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ELECTRONICALLY FILED
Superior Court of California,
County of San Diego

01/17/2023 at 12:01:00 AM
Clerk of the Superior Court
By Vanessa Sezenol, Deputy Clerk

**SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO**

MOISES NAVA,DEVIN VESTER, and
EVAN HARDING, individually, and on
behalf of other members of the general public
similarly situated;

Plaintiffs,

v.

COUNTYWIDE MECHANICAL
SYSTEMS, INC., a California corporation;
and DOES 1 through 100, inclusive;

Defendants.

Case No.: 37-2021-00049164-CU-OE-CTL

**FIRST AMENDED CLASS ACTION
COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES**

- (1) Violation of California Labor Code §§ 510 and 1198 (Unpaid Overtime);
- (2) Violation of California Labor Code §§ 226.7 and 512(a) (Unpaid Meal Period Premiums);
- (3) Violation of California Labor Code § 226.7 (Unpaid Rest Period Premiums);
- (4) Violation of California Labor Code §§ 1194 and 1197 (Unpaid Minimum Wages);
- (5) Violation of California Labor Code §§ 201 and 202 (Final Wages Not Timely Paid);
- (6) Violation of California Labor Code § 226(a) (Non-Compliant Wage Statements);
- (7) Violation of California Labor Code §§ 2800 and 2802 (Unreimbursed Business Expenses);
- (8) Violation of California Business & Professions Code §§ 17200, *et seq.*
- (9) Violation of Labor Code §§ 2698, *et seq.* (Private Attorneys General Act of 2004)

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

COMES NOW, Plaintiffs MOISES NAVA, DEVIN VESTER, and EVAN HARDING(“Plaintiff Nava,” “Plaintiff Vester,” “Plaintiff Harding” collectively, “Plaintiffs”), individually, and on behalf of other members of the general public similarly situated, and alleges as follows:

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

1. This class action is brought pursuant to the California Code of Civil Procedure section 382. The monetary damages and restitution sought by Plaintiffs exceeds the minimal jurisdiction limits of the Superior Court and will be established according to proof at trial.

2. This Court has jurisdiction over this action pursuant to the California Constitution, Article VI, Section 10, which grants the superior court “original jurisdiction in all other causes” except those given by statute to other courts. The statutes under which this action is brought do not specify any other basis for jurisdiction.

3. This Court has jurisdiction over Defendants because, upon information and belief, Defendants are citizens of California, have sufficient minimum contacts in California, or otherwise intentionally avail themselves of the California market so as to render the exercise of jurisdiction over them by the California courts consistent with traditional notions of fair play and substantial justice.

4. Venue is proper in this Court because, upon information and belief, Defendants maintain offices, have agents, and/or transact business in the State of California, including the County of San Diego. The majority of the acts and omissions alleged herein relating to Plaintiffs took place in the State of California, County of San Diego. Defendants employed Plaintiffs within the State of California, County of San Diego.

PARTIES

5. Plaintiffs MOISES NAVA, DEVIN VESTER, and EVAN HARDING are individuals residing in the State of California, County of San Diego.

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1 6. Defendant COUNTYWIDE MECHANICAL SYSTEMS, INC., at all times
2 herein mentioned, was and is, upon information and belief, a California corporation, and at all
3 times herein mentioned, was and is, an employer whose employees are engaged throughout the
4 State of California, including the County of San Diego.

5 7. At all relevant times, Defendant COUNTYWIDE MECHANICAL SYSTEMS,
6 INC. was the “employer” of Plaintiffs within the meaning of all applicable California laws and
7 statutes.

8 8. At all times herein relevant, Defendants COUNTYWIDE MECHANICAL
9 SYSTEMS, INC. and DOES 1 through 100, and each of them, were the agents, partners, joint
10 venturers, joint employers, representatives, servants, employees, successors-in-interest, co-
11 conspirators and assigns, each of the other, and at all times relevant hereto were acting within
12 the course and scope of their authority as such agents, partners, joint venturers, joint
13 employers, representatives, servants, employees, successors, co-conspirators and assigns, and
14 all acts or omissions alleged herein were duly committed with the ratification, knowledge,
15 permission, encouragement, authorization, and consent of each defendant designated herein.

16 9. The true names and capacities, whether corporate, associate, individual or
17 otherwise, of Defendants DOES 1 through 100, inclusive, are unknown to Plaintiffs, who sue
18 said defendants by such fictitious names. Plaintiffs are informed and believe, and based on
19 that information and belief allege, that each of the Defendants designated as a DOE is legally
20 responsible for the events and happenings referred to in this Complaint, and unlawfully caused
21 the injuries and damages to Plaintiffs and the other class members as alleged in this Complaint.
22 Plaintiffs will seek leave of court to amend this Complaint to show the true names and
23 capacities when the same have been ascertained.

24 10. Defendants COUNTYWIDE MECHANICAL SYSTEMS, INC. and DOES 1
25 through 100 will hereinafter collectively be referred to as “Defendants.”

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11. Plaintiffs further allege that Defendants directly or indirectly controlled or affected the working conditions, wages, working hours, and conditions of employment of Plaintiffs and the other class members so as to make each of said Defendants employers and employers liable under the statutory provisions set forth herein.

CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS

12. Plaintiffs bring this action on their own behalf and on behalf of all other members of the general public similarly situated, and, thus, seeks class certification under Code of Civil Procedure section 382.

13. The proposed class is defined as follows:

All current and former hourly-paid or non-exempt employees of Defendants within the State of California at any time during the period from November 17, 2017 to November 25, 2022.

14. Plaintiffs reserve the right to establish subclasses as appropriate.

15. The class is ascertainable and there is a well-defined community of interest in the litigation:

a. Numerosity: The class members are so numerous that joinder of all class members is impracticable. The membership of the entire class is unknown to Plaintiffs at this time; however, the class is estimated to be greater than fifty (50) individuals and the identity of such membership is readily ascertainable by inspection of Defendants' employment records.

b. Typicality: Plaintiffs' claims are typical of all other class members' claims as demonstrated herein. Plaintiffs will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the other class members with whom they have a well-defined community of interest.

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1 c. Adequacy: Plaintiffs will fairly and adequately protect the interests of
2 each class member, with whom they have a well-defined community of
3 interest and typicality of claims, as demonstrated herein. Plaintiffs have
4 no interest that is antagonistic to the other class members. Plaintiffs'
5 attorneys, the proposed class counsel, are versed in the rules governing
6 class action discovery, certification, and settlement. Plaintiffs have
7 incurred, and during the pendency of this action will continue to incur,
8 costs and attorneys' fees, that have been, are, and will be necessarily
9 expended for the prosecution of this action for the substantial benefit of
10 each class member.

11 d. Superiority: A class action is superior to other available methods for the
12 fair and efficient adjudication of this litigation because individual joinder
13 of all class members is impractical.

14 e. Public Policy Considerations: Certification of this lawsuit as a class
15 action will advance public policy objectives. Employers of this great
16 state violate employment and labor laws every day. Current employees
17 are often afraid to assert their rights out of fear of direct or indirect
18 retaliation. However, class actions provide the class members who are
19 not named in the complaint anonymity that allows for the vindication of
20 their rights.

21 16. There are common questions of law and fact as to the class members that
22 predominate over questions affecting only individual members. The following common
23 questions of law or fact, among others, exist as to the members of the class:

24 a. Whether Defendants' failure to pay wages, without abatement or
25 reduction, in accordance with the California Labor Code, was willful;

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- b. Whether Defendants failed to pay their hourly-paid or non-exempt employees within the State of California for all hours worked, missed meal periods and rest breaks in violation of California law;
- c. Whether Defendants required Plaintiffs and the other class members to work over eight (8) hours per day and/or over forty (40) hours per week and failed to pay the legally required overtime compensation to Plaintiffs and the other class members;
- d. Whether Defendants properly calculated the regular rate for Plaintiffs and the other class members to worked overtime and earned incentive pay;
- e. Whether Defendants deprived Plaintiffs and the other class members of meal and/or rest periods or required Plaintiffs and the other class members to work during meal and/or rest periods without compensation;
- f. Whether Defendants failed to pay minimum wages to Plaintiffs and the other class members for all hours worked;
- g. Whether Defendants failed to pay all wages due to Plaintiffs and the other class members within the required time upon their discharge or resignation;
- h. Whether Defendants failed to timely pay all wages due to Plaintiffs and the other class members during their employment;
- i. Whether Defendants complied with wage reporting as required by the California Labor Code, including, *inter alia*, section 226;
- j. Whether Defendants failed to reimburse Plaintiffs and the other class members for necessary business-related expenses and costs;
- k. Whether Defendants' conduct was willful or reckless;
- l. Whether Defendants engaged in unfair business practices in violation of California Business & Professions Code section 17200, *et seq.*;

- 1 m. The appropriate amount of damages, restitution, and/or monetary
2 penalties resulting from Defendants' violation of California law; and
3 n. Whether Plaintiffs and the other class members are entitled to
4 compensatory damages pursuant to the California Labor Code.

5 **GENERAL ALLEGATIONS**

6 17. During the relevant time period set forth herein, Defendants employed Plaintiffs
7 and other persons as hourly-paid or non-exempt employees within the State of California.

8 18. Defendants, jointly and severally, employed Plaintiffs Nava, Vester and Harding
9 as hourly-paid non-exempt employees during the relevant time period in the State of
10 California, County of San Diego.

11 19. Defendants had the authority to hire and terminate Plaintiffs and the other class
12 members; to set work rules and conditions governing Plaintiffs' and other class members'
13 employment; and to supervise their daily employment activities.

14 20. Defendants exercised sufficient authority over the terms and conditions of
15 Plaintiffs and other class members' employment for them to be joint employers of Plaintiffs
16 and the other class members.

17 21. Defendants directly hired and paid wages and benefits to Plaintiffs and the other
18 class members.

19 22. Defendants continue to employ hourly-paid or non-exempt employees within the
20 State of California.

21 23. Plaintiffs and the other class members worked over eight (8) hours in a day,
22 and/or forty (40) hours in a week during their employment with Defendants.

