to Provide Required Meal Periods
2. Failure to Provide Required Rest Periods
3. Failure to Pay Overtime Wages
4. Failure to Pay Minimum Wages
5. Failure to Pay All Wages Due to Discharged and Quitting Employees
6. Failure to Furnish Accurate Itemized Wage Statements
7. Failure to Indemnify Employees for Necessary Expenditures Incurred in Discharge of Duties
8. Unfair and Unlawful Business Practices

REPRESENTATIVE ACTION:

9. Penalties under the Labor Code Private Attorneys General Act, as Representative Action

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

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Plaintiff EVERETT RUIZ JR. (“PLAINTIFF”), an individual, demanding a jury trial, on behalf of himself and other persons similarly situated, hereby alleges as follows:

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

1. The Superior Court of the State of California has jurisdiction in this matter because PLAINTIFF is a resident of the State of California, and Defendants RIVERSIDE STEEL, INC., a California corporation; GUY YOCOM CONSTRUCTION, INC., a California corporation; SEASIDE STEEL, INC., a California corporation; and DOES 1 through 50 (collectively “DEFENDANTS”), are qualified to do business in California and regularly conduct business in California. Further, no federal question is at issue because the claims are based solely on California law.

2. Venue is proper in this judicial district and the County of Riverside, California because PLAINTIFF, and other persons similarly situated, performed work for DEFENDANTS in the County of Riverside, DEFENDANTS maintain offices and facilities and transact business in the County of Riverside, and because DEFENDANTS' illegal payroll policies and practices which are the subject of this action were applied, at least in part, to PLAINTIFF, and other persons similarly situated, in the County of Riverside.

PLAINTIFF

3. PLAINTIFF is a resident and citizen of the State of California and a former employee of DEFENDANTS during the relevant time period.

4. PLAINTIFF, on behalf of himself and other similarly situated current and former non-exempt employees of DEFENDANTS in the State of California at any time during the four years preceding the filing of this action, and continuing while this action is pending, brings this class action to recover, among other things, wages and penalties from unpaid wages earned and due, including but not limited to unpaid minimum wages, unpaid and illegally calculated overtime compensation, illegal meal and rest period policies, failure to pay all wages due to discharged and quitting employees, failure to indemnify employees for necessary expenditures and/or losses incurred in discharging their duties, failure to provide accurate itemized wage statements, and interest, attorneys' fees, costs, and expenses.

5. PLAINTIFF brings this action on behalf of himself and the following similarly situated class of individuals (“CLASS MEMBERS”): all current and former non-exempt employees of DEFENDANTS in the State of California at any time within the period beginning four (4) years prior to the filing of this action and ending at the time this action settles or the class is certified (the “CLASS PERIOD”). PLAINTIFF reserves the right to name additional class representatives.

DEFENDANTS

6. PLAINTIFF is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that Defendant RIVERSIDE STEEL, INC. is, and at all times relevant hereto was, a California corporation. PLAINTIFF is further informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that Defendant RIVERSIDE STEEL, INC. is authorized to conduct business in the State of California, and does conduct business in the State of California. Specifically, Defendant RIVERSIDE STEEL, INC. maintains offices and facilities and conducts business in, and engages in illegal payroll practices or policies in, the County of Riverside, State of California.

7. PLAINTIFF is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that Defendant GUY YOCOM CONSTRUCTION, INC. is, and at all times relevant hereto was, a California corporation. PLAINTIFF is further informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that Defendant GUY YOCOM CONSTRUCTION, INC. is authorized to conduct business in the State of California, and does conduct business in the State of California. Specifically, Defendant GUY YOCOM CONSTRUCTION, INC. maintains offices and facilities and conducts business in, and engages in illegal payroll practices or policies in, the County of Riverside, State of California.

8. PLAINTIFF is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that Defendant SEASIDE STEEL, INC. is, and at all times relevant hereto was, a California corporation. PLAINTIFF is further informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that Defendant SEASIDE STEEL, INC. is authorized to conduct business in the State of California, and does conduct business in the State of California. Specifically, Defendant SEASIDE STEEL, INC. maintains offices and facilities and conducts business in, and engages in illegal payroll practices or policies in, the County of Riverside, State of California.

