

CLASS ACTION AND PAGA SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT AND CLASS NOTICE

This Class Action and PAGA Settlement Agreement (“Agreement”) is made by and between plaintiffs Jason Gutierrez and Louie Yliz (collectively “Plaintiffs”) and defendant AgTac Services, LLC (“Defendant”). The Agreement refers to Plaintiffs and Defendant collectively as “Parties,” or individually as “Party.”

1. DEFINITIONS.

- 1.1 “Action” means the Plaintiffs’ lawsuit alleging wage and hour violations against Defendant captioned *Jason Gutierrez & Louie Yliz v. AgTac Services, LLC* initiated on July 18, 2022 and pending in Superior Court of the State of California, County of San Joaquin.
- 1.2 “Administrator” means ILYM Group, Inc., the neutral entity the Parties have agreed to appoint to administer the Settlement.
- 1.3 “Administration Expenses Payment” means the amount the Administrator will be paid from the Total Settlement Amount to reimburse its reasonable fees and expenses in accordance with the Administrator’s “not to exceed” bid.
- 1.4 “Class” means all current and former hourly-paid or non-exempt employees employed by Defendant within the State of California at any time during the Class Release Period.
- 1.5 “Class Counsel” means David Yeremian & Associates, Inc., D.Law, Inc., and Capstone Law APC.
- 1.6 “Class Counsel Fees Payment” and “Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment” mean the amounts allocated to Class Counsel for reimbursement of reasonable attorneys’ fees and expenses, respectively, incurred to prosecute the Action.
- 1.7 “Class Data” means Class Member identifying information in Defendant’s possession including the Class Member’s name, last-known mailing address, Social Security number, and number of Class Release Period Workweeks and PAGA Pay Periods.
- 1.8 “Class Member” means a member of the Class, as either a Participating Class Member or Non-Participating Class Member (including a Non-Participating Class Member who qualifies as a PAGA Employee).
- 1.9 “Class Member Address Search” means the Administrator’s investigation and search for current Class Member 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 Class Members.
- 1.10 “Class Notice” means the COURT APPROVED NOTICE OF CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT AND HEARING DATE FOR FINAL COURT APPROVAL, to be mailed to Class Members in English with a Spanish translation in the form, without

material variation, attached as Exhibit A and incorporated by reference into this Agreement.

- 1.11 “Class Release Period” means the period from July 19, 2018 through June 22, 2023.
- 1.12 “Class Representatives” means the named Plaintiffs in the operative complaint in the Action seeking Court approval to serve as Class Representatives.
- 1.13 “Class Representative Service Payments” means the payments to the Class Representatives for initiating the Action and providing services in support of the Action.
- 1.14 “Court” means the Superior Court of California, County of San Joaquin.
- 1.15 “Defendant” means named Defendant AgTac Services, LLC.
- 1.16 “Defense Counsel” means Littler Mendelson PC.
- 1.17 “Effective Date” means: (a) the date upon which the time for appeal of the Court’s order granting final approval of the Settlement and entry of judgment expires; unless (b) an appeal is timely filed, then “Effective Date” means the date of final resolution of any appeal from the order granting final approval of the Settlement and entry of judgment.
- 1.18 “Final Approval” means the Court’s order granting final approval of the Settlement.
- 1.19 “Final Approval Hearing” means the Court’s hearing on the Motion for Final Approval of the Settlement.
- 1.20 “Final Judgment” means the Judgment Entered by the Court upon Granting Final Approval of the Settlement.
- 1.21 “Total Settlement Amount” or “TSA” means \$880,000 which is the total amount Defendant agrees to pay under the Settlement except as provided in Paragraph 9 below. The Total Settlement Amount will be used to pay Individual Class Payments, Individual PAGA Payments, the LWDA PAGA Payment, Class Counsel Fees, Class Counsel Expenses, Class Representative Service Payment and the Administrator’s Expenses.
- 1.22 “Individual Class Payment” means the Participating Class Member’s pro rata share of the Net Settlement Amount calculated according to the number of Workweeks worked during the Class Release Period.
- 1.23 “Individual PAGA Payment” means the PAGA Employee’s pro rata share of 25% of the PAGA Penalty Amount calculated according to the number of Workweeks worked during the PAGA Release Period.

- 1.24 “Judgment” means the judgment entered by the Court based upon the Final Approval.
- 1.25 “LWDA” means the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency, the agency entitled, under Labor Code section 2699, subd. (i).
- 1.26 “LWDA PAGA Payment” means the 75% of the PAGA Penalty Amount paid to the LWDA under Labor Code section 2699, subd. (i).
- 1.27 “Net Settlement Amount” means the Total Settlement Amount, less the following payments in the amounts approved by the Court: Individual PAGA Payments, the LWDA PAGA Payment, Class Representative Service Payments, Class Counsel Fees Payment, Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment, and the Administration Expenses Payment. The remainder is to be paid to Participating Class Members as Individual Class Payments.
- 1.28 “Non-Participating Class Member” means any Class Member who opts out of the Settlement by sending the Administrator a valid and timely Request for Exclusion.
- 1.29 “PAGA Employee” means a member of the PAGA Group during the PAGA Release Period.
- 1.30 “PAGA Group” means all current and former hourly-paid or non-exempt employees employed by Defendant within the State of California at any time during the PAGA Release Period.
- 1.31 “PAGA Pay Period” means any Pay Period during which a PAGA Employee worked for Defendant for at least one day during the PAGA Release Period.
- 1.32 “PAGA Release Period” means the period from July 19, 2021 through June 22, 2023.
- 1.33 “PAGA” means the Private Attorneys General Act (Labor Code §§ 2698. et seq.).
- 1.34 “PAGA Notice” means Plaintiffs’ July 18, 2022 letter to Defendant and the providing notice pursuant to Labor Code section 2699.3, subd.(a).
- 1.35 “PAGA Penalty Amount” means the total amount of PAGA civil penalties to be paid from the Total Settlement Amount, allocated 25% to the PAGA Employees (\$12,500) and the 75% to LWDA (\$37,500) in settlement of PAGA claims.
- 1.36 “Participating Class Member” means a Class Member who does not submit a valid and timely Request for Exclusion from the Settlement.
- 1.37 “Plaintiffs” mean Jose Gutierrez and Louis Yliz, the named plaintiffs in the Action.

- 1.38 “Preliminary Approval” means the Court’s Order Granting Preliminary Approval of the Settlement.
- 1.39 “Preliminary Approval Order” means the proposed Order Granting Preliminary Approval and Approval of PAGA Settlement.
- 1.40 “Released Class Claims” means the claims being released as described in Paragraph 5.2 below.
- 1.41 “Released PAGA Claims” means the claims being released as described in Paragraph 5.2 below.
- 1.42 “Released Parties” means: Defendant and each of its former and present directors, officers, shareholders, owners, members, attorneys, insurers, predecessors, successors, assigns, subsidiaries, and affiliates.
- 1.43 “Request for Exclusion” means a Class Member’s submission of a written request to be excluded from the Class Settlement signed by the Class Member.
- 1.44 “Response Deadline” means 45 days after the Administrator mails Notice to Class Members and PAGA Employees, and shall be the last date on which Class Members may: (a) fax, email, or mail Requests for Exclusion from the Settlement, or (b) fax, email, or mail his or her Objection to the Settlement. Class Members to whom Notice Packets are resent after having been returned undeliverable to the Administrator shall have an additional 14 calendar days beyond the Response Deadline has expired.
- 1.45 “Settlement” means the disposition of the Action effected by this Agreement and the Judgment.
- 1.46 “Workweek” means any week during which a Class Member worked for Defendant for at least one day, during the Class Release Period.

