

PAGA SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

This PAGA Settlement Agreement (“Agreement”) is made by and between: **(1)** Plaintiff Carlos Mejia (“Plaintiff”), individually and in his representative capacity as a private attorney general on behalf of the State of California; and **(2)** Defendants Turlock Fruit Co. and Stephen H. Smith Farms, Inc. (collectively, “Defendants”). The Agreement refers to Plaintiff and Defendants collectively as “Parties,” or individually as “Party.”¹

1. DEFINITIONS

- 1.1. “Action” means the Plaintiff’s PAGA lawsuit alleging wage and hour violations against Defendants captioned *Carlos Mejia v. Turlock Fruit Co., et al.*, case number 25CV-01869, initiated on March 27, 2025, and pending in the Superior Court of the State of California for the County of Merced.
- 1.2. “Administrator” means the neutral entity the Parties have agreed to appoint to administer the Settlement. The Parties agree that CPT Group, Inc., Phoenix Settlement Administrators, Simpluris, Inc., and Apex Class Action, LLC are mutually agreeable settlement administrators. Counsel for Plaintiff Mejia shall solicit competing bids from each of these companies and the Parties agree that they will select the lowest qualified “not to exceed” bid.
- 1.3. “Administration Expenses Payment” means the amount the Administrator will be paid from the Gross Settlement Amount to reimburse its reasonable fees and expenses in accordance with the Administrator’s “not to exceed” bid submitted to the Court in connection with approval of this Settlement.
- 1.4. “Aggrieved Employee” means all individuals who are or were employed by Defendants as non-exempt employees in California during the PAGA Period.
- 1.5. “Aggrieved Employee Data” means Aggrieved Employee identifying information in Defendants’ possession including the Aggrieved Employee’s name, last-known mailing address, Social Security number, and number of PAGA Pay Periods.
- 1.6. “Aggrieved Employee Address Search” means the Administrator’s investigation and search for current Aggrieved Employee mailing addresses using all reasonably available sources, methods and means including, but not limited to, the National Change of Address database, skip traces, and direct contact by the Administrator with Aggrieved Employees.
- 1.7. “Court” means the Superior Court of the State of California for the County of Merced.

¹ This Agreement is based on the Los Angeles County Superior Court’s *[Model] PAGA Settlement Agreement* (LASC CIV 298) (“Model Agreement”), with minor modifications to reflect the agreement by the Parties and the facts of the case.

- 1.8. “Defense Counsel” means the attorneys representing Defendants, Catherine M. Houlihan of Barsamian & Moody, Professional Corporation.
- 1.9. “Effective Date” means the date by when both of the following have occurred:
(a) the Court enters a Judgment on its Order Approving the PAGA Settlement and
(b) the Judgment is final. The Judgment is final as of the latest of the following occurrences: (a) the day the Court enters Judgment.
- 1.10. “Gross Settlement Amount” means **\$200,000.00**, which is the total amount Defendants agree to pay under the Settlement except as provided in Paragraph 8 below. The Gross Settlement Amount will be used to pay Individual PAGA Payments, the LWDA PAGA Payment, PAGA Counsel Fees Payment, PAGA Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment, the PAGA Representative Service Payment, and the Administrator’s Expenses Payment.
- 1.11. “Individual PAGA Payment” means the Aggrieved Employee’s pro rata share of 35% of the PAGA Penalties calculated according to the number of Pay Periods the Aggrieved Employee worked during the PAGA Period.
- 1.12. “Judgment” means the judgment entered by the Court based upon the Approval Order.
- 1.13. “LWDA” means the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency, the agency entitled, under Labor Code section 2699, subd. (i).
- 1.14. “LWDA PAGA Payment” means the 65% of the PAGA Penalties paid to the LWDA under Labor Code section 2699, subd. (m).
- 1.15. “Net Settlement Amount” means the Gross Settlement Amount, less the following payments in the amounts approved by the Court: the LWDA PAGA Payment, PAGA Representative Service Payment, PAGA Counsel Fees Payment, PAGA Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment, and the Administration Expenses Payment. The remainder is to be paid to Aggrieved Employees as Individual PAGA Payments.
- 1.16. “PAGA Counsel” means Jonathan Melmed, Kyle D. Smith, and Jaqueline Antillon of Melmed Law Group P.C., the attorneys representing the Plaintiff in the Action.
- 1.17. “PAGA Counsel Fees Payment” and “PAGA Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment” mean the amounts allocated to PAGA Counsel for reimbursement of reasonable attorneys’ fees and expenses, respectively, incurred to prosecute the Action.
- 1.18. “PAGA Pay Period” means any Pay Period during which an Aggrieved Employee worked for Defendants for at least one day during the PAGA Period.