1 9. The true names and capacities of DOES 1 through 50, inclusive, are unknown to
2 PLAINTIFF at this time, and PLAINTIFF therefore sues such DOE Defendants under fictitious
3 names. PLAINTIFF is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that each Defendant designated
4 as a DOE is in some manner highly responsible for the occurrences alleged herein, and that
5 PLAINTIFF and CLASS MEMBERS' injuries and damages, as alleged herein, were proximately
6 caused by the conduct of such DOE Defendants. PLAINTIFF will seek leave of the court to amend
7 this Complaint to allege their true names and capacities of such DOE Defendants when ascertained.

8 10. At all relevant times herein, DEFENDANTS were the joint employers of
9 PLAINTIFF and CLASS MEMBERS. PLAINTIFF is informed and believes, and thereon alleges,
10 that at all times material to this complaint DEFENDANTS were the alter egos, divisions, affiliates,
11 integrated enterprises, joint employers, subsidiaries, parents, principals, related entities, co-
12 conspirators, authorized agents, partners, joint venturers, and/or guarantors, actual or ostensible, of
13 each other. Each Defendant was completely dominated by his, her or its co-Defendant, and each
14 was the alter ego of the other.

15 11. At all relevant times herein, PLAINTIFF and CLASS MEMBERS were employed
16 by DEFENDANTS under employment agreements that were partly written, partly oral, and partly
17 implied. In perpetrating the acts and omissions alleged herein, DEFENDANTS, and each of them,
18 acted pursuant to, and in furtherance of, their policies and practices of not paying PLAINTIFF and
19 CLASS MEMBERS all wages earned and due, through methods and schemes which include, but
20 are not limited to, failing to pay overtime premiums; failing to provide rest and meal periods; failing
21 to properly maintain records; failing to provide accurate itemized statements for each pay period;
22 failing to properly compensate PLAINTIFF and CLASS MEMBERS for necessary expenditures;
23 and requiring, permitting or suffering the employees to work off the clock, in violation of the
24 California Labor Code and the applicable Welfare Commission ("IWC") Orders.

25 12. PLAINTIFF is informed and believes, and thereon allege, that each and every one of
26 the acts and omissions alleged herein were performed by, and/or attributable to, all DEFENDANTS,
27 each acting as agents and/or employees, and/or under the direction and control of, each of the other
28 DEFENDANTS, and that said acts and failures to act were within the course and scope of said

1 agency, employment and/or direction and control.

2 13. Pursuant to California Labor Code § 558.1, DEFENDANTS and any person acting
3 on behalf of any of the DEFENDANTS, are liable for violating, or causing to violate, any provision
4 regulating minimum wages or hours and days of work in any order of the Industrial Welfare
5 Commission, or Labor Code §§ 203, 226, 226.7, 1193.6, 1194, or 2802.

6 14. As a direct and proximate result of the unlawful actions of DEFENDANTS,
7 PLAINTIFF and CLASS MEMBERS have suffered, and continue to suffer, from loss of earnings
8 in amounts as yet unascertained, but subject to proof at trial, and within the jurisdiction of this Court.

9 **CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS**

10 15. This action is appropriately suited for a Class Action because:

11 a. The potential class is a significant number. Joinder of all current and former
12 employees individually would be impractical.

13 b. This action involves common questions of law and fact to the potential class
14 because the action focuses on DEFENDANTS' systematic course of illegal payroll practices and
15 policies, which was applied to all non-exempt employees in violation of the Labor Code, the
16 applicable IWC wage order, and the Business and Professions Code which prohibits unfair business
17 practices arising from such violations.

18 c. The claims of PLAINTIFF are typical of the class because DEFENDANTS
19 subjected all non-exempt employees to identical violations of the Labor Code, the applicable IWC
20 wage order, and the Business and Professions Code.

21 d. PLAINTIFF is able to fairly and adequately protect the interests of all
22 members of the class because it is in his best interests to prosecute the claims alleged herein to obtain
23 full compensation due to them for all services rendered and hours worked.

