

PAGA SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

This PAGA Settlement Agreement (“Agreement”) is made by and between plaintiff Richard Reyes (“Plaintiff”) and defendant Next Green Wave, LLC (“Defendant”). The Agreement refers to Plaintiff and Defendant collectively as “Parties,” or individually as “Party.”

1. DEFINITIONS.

- 1.1. “Action” means the Plaintiff’s PAGA lawsuit alleging wage and hour violations against Defendant captioned *Reyes v. Next Green Wave, LLC*, initiated on August 12, 2022, and pending in the Superior Court of California, County of Fresno with Case No. 22CECG02474.
- 1.2. “Administrator” means Phoenix Settlement Administrators, 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 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 a person employed by Defendant as a non-exempt employee in California at any time during the PAGA Period.
- 1.5. “Aggrieved Employee Data” means Aggrieved Employee identifying information in Defendant’s 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. “Approval Order” means the Court’s Order granting approval of this Agreement.
- 1.8. “Court” means the Superior Court of California, County of Fresno.
- 1.9. “Defendant” means Next Green Wave, LLC, the named defendant in the Action.
- 1.1. “Defense Counsel” means James A. McFaul, Kevin Desantis, and Katherine E. Clarke of DUNN DESANTIS WALT & KENDRICK, LLP.
- 1.2. “Effective Date” means the date the Court enters judgment.
- 1.3. “Gross Settlement Amount” means \$350,000.00 which is the total amount Defendant

agrees 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, Service Payment, PAGA Counsel Fees Payment, PAGA Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment, and the Administrator's Expenses Payment.

- 1.4. "Individual PAGA Payment" means the Aggrieved Employee's pro rata share of 25% of the PAGA Penalties calculated according to the number of Pay Periods the Aggrieved Employee worked during the PAGA Period.
- 1.1. "Individual Settlement Payment" means the amount paid to Plaintiff in exchange for a settlement of his individual claims as provided for in a separately executed Individual Settlement Agreement. The Individual Settlement Payment is in addition to Plaintiff's share of the Gross Settlement Amount as an Aggrieved Employee.
- 1.5. "Judgment" means the judgment entered by the Court based upon the Approval Order.
- 1.6. "LWDA" means the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency, the agency entitled, under Labor Code section 2699, subd. (i).
- 1.7. "LWDA PAGA Payment" means the 75% of the PAGA Penalties paid to the LWDA under Labor Code section 2699, subd. (i).
- 1.8. "Net Settlement Amount" means the Gross Settlement Amount, less the following payments in the amounts approved by the Court: the Service Payment, PAGA Counsel Fees Payment, PAGA Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment, and the Administration Expenses Payment.
- 1.9. "PAGA Counsel" means Samuel Wong, Kashif Haque, Jessica Campbell, and Kristy R. Connolly of Aegis Law Firm, PC, the attorneys representing the Plaintiff in the Action.
- 1.10. "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.
- 1.11. "PAGA Pay Period" means any pay period during which an Aggrieved Employee worked for Defendant for at least one day during the PAGA Period.
- 1.12. "PAGA Period" means the period from August 12, 2021 through January 27, 2025.
- 1.13. "PAGA" means the Private Attorneys General Act (Labor Code §§ 2698. et seq.).
- 1.14. "PAGA Notice" means Plaintiff's August 12, 2022 letter to Defendant and the LWDA providing notice pursuant to Labor Code section 2699.3, subd.(a).
- 1.15. "PAGA Penalties" means the total amount of civil penalties to be paid from

the Net Settlement Amount, allocated 25% to the Aggrieved Employees and 75% to the LWDA in settlement of the PAGA claims.

- 1.16. “Plaintiff” means Richard Reyes, the named plaintiff in the Action.
- 1.17. “Released PAGA Claims” means the claims being released by Plaintiff on behalf of the State of California and Aggrieved Employees as described in Paragraph 5.2 below.
- 1.18. “Released Parties” means Defendant and its former, future and present directors, officers, shareholders, partners, employees, contractors, members, owners, attorneys, insurers, predecessors, successors, assigns, subsidiaries, contractors, managing agents, affiliates, and any and all agents, legal representatives and/or attorneys.
- 1.19. “Settlement” means the disposition of the Action effected by this Agreement and the Judgment.
- 1.20. “Service Award” means the payment to Plaintiff for initiating the Action and providing services in support of the Action.