- 1.19. "PAGA Period" means the period from January 13, 2024, through October 16, 2025.
- 1.20. "PAGA" means the Private Attorneys General Act (Labor Code §§ 2698. et seq.).
- 1.21. "PAGA Notice" means Plaintiff's letter(s) to Defendants and the LWDA providing notice pursuant to Labor Code section 2699.3, subd. (a).
- 1.22. "PAGA Penalties" means the total amount of PAGA civil penalties to be paid from the Gross Settlement Amount, allocated 35% to the Aggrieved Employees and the 65% to LWDA in settlement of PAGA claims.
- 1.23. "PAGA Representative Service Payment" means the payment to Plaintiff for initiating the Action, providing services in support of the Action and executing a Civil Code section 1542 waiver.
- 1.24. "Plaintiff" means Carlos Mejia, the named plaintiff in the Action.
- 1.25. "Approval Order" means the proposed Order Granting Approval of PAGA Settlement.
- 1.26. "Released PAGA Claims" means the claims being released by the Plaintiff and PAGA Counsel and as described in Paragraph 5 below.
- 1.27. "Released Parties" means: Defendants and each of their former and present owners, board members, subsidiaries, affiliates, shareholders, members, agents, predecessors, successors, and assigns.
- 1.28. "Settlement" means the disposition of the Action effected by this Agreement and the Judgment.
- 1.29. "Defendants" means named Defendants Turlock Fruit Co. and Stephen H. Smith Farms, Inc.

2. RECITALS

- 2.1. On March 27, 2025, Plaintiff commenced this Action by filing a Complaint alleging causes of action against Defendants for penalties based on the foregoing pursuant to PAGA: **(1)** failure to pay minimum wage for all hours worked in violation of Labor Code sections 1194 and 1194.2, and the Applicable Wage Order; **(2)** failure to pay proper overtime wages in violation of Labor Code sections 510, 1197, and 1198, and the Applicable Wage Order; **(3)** failure to provide compliant rest periods and pay missed rest break premiums in violation of Labor Code section 226.7 and the Applicable Wage Order; **(4)** failure to provide compliant meal periods and pay missed meal period premiums in violation of Labor Code sections 226.7 and 512, and the Applicable Wage Order; **(5)** failure to maintain accurate employment records in violation of Labor Code section 1174; **(6)** failure to pay timely wages during employment in violation of Labor Code

sections 204, 210; **(7)** failure to pay all wages due and owing at separation in violation of Labor Code sections 201, 202, and 203; **(8)** failure to reimburse business expenses in violation of Labor Code sections 2802 and 2804; and **(9)** failure to provide complete and accurate wage statements in violation of Labor Code sections 226 and 226.3. This Complaint is the operative complaint in the Action (the “Operative Complaint”). Defendants deny the allegations in the Operative Complaint, deny any failure to comply with the laws identified in the Operative Complaint, and deny any and all liability for the causes of action alleged.

- 2.2. Pursuant to Labor Code section 2699.3, subd. (a), Plaintiff gave timely written notice to Defendants and the LWDA by sending the PAGA Notice.
- 2.3. On October 16, 2025, the Parties participated in an all-day mediation presided over by Howard R. Broadman which led to this Agreement to settle the Action.
- 2.4. Prior to mediation, Plaintiff obtained, through informal discovery, various documents and information that allowed both sides to evaluate the potential exposure and potential risk, such as policies and procedures related to the claims alleged in the Operative Complaint, Plaintiff's personnel files, payroll and time records, and a sample of time and pay records for the Aggrieved Employees.
- 2.5. The Parties, PAGA Counsel, and Defense Counsel represent that they are not aware of any other pending matter or action asserting claims filed by any other current or former employees that will be extinguished or affected by the Settlement. However, Plaintiff has filed a separate purported class action, Merced County Superior Court, Case No. 25CV-00441 which will be dismissed without prejudice as to the putative Class Members and with prejudice as to Plaintiff upon Court approval of this Agreement.