2. RECITALS.

- 2.1 On July 18, 2022, Plaintiffs commenced a Class Action by filing a Complaint alleging causes of action against Defendant for (1) Failure to Pay Minimum Wages; (2) Failure to Pay Wages and Overtime Under Labor Code 510; (3) Recovery of Reporting Time Pay (4) Failure to Pay Split-Shift Under Labor Code 1198; (5) Meal Period Liability Under Labor Code 226.7; (6) Rest Break Liability Under Labor Code 226.7; (7) Failure to Reimburse Necessary Business Expenditures Under Labor Code 2802; (8) Violation of Labor Code 226(a); (9) Failure to Keep Required Payroll Records Under Labor Code 1174 and 1174.5; (10) Violation of Labor Code 203; and (11) Violation of Business & Professions Code 17200 *et seq.* On October 26, 2022, Plaintiffs filed a First Amended Complaint adding a cause of action for penalties under PAGA, Defendant denies the allegations in the Operative Complaint, denies any failure to comply with the laws

identified in in the Operative Complaint and denies any and all liability for the causes of action alleged.

2.2 Pursuant to Labor Code section 2699.3, subd.(a), Plaintiffs gave timely written notice to Defendant and the LWDA by sending the PAGA Notice.

2.3 On July 11, 2023 the Parties participated in an all-day mediation presided over by Lisa Klerman, Esq. which led to this Agreement to settle the Action.

2.4 The Court has not granted class certification because the Parties engaged in mediation before any class certification.

2.5 The Parties, Class Counsel and Defense Counsel represent that they are not aware of any other pending matter or action asserting claims that will be extinguished or affected by the Settlement.

3. **MONETARY TERMS.**

3.1 **Total Settlement Amount.** Except as otherwise provided by Paragraph 9 below, Defendant promises to pay \$880,000 and no more as the Total Settlement Amount, and to separately pay any and all employer payroll taxes owed on the Wage Portions of the Individual Class Payments. Defendant has no obligation to pay the Total Settlement Amount (or any payroll taxes) prior to the deadline stated in Paragraph 6.1 of this Agreement. The Administrator will disburse the entire Total Settlement Amount without asking or requiring Participating Class Members or PAGA Employees to submit any claim as a condition of payment. None of the Total Settlement Amount will revert to Defendant.

3.2 **Payments from the Total Settlement Amount.** The Administrator will make and deduct the following payments from the Total Settlement Amount, in the amounts specified by the Court in the Final Approval:

3.2.1 **To Plaintiffs:** Class Representative Service Payments to each of the Class Representatives of not more than \$10,000, each (in addition to any Individual Class Payment and any Individual PAGA Payment the Class Representative is entitled to receive as a Participating Class Member). Defendant will not oppose Plaintiffs' request for Class Representative Service Payments that does not exceed these amounts. As part of the motion for Class Counsel Fees Payment and Class Litigation Expenses Payment, Plaintiffs will seek Court approval for any Class Representative Service Payments no later than 16 court days prior to the Final Approval Hearing. If the Court approves Class Representative Service Payments less than the amounts requested, the Administrator will retain the remainder in the Net Settlement Amount. The Administrator will pay the Class Representative Service Payment using IRS Form 1099. Plaintiffs assume full responsibility and liability for employee taxes owed on the Class Representative Service Payments.

- 3.2.2 To Class Counsel: A Class Counsel Fees Payment of not more than 33%, which is currently estimated to be \$293,333.33 and a Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment of not more than \$30,000. Defendant will not oppose requests for these payments provided that do not exceed these amounts. Plaintiffs and/or Class Counsel will file a motion for Class Counsel Fees Payment and Class Litigation Expenses Payment no later than 16 court days prior to the Final Approval Hearing. If the Court approves a Class Counsel Fees Payment and/or a Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment less than the amounts requested, the Administrator will allocate the remainder to the Net Settlement Amount. Released Parties shall have no liability to Class Counsel or any other Plaintiffs' Counsel arising from any claim to any portion any Class Counsel Fee Payment and/or Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment. The Administrator will pay the Class Counsel Fees Payment and Class Counsel Expenses Payment using one or more IRS 1099 Forms. Class Counsel assumes full responsibility and liability for taxes owed on the Class Counsel Fees Payment and the Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment and holds Defendant harmless, and indemnifies Defendant, 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 \$12,550 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 \$12,550, the Administrator will retain the remainder in the Net Settlement Amount.
- 3.2.4 To Each Participating Class Member: An Individual Class Payment calculated by (a) dividing the Net Settlement Amount by the total number of Workweeks worked by all Participating Class Members during the Class Release Period and (b) multiplying the result by each Participating Class Member's Workweeks.
- 3.2.4.1 Tax Allocation of Individual Class Payments. 25% of each Participating Class Member's Individual Class Payment will be allocated to settlement of wage claims (the "Wage Portion"). The Wage Portions are subject to tax withholding and will be reported on an IRS W-2 Form. The 75% of each Participating Class Member's Individual Class Payment will be allocated to settlement of claims for interest and penalties (the "Non-Wage Portion"). The Non-Wage Portions are not subject to wage withholdings and will be reported on IRS 1099 Forms. Participating Class Members assume full responsibility and liability for any employee taxes owed on their Individual Class Payment.
- 3.2.4.2 Effect of Non-Participating Class Members on Calculation of Individual Class Payments. Non-Participating Class Members will not receive any Individual Class Payments. The Administrator will retain amounts equal to their Individual Class Payments in the Net Settlement Amount for distribution to Participating Class Members on a pro rata basis.

3.2.5 To the LWDA and PAGA Employees: PAGA Penalty Amount of \$50,000 to be paid from the Total Settlement Amount, with 75% (\$37,500) allocated to the LWDA PAGA Payment and 25% (\$12,500) allocated to the Individual PAGA Payments.

3.2.5.1 The Administrator will calculate each Individual PAGA Payment by (a) dividing the amount of the PAGA Employees' 25% share of PAGA Penalty Amount \$12,500 by the total number of PAGA Release Period Pay Periods worked by all PAGA Employees during the PAGA Release Period and (b) multiplying the result by each PAGA Employee's PAGA Release Period Pay Periods. PAGA Employees assume full responsibility and liability for any taxes owed on their Individual PAGA Payment.

3.2.5.2 If the Court approves PAGA Penalty Amount of less than the amount requested, the Administrator will allocate the remainder to the Net Settlement Amount. The Administrator will report the Individual PAGA Payments on IRS 1099 Forms.

4. SETTLEMENT FUNDING AND PAYMENTS.

4.1 Class Workweeks. Based on a review of its records to date, Defendant estimates there are 1,061 Members who collectively worked a total of 27,431 workweeks from July 19, 2018 to June 22, 2023.