2. RECITALS.

- 2.1. On August 12, 2022, Plaintiff commenced this Action by filing a Complaint alleging causes of action against Defendant for failure to pay minimum wages; failure to pay overtime wages; failure to provide meal periods; failure to permit rest breaks; failure to reimburse business expenses; failure to provide accurate itemized wage statements; failure to pay wages timely during employment; failure to pay all wages due upon separation of employment; and violation of Business and Professions Code §§ 17200, et seq. On November 30, 2022, Plaintiff filed a First Amended Complaint to add a cause of action against Defendant for Enforcement of Labor Code § 2698 et seq. (PAGA). The First Amended Complaint is the operative complaint in the Action (the “Operative Complaint.”). Due to the presence of an arbitration agreement that contained a class action waiver, on October 25, 2023, the Court dismissed Plaintiff’s putative class claims, compelled his individual claims to arbitration, and stayed the representative PAGA claim.
- 2.2. 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.
- 2.3. Pursuant to Labor Code section 2699.3, subd.(a), Plaintiff gave timely written notice to Defendant and the LWDA by sending the PAGA Notice.
- 2.4. On January 27, 2025, the Parties participated in an all-day mediation presided over by Jill Sperber which led to this Agreement to settle the Action.

- 2.5. Prior to mediation Plaintiff obtained, through informal discovery, Plaintiff's personnel file, relevant wage and hour policies, and a sample of aggrieved employees' time and pay records.
- 2.6. This Settlement Agreement is contingent upon the execution of the Individual Settlement Agreement, the Court's approval of this Settlement Agreement and dismissal of the Action in its entirety.
- 2.7. The Parties, PAGA 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.
- 2.8. In addition to the Gross Settlement Amount, Defendants have agreed to separately settle Plaintiff's individual claims pursuant to a separate confidential Individual Settlement Agreement ("Individual Settlement"). Plaintiff's Individual Settlement Agreement is contingent upon approval of this Agreement.

3. MONETARY TERMS.

- 3.1. Gross Settlement Amount. Except as otherwise provided by Paragraph 8 below, Defendant promises to pay \$350,000.00 and no more as the Gross Settlement Amount. Defendant has 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 Defendant.
- 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 Final Approval:
 - 3.2.1. 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 \$116,666.67 and PAGA Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment of not more than \$25,000. Defendant will not oppose requests for Court approval of these payments provided that they do not exceed these amounts. Plaintiff and/or PAGA Counsel will file an application or motion for 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. Released Parties shall have no liability to PAGA Counsel or any other Plaintiff's Counsel arising from any claim to any portion 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 Defendant harmless, and indemnifies Defendant, from any dispute or controversy regarding any division or sharing of any of these Payments.

- 3.2.2. To Plaintiff: A Service Award to Plaintiff in the amount of \$2,500.00, in addition to any Individual PAGA Payment Plaintiff is entitled to receive as an Aggrieved Employee. The Administrator will pay the Service Award using IRS Form 1099. Plaintiff assumes full responsibility and liability for employee taxes owed on the Service Award.
- 3.2.3. To the Administrator: An Administrator Expenses Payment not to exceed \$3,250.00 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 \$3,250.00, the Administrator will retain the remainder in the Net Settlement Amount.
- 3.2.4. To the LWDA and Aggrieved Employees: PAGA Penalties will be paid from the Net Settlement Amount, with 75% allocated to the LWDA PAGA Payment and 25% allocated to the Individual PAGA Payments.
 - 3.2.4.1. The Administrator will calculate each Individual PAGA Payment by (a) dividing the amount of the Aggrieved Employees' 25% share of PAGA Penalties by the total number of PAGA Period Pay Periods worked by all Aggrieved Employees during the PAGA Period and (b) multiplying the result by each Aggrieved Employee's PAGA Period Pay Periods. Aggrieved Employees assume full responsibility and liability for any taxes owed on their Individual PAGA Payment. 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, Defendant estimates there are 103 Aggrieved Employees who worked a total of 5,907 PAGA Pay Periods during the PAGA Period.
- 4.2. Aggrieved Employee Data. Within 15 business days of the Approval Order, Defendant will deliver the Aggrieved Employee Data to the Administrator in the form of a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet. To protect Aggrieved Employee' 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. Defendant has a continuing duty to immediately notify PAGA Counsel 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 Defendant 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. Defendant shall fully fund the Gross Settlement Amount by transmitting the funds to the Administrator no later than 15 business days after the Effective Date.
- 4.4. Payments from the Gross Settlement Amount. Within 10 business days after Defendant funds the Gross Settlement Amount, the Administrator will mail checks for all Individual PAGA Payments, the LWDA PAGA Payment, the Individual Settlement for Plaintiff, the Service Award, the Administration Expenses Payment, the PAGA Counsel Expenses Payment, and the PAGA Counsel Fees Payment. Disbursement of the Service Award, PAGA Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment, and PAGA Counsel Fees 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. A notice letter explaining why the check is being sent, in a mutually-agreed upon form that has been approved by the Court, in substantially the form that is attached hereto as “Exhibit A,” will be included in the mailing of each Individual PAGA Payment. 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. 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 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 Defendant 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 Defendant fully funds the entire Gross Settlement Amount, Plaintiff and PAGA Counsel will release claims against the Released Parties as follows:

5.1. Plaintiff's Release. Plaintiff and his 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: (a) 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 arising during the PAGA Period that were alleged, or reasonably could have been alleged, based on the facts stated in the Operative Complaint and the PAGA Notice.