3. **MONETARY TERMS**

- 3.1. Gross Settlement Amount. Except as otherwise provided by Paragraph 8 below, Defendants promise to pay **\$200,000.00** and no more as the Gross Settlement Amount. Defendants have no obligation to pay the Gross Settlement Amount prior to the deadline stated in Paragraph 4.3 of this Agreement. The Administrator will disburse the entire Gross Settlement Amount without asking or requiring Aggrieved Employees to submit any claim as a condition of payment. None of the Gross Settlement Amount will revert to Defendants.
- 3.2. Payments from the Gross Settlement Amount. The Administrator will make and deduct the following payments from the Gross Settlement Amount, in the amounts specified by the Court in the Approval Order:
 - 3.2.1. To Plaintiff: PAGA Representative Service Payment to the Plaintiff of not more than \$5,000.00 for Carlos Mejia (in addition to any Individual PAGA Payment the Plaintiff is entitled to receive as an Aggrieved Employee). Defendants will not oppose Plaintiff's request for a PAGA

Representative Service Payment that does not exceed this amount. As part of the application or motion for the approval of the Settlement or as a separate application or motion for PAGA Counsel Fees Payment and PAGA Litigation Expenses Payment, Plaintiff will seek Court approval for any PAGA Representative Service Payment. If the Court approves a PAGA Representative Service Payment less than the amount requested, the Administrator will retain the remainder in the Net Settlement Amount to be distributed as PAGA Penalties. The Administrator will pay the PAGA Representative Service Payment using IRS Form 1099. Plaintiff assumes full responsibility and liability for employee taxes owed on the PAGA Representative Service Payment.

- 3.2.2. To PAGA Counsel: A PAGA Counsel Fees Payment of not more than one-third of the Gross Settlement Amount, which is currently estimated to be \$66,666.67 and a PAGA Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment of not more than \$14,202.50. Defendants will not oppose requests for these payments provided that they do not exceed these amounts. Nothing herein prevents Defendants or Defense Counsel from truthfully responding to direct inquiries from the Court regarding the fee request, costs, or service awards, consistent with counsel's duty of candor to the Court. However, Defendants and Defense Counsel shall not volunteer such information absent a direct request from the Court. As part of the motion for approval of the Settlement or as a separate application or motion for PAGA Counsel Fees Payment and PAGA Litigation Expenses Payment, Plaintiff and/or PAGA Counsel will seek Court approval for any PAGA Counsel Fees Payment and PAGA Litigation Expenses Payment. If the Court approves a PAGA Counsel Fees Payment and/or a PAGA Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment less than the amounts requested, the Administrator will allocate the remainder to the Net Settlement Amount to be distributed as PAGA Penalties. Released Parties shall have no liability to PAGA Counsel or any other Plaintiff's counsel arising from any claim to any portion of any PAGA Counsel Fee Payment and/or PAGA Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment. The Administrator will pay the PAGA Counsel Fees Payment and PAGA Counsel Expenses Payment using one or more IRS 1099 Forms. PAGA Counsel assumes full responsibility and liability for taxes owed on the PAGA Counsel Fees Payment and the PAGA Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment and holds Defendants harmless, and indemnifies Defendants, from any dispute or controversy regarding any division or sharing of any of these payments.
- 3.2.3. To the Administrator: An Administrator Expenses Payment not to exceed the Administrator's "not to exceed" bid except for a showing of good cause and as approved by the Court. To the extent the Administration Expenses are less or the Court approves payment less than the Administrator's "not to exceed" bid, the Administrator will retain the remainder in the Net Settlement Amount to be distributed in accordance with this Agreement.