4.2 Class Data. Not later than 30 days after the Court grants Preliminary Approval of the Settlement, Defendant will deliver the Class Data to the Administrator, in the form of a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet. To protect Class Members' privacy rights, the Administrator must maintain the Class Data in confidence, use the Class Data only for purposes of this Settlement and for no other purpose, and restrict access to the Class Data to Administrator employees who need access to the Class Data to effect and perform under this Agreement. Defendant has a continuing duty to immediately notify Class Counsel if it discovers that the Class Data omitted class member identifying information and to provide corrected or updated Class Data as soon as reasonably feasible. Without any extension of the deadline by which Defendant must send the Class 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 Class Data.

4.3 Funding of Total Settlement Amount. Defendant shall fully fund the Total Settlement Amount, and also fund the amounts necessary to fully pay Defendant's share of payroll taxes by transmitting the funds to the Administrator no later than 14 days after the Effective Date.

4.4 Payments from the Total Settlement Amount. Within 14 days after Defendant funds the Total Settlement Amount, the Administrator will mail checks for all Individual Class

Payments, all Individual PAGA Payments, the LWDA PAGA Payment, the Administration Expenses Payment, the Class Counsel Fees Payment, the Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment, and the Class Representative Service Payments. Disbursement of the Class Counsel Fees Payment, the Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment and the Class Representative Service Payments shall not precede disbursement of Individual Class Payments and Individual PAGA Payments.

- 4.4.1 The Administrator will issue checks for the Individual Class Payments and/or Individual PAGA Payments and send them to the Class Members via First Class U.S. Mail, postage prepaid. The face of each check shall prominently state the date (not less than 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. The Administrator will send checks for Individual Settlement Payments to all Participating Class Members (including those for whom Class Notice was returned undelivered). The Administrator will send checks for Individual PAGA Payments to all PAGA Employees including Non-Participating Class Members who qualify as PAGA Employees (including those for whom Class Notice was returned undelivered). The Administrator may send Participating Class Members a single check combining the Individual Class Payment and the Individual PAGA Payment. 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 a Class Member Address Search for all other Class Members whose checks are returned undelivered without USPS forwarding address. Within 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 Class Member Address Search. The Administrator need not take further steps to deliver checks to Class Members whose re-mailed checks are returned as undelivered. The Administrator shall promptly send a replacement check to any Class Member whose original check was lost or misplaced, requested by the Class Member prior to the void date.
- 4.4.3 For any Class Member whose Individual Class Payment check or 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 Class Member thereby leaving no "unpaid residue" subject to the requirements of California Code of Civil Procedure Section 384, subd. (b).
- 4.4.4 The payment of Individual Class Payments and Individual PAGA Payments shall not obligate Defendant to confer any additional benefits or make any additional payments to Class Members (such as 401(k) contributions or bonuses) beyond those specified in this Agreement.

5. **RELEASES OF CLAIMS.** Effective on the date when Defendant fully funds the entire Total Settlement Amount and funds all employer payroll taxes owed on the Wage Portion of the Individual Class Payments, Plaintiffs, and Class Members will release claims against all Released Parties as follows:

5.1 **Plaintiffs' Release.** Plaintiffs and his or her respective former and present spouses, representatives, agents, attorneys, heirs, administrators, successors, and assigns generally, release and discharge Released Parties from all claims, transactions, or occurrences that occurred during the Class Release Period, including, but not limited to: (a) all claims that were, or reasonably could have been, alleged, based on the facts contained, in the Operative Complaint and (b) all PAGA claims that were, or reasonably could have been, alleged based on facts contained in the Operative Complaint, Plaintiffs' PAGA Notice, or ascertained during the Action and released under 6.2, below. ("Plaintiffs' Release.") Plaintiffs' 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 Class Release Period. Plaintiffs acknowledge that Plaintiffs may discover facts or law different from, or in addition to, the facts or law that Plaintiffs now knows or believes to be true but agrees, nonetheless, that Plaintiffs' Release shall be and remain effective in all respects, notwithstanding such different or additional facts or Plaintiffs' discovery of them.

5.1.1 **Plaintiffs' Waiver of Rights Under California Civil Code Section 1542.** For purposes of Plaintiffs' Release, Plaintiffs expressly waive and relinquish 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 Participating Class Members Who Are Not PAGA Employees:** All Participating Class Members, on behalf of themselves and their respective former and present representatives, agents, attorneys, heirs, administrators, successors, and assigns, release Released Parties from (1) failure to pay minimum and regular rate wages; (2) failure to pay overtime compensation; (3) recovery of reporting time pay; (4) failure to pay split-shift; (5) failure to provide meal periods or provide premiums in lieu thereof; (6) failure to provide rest periods or provide premiums in lieu thereof; (7) failure to pay timely wages at termination; (8) failure to provide accurate itemized wage statements; (9) failure to keep required payroll records; and (10) violation of Business and Professions Code §§ 17200, et seq. based on the preceding claims; (11) other relief from contractual releases, and those claims predicated on the same or similar facts and/or claims alleged in the Action; as well as any claims that reasonably could have been pled which reasonably arise from the same or similar facts alleged in the Action concerning the Plaintiffs or the putative class, and claims for interest, penalties (including but not limited to waiting time

penalties); as well as any claims under the California Labor Code and California Industrial Welfare Commission Wage Orders (specifically for violations of California Labor Code sections 201, 202, 203, 204, 210, 218.5, 218.6, 226, 226.3, 226.4, 226.7, 510, 512, 558, 558.1, 1174, 1174.5, 1182.12, 1185, 1194, 1194.2, 1197, 1198, 1199, 2698, 2699, *et seq.*, and 2802, and applicable IWC Wage Orders, and California Code of Regulations, Title 8, section 11000 *et seq.*; or which could have been alleged under the same or similar facts, allegations and/or claims pleaded in the Action; (12) any claims for injunctive relief, declaratory relief, restitution, alleged or which could reasonably have been alleged under the facts, allegations and/or claims pleaded in the complaints filed as part of the Action; (13) any and all other claims under California common law, the federal law, and the California Business and Professions Code alleged in or that could reasonably have been alleged under the same or similar facts, allegations and/or claims pleaded in the Action and based on the alleged Labor Code violations (collectively, the “Released Claims”). This release shall apply to claims arising during the Class Release Period. Except as set forth in Section 6.3 of this Agreement, Participating Class Members do not release any other claims, including claims for vested benefits, wrongful termination, violation of the Fair Employment and Housing Act, unemployment insurance, disability, social security, workers’ compensation, or claims based on facts occurring outside the Class Release Period.

5.3 Release by Non-Participating Class Members Who Are PAGA Employees: All Non-Participating Class Members who are PAGA 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 claims for civil penalties under the California Private Attorneys General Act of 2004 (Labor Code §§ 2698, *et seq.*) that are set forth in the Action or which could reasonably have been asserted, predicated on the same or similar facts alleged in the Action and/or any PAGA letter sent to the L WDA by Plaintiffs in or prior to the Action for violations of California Labor Code sections 201, 202, 203, 204, 210, 218.5, 218.6, 226, 226.3, 226.4, 226.7, 510, 512, 558, 558.1, 1174, 1174.5, 1182.12, 1185, 1194, 1194.2, 1197, 1198, 1199, 2698, 2699, *et seq.*, and 2802, and applicable IWC Wage Orders.