23 24. Plaintiffs are informed and believe, and based thereon allege, that Defendants
24 engaged in a uniform policy and systematic scheme of wage abuse against their hourly-paid or
25 non-exempt employees within the State of California. This scheme involved, *inter alia*, failing
26 to pay them for all hours worked, missed meal periods, and missed rest breaks in violation of
27 California law.

25. Plaintiffs are informed and believe, and based thereon allege, that Defendants knew or should have known that Plaintiffs and the other class members were entitled to receive certain wages for overtime compensation and that Plaintiffs and the other class members were not receiving wages for overtime compensation.

26. Plaintiffs are informed and believe, and based thereon allege, that Defendants failed to provide Plaintiffs and the other class members the required rest and meal periods during the relevant time period as required under the Industrial Welfare Commission Wage Orders and thus they are entitled to any and all applicable penalties.

27. Plaintiffs are informed and believe, and based thereon allege, that Defendants knew or should have known that Plaintiffs and the other class members were entitled to receive all timely and complete meal periods or payment of one additional hour of pay at Plaintiffs' and the other class members' regular rate of pay when a meal period was missed, late or interrupted, and that Plaintiffs and the other class members did not receive all timely and proper meal periods or payment of one additional hour of pay at their regular rate of pay when a meal period was missed.

28. Plaintiffs are informed and believe, and based thereon allege, that Defendants knew or should have known that Plaintiffs and other class members were entitled to receive all timely rest periods without interruption or payment of one additional hour of pay at Plaintiffs and the other class members' regular rate of pay when a rest period was missed, late or interrupted, and that Plaintiffs and the other class members did not receive all rest periods or payment of one additional hour of pay at their regular rate of pay when a rest period was missed.

29. Plaintiffs are informed and believe, and based thereon allege, that Defendants knew or should have known that Plaintiffs and the other class members were entitled to receive at least minimum wages for compensation and that Plaintiffs and the other class members were not receiving at least minimum wages for all hours worked.

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30. Plaintiffs are informed and believe, and based thereon allege, that Defendants knew or should have known that Plaintiffs and the other class members were entitled to receive the wages owed to them upon discharge or resignation, including overtime and minimum wages and meal and rest period premiums, and that Plaintiffs and the other class members did not, in fact, receive such wages owed to them at the time of their discharge or resignation.

31. Plaintiffs are informed and believe, and based thereon allege, that Defendants knew or should have known that Plaintiffs and the other class members were entitled to receive complete and accurate wage statements in accordance with California law, but, in fact, Plaintiffs and the other class members did not receive complete and accurate wage statements from Defendants. The deficiencies included, *inter alia*, the failure to include the total number of hours worked by Plaintiffs and the other class members.

32. Plaintiffs are informed and believe, and based thereon allege, that Defendants knew or should have known that Plaintiffs and the other class members were entitled to reimbursement for necessary business-related expenses.

33. Plaintiffs are informed and believe, and based thereon allege, that Defendants knew or should have known that Defendants had to keep complete and accurate payroll records for Plaintiffs and the other class members in accordance with California law, but, in fact, did not keep complete and accurate payroll records for Plaintiffs and the other class members.

34. Plaintiffs are informed and believe, and based thereon allege, that Defendants knew or should have known that they had a duty to compensate Plaintiffs and the other class members pursuant to California law, and that Defendants had the financial ability to pay such compensation, but willfully, knowingly, and intentionally failed to do so, and falsely represented to Plaintiffs and the other class members that they were properly denied wages, all in order to increase Defendants' profits.

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35. During the relevant time period set forth herein, Defendants failed to pay overtime wages to Plaintiffs and the other class members for all hours worked. Plaintiffs and other class members were required to work more than eight (8) hours per day and/or forty (40) hours per week without overtime compensation.

36. During the relevant time period set forth herein, Defendants failed to provide the requisite uninterrupted and timely meal and rest periods to Plaintiffs and the other class members.

37. During the relevant time period set forth herein, Defendants failed to pay Plaintiffs and the other class members at least minimum wages for all hours worked.

38. During the relevant time period set forth herein, Defendants failed to pay Plaintiffs and the other class members the wages owed to them upon discharge or resignation.

39. During the relevant time period set forth herein, Defendants failed to provide complete or accurate wage statements to Plaintiffs and the other class members.

40. During the relevant time period set forth herein, Defendants failed to keep complete or accurate payroll records for Plaintiffs and the other class members.

41. During the relevant time period set forth herein, Defendants failed to properly compensate Plaintiffs and the other class members pursuant to California law in order to increase Defendants' profits.

42. California Labor Code section 218 states that nothing in Article 1 of the Labor Code shall limit the right of any wage claimant to “sue directly . . . for any wages or penalty due to him [or her] under this article.”

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

(Violation of California Labor Code §§ 510 and 1198)

(Against COUNTYWIDE MECHANICAL SYSTEMS, INC. and DOES 1 through 100)

43. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference the allegations contained in Paragraphs 1 through 42, and each and every part thereof with the same force and effect as though fully set forth herein.