- 3.2.4. To the LWDA and Aggrieved Employees: Once the Net Settlement Amount is established after allocating for the payments described above in Paragraphs 3.2.1 through 3.2.3, the Administrator shall make the following payments from the Net Settlement Amount, in the amounts specified by the Court in the Approval Order and Judgment:
- 3.2.5. The Administrator shall pay 65-percent of the Net Settlement Amount to the LWDA, in accordance with Labor Code §2699, subdivision (m).
- 3.2.6. The Administrator shall pay the remaining 35-percent of the Net Settlement Amount to Aggrieved Employees, in accordance with Labor Code §2699, subdivision (m), as Individual PAGA Payments.
- 3.2.6.1. Individual PAGA Payments shall be calculated by first dividing the total amount payable to Aggrieved Employees by the total number of PAGA Pay Periods, then by multiplying the result by each Aggrieved Employee's individual PAGA Pay Periods, as listed in the Aggrieved Employee Data. Aggrieved Employees assume full responsibility and liability for any taxes owed on their Individual PAGA Payment.
- 3.2.6.2. The Administrator will report the Individual PAGA Payments on IRS 1099 Forms.

4. SETTLEMENT FUNDING AND PAYMENTS

- 4.1. Aggrieved Employee Pay Periods. Based on a review of its records to date, Defendants estimate there are 1,484 Aggrieved Employees who worked a total of 20,892 PAGA Pay Periods.
- 4.2. Aggrieved Employee Data. Within twenty (20) days of the Approval Order, Defendants will simultaneously deliver the Aggrieved Employee Data to the Administrator in the form of a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet. To protect the Aggrieved Employees' privacy rights, the Administrator must maintain the Aggrieved Employee Data in confidence, use the Aggrieved Employee Data only for purposes of this Settlement and for no other purpose, and restrict access to the Aggrieved Employee Data to Administrator employees who need access to the Aggrieved Employee Data to effect and perform under this Agreement. Defendants has a continuing duty to immediately notify the Administrator if it discovers that the Aggrieved Employee Data omitted employee identifying information and to provide corrected or updated Aggrieved Employee Data as soon as reasonably feasible. Without any extension of the deadline by which Defendants must send the Aggrieved Employee Data to the Administrator, the Parties and their counsel will expeditiously use best efforts, in good faith, to reconstruct or otherwise resolve any issues related to missing or omitted Aggrieved Employee Data.

- 4.3. Funding of Gross Settlement Amount. Defendants shall fully fund the Gross Settlement Amount by transmitting the funds to the Administrator no later than thirty (30) days after the Effective Date.
- 4.4. Payments from the Gross Settlement Amount. Within fourteen (14) days after Defendants fund the Gross Settlement Amount, the Administrator will mail checks for all Individual PAGA Payments, the LWDA PAGA Payment, the Administration Expenses Payment, the PAGA Counsel Fees Payment, the PAGA Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment, and the PAGA Representative Service Payment. Disbursement of the PAGA Counsel Fees Payment, the PAGA Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment, and the PAGA Representative Service Payment shall not precede disbursement of Individual PAGA Payments.
 - 4.4.1. The Administrator will issue checks for the Individual PAGA Payments and send them to the Aggrieved Employees via First Class U.S. Mail, postage prepaid. The face of each check shall prominently state the date (not less than one hundred eighty (180) days after the date of mailing) when the check will be voided. The Administrator will cancel all checks not cashed by the void date. Before mailing any checks, the Settlement Administrator must update the recipients' mailing addresses using the National Change of Address Database.
 - 4.4.2. The Administrator must conduct an Aggrieved Employee Address Search for all Aggrieved Employees whose checks are returned undelivered without USPS forwarding address. Within seven (7) days of receiving a returned check the Administrator must re-mail checks to the USPS forwarding address provided or to an address ascertained through the Aggrieved Employee Address Search. The Administrator need not take further steps to deliver checks to Aggrieved Employees whose re-mailed checks are returned as undelivered. The Administrator shall promptly send a replacement check to any Aggrieved Employee whose original check was lost or misplaced, requested by the Aggrieved Employee prior to the void date.
 - 4.4.3. For any Aggrieved Employee whose Individual PAGA Payment check is uncashed and cancelled after the void date, the Administrator shall transmit the funds represented by such checks to the California Controller's Unclaimed Property Fund in the name of the Aggrieved Employee.
 - 4.4.4. The payment of Individual PAGA Payments shall not obligate Defendants to confer any additional benefits or make any additional payments to the Aggrieved Employees (such as 401(k) contributions or bonuses) beyond those specified in this Agreement.