5.4 MOTION FOR PRELIMINARY APPROVAL. Class Counsel is responsible for expeditiously finalizing and filing the Motion for Preliminary Approval no later than 30 days after the full execution of this Agreement; obtaining a prompt hearing date for the Motion for Preliminary Approval; and for appearing in Court to advocate in favor of the Motion for Preliminary Approval. Class Counsel is responsible for delivering the Court’s Preliminary Approval to the Administrator.

5.5 Duty to Cooperate. If the Parties disagree on any aspect of the proposed Motion for Preliminary Approval and/or the supporting declarations and documents, Class 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 Preliminary Approval or conditions Preliminary Approval on any material change to this Agreement, Class 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.

6. SETTLEMENT ADMINISTRATION.

- 6.1 Selection of Administrator. The Parties have jointly selected ILYM Group, Inc. to serve as the Administrator and verified that, as a condition of appointment, ILYM Group, Inc. LLC 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.
- 6.2 Employer Identification Number. The Administrator shall have and use its own Employer Identification Number for purposes of calculating payroll tax withholdings and providing reports state and federal tax authorities.
- 6.3 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.
- 6.4 Notice to Class Members.
- 6.4.1 No later than five (5) days after receipt of the Class Data, the Administrator shall notify Class Counsel that the list has been received and state the number of Class Members, PAGA Members, Workweeks, and Pay Periods in the Class Data.
- 6.4.2 Using best efforts to perform as soon as possible, and in no event later than 14 days after receiving the Class Data, the Administrator will send to all Class Members identified in the Class Data, via first-class United States Postal Service ("USPS") mail, the Class Notice with Spanish translation substantially in the form attached to this Agreement as Exhibit A. The first page of the Class Notice shall prominently estimate the dollar amounts of any Individual Class Payment and/or Individual PAGA Payment payable to the Class Member, and the number of Workweeks and PAGA Pay Periods (if applicable) used to calculate these amounts. Before mailing Class Notices, the Administrator shall update Class Member addresses using the National Change of Address database.
- 6.4.3 Not later than five (5) days after the Administrator's receipt of any Class Notice returned by the USPS as undelivered, the Administrator shall re-mail the Class Notice using any forwarding address provided by the USPS. If the USPS does not provide a forwarding address, the Administrator shall conduct a Class Member Address Search, and re-mail the Class Notice to the most current address obtained. The Administrator has no obligation to make further attempts to locate or send Class Notice to Class Members whose Class Notice is returned by the USPS a second time.

The deadlines for Class Members' written objections, Challenges to Workweeks and/or Pay Periods, and Requests for Exclusion will be extended an additional 14 days beyond the 45 days otherwise provided in the Class Notice for all Class Members whose notice is re-mailed. The Administrator will inform the Class Member of the extended deadline with the re-mailed Class Notice. If the Administrator, Defendant or Class Counsel is contacted by or otherwise discovers any persons who believe they should have been included in the Class Data and should have received Class Notice, the Parties will expeditiously meet and confer in person or by telephone, and in good faith. In an effort to agree on whether to include them as Class Members. If the Parties agree, such persons will be Class Members entitled to the same rights as other Class Members, and the Administrator will send, via email or overnight delivery, a Class Notice requiring them to exercise options under this Agreement not later than 14 days after receipt of Class Notice, or the deadline dates in the Class Notice, which ever are later.

6.5 Requests for Exclusion (Opt-Outs).

- 6.5.1 Class Members who wish to exclude themselves (opt-out of) the Class Settlement must send the Administrator, by fax, email, or mail, a signed written Request for Exclusion not later than 45 days after the Administrator mails the Class Notice (plus an additional 14 days for Class Members whose Class Notice is re-mailed). A Request for Exclusion is a letter from a Class Member or his/her representative that reasonably communicates the Class Member's election to be excluded from the Settlement and includes the Class Member's name, address and email address or telephone number. To be valid, a Request for Exclusion must be timely faxed, emailed, or postmarked by the Response Deadline.
- 6.5.2 The Administrator may not reject a Request for Exclusion as invalid because it fails to contain all the information specified in the Class Notice. The Administrator shall accept any Request for Exclusion as valid if the Administrator can reasonably ascertain the identity of the person as a Class Member and the Class Member's desire to be excluded. The Administrator's determination shall be final and not appealable or otherwise susceptible to challenge. If the Administrator has reason to question the authenticity of a Request for Exclusion, the Administrator may demand additional proof of the Class Member's identity. The Administrator's determination of authenticity shall be final and not appealable or otherwise susceptible to challenge.
- 6.5.3 Every Class Member who does not submit a timely and valid Request for Exclusion is deemed to be a Participating Class Member under this Agreement, entitled to all benefits and bound by all terms and conditions of the Settlement, including the Participating Class Members' Releases under Paragraphs 5.2 and 6.3 of this Agreement, regardless whether the Participating Class Member actually receives the Class Notice or objects to the Settlement.

6.5.4 Every Class Member who submits a valid and timely Request for Exclusion is a Non-Participating Class Member and shall not receive an Individual Class Payment or have the right to object to the class action components of the Settlement. Because future PAGA claims are subject to claim preclusion upon entry of the Judgment, Non-Participating Class Members who are PAGA Employees are deemed to release the claims identified in Paragraph 5.4 of this Agreement and are eligible for an Individual PAGA Payment.

6.6 Challenges to Calculation of Workweeks. Each Class Member shall have 45 days after the Administrator mails the Class Notice (plus an additional 14 days for Class Members whose Class Notice is re-mailed) to challenge the number of Class Workweeks and PAGA Pay Periods (if any) allocated to the Class Member in the Class Notice. The Class Member may challenge the allocation by communicating with the Administrator via fax, email or mail. The Administrator must encourage the challenging Class Member to submit supporting documentation. In the absence of any contrary documentation, the Administrator is entitled to presume that the Workweeks contained in the Class Notice are correct so long as they are consistent with the Class Data. The Administrator's determination of each Class Member's allocation of Workweeks and/or Pay Periods shall be final and not appealable or otherwise susceptible to challenge. The Administrator shall promptly provide copies of all challenges to calculation of Workweeks and/or Pay Periods to Defense Counsel and Class Counsel and the Administrator's determination the challenges.

6.7 Objections to Settlement.

6.7.1 Only Participating Class Members may object to the class action components of the Settlement and/or this Agreement, including contesting the fairness of the Settlement, and/or amounts requested for the Class Counsel Fees Payment, Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment and/or Class Representative Service Payment.

6.7.2 Participating Class Members may send written objections to the Administrator, by fax, email, or mail. In the alternative, Participating Class Members may appear in Court (or hire an attorney to appear in Court) to present verbal objections at the Final Approval Hearing. A Participating Class Member who elects to send a written objection to the Administrator must do so not later than 45 days after the Administrator's mailing of the Class Notice (plus an additional 14 days for Class Members whose Class Notice was re-mailed).