1 44. California Labor Code section 1198 and the applicable Industrial Welfare
2 Commission (“IWC”) Wage Order provide that it is unlawful to employ persons without
3 compensating them at a rate of pay either time-and-one-half or two-times that person’s regular
4 rate of pay, depending on the number of hours worked by the person on a daily or weekly
5 basis.

6 45. Specifically, the applicable IWC Wage Order provides that Defendants are and
7 were required to pay Plaintiffs and the other class members employed by Defendants, who
8 work(ed) more than eight (8) hours in a day or more than forty (40) hours in a workweek, at
9 the rate of time-and-one-half for all hours worked in excess of eight (8) hours in a day or more
10 than forty (40) hours in a workweek.

11 46. The applicable IWC Wage Order further provides that Defendants are and were
12 required to pay Plaintiffs and the other class members overtime compensation at a rate of two
13 times their regular rate of pay for all hours worked in excess of twelve (12) hours in a day.

14 47. California Labor Code section 510 codifies the right to overtime compensation
15 at one-and-one-half times the regular hourly rate for hours worked in excess of eight (8) hours
16 in a day or forty (40) hours in a week or for the first eight (8) hours worked on the seventh day
17 of work, and overtime compensation at twice the regular hourly rate for hours worked in
18 excess of twelve (12) hours in a day or in excess of eight (8) hours in a day on the seventh day
19 of work.

20 48. During the relevant time period set forth herein, Plaintiffs and the other class
21 members worked in excess of eight (8) hours in a day, and/or in excess of forty (40) hours in a
22 week.

23 49. During the relevant time period set forth herein, Defendants intentionally and
24 willfully failed to pay overtime wages owed to Plaintiffs and the other class members.

25 50. Defendants’ failure to pay Plaintiffs and the other class members the unpaid
26 balance of overtime compensation, as required by California laws, violates the provisions of
27 California Labor Code sections 510 and 1198, and is therefore unlawful.

1 51. Pursuant to California Labor Code section 1194, Plaintiffs and the other class
2 members are entitled to recover unpaid overtime compensation, as well as interest, costs, and
3 attorneys' fees.

4 **SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION**

5 **(Violation of California Labor Code §§ 226.7 and 512(a))**

6 **(Against COUNTYWIDE MECHANICAL SYSTEMS, INC. and DOES 1 through 100)**

7 52. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference the allegations contained in paragraphs 1
8 through 51, and each and every part thereof with the same force and effect as though fully set
9 forth herein.

10 53. During the relevant time period set forth herein, the IWC Order and California
11 Labor Code sections 226.7 and 512(a) were applicable to Plaintiffs' and the other class
12 members' employment by Defendants.

13 54. During the relevant time period set forth herein, California Labor Code section
14 226.7 provides that no employer shall require an employee to work during any meal or rest
15 period mandated by an applicable order of the California IWC.

16 55. During the relevant time period set forth herein, the applicable IWC Wage
17 Order and California Labor Code section 512(a) provide that an employer may not require,
18 cause or permit an employee to work for a work period of more than five (5) hours per day
19 without providing the employee with a meal period of not less than thirty (30) minutes, except
20 that if the total work period per day of the employee is no more than six (6) hours, the meal
21 period may be waived by mutual consent of both the employer and employee.

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1 56. During the relevant time period set forth herein, the applicable IWC Wage
2 Order and California Labor Code section 512(a) further provide that an employer may not
3 require, cause, or permit an employee to work for a work period of more than ten (10) hours
4 per day without providing the employee with a second uninterrupted meal period of not less
5 than thirty (30) minutes, except that if the total hours worked is no more than twelve (12)
6 hours, the second meal period may be waived by mutual consent of the employer and the
7 employee only if the first meal period was not waived.

8 57. During the relevant time period set forth herein, Plaintiffs and the other class
9 members who were scheduled to work for a period of time no longer than six (6) hours, and
10 who did not waive their legally-mandated meal periods by mutual consent, were required to
11 work for periods longer than five (5) hours without an uninterrupted meal period of not less
12 than thirty (30) minutes and/or without a rest period.

13 58. During the relevant time period set forth herein, Plaintiffs and the other class
14 members who were scheduled to work for a period of time no longer than twelve (12) hours,
15 and who did not waive their legally-mandated meal periods by mutual consent, were required
16 to work for periods longer than ten (10) hours without an uninterrupted meal period of not less
17 than thirty (30) minutes and/or without a rest period.

18 59. During the relevant time period set forth herein, Plaintiffs and the other class
19 members who were scheduled to work for a period of time in excess of six (6) hours were
20 required to work for periods longer than five (5) hours without an uninterrupted meal period of
21 not less than thirty (30) minutes and/or without a rest period.

22 60. During the relevant time period set forth herein, Plaintiffs and the other class
23 members who were scheduled to work for a period of time in excess of twelve (12) hours were
24 required to work for periods longer than ten (10) hours without an uninterrupted meal period of
25 not less than thirty (30) minutes and/or without a rest period.

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61. During the relevant time period set forth herein, Defendants intentionally and willfully required Plaintiffs and the other class members to work during meal periods and failed to compensate Plaintiffs and the other class members the full meal period premium for work performed during meal periods.