5. **RELEASES OF CLAIMS**

Effective on the date when Defendants fully fund the entire Gross Settlement Amount, Plaintiff and PAGA Counsel will release claims against all Released Parties as follows:

- 5.1. **Plaintiff's Release.** Plaintiff and Plaintiff's respective former and present spouses, representatives, agents, attorneys (including PAGA Counsel), heirs, administrators, successors, and assigns generally, release and discharge Released Parties from all claims, transactions, or occurrences that occurred during the PAGA Period, including, but not limited to: all claims that were, or reasonably could have been, alleged, based on the facts contained in the Operative Complaint and the PAGA Notice ("Plaintiff's Release"). Plaintiff's Release does not extend to any claims or actions to enforce this Agreement, or to any claims for vested benefits, unemployment benefits, disability benefits, social security benefits, workers' compensation benefits that arose at any time, or based on occurrences outside the PAGA Period. Plaintiff acknowledges that Plaintiff may discover facts or law different from, or in addition to, the facts or law that Plaintiff now knows or believes to be true but agrees, nonetheless, that Plaintiff's Release shall be and remain effective in all respects, notwithstanding such different or additional facts or Plaintiff's discovery of them.
 - 5.1.1. **Plaintiff's Waiver of Rights Under California Civil Code Section 1542.** For purposes of Plaintiff's Release, Plaintiff expressly waives and relinquishes the provisions, rights, and benefits, if any, of section 1542 of the California Civil Code, which reads:
 "A general release does not extend to claims that the creditor or releasing party does not know or suspect to exist in his or her favor at the time of executing the release and that, if known by him or her, would have materially affected his or her settlement with the debtor or released party."
- 5.2. **Release by Aggrieved Employees:** All Aggrieved Employees are deemed to release, on behalf of themselves and their respective former and present representatives, agents, attorneys, heirs, administrators, successors, and assigns, the Released Parties from all claims for PAGA penalties that were alleged, or reasonably could have been alleged, based on the PAGA Period facts stated in the Operative Complaint and the PAGA Notice.
- 5.3. **Release by the State of California:** The State of California (including any and all officers or agencies thereof, including the LWDA and/or the Labor Commissioner), and any other person or entity entitled by law to pursue Released PAGA Claims, shall release the Released Parties of all claims that were, or reasonably could have been, alleged, based on the facts contained in the Operative Complaint and the PAGA Notice.
- 5.4. **Release by PAGA Counsel:** PAGA Counsel release on behalf of their present and former attorneys, employees, agents, successors and assigns the Released Parties from all claims for PAGA Fees incurred in connection with the Operative

Complaint and the PAGA Period facts stated in the Operative Complaint and the PAGA Notice.

6. **MOTION OR APPLICATION FOR APPROVAL OF SETTLEMENT**

The Parties agree to jointly prepare and file an application or motion for approval of this Settlement.