5.3. Release by PAGA Counsel: PAGA Counsel releases on behalf of their present and former attorneys, employees, agents, successors and assigns the Released Parties from all claims for PAGA Counsel Fees Payment incurred in connection with the Operative Complaint and the PAGA Period facts stated in the Operative Complaint and PAGA Notice.

6. MOTION OR APPLICATION FOR APPROVAL OF SETTLEMENT.

Plaintiff will 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's 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)); and (iv) all facts relevant to any actual or potential conflict of interest with Aggrieved Employees and/or the Administrator. In their Declarations, 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.
- 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 60 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.
- 6.3 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 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, and in good faith, to modify the Agreement and otherwise satisfy the Court's concerns.

7. SETTLEMENT ADMINISTRATION.

- 7.1 Selection of Administrator. The Parties have jointly selected Phoenix Settlement Administrators to serve as the Administrator and verified that, as a condition of appointment, Phoenix Settlement Administrators 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 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. **ESCALATOR CLAUSE.** If the number of PAGA Pay Periods exceeds 5,907 by more than 10%, the Gross Settlement Amount will increase pro rata per PAGA Pay Period at a rate of \$59.25 per additional PAGA Pay Period.

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, 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, except as to matters that do not affect the amount of the Net Settlement Amount.

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 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 Plaintiff that Defendant's 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, Defendant reserves all available defenses to the claims in the Action, and Plaintiff reserves the right 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).

- 10.1 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 resolution of the PAGA claim. The Parties separately executed an Individual Settlement Agreement as to Plaintiff's individual claims against Defendant. Except for this Individual Settlement Agreement, all prior or contemporaneous agreements, understandings, representations, and statements, whether oral or written and whether by a Party or such party's legal counsel, are merged in this Settlement.
- 10.2 Attorney Authorization. PAGA Counsel and Defense Counsel separately warrant and represent that they are authorized by Plaintiff 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.
- 10.3 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.
- 10.4 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.
- 10.5 No Tax Advice. Neither Plaintiff, PAGA 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.
- 10.6 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.

10.7 Agreement Binding on Successors. This Agreement will be binding upon, and inure to the benefit of, the successors of each of the Parties.

10.8 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.

10.9 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.

10.10 Confidentiality. Other than information necessary to secure Court approval of this settlement, the Parties agree to keep confidential all matters relative to this Settlement, including the terms of the Settlement and the facts and circumstances leading up to it, to the extent permitted by law. If asked about the disputes between the Parties, the Parties shall provide no other statement than “the matter has been resolved” or “the matter has settled.” The Parties may, however, discuss the terms of this Settlement with their spouses, attorneys, financial advisors, tax advisors, and accountants, or upon a valid court order, at which time the individual receiving information about the terms of this Settlement shall be informed that the terms of this Settlement are confidential, and the individual may not reveal or disclose to any third party the terms of the Settlement. Except as set forth above, neither Plaintiff nor PAGA Counsel shall issue a press release, hold a press conference, publish information about the settlement on any website or social media, respond to any press inquiries, or otherwise publicize the settlement or communicate its terms in public or in private.

10.11 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 Defendant 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 90 days after the Administrator discharges its obligation to pay out of all Settlement funds, Plaintiff shall destroy all paper and electronic versions of Aggrieved Employee Data received from Defendant unless, prior to the Administrator’s payment of all Settlement Funds, Defendant makes a written request to PAGA Counsel for the return, rather than the destructions, of Aggrieved Employee Data.

10.12 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.

10.13 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.

10.14 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: Aegis Law Firm, PC
Kashif Haque
Samuel Wong
Jessica L. Campbell
jcampbell@aegislawfirm.com
Kristy Connolly
kconnolly@aegislawfirm.com
9811 Irvine Center Drive, Suite 100
Irvine, California 92618

To Defendant: **DUNN DESANTIS WALT & KENDRICK, LLP**
James A. McFaul
Kevin Desantis
Katherine E. Clarke
750 B Street, Suite 2620
San Diego, CA 92101-8172
Phone: 619-573-4488
Fax: 619-255-4868
jmcfaul@ddwklaw.com
kdesantis@ddwklaw.com
kclarke@ddwklaw.com

10.15 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.