62. During the relevant time period set forth herein, Defendants failed to pay Plaintiffs and the other class members the full meal period premium due pursuant to California Labor Code section 226.7.

63. Defendants' conduct violates applicable IWC Wage Order and California Labor Code sections 226.7 and 512(a).

64. Pursuant to the applicable IWC Wage Order and California Labor Code section 226.7(b), Plaintiffs and the other class members are entitled to recover from Defendants one additional hour of pay at the employee's regular rate of compensation for each workday that the meal or rest period is not provided.

THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION

(Violation of California Labor Code § 226.7)

(Against COUNTYWIDE MECHANICAL SYSTEMS, INC. and DOES 1 through 100)

65. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference the allegations contained in paragraphs 1 through 64, and each and every part thereof with the same force and effect as though fully set forth herein.

66. During the relevant time period set forth herein, the applicable IWC Wage Order and California Labor Code section 226.7 were applicable to Plaintiffs' and the other class members' employment by Defendants.

67. During the relevant time period set forth herein, California Labor Code section 226.7 provides that no employer shall require an employee to work during any rest period mandated by an applicable order of the California IWC.

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1 68. During the relevant time period set forth herein, the applicable IWC Wage
2 Order provides that “[e]very employer shall authorize and permit all employees to take rest
3 periods, which insofar as practicable shall be in the middle of each work period” and that the
4 “rest period time shall be based on the total hours worked daily at the rate of ten (10) minutes
5 net rest time per four (4) hours or major fraction thereof” unless the total daily work time is
6 less than three and one-half (3 ½) hours.

7 69. During the relevant time period set forth herein, Defendants required Plaintiffs
8 and the other class members to work four (4) or more hours without authorizing or permitting a
9 ten (10) minute rest period per each four (4) hour period worked.

10 70. During the relevant time period set forth herein, Defendants willfully required
11 Plaintiffs and the other class members to work during rest periods and failed to pay Plaintiffs
12 and the other class members the full rest period premium for work performed during rest
13 periods.

14 71. During the relevant time period set forth herein, Defendants failed to pay
15 Plaintiffs and the other class members the full rest period premium due pursuant to California
16 Labor Code section 226.7.

17 72. Defendants’ conduct violates applicable IWC Wage Orders and California
18 Labor Code section 226.7.

19 73. Pursuant to the applicable IWC Wage Orders and California Labor Code section
20 226.7(b), Plaintiffs and the other class members are entitled to recover from Defendants one
21 additional hour of pay at the employees’ regular hourly rate of compensation for each workday
22 that the rest period was not provided.

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1 **FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

2 **(Violation of California Labor Code §§ 1194 and 1197)**

3 **(Against COUNTYWIDE MECHANICAL SYSTEMS, INC. and DOES 1 through 100)**

4 74. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference the allegations contained in paragraphs 1
5 through 73 and each and every part thereof with the same force and effect as though fully set
6 forth herein.

7 75. During the relevant time period set forth herein, California Labor Code sections
8 1194 and 1197 provide that the minimum wage to be paid to employees, and the payment of a
9 lesser wage than the minimum so fixed, is unlawful.

10 76. During the relevant time period set forth herein, Defendants failed to pay
11 minimum wages to Plaintiffs and the other class members as required, pursuant to California
12 Labor Code sections 1194 and 1197.

13 77. Defendants' failure to pay Plaintiffs and the other class members the minimum
14 wage as required violates California Labor Code sections 1194 and 1197. Pursuant to those
15 sections, Plaintiffs and other class members are entitled to recover the unpaid balance of their
16 minimum wage compensation as well as interest, costs, and attorney's fees, and liquidated
17 damages in an amount equal to the wages unlawfully unpaid and interest thereon.

18 78. Pursuant to California Labor Code section 1194.2, Plaintiffs and the other class
19 members are entitled to recover liquidated damages in an amount equal to the wages
20 unlawfully unpaid and interest thereon.

21 **FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

22 **(Violation of California Labor Code §§ 201 and 202)**

23 **(Against COUNTYWIDE MECHANICAL SYSTEMS, INC. and DOES 1 through 100)**

24 79. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference the allegations contained in paragraphs 1
25 through 78, and each and every part thereof with the same force and effect as though fully set
26 forth herein.

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1 80. During the relevant time period set forth herein, California Labor Code sections
2 201 and 202 provide that if an employer discharges an employee, the wages earned and unpaid
3 at the time of discharge are due and payable immediately, and if an employee quits his or her
4 employment, his or her wages shall become due and payable not later than seventy-two (72)
5 hours thereafter, unless the employee has given seventy-two (72) hours' notice of his or her
6 intention to quit, in which case the employee is entitled to his or her wages at the time of
7 quitting.

8 81. During the relevant time period set forth herein, Defendants intentionally and
9 willfully failed to pay Plaintiffs and the other class members who are no longer employed by
10 Defendants their wages, earned and unpaid, within seventy-two (72) hours of their leaving
11 Defendants' employ.