- 6.1. Plaintiff's Responsibilities. Plaintiff will prepare and deliver to Defense Counsel all documents necessary for obtaining approval of this Settlement under Labor Code Section 2699, subd. (f)(2), including (i) a draft proposed Order Granting Approval of PAGA Settlement; (ii) a signed declaration from the Administrator attaching its "not to exceed" bid for administering the Settlement and attesting to its willingness to serve; competency; operative procedures for protecting the security of Aggrieved Employee Data; amounts of insurance coverage for any data breach, defalcation of funds or other misfeasance; all facts relevant to any actual or potential conflicts of interest with Aggrieved Employees or the LWDA; and the nature and extent of any financial relationship with Plaintiff, PAGA Counsel or Defense Counsel; (iii) a signed declaration from PAGA Counsel firm attesting to its timely transmission to the LWDA of all necessary PAGA documents (initial notice of violations (Labor Code section 2699.3, subd. (a)), Operative Complaint (Labor Code section 2699, subd. (l)(1)), this Agreement (Labor Code section 2699, subd. (l)(2)); (iv) a redlined version of the parties' Agreement showing all modifications made to the Model Agreement ready for filing with the Court; and (v) all facts relevant to any actual or potential conflict of interest with Aggrieved Employees and/or the Administrator. In their declarations, Plaintiff and PAGA Counsel shall aver that they are not aware of any other pending matter or action asserting claims that will be extinguished or adversely affected by the Settlement other than the action identified in paragraph 2.5 of this Agreement.
- 6.2. Responsibilities of PAGA Counsel. PAGA Counsel and Defense Counsel are jointly responsible for expeditiously finalizing and filing the application or motion for approval of this Settlement no later than thirty (30) days after the full execution of this Agreement and, if necessary, obtaining a prompt hearing date for the motion and appearing in Court to advocate in favor of the motion. PAGA Counsel is responsible for delivering the Court's Approval Order to the Administrator.
 - 6.2.1. PAGA Counsel are also responsible for preparing and filing all documents necessary for obtaining dismissal of the separate purported class action, Merced County Superior Court, Case No. 25CV-00441 without prejudice as to the putative Class Members and with prejudice as to Plaintiff.
- 6.3. Duty to Cooperate. If the Parties disagree on any aspect of the proposed application or motion for approval of this Settlement and/or the supporting

declarations and documents, PAGA Counsel and Defense Counsel will expeditiously work together on behalf of the Parties by meeting in person or by telephone, and in good faith, to resolve the disagreement. If the Court does not grant the motion for approval of this Settlement or conditions its approval on any material change to this Agreement, PAGA Counsel and Defense Counsel will expeditiously work together on behalf of the Parties by meeting in person or by telephone, and in good faith, to modify the Agreement and otherwise satisfy the Court's concerns. A change to PAGA Counsel Fees Payment or PAGA Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment shall not constitute a "material change" for these purposes.

7. SETTLEMENT ADMINISTRATION

- 7.1. Selection of Administrator. The Parties will jointly select a qualified settlement administration company (as defined in paragraph 1.2.) to serve as the Administrator and will verify that, as a condition of appointment, the Administrator agrees to be bound by this Agreement and to perform, as a fiduciary, all duties specified in this Agreement in exchange for payment of Administration Expenses. The Parties and their Counsel represent that they have no interest or relationship, financial or otherwise, with the Administrator other than a professional relationship arising out of prior experiences administering settlements.
- 7.2. Employer Identification Number. The Administrator shall have and use its own Employer Identification Number for purposes of calculating payroll tax withholdings and providing reports to state and federal tax authorities.
- 7.3. Qualified Settlement Fund. The Administrator shall establish a settlement fund that meets the requirements of a Qualified Settlement Fund ("QSF") under US Treasury Regulation section 468B-1.
- 7.4. Administrator Duties. The Administrator has a duty to perform or observe all tasks to be performed or observed by the Administrator contained in this Agreement or otherwise.

8. AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEE SIZE ESTIMATES AND ESCALATOR CLAUSE

Based on its records, Defendants estimate that, as of the date of this Settlement Agreement, there are approximately 1,484 Aggrieved Employees who worked approximately 20,892 Pay Periods during the PAGA Period. If the number of pay periods worked by the Aggrieved Employees is greater than 10% above that estimated by Defendants, then the GSA shall be increased proportionately for each additional pay period worked above the 10% buffer. If this provision is triggered so as to increase the GSA, the Parties agree that the portion of the GSA allocated to attorneys' fees will increase proportionally such that the total amount of attorneys' fees remains one-third of the GSA after the upward adjustment required by this provision is implemented. In the alternative, Defendants may elect to end the PAGA Period on the day on which the number of pay periods reaches the 10% escalator trigger, i.e., 22,981 workweeks to avoid triggering the escalator clause.

9. CONTINUING JURISDICTION OF THE COURT

The Parties agree that, after entry of Judgment, the Court will retain jurisdiction over the Parties, Action, and the Settlement solely for purposes of (i) enforcing this Agreement and/or Judgment, (ii) addressing settlement administration matters, and (iii) addressing such post-Judgment matters as are permitted by law.

