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FILED
 Superior Court of California
 County of Sacramento
03/05/2026
 T. Shaddix, Deputy

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO

MATTHEW TOWNSEND, on behalf of
 himself and the Class Members,

Plaintiff,

v.

ALLIANCE ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP,
 LLC; ALLIANCE TEAM HEAT, INC; OPM
 SERVICES, LLC; and DOES 1 through 100,
 inclusive,

Defendants.

Case No.: 34-2022-00317279-CU-OE-GDS
 [Lead Case]; 34-2022-00320570-CU-OE-GDS

Hon. Jill H. Talley - Dept. 23

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

Date: January 9, 2026

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Dept.: 23

CLASS ACTION

Complaint Filed: March 23, 2022

Trial Date: None Set

MATTHEW TOWNSEND, on behalf of the
 State of California and Aggrieved Employees,

Plaintiff,

v.

ALLIANCE ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP,
 LLC; ALLIANCE TEAM HEAT, INC; OPM
 SERVICES, LLC,

Defendants.

PAGA ACTION

Complaint Filed: May 25, 2022

Trial Date: None Set

1 The Motion for Preliminary Approval of Settlement (“Motion”) filed by Plaintiff Matthew
2 Townsend, individually and on behalf of the class members, the State of California, and the
3 Aggrieved Employees (“Plaintiff”) came on regularly for hearing before this Court on January 9,
4 2026 at 9:00 a.m. in Department 23, the Honorable Jill H. Talley presiding. The Court, having
5 considered the Class and Representative Action Settlement Agreement (“Settlement”) between
6 Plaintiffs and Defendants Alliance Environmental Group, LLC, Alliance Team Heat, Inc., and OPM
7 Services, LLC (“Defendants”), attached as **Exhibit 1** to the Declaration of Carolyn H. Cottrell, filed
8 concurrently with the Motion, as well as the Motion, Memorandum of Points and Authorities in
9 support thereof, supporting Declarations, all supporting documents attached therein, and any
10 argument presented at the hearing on the Motion, and good cause appearing therefore, **HEREBY**
11 **ORDERS AND MAKES THE FOLLOWING DETERMINATIONS:**

12 1. This Order incorporates by reference the parties’ Settlement and all defined terms
13 herein shall have the same meaning as set forth in the Settlement.

14 2. The Court **GRANTS** preliminary approval of the Settlement and finds its terms to be
15 fair, adequate, and within the range of reasonableness of a settlement that ultimately could be finally
16 approved by the Court at a Final Approval Hearing.

17 3. For purposes of the Settlement only, the Court finds that the proposed Class is
18 ascertainable and that there is a sufficiently well-defined community of interest among the Class
19 Members in questions of law and fact. Therefore, for settlement purposes only, the Court **GRANTS**
20 provisional certification of the Class, which is defined as Plaintiff and all non-exempt current and
21 former employees of any Defendant who (1) have not signed an arbitration agreement or whose
22 arbitration agreement has been found unenforceable for purposes of this case; and (2) worked for
23 any Defendant in California in Field-related Positions within the period of September 27, 2017
24 through July 17, 2025.

25 4. The Court hereby enjoins Class Members from initiating or prosecuting any claim to
26 be released under this Agreement, unless they first submit a Request for Exclusion;

27 5. For purposes of the Settlement, the Court designates Plaintiff Matthew Townsend as
28 Class Representative and designates Schneider Wallace Cottrell Kim LLP as Class Counsel.

29 6. The Court designates Phoenix Settlement Administrators as the third-party
30 Settlement Administrator for mailing notices, administering the Settlement, and carrying out all the
31 other responsibilities outlined in the Settlement.

32 7. The Court approves, as to form and content, the Notice of Class Action and PAGA

1 Settlement (“Class Notice”), in the form attached as **Exhibit A** to the Settlement and this Order.
2 Minor, non-substantive changes are permitted to the extent required to facilitate notice
3 administration.