12 82. Defendants' failure to pay Plaintiffs and the other class members who are no
13 longer employed by Defendants their wages, earned and unpaid, within seventy-two (72) hours
14 of their leaving Defendants' employ, is in violation of California Labor Code sections 201 and
15 202.

16 83. California Labor Code section 203 provides that if an employer willfully fails to
17 pay wages owed, in accordance with sections 201 and 202, then the wages of the employee
18 shall continue as a penalty from the due date thereof at the same rate until paid or until an
19 action is commenced; but the wages shall not continue for more than thirty (30) days.

20 84. Plaintiffs and the other class members are entitled to recover from Defendants
21 the statutory penalty wages for each day they were not paid, up to the thirty (30) day maximum
22 as provided by Labor Code section 203.

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1 **SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

2 **(Violation of California Labor Code § 226(a))**

3 **(Against COUNTYWIDE MECHANICAL SYSTEMS, INC. and DOES 1 through 100)**

4 85. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference the allegations contained in paragraphs 1
5 through 84, and each and every part thereof with the same force and effect as though fully set
6 forth herein.

7 86. During the relevant time period set forth herein, California Labor Code section
8 226(a) provides that every employer shall furnish each of his or her employees an accurate
9 itemized statement in writing showing (1) gross wages earned, (2) total hours worked by the
10 employee, (3) the number of piece-rate units earned and any applicable piece rate if the
11 employee is paid on a piece-rate basis, (4) all deductions, provided that all deductions made on
12 written orders of the employee may be aggregated and shown as one item, (5) net wages
13 earned, (6) the inclusive dates of the period for which the employee is paid, (7) the name of the
14 employee and his or her social security number, (8) the name and address of the legal entity
15 that is the employer, and (9) all applicable hourly rates in effect during the pay period and the
16 corresponding number of hours worked at each hourly rate by the employee. The deductions
17 made from payments of wages shall be recorded in ink or other indelible form, properly dated,
18 showing the month, day, and year, and a copy of the statement or a record of the deductions
19 shall be kept on file by the employer for at least three years at the place of employment or at a
20 central location within the State of California.

21 87. Defendants have intentionally and willfully failed to provide Plaintiffs and the
22 other class members with complete and accurate wage statements. The deficiencies include
23 but are not limited to: the failure to include the total number of hours worked by Plaintiffs and
24 other class members.

25 88. As a result of Defendants' violation of California Labor Code section 226(a),
26 Plaintiffs and the other class members have suffered injury and damage to their statutorily
27 protected rights.

1 89. More specifically, Plaintiffs and the other class members have been injured by
2 Defendants' intentional and willful violation of California Labor Code section 226(a) because
3 they were denied both their legal right to receive, and their protected interest in receiving,
4 accurate and itemized wage statements pursuant to California Labor Code section 226(a).

5 90. Plaintiffs and the other class members are entitled to recover from Defendants
6 the greater of their actual damages caused by Defendants' failure to comply with California
7 Labor Code section 226(a), or an aggregate penalty not exceeding four thousand dollars per
8 employee.

9 91. Plaintiffs and the other class members are also entitled to injunctive relief to
10 ensure compliance with this section, pursuant to California Labor Code section 226(g).

11 **SEVENTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

12 **(Violation of California Labor Code §§ 2800 and 2802)**

13 **(Against COUNTYWIDE MECHANICAL SYSTEMS, INC. and DOES 1 through 100)**

14 92. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference the allegations contained in paragraphs 1
15 through 91, and each and every part thereof with the same force and effect as though fully set
16 forth herein.

17 93. Pursuant to California Labor Code sections 2800 and 2802, an employer must
18 reimburse its employee for all necessary expenditures incurred by the employee in direct
19 consequence of the discharge of his or her job duties or in direct consequence of his or her
20 obedience to the directions of the employer.

21 94. Defendants have intentionally and willfully failed to reimburse Plaintiffs and the
22 other class members for all necessary business-related expenses and costs. Plaintiffs and the
23 other class members are entitled to recover from Defendants their business-related expenses and
24 costs incurred during the course and scope of their employment, plus interest accrued from the
25 date on which the employee incurred the necessary expenditures at the same rate as judgments in
26 civil actions in the State of California.

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EIGHTH CAUSE OF ACTION

(Violation of California Business & Professions Code §§ 17200, *et seq.*)

(Against COUNTYWIDE MECHANICAL SYSTEMS, INC. and DOES 1 through 100)

95. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference the allegations contained in paragraphs 1 through 94, and each and every part thereof with the same force and effect as though fully set forth herein.

96. Defendants' conduct, as alleged herein, has been, and continues to be unfair, unlawful and harmful to Plaintiffs, other class members, to the general public, and Defendants' competitors. Accordingly, Plaintiffs seek to enforce important rights affecting the public interest within the meaning of Code of Civil Procedure section 1021.5.