- 9.1. Waiver of Right to Appeal. Provided the Judgment is consistent with the terms and conditions of this Agreement, specifically including the PAGA Counsel Fees Payment and PAGA Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment, the Parties and their respective counsel waive all rights to appeal from the Judgment, including all rights to post-judgment and appellate proceedings, the right to file motions to vacate judgment, motions for new trial, extraordinary writs, and appeals. The waiver of appeal does not include any waiver of the right to oppose such motions, writs or appeals. If another party appeals the Judgment, the Parties' obligations to perform under this Agreement will be suspended until such time as the appeal is finally resolved and the Judgment becomes final.

10. ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS

- 10.1. No Admission of Liability or Representative Manageability for Other Purposes. This Agreement represents a compromise and settlement of highly disputed claims. Nothing in this Agreement is intended or should be construed as an admission by Defendants that any of the allegations in the Operative Complaint have merit or that Defendants has any liability for any claims asserted; nor should it be intended or construed as an admission by Plaintiff that Defendants' defenses in the Action have merit. The Parties agree that representative treatment is for purposes of this Settlement only. If, for any reason the Court does not approve this Settlement, Defendants reserve all available defenses to the claims in the Action including but not limited to enforcement of Plaintiff's arbitration agreement, and Plaintiff reserves the right to contest Defendants' defenses. The Settlement, this Agreement and Parties' willingness to settle the Action will have no bearing on, and will not be admissible in connection with, any litigation (except for proceedings to enforce or effectuate the Settlement and this Agreement).
- 10.2. Integrated Agreement. Upon execution by all Parties and their counsel, this Agreement together with its attached exhibits shall constitute the entire agreement between the Parties relating to the Settlement, superseding any and all oral representations, warranties, covenants, or inducements made to or by any Party.
- 10.3. Attorney Authorization. PAGA Counsel and Defense Counsel separately warrant and represent that they are authorized by Plaintiff and Defendants, respectively, to take all appropriate action required or permitted to be taken by such Parties pursuant to this Agreement to effectuate its terms, and to execute any other documents reasonably required to effectuate the terms of this Agreement including any amendments to this Agreement.

- 10.4. Cooperation. The Parties and their counsel will cooperate with each other and use their best efforts, in good faith, to implement the Settlement by, among other things, modifying the Settlement Agreement, submitting supplemental evidence and supplementing points and authorities as requested by the Court. In the event the Parties are unable to agree upon the form or content of any document necessary to implement the Settlement, or on any modification of the Agreement that may become necessary to implement the Settlement, the Parties will seek the assistance of a mediator and/or the Court for resolution.
- 10.5. No Prior Assignments. The Parties separately represent and warrant that they have not directly or indirectly assigned, transferred, encumbered, or purported to assign, transfer, or encumber to any person or entity and portion of any liability, claim, demand, action, cause of action, or right released and discharged by the Party in this Settlement.
- 10.6. No Tax Advice. Neither Plaintiff, PAGA Counsel, Defendants nor Defense Counsel are providing any advice regarding taxes or taxability, nor shall anything in this Settlement be relied upon as such within the meaning of United States Treasury Department Circular 230 (31 CFR Part 10, as amended) or otherwise.
- 10.7. Modification of Agreement. This Agreement, and all parts of it, may be amended, modified, changed, or waived only by an express written instrument signed by all Parties or their representatives, and approved by the Court.
- 10.8. Agreement Binding on Successors. This Agreement will be binding upon, and inure to the benefit of, the successors of each of the Parties.
- 10.9. Applicable Law. All terms and conditions of this Agreement and its exhibits will be governed by and interpreted according to the internal laws of the state of California, without regard to conflict of law principles.
- 10.10. Cooperation in Drafting. The Parties have cooperated in the drafting and preparation of this Agreement. This Agreement will not be construed against any Party on the basis that the Party was the drafter or participated in the drafting.
- 10.11. Confidentiality. To the extent permitted by law, all agreements made, and orders entered during the pendency of the Action and in this Agreement relating to the confidentiality of information shall survive the execution of this Agreement.
- 10.12. Use and Return of Aggrieved Employee Data. Information provided to PAGA Counsel pursuant to Cal. Evid. Code §1152, and all copies and summaries of the PAGA Data provided to PAGA Counsel by Defendants in connection with the mediation, other settlement negotiations, or in connection with the Settlement, may be used only with respect to this Settlement, and no other purpose, and may not be used in any way that violates any existing contractual agreement, statute, or rule of court. Not later than ninety (90) days after the Administrator discharges its obligation to pay out all Settlement funds, Plaintiff shall destroy all paper and electronic versions of Aggrieved Employee Data received from Defendants