4 8. The Court finds that the form of notice to the Class Members regarding the pendency
5 of the action and of the Settlement, and the methods of giving notice to Class Members, constitutes
6 the best notice practicable under the circumstances, and constitutes valid, due, and sufficient notice
7 to all Class and Collective Members. The form and method of giving notice comply fully with the
8 requirements of Cal. Code Civ. Proc. § 382, Cal. Rules of Court, Rules 3.766 and 3.769, the
9 California and United States Constitutions, and other applicable law.

10 9. The Court further approves the procedures for Class Members to dispute workweeks,
11 and to opt out of the Settlement, or to object to the Settlement.

12 10. The procedures and requirements for submitting written objections in connection with
13 the Final Approval Hearing are intended to ensure the efficient administration of justice and the
14 orderly presentation of any Class Member’s objection to the Settlement, in accordance with the due
15 process rights of all Class Members. Class Members who do not submit timely written objections
16 are permitted to appear at the Final Approval Hearing and object to the Settlement. The procedures
17 and schedule for any objections or requests for exclusion by Class Members are as follows:

- 18 a. Class Members who do not wish to be bound by the Settlement may submit a written
19 exclusion from the Settlement (“opt-out”), postmarked by sixty (60) days after the
20 notice is mailed and sent to Phoenix Settlement Administrators;
21 b. Class Members who wish to object to the Settlement as unfair, unreasonable, and/or
22 inadequate or believe the settlement should not be finally approved for any reason
23 may object in writing postmarked by sixty (60) days after the notice is mailed and
24 sent to Phoenix Settlement Administrators;
25 c. Class Members may also object by appearing at the Final Fairness and Approval
26 Hearing, in-person or remotely.

27 11. The Court directs the Settlement Administrator to send the Class Notice to the Class
28 Members (respectively) via first-class U.S. Mail and email (where practical) in accordance with the
29 terms of the Settlement.

30 12. The Final Approval Hearing on the question of whether the Settlement should be
31 finally approved as fair, reasonable, and adequate is scheduled for July 24, 2026 at 9:00
32 a.m. in Department 23.

1 13. At the Final Approval Hearing, the Court will consider: (a) whether to finally certify
2 the Class action under Cal. Code Civ. Proc. § 382 for purposes of settlement only; (b) whether
3 dissemination of the Notices was accomplished as directed and met the requirements of due process;
4 (c) whether the Settlement (including the PAGA payment and PAGA release) should be finally
5 approved as fair, reasonable, and adequate; (d) whether Plaintiff's application for a Service Awards
6 for himself should be granted; (e) whether Class Counsel's application for attorneys' fees and costs
7 should be granted; (f) whether to direct distribution of the Settlement funds in accordance with the
8 Settlement Agreement; (g) whether to enter a Final Judgment; and (h) whether to retain continuing
9 jurisdiction over this Action for purposes only of overseeing all settlement administration matters.

10 14. Counsel for the parties shall file memoranda, declarations, and other materials in
11 support of their request for final approval of the Settlement, attorneys' fees, litigation expenses,
12 Plaintiff's Service Award, and settlement administration costs prior to the Final Approval Hearing
13 according to the time limits set by the Cal. Code Civ. Proc. and the Cal. Rules of Court.

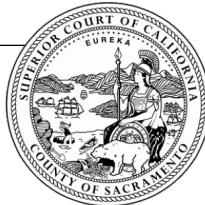
14 15. Administration of the Settlement shall proceed according to the Implementation
15 Schedule set forth in Plaintiff's Notice and Motion for Preliminary Approval of Settlement.

16 16. Pending the Final Approval Hearing, all proceedings in this action, other than
17 proceedings necessary to carry out or enforce the terms and conditions of the Settlement and this
18 Order, are hereby stayed, and all deadlines are vacated. The time for bringing this action to trial
19 pursuant to Cal. Code Civ. Proc. §§ 583.310, *et seq.*, is hereby tolled until further order of the Court.

20 17. Counsel for the parties are hereby authorized to utilize all reasonable procedures in
21 connection with the administration of the Settlement which are not materially inconsistent with
22 either this Order or the terms of the Settlement.

23
24 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

25
26 Dated: 03/05/2026



27 *Jill Talley*
28 Hon. Jill H. Talley

29 JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT
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