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Attorneys for Plaintiff and the Class

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA

COUNTY OF MONTEREY

NATALIA G. CRUZ, on behalf of herself
and all similarly aggrieved employees,

Plaintiff,

v.

VASVISION BERRY FARMS, LLC; and
DOES 1 through 50, inclusive,

Defendants.

Case No. 22CV001734

**DECLARATION OF ALISON L. BAKER
IN SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFF'S MOTION
TO APPROVE SETTLEMENT
AGREEMENT PURSUANT TO THE
PRIVATE ATTORNEYS GENERAL ACT**

Date: November 3, 2023

Time: 8:30 a.m.

Dept: 15

Complaint Filed: June 17, 2022

Trial Date: None

1 I, Alison L. Baker, declare as follows:

2 1. I am an attorney at law, duly licensed to practice before all Courts in the State
3 of California, and I am a member of the law firm Fitzpatrick & Swanston, counsel of record
4 for Plaintiff Natalia G. Cruz (“Plaintiff”).

5 2. I am familiar with all aspects of this case and all tasks undertaken by the
6 various members of this firm in litigating this case. I believe this Settlement to be fair,
7 reasonable, and adequate, and in the best interest of the employees as a whole.

8 3. My qualifications are as follows: I was awarded my bachelor’s degree from
9 the University of California, Davis, with Honors, including a one-year study abroad program
10 in Madrid, Spain. I received my Juris Doctorate degree from Santa Clara University School
11 of Law, where I earned a certificate of Public Interest Law, worked as a judicial extern in the
12 United States Northern District Court, and at the East San Jose Community Law Center
13 Worker’s Rights Clinic. I was admitted to the State Bar in December 1997, and started as an
14 associate attorney at the Law Offices of Vincent P. Hurley in Salinas, CA; an AV rated civil
15 litigation practice serving as outside litigation counsel to public entities as defense counsel,
16 including many employment law matters. I assisted in discovery, motions, and all aspects of
17 trial preparation, and wrote winning summary judgment motions on behalf of San Benito
18 County and Monterey County. In the year 2000, I switched to plaintiff’s-side litigation and
19 joined the National Association of Consumer Advocates. From 2000-2008, I focused on
20 consumer protection and public interest cases, including many consumer class actions and
21 representative actions under the Private Attorney General Act. While employed with the law
22 firm Kemnitzer, Anderson, Barron & Ogilvie in San Francisco, CA, I acted as lead trial
23 counsel in civil jury and bench trials, and successfully resolved representative consumer
24 actions and obtained injunctions on behalf of thousands of Californians. My work
25 emphasized Spanish-language protections in consumer financing, auto sales and leasing, and
26 prosecuting unfair debt collection practices and unfair/unlawful credit reporting.

27 4. From 2008 through 2018, I had the honor of joining the Superior Court of
28 California, County of Santa Cruz, as a Judicial Attorney. I served as a Staff Attorney, Civil

1 and Small Claims Advisor at the Court's Self-Help Center and Office of the Family Law
2 Facilitator. My employment law work there involved advising self-represented litigants in
3 termination, discrimination, and wage & hour cases in Small Claims Court, and in enforcing
4 judgments filed by the Labor Commissioner.

5 5. From 2018 through October 2022, I practiced employment and consumer
6 protection litigation at the Watsonville Law Center in Watsonville, California. As the
7 Director of Litigation, I focused on using civil litigation to achieve justice for poor and
8 vulnerable communities in the areas of employment and housing. I participated in the law
9 center's employment law clinics, and I represented clients in front of the Labor
10 Commissioner.

11 6. In October 2022, I joined the law firm Fitzpatrick & Swanston, where I
12 practice labor and employment litigation, primarily Plaintiff-side class and representative
13 actions.

14 7. Currently, our firm serves as counsel for plaintiff(s) and the class/employees in
15 multiple ongoing wage and hour class and representative actions in Alameda County
16 Superior Court, Monterey County Superior Court, Nevada County Superior Court, Santa
17 Clara Superior Court, San Benito Superior Court, Santa Cruz Superior Court, Ventura
18 County Superior Court, and the United States District Court, Northern District of California,
19 where we will seek class certification by way of a settlement or a class certification motion.

20 8. I do not have a conflict of interest with Plaintiff or any Class Member.

21 9. I do not have any relationship with the proposed *cy pres* recipient that would
22 create an actual or potential conflict of interest. Plaintiff's counsel and defense counsel
23 further agree that the Watsonville Law Center satisfies the legislative intent set out in Code
24 of Civil Procedure § 384(a), in that the organization helps further the purposes of the
25 underlying action and promotes justice for all Californians.

26 I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the
27 foregoing is true and correct and if called as a witness I could and would competently testify
28 to each of the matters stated herein, and I state that these matters are based upon my own

1 personal knowledge acquired through first-hand observation, except where stated otherwise.

2 This declaration was executed by me on October 10, 2023, in Salinas, California.

3 A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Alison L. Baker', is written over a horizontal line.

4 Alison L. Baker
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