unless, prior to the Administrator's payment of all Settlement Funds, Defendants makes a written request to PAGA Counsel for the return, rather than the destructions, of Aggrieved Employee Data.

- 10.13. Headings. The descriptive heading of any section or paragraph of this Agreement is inserted for convenience of reference only and does not constitute a part of this Agreement.
- 10.14. Calendar Days. Unless otherwise noted, all reference to "days" in this Agreement shall be to calendar days. In the event any date or deadline set forth in this Agreement falls on a weekend or federal legal holiday, such date or deadline shall be on the first business day thereafter.
- 10.15. Notice. All notices, demands or other communications between the Parties in connection with this Agreement will be in writing and deemed to have been duly given as of the third business day after mailing by United States mail, or the day sent by email or messenger, addressed as follows:

To Plaintiff:

Melmed Law Group P.C.

Jonathan Melmed

jm@melmedlaw.com

Kyle D. Smith

ks@melmedlaw.com

Jaqueline Antillon

ja@melmedlaw.com

1801 Century Park East, Suite 850

Los Angeles, California 90067

To Defendants:

Barsamian & Moody, Professional Corporation

Catherine M. Houlihan

choulihan@theemployerslawfirm.com

1141 W Shaw Ave # 104

Fresno, CA 93711

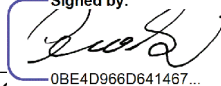
- 10.16. Execution in Counterparts. This Agreement may be executed in one or more counterparts by facsimile, electronically (i.e. DocuSign), or email which for purposes of this Agreement shall be accepted as an original. All executed counterparts and each of them will be deemed to be one and the same instrument if counsel for the Parties will exchange between themselves signed counterparts. Any executed counterpart will be admissible in evidence to prove the existence and contents of this Agreement.
- 10.17. Stay of Litigation. The Parties agree that upon the execution of this Agreement the litigation of the Action as well as the separately filed purported class action

Merced County Superior Court, Case No. 25CV-00441 shall be stayed, except to effectuate the terms of this Agreement.

APPROVAL AND EXECUTION BY PARTIES

PLAINTIFF:

Dated: 6/24/2026

Signed by:

0BE4D966D641467...
Carlos Mejia
Plaintiff and Private Attorney General

DEFENDANTS:

Dated: _____

Turlock Fruit Co.
Stephen H. Smith Farms, Inc.

By: _____

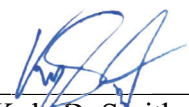
Title: _____

APPROVED AS TO FORM BY COUNSEL

PAGA COUNSEL:

Dated: _____

Melmed Law Group P.C.



Kyle D. Smith
Attorneys for Plaintiff

DEFENSE COUNSEL:

Dated: _____

**Barsamian & Moody, Professional
Corporation**

Catherine M. Houlihan
Attorneys for Defendants

Merced County Superior Court, Case No. 25CV-00441 shall be stayed, except to effectuate the terms of this Agreement.

APPROVAL AND EXECUTION BY PARTIES

PLAINTIFF:

Dated: _____

Carlos Mejia
Plaintiff and Private Attorney General

DEFENDANTS:

Dated: 6/18/2026

Turlock Fruit Co.
Stephen H. Smith Farms, Inc.

Stephen H Smith
By: Stephen H Smith
Title: Owner / President

APPROVED AS TO FORM BY COUNSEL

PAGA COUNSEL:

Dated: _____

Melmed Law Group P.C.

Kyle D. Smith
Attorneys for Plaintiff

DEFENSE COUNSEL:

Dated: 6/22/26

**Barsamian & Moody, Professional
Corporation**


Catherine M. Houlihan
Attorneys for Defendants