24 **FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION**

25 **Failure to Provide Required Meal Periods**

26 **[Cal. Labor Code §§ 226.7, 510, 512, 1194, 1197; IWC Wage Order No. 16-2001, § 11]**

27 **(Against all DEFENDANTS)**

28 16. PLAINTIFF incorporates herein by specific reference, as though fully set forth, the

1 allegations in the foregoing paragraphs.

2 17. During the CLASS PERIOD, as part of DEFENDANTS' illegal payroll policies and
3 practices to deprive their non-exempt employees all wages earned and due, DEFENDANTS
4 required, permitted or otherwise suffered PLAINTIFF and CLASS MEMBERS to take less than the
5 30-minute meal period, or to work through them, and have failed to otherwise provide the required
6 meal periods to PLAINTIFF and CLASS MEMBERS pursuant to California Labor Code § 226.7,
7 512 and IWC Order No. 16-2001, § 11.

8 18. DEFENDANTS further violated California Labor Code §§ 226.7 and IWC Wage
9 Order No. 16-2001, § 11 by failing to compensate PLAINTIFF and CLASS MEMBERS who were
10 not provided with a meal period, in accordance with the applicable wage order, one additional hour
11 of compensation at each employee's regular rate of pay for each workday that a meal period was
12 not provided.

13 19. DEFENDANTS further violated California Labor Code §§ 226.7, 510, 1194, 1197,
14 and IWC Wage Order No. 16-2001 by failing to compensate PLAINTIFF and CLASS MEMBERS
15 for all hours worked during their meal periods.

16 20. As a proximate result of the aforementioned violations, PLAINTIFF and CLASS
17 MEMBERS have been damaged in an amount according to proof at trial, and seek all wages earned
18 and due, interest, penalties, expenses, and costs of suit.

19 **SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION**

20 **Failure to Provide Required Rest Periods**

21 **[Cal. Labor Code §§ 226.7, 512; IWC Wage Order No. 16-2001, § 12]**

22 **(Against all DEFENDANTS)**

23 21. PLAINTIFF incorporates herein by specific reference, as though fully set forth, the
24 allegations in the foregoing paragraphs.

25 22. At all times relevant herein, as part of DEFENDANTS' illegal payroll policies and
26 practices to deprive their non-exempt employees all wages earned and due, DEFENDANTS failed
27 to provide rest periods to PLAINTIFF and CLASS MEMBERS as required under California Labor
28 Code §§ 226.7 and 512, and IWC Wage Order No. 16-2001, § 12.

1 23. DEFENDANTS further violated California Labor Code § 226.7 and IWC Wage
2 Order No. 16-2001, § 12 by failing to pay PLAINTIFF and CLASS MEMBERS who were not
3 provided with a rest period, in accordance with the applicable wage order, one additional hour of
4 compensation at each employee's regular rate of pay for each workday that a rest period was not
5 provided.

6 24. As a proximate result of the aforementioned violations, PLAINTIFF and CLASS
7 MEMBERS have been damaged in an amount according to proof at trial, and seek all wages earned
8 and due, interest, penalties, expenses, and costs of suit.

9 **THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION**

10 **Failure to Pay Overtime Wages**

11 **[Cal. Labor Code §§ 510, 1194, 1198; IWC Wage Order No. 16-2001, § 3]**

12 **(Against all DEFENDANTS)**

13 25. PLAINTIFF incorporates herein by specific reference, as though fully set forth, the
14 allegations in the foregoing paragraphs.

15 26. Pursuant to California Labor Code §§ 510, 1194, and IWC Wage Order No. 16-2001,
16 § 3, DEFENDANTS are required to compensate PLAINTIFF and CLASS MEMBERS for all
17 overtime, which is calculated at one and one-half (1 ½) times the regular rate of pay for all hours
18 worked in excess of eight (8) hours per day and/or forty (40) hours per week, and for the first eight
19 (8) hours on the seventh consecutive workday, with double time for all hours worked in excess of
20 twelve (12) hours in any workday and for all hours worked in excess of eight (8) hours on the seventh
21 consecutive day of work in any workweek.