97. Defendants' activities as alleged herein are violations of California law, and constitute unlawful business acts and practices in violation of California Business & Professions Code section 17200, *et seq.*

98. A violation of California Business & Professions Code section 17200, *et seq.* may be predicated on the violation of any state or federal law. In this instant case, Defendants' policy and practice of requiring Plaintiffs and the other class members work overtime hours without paying them proper compensation violate California Labor Code sections 510 and 1198. Additionally, Defendants' policy and practice of requiring Plaintiffs and the other class members, to work through their meal and rest periods without paying them proper compensation violate California Labor Code sections 226.7 and 512(a). Moreover, Defendants' policy and practice of failing to timely pay wages to Plaintiffs and the other class members violate California Labor Code sections 201 and 202. Defendants also violated California Labor Code sections 226(a), 1194, 1197, 2800 and 2802.

99. As a result of the herein described violations of California law, Defendants unlawfully gained an unfair advantage over other businesses.

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100. Plaintiffs and the other class members have been personally injured by Defendants' unlawful business acts and practices as alleged herein, including but not necessarily limited to the loss of money and/or property.

101. Pursuant to California Business & Professions Code section 17200, *et seq.*, Plaintiffs and the other class members are entitled to restitution of the wages withheld and retained by Defendants during a period that commences four years prior to the filing of this Complaint; an award of attorneys' fees pursuant to California Code of Civil procedure section 1021.5 and other applicable laws; and an award of costs.

NINTH CAUSE OF ACTION

(Violation of California Labor Code §§ 2698, *et seq.*)

(Against COUNTYWIDE MECHANICAL SYSTEMS, INC. and DOES 1 through 100)

102. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference the allegations contained in paragraphs 1 through 101, and each and every part thereof with the same force and effect as though fully set forth herein.

103. PAGA expressly establishes that any provision of the California Labor Code which provides for a civil penalty to be assessed and collected by the LWDA, or any of its departments, divisions, commissions, boards, agencies or employees for a violation of the California Labor Code, may be recovered through a civil action brought by an aggrieved employee on behalf of himself or herself, and other current or former employees.

104. On September 16, 2022, Plaintiff Harding provided written notice to the LWDA and Defendants of the specific provisions of the Labor Code he contends were violated, and the theories supporting his contentions. Attached hereto as **Exhibit 1** and incorporated by reference is a copy of the written notice to the LWDA. The LWDA did not take any action to investigate or prosecute this matter, and Plaintiff Harding believes that on November 20, 2022, the sixty-five (65) day notice period expired. Therefore, Plaintiff Harding has exhausted the statutory time period to bring this action.

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1 105. Plaintiff Harding and the other hourly-paid or non-exempt employees are
2 “aggrieved employees” as defined by California Labor Code § 2699(c) in that they are all
3 current and former hourly-paid or non-exempt employees of Defendants within the State of
4 California who worked for Defendants at any time during the period from September 16, 2021
5 to November 25, 2022, and one or more of the alleged violations was committed against them.

6 **Failure to Pay Minimum and Overtime Wages**

7 106. At all times relevant herein, Defendants were required to compensate their non-
8 exempt employees minimum wages for all hours worked and overtime wages for all hours
9 worked in excess of eight (8) hours in a day or forty (40) hours in a workweek, pursuant to the
10 mandate of Labor Code §§ 510, 1194, 1197, and 1198.

11 As a policy and practice, Defendants failed to compensate Plaintiff Harding and the
12 other aggrieved current and former employees for all hours worked, resulting in a failure to pay
13 all minimum wages and overtime wages, where applicable.

14 **Failure to Provide Meal Periods and Rest Breaks**

15 107. In accordance with the mandates of Labor Code §§ 226.7 and 512, Defendants
16 were required to authorize and permit their non-exempt employees to take a 10-minute rest
17 break for every four (4) hours worked or major fraction thereof, and were further required to
18 provide their non-exempt employees with a 30-minute meal period for every five (5) hours
19 worked.

20 108. As a policy and practice, Defendants failed to provide Plaintiff Harding and the
21 other aggrieved current and former employees with legally-mandated meal periods and rest
22 breaks and failed to pay proper compensation for this failure.

23 **Failure to Timely Pay Wages During Employment**

24 109. At all times relevant herein, Defendants were required to pay their employees
25 within a specified time period pursuant to the mandate of Labor Code § 204.

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1 110. As a policy and practice, Defendants failed to pay Plaintiff Harding and the
2 other aggrieved current and former employees all wages due and owing them within the
3 required time period.

4 **Failure to Timely Pay Wages Upon Termination**

5 111. At all times relevant herein, Defendants were required to pay their employees
6 all wages owed in a timely fashion at the end of employment pursuant to California Labor
7 Code §§ 201 to 204.

8 112. As a result of Defendants' Labor Code violations alleged above, Defendants
9 failed to pay Plaintiff Harding and the other aggrieved former employees their final wages
10 pursuant to Labor Code §§ 201 to 204 and accordingly owe waiting time penalties pursuant to
11 Labor Code § 203.

12 **Failure to Provide Complete and Accurate Wage Statements**

13 113. At all times relevant herein, Defendants were required to keep *accurate* records
14 regarding their California employees pursuant to the mandate of Labor Code §§ 226 and 1174.