6.7.3 Non-Participating Class Members have no right to object to any of the class action components of the Settlement.

6.8 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.

- 6.8.1 Website, Email Address and Toll-Free Number. The Administrator will establish and maintain and use an internet website to post information of interest to Class Members including the date, time and location for the Final Approval Hearing and copies of the Settlement Agreement, Motion for Preliminary Approval, the Preliminary Approval, the Class Notice, the Motion for Final Approval, the Motion for Class Counsel Fees Payment, Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment and Class Representative Service Payments, the Final Approval and the Judgment. The Administrator will also maintain and monitor an email address and a toll-free telephone number to receive Class Member calls, faxes and emails.
- 6.8.2 Requests for Exclusion (Opt-outs) and Exclusion List. The Administrator will promptly review on a rolling basis Requests for Exclusion to ascertain their validity. Not later than 5 days after the expiration of the deadline for submitting Requests for Exclusion, the Administrator shall email a list to Class Counsel and Defense Counsel containing (a) the names and other identifying information of Class Members who have timely submitted valid Requests for Exclusion (“Exclusion List”); (b) the names and other identifying information of Class Members who have submitted invalid Requests for Exclusion; (c) copies of all Requests for Exclusion from Settlement submitted (whether valid or invalid).
- 6.8.3 Weekly Reports. The Administrator must, on a weekly basis, provide written reports to Class Counsel and Defense Counsel that, among other things, tally the number of: Class Notices mailed or re-mailed, Class Notices returned undelivered, Requests for Exclusion (whether valid or invalid) received, objections received, challenges to Workweeks and/or Pay Periods received and/or resolved, and checks mailed for Individual Class Payments and Individual PAGA Payments (“Weekly Report”). The Weekly Reports must include provide the Administrator’s assessment of the validity of Requests for Exclusion and attach copies of all Requests for Exclusion and objections received.
- 6.8.4 Workweek and/or Pay Period Challenges. The Administrator has the authority to address and make final decisions consistent with the terms of this Agreement on all Class Member challenges over the calculation of Workweeks and/or Pay Periods. The Administrator’s decision shall be final and not appealable or otherwise susceptible to challenge.
- 6.8.5 Administrator’s Declaration. Not later than 2 days before the date by which Plaintiffs are required to file the Motion for Final Approval of the Settlement, the Administrator will provide to Class Counsel and Defense Counsel, a signed declaration suitable for filing in Court attesting to its due diligence and compliance with all of its obligations under this Agreement, including, but not limited to, its mailing of Class Notice, the Class Notices returned as undelivered, the re-mailing of Class Notices, attempts to locate Class Members, the total number of Requests for Exclusion from Settlement it received (both valid or invalid), the number of written objections and attach the Exclusion List. The Administrator will supplement its declaration as needed or requested by the

Parties and/or the Court. Class Counsel is responsible for filing the Administrator's declaration(s) in Court.

6.8.6 Final Report by Settlement Administrator. Within 10 days after the Administrator disburses all funds in the Total Settlement Amount, the Administrator will provide Class Counsel and Defense Counsel with a final report detailing its disbursements by employee identification number only of all payments made under this Agreement. At least 15 days before any deadline set by the Court, the Administrator will prepare, and submit to Class Counsel and Defense Counsel, a signed declaration suitable for filing in Court attesting to its disbursement of all payments required under this Agreement. Class Counsel is responsible for filing the Administrator's declaration in Court.

7. **CLASS SIZE ESTIMATES and ESCALATOR CLAUSE** Based on its records, Defendant estimates that, as of the date of this Settlement Agreement, there are 1,061 Class Members who worked 27,431 total workweeks from July 19, 2018 to June 22, 2023. If total number of workweeks through preliminary approval of the Settlement exceeds this estimate by more than 10%, Defendant shall have the option to either (1) have the Released Claims be released up to the date when there were no more than 30,174 workweeks or (2) increase the Total Settlement Amount on a pro-rata basis equal to the percentage increase in the number of workweeks worked by Class Members above 30,174.
8. **DEFENDANT'S RIGHT TO WITHDRAW.** If the number of valid Requests for Exclusion identified in the Exclusion List exceeds 10% of the total of all Class Members, Defendant may, but is not obligated, elect to withdraw from the Settlement. The Parties agree that, if Defendant withdraws, the Settlement shall be void ab initio, have no force or effect whatsoever, and that neither Party will have any further obligation to perform under this Agreement; provided, however, Defendant will remain responsible for paying all Settlement Administration Expenses incurred to that point. Defendant must notify Class Counsel and the Court of its election to withdraw not later than seven days after the Administrator sends the final Exclusion List to Defense Counsel; late elections will have no effect.
9. **MOTION FOR FINAL APPROVAL.** Not later than 16 court days before the calendared Final Approval Hearing, Plaintiffs will file in Court, a motion for final approval of the Settlement that includes a request for approval of the PAGA settlement under Labor Code section 2699, subd. (l), a Proposed Final Approval Order and a proposed Judgment (collectively "Motion for Final Approval"). Plaintiffs shall provide drafts of these documents to Defense Counsel not later than seven days prior to filing the Motion for Final Approval. Class Counsel and Defense Counsel will expeditiously meet and confer in person or by telephone, and in good faith, to resolve any disagreements concerning the Motion for Final Approval.
- 9.1 Response to Objections. Each Party retains the right to respond to any objection raised by a Participating Class Member, including the right to file responsive documents in Court no later than five court days prior to the Final Approval Hearing, or as otherwise ordered or accepted by the Court.

9.2 Duty to Cooperate. If the Court does not grant Final Approval or conditions Final Approval on any material change to the Settlement (including, but not limited to, the scope of release to be granted by Class Members), the Parties will expeditiously work together in good faith to address the Court's concerns by revising the Agreement as necessary to obtain Final Approval. The Court's decision to award less than the amounts requested for the Class Representative Service Payments, Class Counsel Fees Payment, Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment and/or Administrator Expenses Payment shall not constitute a material modification to the Agreement within the meaning of this paragraph.

9.3 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.

9.4 Waiver of Right to Appeal. Provided the Judgment is consistent with the terms and conditions of this Agreement, specifically including the Class Counsel Fees Payment and Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment reflected set forth in this Settlement, otherwise Class Counsel reserve the right to appeal a reduction to the Class Counsel Fees Payment, the Parties, their respective counsel, and all Participating Class Members who did not object to the Settlement as provided in this Agreement, 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 an objector 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, except as to matters that do not affect the amount of the Net Settlement Amount.

9.5 Appellate Court Orders to Vacate, Reverse, or Materially Modify Judgment. If the reviewing Court vacates, reverses, or modifies the Judgment in a manner that requires a material modification of this Agreement (including, but not limited to, the scope of release to be granted by Class Members), this Agreement shall be null and void. The Parties shall nevertheless expeditiously work together in good faith to address the appellate court's concerns. An appellate decision to vacate, reverse, or modify the Court's award of the Class Representative Service Payment or any payments to Class Counsel shall not constitute a material modification of the Judgment within the meaning of this paragraph, as long as the Total Settlement Amount remains unchanged.