22 27. PLAINTIFF and CLASS MEMBERS are current and former non-exempt employees
23 entitled to the protections of California Labor Code §§ 510, 1194, and IWC Wage Order No. 16-
24 2001. During the CLASS PERIOD, DEFENDANTS failed to compensate PLAINTIFF and CLASS
25 MEMBERS for all overtime hours worked as required under the foregoing provisions of the
26 California Labor Code and IWC Wage Order by, among other things: failing to pay overtime at one
27 and one-half (1 ½) or double the regular rate of pay as provided by California Labor Code §§ 510,
28 1194, and IWC Wage Order No. 16-2001, § 3; requiring, permitting or suffering PLAINTIFF and

1 CLASS MEMBERS to work off the clock; requiring, permitting or suffering PLAINTIFF and
2 CLASS MEMBERS to work through meal and rest breaks; illegally and inaccurately recording time
3 in which PLAINTIFF and CLASS MEMBERS worked; failing to properly maintain PLAINTIFF's
4 and CLASS MEMBERS' records; failing to provide accurate itemized wage statements to
5 PLAINTIFF for each pay period; and other methods to be discovered.

6 28. In violation of California law, DEFENDANTS have knowingly and willfully refused
7 to perform their obligations to compensate PLAINTIFF and CLASS MEMBERS for all wages
8 earned and all hours worked. As a proximate result, PLAINTIFF and CLASS MEMBERS have
9 suffered, and continue to suffer, substantial losses related to the use and enjoyment of such wages,
10 lost interest on such wages, and expenses and attorneys' fees in seeking to compel DEFENDANTS
11 to fully perform their obligations under state law, all to their respective damages in amounts
12 according to proof at time of trial, and within the jurisdiction of this Court.

13 29. DEFENDANTS' conduct described herein violates California Labor Code §§ 510,
14 1194, 1198 and IWC Wage Order No. 16-2001, § 3. Therefore, pursuant to California Labor Code
15 §§ 200, 203, 226, 558, 1194, 1197.1, and other applicable provisions under the California Labor
16 Code and IWC Wage Orders, PLAINTIFF and CLASS MEMBERS are entitled to recover the
17 unpaid balance of wages owed to them by DEFENDANTS, plus interest, penalties, attorneys' fees,
18 expenses, and costs of suit.

19 **FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

20 **Failure to Pay Minimum Wages**

21 **[Cal Labor Code §§ 1194, 1197; IWC Wage Order No. 16-2001, § 4]**

22 **(Against all DEFENDANTS)**

23 30. PLAINTIFF incorporates herein by specific reference, as though fully set forth, the
24 allegations in the foregoing paragraphs.

25 31. Pursuant to California Labor Code §§ 1194, 1197, and IWC Wage Order No. 16-
26 2001, § 4, payment to an employee of less than the applicable minimum wage for all hours worked
27 in a payroll period is unlawful.

28 32. During the CLASS PERIOD, DEFENDANTS failed to pay PLAINTIFF and CLASS

1 MEMBERS minimum wages for all hours worked by, among other things: requiring, permitting or
2 suffering PLAINTIFF and CLASS MEMBERS to work off the clock; requiring, permitting or
3 suffering PLAINTIFF and CLASS MEMBERS to work through meal and rest breaks; illegally and
4 inaccurately recording time in which PLAINTIFF and CLASS MEMBERS worked; failing to
5 properly maintain PLAINTIFF's and CLASS MEMBERS' records; failing to provide accurate
6 itemized wage statements to PLAINTIFF and CLASS MEMBERS for each pay period; and other
7 methods to be discovered.

8 33. DEFENDANTS' conduct described herein violates California Labor Code §§ 1194,
9 1197, and IWC Wage Order No. 16-2001, § 4. As a proximate result of the aforementioned
10 violations, PLAINTIFF and CLASS MEMBERS have been damaged in an amount according to
11 proof at trial. Therefore, pursuant to California Labor Code §§ 200, 203, 226, 558, 1194, 1197.1,
12 and other applicable provisions under the Labor Code and IWC Wage Orders, PLAINTIFF and
13 CLASS MEMBERS are entitled to recover the unpaid balance of wages owed to them by
14 DEFENDANTS, plus interest, penalties, attorneys' fees, expenses, and costs of suit.

15 **FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

16 **Failure to Pay All Wages Due to Discharged and Quitting Employees**

17 **[Cal. Labor Code §§ 201, 202, 203]**

18 **(Against all DEFENDANTS)**

19 34. PLAINTIFF incorporates herein by specific reference, as though fully set forth, the
20 allegations in the foregoing paragraphs.