10.16 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. In the event the settlement is not finally approved, or is terminated, cancelled or fails to become effective for any reason, the Parties shall revert back to their respective positions as of before entering into the

settlement. The Parties shall cooperate in good faith to secure a court order staying the Action and all deadlines, pending implementation of the settlement. If the Court denies approval of the settlement, the Parties will resume litigation.

10.17 Court Filings. The Parties agree not to object to any Court filings consistent with this Agreement.

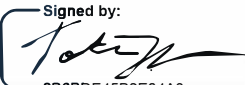
10.18 Plaintiff represents that he does not have any other pending claims, complaints, charges, or lawsuits of any kind whatsoever with any court, governmental agency, or other regulatory body with respect to any matter arising out of their employment with Defendant, or otherwise related to Defendant.

Agreed to by the Parties:

Dated: 04/16/2025

By: 
Richard R. Reyes

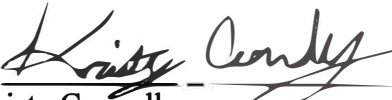
Dated: 4/17/2025

By: 
Signed by:
0B8BDE46B2E84A0...
Next Green Wave, LLC

Agreed As to Form Only:

AEGIS LAW FIRM, PC

Dated: 4/16/2025

By: 
Kristy Connolly
Attorneys for Plaintiff

**DUNN DESANTIS WALT &
KENDRICK, LLP**

Dated: 4/18/2025

By: 
Katherine E. Clarke
Attorneys for Defendant

<<Mailing Date>>

To: <<First Name>><<Last Name>>
<<Address>>
<<City>> <<State>> <<Zip>>

Re: Individual PAGA Payment from *Reyes v. Next Green Wave, LLC*
Fresno County Superior Court, Case No. 22CECG02474

Dear <<First Name>><<Last Name>>:

Please find enclosed a check in the amount of <<amount of payment>> (“Individual PAGA Payment”). This check is your payment from the settlement of a lawsuit entitled *Reyes v. Next Green Wave, LLC*, Case No. 22CECG02474 (“Action”), filed in the Superior Court of California for the County of Fresno (“Court”).

The lawsuit was filed by Richard Reyes (“Plaintiff”), a former employee of Next Green Wave, LLC (“Defendant”), on behalf of the State of California with respect to himself and other alleged aggrieved employees, to seek recovery of civil penalties pursuant to the California Private Attorneys General Act of 2004, California Labor Code § 2698, *et seq.* (“PAGA”). Plaintiff alleged that Defendant violated the California Labor Code by failing to pay minimum wages and overtime wages; failing to provide meal periods and permit rest breaks; failing to reimburse business expenses; failing to provide accurate itemized wage statements; failing to pay wages timely during employment; and failing to pay all wages due upon separation of employment.

Defendant denies these allegations and denies any wrongdoing of any kind associated with these allegations.

A settlement was reached between Plaintiff and Defendant, on behalf of Plaintiff, the State of California, and the following Aggrieved Employees: all persons employed by Defendant in California as a non-exempt employee at any time from August 12, 2021 to January 27, 2025. You are receiving a portion of the settlement (the enclosed Individual PAGA Payment check) because you have been identified as an Aggrieved Employee. You will not be retaliated against by Defendant for cashing your check.

On <<Approval Date>>, the settlement was approved by the Court, with a portion to be paid to the State of California and a portion to be paid to the Aggrieved Employees. Your Individual PAGA Payment is based on the total number of pay periods that you worked as an Aggrieved Employee during the period between August 12, 2021 to January 27, 2025 (the “PAGA Period”). The Individual PAGA Payment is considered to be 100% penalties, which will be reported on an IRS Form 1099. You are responsible for paying any and all taxes that may be due as a result of any payment issued to you under the settlement and should consult a tax advisor regarding the tax consequences of such payment.

By way of the settlement, you will be deemed to release Defendant and its former and present directors, officers, shareholders, members, owners, attorneys, insurers, predecessors, successors, assigns, subsidiaries, and affiliates (the “Released Parties”) from any and all claims for PAGA penalties arising during the PAGA Period that were alleged or reasonably could have been alleged, based on the facts stated in the Operative Complaint and the PAGA Notice.

Your Individual PAGA Payment check is valid for 180 calendar days from the date of issuance, and if you do not cash, deposit, or otherwise negotiate the check within the 180-day timeframe, your Individual PAGA Payment will be cancelled and the funds will be transmitted to the State Controller's Office Unclaimed Property Fund in your name.

Do not call or write the Court or Office of the Clerk of the Court to ask questions about the settlement. If you have any questions concerning the settlement, you may contact the Settlement Administrator at <<INSERT CONTACT INFORMATION>>.