AMENDED JUDGMENT. If any amended judgment is required under Code of Civil Procedure section 384, the Parties will work together in good faith to jointly submit and a proposed amended judgment.

10. **ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS**.

10.1 No Admission of Liability, Class Certification 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 Defendant that any of the allegations in the Operative Complaint have merit or that Defendant has any liability for any claims asserted; nor should it be intended or construed as an admission by Plaintiffs that Defendant's defenses in the Action have merit. The Parties agree that class certification and representative treatment is for purposes of this Settlement only. If, for any reason the Court does grant Preliminary Approval, Final Approval or enter Judgment, Defendant reserves the right to contest certification of any class for any reasons, and Defendant reserves all available defenses to the claims in the Action, and Plaintiffs reserve the right to move for class certification on any grounds available and to contest Defendant's 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 Confidentiality Prior to Preliminary Approval. Plaintiffs, Class Counsel, Defendant and Defense Counsel separately agree that, until the Motion for Preliminary Approval of Settlement is filed, they and each of them will not disclose, disseminate and/or publicize, or cause or permit another person to disclose, disseminate or publicize, any of the terms of the Agreement directly or indirectly, specifically or generally, to any person, corporation, association, government agency, or other entity except: (1) to the Parties' attorneys, accountants, or spouses, all of whom will be instructed to keep this Agreement confidential; (2) counsel in a related matter; (3) to the extent necessary to report income to appropriate taxing authorities; (4) in response to a court order or subpoena; or (5) in response to an inquiry or subpoena issued by a state or federal government agency. Each Party agrees to immediately notify each other Party of any judicial or agency order, inquiry, or subpoena seeking such information. Plaintiffs, Class Counsel, Defendant and Defense Counsel separately agree not to, directly or indirectly, initiate any conversation or other communication, before the filing of the Motion for Preliminary Approval, any with third party regarding this Agreement or the matters giving rise to this Agreement except to respond only that "the matter was resolved," or words to that effect. This paragraph does not restrict Class Counsel's communications with Class Members in accordance with Class Counsel's ethical obligations owed to Class Members.

10.3 No Solicitation. The Parties separately agree that they and their respective counsel and employees will not solicit any Class Member to opt out of or object to the Settlement, or appeal from the Judgment. Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to restrict Class Counsel's ability to communicate with Class Members in accordance with Class Counsel's ethical obligations owed to Class Members.

10.4 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.

- 10.5 Attorney Authorization. Class Counsel and Defense Counsel separately warrant and represent that they are authorized by Plaintiffs and Defendant, 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.
- 10.6 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.
- 10.7 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.
- 10.8 No Tax Advice. Neither Plaintiffs, Class Counsel, Defendant 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.
- 10.9 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.
- 10.10 Agreement Binding on Successors. This Agreement will be binding upon, and inure to the benefit of, the successors of each of the Parties.
- 10.11 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.

- 10.12 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.
- 10.13 Confidentiality. To the extent permitted by law, all agreements made, and orders entered during Action and in this Agreement relating to the confidentiality of information shall survive the execution of this Agreement.
- 10.14 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.
- 10.15 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 court day thereafter.
- 10.16 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 Plaintiffs:
David Yeremian
David@yeremianlaw.com
David Yeremian & Associates, Inc.
880 E. Broadway
Glendale, CA 91205
(818) 962-6465

Emil Davtyan
Emil@d.law
Roman Shkodnik
r.shkodnik@d.law
D.Law, Inc.
880 E. Broadway
Glendale, CA 91205
(818) 962-6465

Orlando Villalba
Orlando.Villalba@capstonelawyers.com
Helga Hakimi
Helga.Hakimi@capstonelawyers.com
Roxanna Tabatabaeepour

Roxanna.Taba@capstonelawyers.com
Capstone Law APC
1875 Century Park East, Suite 1000
Los Angeles, CA 90067
(310) 556-4811

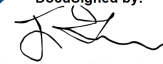
To Defendant:
Angela Rafter
arafoth@littler.com
Robert Geiger
rgeiger@littler.com
LITTLER MENDELSON, P.C.
333 Bush St., 34th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94104

10.17 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.

10.18 Stay of Litigation. The Parties agree that upon the execution of this Agreement the litigation shall be stayed, except to effectuate the terms of this Agreement. The Parties further agree that upon the signing of this Agreement that pursuant to CCP section 583.330 to extend the date to bring a case to trial under CCP section 583.310 for the entire period of this settlement process.

PLAINTIFFS:

Dated: 1/4/2024

DocuSigned by:

9E37D46B803044D...

Jason Gutierrez

Dated: 1/4/2024

DocuSigned by:

FE782318DA91411...

Louie Ylitz

DEFENDANT:

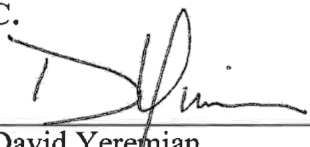
Dated: 01-03-2024

AgTac Services, LLC

By: 

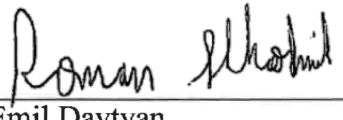
DAVID YEREMIAN & ASSOCIATES, INC.

Dated: January 16, 2024

By: 
David Yeremian
ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFF

D.LAW, INC.

Dated: January 16, 2024

By: 
Emil Davtyan
Roman Shkodnik
ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFF

CAPSTONE LAW APC

Dated: January 16, 2024

By: 
Orlando Villalba
Helga Hakimi
Roxanna Tabatabaeepour
ATTORNEYS FOR DEFENDANT

LITTLER MENDELSON, P.C.

Dated: January 3, 2024

By: 
Angela Rafoth
Robert Geiger
ATTORNEYS FOR DEFENDANT

Jason Gutierrez & Louis Yliz v. AgTac Services, LLC, No. STK-CV-UOE-2022-0006123
Superior Court of the State of California, FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN JOAQUIN
Notice of Class Action Settlement

You are not being sued. This notice affects your rights. Please read it carefully

To: All current and former hourly-paid or non-exempt employees employed by Defendant AgTac Services, LLC (“Defendant”) within the State of California at any time during the period from July 19, 2018 through June 22, 2023 (“Class Members”).

All current and former hourly-paid or non-exempt employees employed by Defendant within the State of California at any time during the period from July 19, 2021 through June 22, 2023 (“PAGA Employees”).

On _____, the Honorable Jayne Lee of the San Joaquin County Superior Court granted preliminary approval of this class action settlement and ordered the litigants to notify all Class Members of the settlement. **You have received this notice because Defendant’s records indicate that you are a Class Member, and therefore entitled to a payment from the settlement.**

Unless you choose to opt out of the settlement by following the procedures described below, you will be deemed a Class Member and, if the Court grants final approval of the settlement, you will be mailed a check for your share of the settlement fund. The Final Fairness Hearing on the adequacy, reasonableness, and fairness of the Settlement will be held at :00 .m. on _____, 2024 in Department 10-C of the San Joaquin County Superior Court located at 180 E Weber Avenue, Stockton, California 95202.

Please also note that the Final Fairness Hearing may be rescheduled by the Court to another date and/or time. Please visit [settlement website] for any scheduling changes.