21 35. Pursuant to California Labor Code § 201, 202, and 203, DEFENDANTS are required
22 to pay all earned and unpaid wages to an employee who is discharged. California Labor Code § 201
23 mandates that if an employer discharges an employee, the employee's wages accrued and unpaid at
24 the time of discharge are due and payable immediately.

25 36. Furthermore, pursuant to California Labor Code § 202, DEFENDANTS are required
26 to pay all accrued wages due to an employee no later than 72 hours after the employee quits his or
27 her employment, unless the employee provided 72 hours previous notice of his or her intention to
28 quit, in which case the employee is entitled to his or her wages at the time of quitting.

37. California Labor Code § 203 provides that if an employer willfully fails to pay, in accordance with California Labor Code §§ 201 and 202, any wages of an employee who is discharged or who quits, the employer is liable for waiting time penalties in the form of continued compensation to the employee at the same rate for up to 30 workdays.

38. During the CLASS PERIOD, DEFENDANTS have willfully failed to pay accrued wages and other compensation to PLAINTIFF and CLASS MEMBERS in accordance with California Labor Code §§ 201 and 202.

39. As a result, PLAINTIFF and CLASS MEMBERS are entitled to all available statutory penalties, including the waiting time penalties provided in California Labor Code § 203, together with interest thereon, as well as other available remedies.

40. As a proximate result of DEFENDANTS' unlawful actions and omissions, PLAINTIFF and CLASS MEMBERS have been deprived of compensation in an amount according to proof at the time of trial, but in excess of the jurisdiction of this Court, and are entitled to recovery of such amounts, plus interest thereon, and attorneys' fees and costs, pursuant to California Labor Code §§ 1194 and 2699.

SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION

Failure to Furnish Accurate Itemized Wage Statements

[Cal. Labor Code § 226; IWC Wage Order No. 16-2001, § 7]

(Against all DEFENDANTS)

41. PLAINTIFF incorporates herein by specific reference, as though fully set forth, the allegations in the foregoing paragraphs.

42. During the CLASS PERIOD, DEFENDANTS routinely failed to provide PLAINTIFF and CLASS MEMBERS with timely, accurate, and itemized wage statements in writing showing each employee's gross wages earned, total hours worked, the number of piece-rate units earned and any applicable piece rate, all deductions made, net wages earned, the name and address of the legal entity or entities employing PLAINTIFF and CLASS MEMBERS, the inclusive dates of the period for which the employee is paid, only the last four digits of the employees social security number or an employee identification number other than a social security number, and all

1 applicable hourly rates in effect during each pay period and the corresponding number of hours
2 worked at each hourly rate, in violation of California Labor Code § 226(a) and IWC Wage Order
3 No. 16-2001, § 7.

4 43. During the CLASS PERIOD, DEFENDANTS knowingly and intentionally failed to
5 provide PLAINTIFF and CLASS MEMBERS with timely, accurate, and itemized wage statements
6 in accordance with California Labor Code § 226(a).

7 44. As a proximate result of DEFENDANTS' unlawful actions and omissions,
8 PLAINTIFF and CLASS MEMBERS have been damaged in an amount according to proof at trial,
9 and seek all wages earned and due, plus interest thereon. Additionally, PLAINTIFF and CLASS
10 MEMBERS are entitled to all available statutory penalties, including but not limited to penalties
11 pursuant to California Labor Code §§ 226(e), 226.3, and 1174.5, and an award of costs, expenses,
12 and reasonable attorneys' fees, including but not limited to those provided in California Labor Code
13 § 226(e), as well as other available remedies.

14 **SEVENTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

15 **Failure to Indemnify Employees for Necessary Expenditures Incurred in Discharge of Duties**

16 **[Cal. Labor Code § 2802]**

17 **(Against all DEFENDANTS)**

18 45. PLAINTIFF incorporates herein by specific reference, as though fully set forth, the
19 allegations in the foregoing paragraphs.

20 46. California Labor Code § 2802(a) requires an employer to indemnify an employee for
21 all necessary expenditures or losses incurred by the employee in direct consequence of the discharge
22 of his or her duties, or of his or her obedience to the directions of the employer.

23 47. During the CLASS PERIOD, DEFENDANTS knowingly and willfully failed to
24 indemnify PLAINTIFF and CLASS MEMBERS for all business expenses and/or losses incurred in
25 direct consequence of the discharge of their duties while working under the direction of
26 DEFENDANTS, including but not limited to expenses for uniforms, tools, safety equipment,
27 mileage, cell phone usage, and other employment-related expenses, in violation of California Labor
28 Code § 2802.

48. As a proximate result of DEFENDANTS' unlawful actions and omissions, PLAINTIFF and CLASS MEMBERS have been damaged in an amount according to proof at trial, and seek reimbursement of all necessary expenditures, plus interest thereon pursuant to California Labor Code § 2802(b). Additionally, PLAINTIFF and CLASS MEMBERS are entitled to all available statutory penalties and an award of costs, expenses, and reasonable attorneys' fees, including those provided in California Labor Code § 2802(c), as well as other available remedies.

EIGHTH CAUSE OF ACTION

Unfair and Unlawful Business Practices

[Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code §§ 17200 et. seq.]

(Against all DEFENDANTS)

49. PLAINTIFF incorporates herein by specific reference, as though fully set forth, the allegations in the foregoing paragraphs.

50. Each and every one of DEFENDANTS' acts and omissions in violation of the California Labor Code and/or the applicable IWC Wage Order as alleged herein, including but not limited to DEFENDANTS' failure and refusal to provide required meal periods, DEFENDANTS' failure and refusal to provide required rest periods, DEFENDANTS' failure and refusal to pay overtime compensation, DEFENDANTS' failure and refusal to pay minimum wages, DEFENDANTS' failure and refusal to pay all wages due to discharged or quitting employees, DEFENDANTS' failure and refusal to furnish accurate itemized wage statements;, DEFENDANTS' failure and refusal to indemnify PLAINTIFF and CLASS MEMBERS for necessary expenditures and/or losses incurring in discharging their duties, constitutes an unfair and unlawful business practice under California Business and Professions Code § 17200 et seq.

51. DEFENDANTS' violations of California wage and hour laws constitute a business practice because DEFENDANTS' aforementioned acts and omissions were done repeatedly over a significant period of time, and in a systematic manner, to the detriment of PLAINTIFF and CLASS MEMBERS.

52. DEFENDANTS have avoided payment of wages, overtime wages, meal periods, rest periods, and other benefits as required by the California Labor Code, the California Code of

1 Regulations, and the applicable IWC Wage Order. Further, DEFENDANTS have failed to record,
2 report, and pay the correct sums of assessment to the state authorities under the California Labor
3 Code and other applicable regulations.

4 53. As a result of DEFENDANTS' unfair and unlawful business practices,
5 DEFENDANTS have reaped unfair and illegal profits during the CLASS PERIOD at the expense
6 of PLAINTIFF, CLASS MEMBERS, and members of the public. DEFENDANTS should be made
7 to disgorge their ill-gotten gains and to restore them to PLAINTIFF and CLASS MEMBERS.

8 54. DEFENDANTS' unfair and unlawful business practices entitle PLAINTIFF and
9 CLASS MEMBERS to seek preliminary and permanent injunctive relief, including but not limited
10 to orders that DEFENDANTS account for, disgorge, and restore to PLAINTIFF and CLASS
11 MEMBERS the wages and other compensation unlawfully withheld from them. PLAINTIFF and
12 CLASS MEMBERS are entitled to restitution of all monies to be disgorged from DEFENDANTS
13 in an amount according to proof at the time of trial, but in excess of the jurisdiction of this Court.

14 **NINTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

15 **Representative Action for Civil Penalties**

16 **[Cal. Labor Code §§ 2698–2699.5]**

17 **(Against All DEFENDANTS)**

18 55. PLAINTIFF incorporates herein by specific reference as though fully set forth the
19 allegations in all preceding paragraphs, with exception of the allegations in paragraph 13 and the
20 subparagraphs thereto.