If you move, you must send the Settlement Administrator your new address; otherwise, you may never receive your settlement payment. It is your responsibility to keep a current address on file with the Settlement Administrator.

SUMMARY OF YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS AND OPTIONS IN THIS SETTLEMENT

You Don’t Have to Do Anything to Participate in the Settlement	If you do nothing, you will be deemed a “Participating Class Member,” and will be eligible for a payment from the Net Settlement Fund and, if you are also a PAGA Employee, the PAGA Fund. In exchange, you will be bound by the terms of the proposed Settlement and give up your right to assert wage and hour claims against Defendant based on the facts alleged in the Action during the Class Period.
You Can Opt-out of the Class Settlement	If you don’t want to fully participate in the proposed Settlement, you can opt-out of the class settlement by sending the Settlement Administrator a written Request for Exclusion. Once excluded, you

but not the PAGA Settlement The Opt-out Deadline is [DATE]	will no longer be eligible for a payment from the Net Settlement Fund and will not be bound by the terms of the proposed class settlement. You cannot opt-out of the PAGA portion of the proposed Settlement. PAGA Employees remain eligible to receive a payment from the PAGA Fund and must give up their rights to pursue PAGA penalty claims against Defendants based on the facts alleged in the Action during the PAGA Period.
Participating Class Members Can Object to the Class Settlement but not the PAGA Settlement Written Objections Must be Submitted by [DATE]	All Class Members who do not opt-out (“Participating Class Members”) can object to any aspect of the proposed class settlement, but not the PAGA settlement.
You Can Participate in the [DATE] Final Approval Hearing	The Court’s Final Approval Hearing is scheduled to take place on [DATE] in Department 10-C of the San Joaquin County Superior Court located at 180 E Weber Avenue, Stockton, California 95202. You don’t have to attend but you do have the right to appear (or hire an attorney to appear on your behalf at your own cost), in person, by telephone or by using the Court’s virtual appearance platform. Participating Class Members can verbally object to the Settlement at the Final Approval Hearing. If the Court grants final approval of the Settlement despite your objection, you will receive a payment from the Net Settlement Fund and you will be bound by the terms of the Settlement.

Summary of the Litigation

Plaintiffs Jason Gutierrez and Louie Yliz, on their behalf and on behalf of other current and former non-exempt employees, allege that Defendant violated California state labor laws as a result of its alleged failure to, among other things: (1) pay minimum and overtime wages to employees for all hours worked; (2) provide employees with meal and rest breaks; (3) timely pay all wages owed to employees during each pay period and upon termination of their employment; (4) pay reporting time pay; (5) pay split-shift pay; and (6) provide employees with accurate, itemized wage statements.

After the exchange of relevant information and evidence, the parties agreed to enter into settlement negotiations in an attempt to informally resolve the claims in the case. On July 11, 2023, the parties participated in a mediation with Lisa Klerman, Esq., an experienced and well-respected class action mediator. With Ms. Klerman’s guidance, the parties were able to negotiate a complete settlement of Plaintiffs’ claims.

Counsel for Plaintiffs, and the attorneys appointed by the Court to represent the class, David Yeremian & Associates, Inc., D.Law, Inc., and Capstone Law APC (collectively “Class Counsel”), have investigated and researched the facts and circumstances underlying the issues raised in the case and the

applicable law. While Class Counsel believe that the claims alleged in this lawsuit have merit, Class Counsel also recognize that the risk and expense of continued litigation justify settlement. Based on the foregoing, Class Counsel believe the proposed settlement is fair, adequate, reasonable, and in the best interests of Class Members.

1. Defendant has denied, and continues to deny the factual and legal allegations in the case and believes that it has valid defenses to Plaintiffs' claims. By agreeing to settle, Defendant is not admitting liability on any of the factual allegations or claims in the case or that the case can or should proceed as a class action. Defendant has agreed to settle the case as part of a compromise with Plaintiffs.

Summary of The Proposed Settlement Terms

Plaintiffs and Defendant have agreed to settle the underlying class claims in exchange for a Gross Settlement of \$880,000. This amount is inclusive of: (1) individual settlement payments to all Participating Class Members; (2) Class Representative Enhancement Awards of \$10,000, each, to Jason Gutierrez and Louie Yliz for their services on behalf of the class, and for a release of all claims arising out of their employment with Defendant; (3) \$293,333 in attorneys' fees and up to \$30,000 in litigation costs and expenses; (4) a \$50,000 settlement of claims under the Labor Code Private Attorneys General Act of 2004 ("PAGA"), inclusive of a \$37,500 payment to the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency ("LWDA") in connection with the PAGA, and a \$12,500 payment ("PAGA Fund") to all PAGA Employees; and (5) reasonable Settlement Administrator's fees and expenses currently estimated at \$12,550. After deducting the above payments, a total of approximately \$486,617 will be allocated to Class Members who do not opt out of the Settlement Class ("Net Settlement Fund"). Additionally, all PAGA Employees will receive a proportional share of the \$12,500 PAGA Fund, regardless whether they opt out of the Settlement Class.

Payments from Net Settlement Fund. Defendant will calculate the total number of Workweeks worked by each Class Member from July 19, 2018 through June 22, 2023 ("Class Period") and the aggregate total number of Workweeks worked by all Class Members during the Class Period. To determine each Class Member's estimated share of the Net Settlement Fund, the Settlement Administrator will use the following formula: The Net Settlement Fund will be divided by the aggregate total number of Workweeks, resulting in the "Workweek Value." Each Class Member's share of the Net Settlement Fund will be calculated by multiplying each individual Class Member's total number of Workweeks by the Workweek Value. The Individual Settlement Payment will be reduced by any required deductions for each Class Members as specifically set forth herein, including employee-side tax withholdings or deductions. If there are any valid and timely Requests for Exclusion, the Settlement Administrator shall proportionately increase each Participating Class Member's share of the Net Settlement Fund according to the number of Workweeks worked, so that the amount actually distributed to the Settlement Class equals 100% of the Net Settlement Fund.

According to Defendant's records, you worked during the Class Period in a non-exempt position for a total of ____ Workweeks. Accordingly, your estimated payment from the Net Settlement Fund is approximately \$ ____.

Payments from PAGA Fund. Defendant will calculate the total number of Pay Periods worked by each PAGA Employee from July 19, 2021 through June 22, 2023 ("PAGA Period") and the aggregate total number of Pay Periods worked by all PAGA Employees during the PAGA Period. To determine each

PAGA Employee's estimated share of the PAGA Fund, the Settlement Administrator will use the following formula: The PAGA Fund will be divided by the aggregate total number of Pay Periods, resulting in the "PAGA Workweek Value." Each PAGA Employee's share of the PAGA Fund will be calculated by multiplying each individual PAGA Employee's total number of Pay Periods by the PAGA Workweek Value. A Request for Exclusion does not exclude a PAGA Employee from the release of claims under California Labor Code §§ 2698, *et seq.* and the PAGA Employee will receive their portion of the PAGA fund even if he or she submits a valid Request for Exclusion.

According to Defendant's records, you worked during the PAGA Period in a non-exempt position for a total of ____ Workweeks. Accordingly, your estimated payment from the PAGA Fund is approximately \$ ____.