21 56. PLAINTIFF is an “aggrieved employee” within the meaning of California Labor
22 Code § 2699(c), and a proper representative to bring a civil action on behalf of himself and other
23 current and former employees of DEFENDANTS pursuant to the procedures specified in California
24 Labor Code § 2699.3, because PLAINTIFF and CLASS MEMBERS were employed by
25 DEFENDANTS and the alleged violations of the California Labor Code were committed against
26 PLAINTIFF and CLASS MEMBERS.

27 57. Pursuant to the California Private Attorneys General Act of 2004 (“PAGA”), Labor
28 Code §§ 2698–2699.5, PLAINTIFF and CLASS MEMBERS seeks to recover civil penalties,

1 including but not limited to penalties under California Labor Code §§ 2699, 210, 226.3, 558,
2 1174.5, 1197.1, and IWC Wage Order No. 16-2001, § 20, from DEFENDANTS in a representative
3 action for the violations set forth above, including but not limited to violations of California Labor
4 Code §§ 201, 202, 203, 204, 226, 226.7, 510, 512, 1174, 1194, 1197, 1198, and 2802. PLAINTIFF
5 and CLASS MEMBERS are also entitled to an award of reasonable attorneys' fees and costs
6 pursuant to California Labor Code § 2699(g)(1).

7 58. Pursuant to California Labor Code §§ 2699.3, PLAINTIFF gave written notice on
8 January 14, 2021 by online filing to the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency
9 ("LWDA") and by certified mail to DEFENDANTS of the specific provisions of the California
10 Labor Code and IWC Wage Orders alleged to have been violated, including the facts and theories
11 to support the alleged violations. More than sixty-five (65) days have passed and the LWDA has
12 not provided notice to PLAINTIFF that it intends to investigate the alleged violations.

13 59. Therefore, PLAINTIFF has complied with all of the requirements set forth in
14 California Labor Code § 2699.3 to commence a representative action under PAGA.

15 **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

16 **WHEREFORE**, PLAINTIFF, individually and on behalf of all other persons similarly
17 situated, respectfully prays for relief against DEFENDANTS and DOES 1 through 50, inclusive,
18 and each of them, as follows:

- 19 1. For compensatory damages in an amount to be ascertained at trial;
- 20 2. For restitution of all monies due to PLAINTIFF and CLASS MEMBERS, as well as
21 disgorged profits from DEFENDANTS' unfair and unlawful business practices;
- 22 3. For meal and rest period compensation pursuant to California Labor Code § 226.7
23 and IWC Wage Order No. 16-2001;
- 24 4. For liquidated damages pursuant to California Labor Code §§ 1194.2 and 1197.1;
- 25 5. For preliminary and permanent injunctive relief enjoining DEFENDANTS from
26 violating the relevant provisions of the California Labor Code and the IWC Wage Orders, and from
27 engaging in the unlawful business practices complained of herein;
- 28 6. For waiting time penalties pursuant to California Labor Code § 203;

1 7. For statutory and civil penalties according to proof, including but not limited to all
2 penalties authorized by the California Labor Code §§ 226(e) and §§ 2698–2699.5;

3 8. For interest on the unpaid wages at 10% per annum pursuant to California Labor
4 Code §§ 218.6, 1194, 2802, California Civil Code §§ 3287, 3288, and/or any other applicable
5 provision providing for pre-judgment interest;

6 9. For reasonable attorneys’ fees and costs pursuant to California Labor Code §§ 218.5,
7 1194, 2699, 2802, California Civil Code § 1021.5, and any other applicable provisions providing
8 for attorneys’ fees and costs;

9 10. For declaratory relief;

10 11. For an order requiring and certifying the First, Second, Third, Fourth, Fifth, Sixth,
11 Seventh, and Eighth Causes of Action as a class action;

12 12. For an order appointing PLAINTIFF as class representative, and PLAINTIFF’s
13 counsel as class counsel; and

14 13. For such further relief that the Court may deem just and proper.

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16 DATED: March 25, 2022

Respectfully submitted,

17 MATERN LAW GROUP, PC

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19 By:



20 MATTHEW J. MATERN
21 MATTHEW W. GORDON
22 KEVIN S. WALLENTINE
23 Attorneys for Plaintiff
24 EVERETT RUIZ JR., individually, and on
25 behalf of other persons similarly situated
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