Your Estimated Payment: Based on the above, your estimated payment from the settlement is approximately \$ _____. If you believe the Workweek information provided above is incorrect, please contact the Settlement Administrator to dispute the calculation. You must attach all documentation in support of your dispute (such as check stubs, W2s, or letters from HR). All disputes must be postmarked or faxed on or before [insert date of Response Deadline] and must be sent to:

Settlement Administrator
c/o _____
Fax No. _____

If you dispute the information stated above, Defendant's records will control unless you are able to provide documentation that establishes otherwise.

Taxes on Settlement Payments. IRS Forms W-2 and 1099 will be distributed to participating Class Members and the appropriate taxing authorities reflecting the payments they receive under the settlement. Class Members should consult their tax advisors concerning the tax consequences of the payments they receive under the Settlement. For purposes of this settlement, 20% of each settlement payment will be allocated as wages for which IRS Forms W-2 will be issued, and 80% will be allocated as non-wages for which IRS Forms 1099-MISC will be issued. Payments from the PAGA Fund will be treated as penalties for which IRS Forms 1099-MISC will be issued.

Your Options Under the Settlement

Option 1 – Automatically Receive a Payment from the Settlement

If want to receive your payment from the settlement, then no further action is required on your part. You will automatically receive your settlement payment from the Settlement Administrator if and when the Settlement receives final approval by the Court.

If you choose **Option 1**, and if the Court grants final approval of the settlement, you will be mailed a check for your share of the settlement funds. In addition, you will be deemed to have released or waived the Released Class Claims, and if you are also a PAGA Member, the Released PAGA Claims:

Released Class Claims: All claims for: (1) failure to pay minimum and regular rate wages; (2) failure to pay overtime compensation; (3) recovery of reporting time pay; (4) failure to pay split-shift; (5) failure to provide meal periods or provide premiums in lieu

thereof; (6) failure to provide rest periods or provide premiums in lieu thereof; (7) failure to pay timely wages at termination; (8) failure to provide accurate itemized wage statements; (9) failure to keep required payroll records; and (10) violation of Business and Professions Code §§ 17200, *et seq.* based on the preceding claims; (11) other relief from contractual releases, and those claims predicated on the same or similar facts and/or claims alleged in the Action; as well as any claims that reasonably could have been pled which reasonably arise from the same or similar facts alleged in the Action concerning the Plaintiffs or the putative class, and claims for interest, penalties (including but not limited to waiting time penalties); as well as any claims under the California Labor Code and California Industrial Welfare Commission Wage Orders (specifically for violations of California Labor Code sections 201, 202, 203, 204, 210, 218.5, 218.6, 226, 226.3, 226.4, 226.7, 510, 512, 558, 558.1, 1174, 1174.5, 1182.12, 1185, 1194, 1194.2, 1197, 1198, 1199, 2698, 2699, *et seq.*, and 2802, and applicable IWC Wage Orders, and California Code of Regulations, Title 8, section 11000 *et seq.*; or which could have been alleged under the same or similar facts, allegations and/or claims pleaded in the Action; (12) any claims for injunctive relief, declaratory relief, restitution, alleged or which could reasonably have been alleged under the facts, allegations and/or claims pleaded in the complaints filed as part of the Action; (13) any and all other claims under California common law, the federal law, and the California Business and Professions Code alleged in or that could reasonably have been alleged under the same or similar facts, allegations and/or claims pleaded in the Action and based on the alleged Labor Code violations (collectively, the “Released Class Claims”). This release shall apply to claims arising during the Class Period. Participating Class Members do not release any other claims, including claims for vested benefits, wrongful termination, violation of the Fair Employment and Housing Act, unemployment insurance, disability, social security, workers’ compensation, or claims based on facts occurring outside the Class Period.

Released PAGA Claims: All claims for civil penalties under the California Private Attorneys General Act of 2004 (Labor Code §§ 2698, *et seq.*) that are set forth in the Action or which could reasonably have been asserted, predicated on the same or similar facts alleged in the Action and/or any PAGA letter sent to the L WDA by Plaintiffs in or prior to the Action for violations of California Labor Code sections 201, 202, 203, 204, 210, 218.5, 218.6, 226, 226.3, 226.4, 226.7, 510, 512, 558, 558.1, 1174, 1174.5, 1182.12, 1185, 1194, 1194.2, 1197, 1198, 1199, 2698, 2699, *et seq.*, and 2802, and applicable IWC Wage Orders.

Option 2 – Opt Out of the Settlement

If you do not wish to participate in the settlement, you may exclude yourself from participating by submitting a written request to the Settlement Administrator expressly and clearly indicating that you have received this Notice of Class Action Settlement, decided not to participate in the settlement, and desire to be excluded from the settlement. The written request for exclusion must include your name, signature, address, telephone number, and last four digits of your Social Security Number. Sign, date, and mail the request for exclusion by First Class U.S. Mail or equivalent, to the address below.

Settlement Administrator
c/o _____

The Request for Exclusion must be postmarked or faxed not later than _____, 2024. If you submit a Request for Exclusion which is not postmarked or faxed by _____, 2024, your Request for Exclusion will be rejected, and you will be included in the settlement class.

If you choose **Option 2**, you will no longer be a Class Member, and you will:

- Not Receive a Payment from the Net Settlement Fund.
- Not release the Released Class Claims.
- If you are a PAGA Employee, you will still release the Released PAGA Claims, and will receive a payment from the PAGA Fund.

Option 3 – Object to the Settlement

If you decide to object to the settlement because you find it unfair or unreasonable, you may submit a written objection stating why you object to the settlement, or you may instead appear at the Final Fairness Hearing to object to the Settlement. Written objections must provide: (1) your full name, signature, address, and telephone number, (2) a written statement of all grounds for the objection accompanied by any legal support for such objection; (3) copies of any papers, briefs, or other documents upon which the objection is based; and (4) a statement about whether you intend to appear at the Fairness Hearing. The objection must be mailed to the administrator at [administrator's address].

All written objections must be received by the administrator by not later than _____ 2024. By submitting an objection, you are not excluding yourself from the settlement. To exclude yourself from the settlement, you must follow the directions described above. Please note that you cannot both object to the settlement and exclude yourself. You must choose one option only.

You may also, if you wish, appear at the Final Fairness Hearing set for _____ at _____ a.m./p.m. in the Superior Court of the State of California, for the County of San Joaquin and discuss your objection with the Court and the Parties at your own expense. You may also retain an attorney to represent you at the hearing.

If you choose **Option 3**, you will still be entitled to the money from the settlement. If the Court overrules your objection, you will be deemed to have released the Released Class Claims and Released PAGA Claims.

Additional Information

This Notice of Class Action Settlement is only a summary of the case and the settlement. For a more detailed statement of the matters involved in the case and the settlement, you may refer to the pleadings, the settlement agreement, and other papers filed in the case. All inquiries by Class Members regarding this Class Notice and/or the settlement should be directed to the Settlement Administrator or Class Counsel.

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PLEASE DO NOT CONTACT THE CLERK OF THE COURT, THE JUDGE, DEFENDANT'S ATTORNEYS WITH INQUIRIES.