15 114. As a result of Defendants' various Labor Code violations, Defendants failed to
16 keep accurate records regarding Plaintiff Harding and the other aggrieved current and former
17 employees. For example, Defendants failed in their affirmative obligation to keep accurate
18 records regarding Plaintiff Harding and the other aggrieved current and former employees'
19 gross wages earned, total hours worked, all deductions, net wages earned, and all applicable
20 hourly rates and the number of hours worked at each hourly rate.

21 **Failure to Reimburse Business Expenses**

22 115. At all times relevant herein, Defendants were required to reimburse its
23 employees for any and all necessary expenditures or losses incurred by the employees in direct
24 consequences of the discharge or his or her duties pursuant to the mandate of Labor Code §§
25 2800 and 2802.

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116. As a policy and practice, Defendants failed to reimburse Plaintiff Harding and the other aggrieved current and former employees for all business expenses incurred and owing them within the required time period.

Penalties

117. Pursuant to California Labor Code § 2699, Plaintiff Harding, individually, and on behalf of other current and former aggrieved employees, requests and is entitled to recover from Defendants, and each of them, civil penalties, interest, attorneys' fees and costs, including but not limited to:

- a. Penalties under California Labor Code § 2699 in the amount of a hundred dollars (\$100) for each aggrieved employee per pay period for the initial violation, and two hundred dollars (\$200) for each aggrieved employee per pay period for each subsequent violation;
- b. Penalties under California Code of Regulations Title 8 § 11040 in the amount of fifty dollars (\$50) for each aggrieved employee per pay period for the initial violation, and one hundred dollars (\$100) for each aggrieved employee per pay period for each subsequent violation;
- c. Penalties under California Labor Code § 210 in addition to, and entirely independent and apart from, any other penalty provided in the California Labor Code in the amount of a hundred dollars (\$100) for each aggrieved employee per pay period for the initial violation, and two hundred dollars (\$200) for each aggrieved employee per pay period for each subsequent violation;
- d. Penalties under Labor Code § 1197.1 in the amount of a hundred dollars (\$100) for each aggrieved employee per pay period for the initial violation, and two hundred fifty dollars (\$250) for each aggrieved employee per pay period for each subsequent violation;

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- 1 e. Any and all additional penalties as provided by the Labor Code and/or
2 other statutes; and
3 f. Attorneys' fees and costs pursuant to Labor Code §§ 210, 1194, and 2699,
4 and any other applicable statute.

5 **DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL**

6 Plaintiffs, individually, and on behalf of other members of the general public similarly
7 situated, request a trial by jury.

8 **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

9 WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs, individually and on behalf of all other members of the
10 general public similarly situated, pray for relief and judgment against Defendants, jointly and
11 severally, as follows:

12 **Class Certification**

- 13 1. That this action be certified as a class action;
14 2. That Plaintiffs be appointed as representatives of the Class;
15 3. That counsel for Plaintiffs be appointed as Class Counsel; and
16 4. That Defendants provide to Class Counsel immediately the names and most
17 current contact information (address, e-mail and telephone numbers) of all class members.

18 **As to the First Cause of Action**

- 19 5. That the Court declare, adjudge and decree that Defendants violated California
20 Labor Code sections 510 and 1198 and applicable IWC Wage Orders by willfully failing to pay
21 all overtime wages due to Plaintiffs and the other class members;

- 22 6. For general unpaid wages at overtime wage rates and such general and special
23 damages as may be appropriate;

- 24 7. For pre-judgment interest on any unpaid overtime compensation commencing
25 from the date such amounts were due;

- 26 8. For reasonable attorneys' fees and costs of suit incurred herein pursuant to
27 California Labor Code section 1194; and
28

1 9. For such other and further relief as the court may deem just and proper.

2 **As to the Second Cause of Action**

3 10. That the Court declare, adjudge and decree that Defendants violated California
4 Labor Code sections 226.7 and 512 and applicable IWC Wage Orders by willfully failing to
5 provide all meal periods (including second meal periods) to Plaintiffs and the other class
6 members;

7 11. That the Court make an award to Plaintiffs and the other class members of one
8 (1) hour of pay at each employee's regular rate of compensation for each workday that a meal
9 period was not provided;

10 12. For all actual, consequential, and incidental losses and damages, according to
11 proof;

12 13. For premium wages pursuant to California Labor Code section 226.7(b);

13 14. For pre-judgment interest on any unpaid wages from the date such amounts
14 were due;

15 15. For reasonable attorneys' fees and costs of suit incurred herein; and

16 16. For such other and further relief as the court may deem just and proper.

17 **As to the Third Cause of Action**

18 17. That the Court declare, adjudge and decree that Defendants violated California
19 Labor Code section 226.7 and applicable IWC Wage Orders by willfully failing to provide all
20 rest periods to Plaintiffs and the other class members;

21 18. That the Court make an award to Plaintiffs and the other class members of one
22 (1) hour of pay at each employee's regular rate of compensation for each workday that a rest
23 period was not provided;

24 19. For all actual, consequential, and incidental losses and damages, according to
25 proof;

26 20. For premium wages pursuant to California Labor Code section 226.7(b);

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21. For pre-judgment interest on any unpaid wages from the date such amounts were due; and

22. For such other and further relief as the court may deem just and proper.

As to the Fourth Cause of Action

23. That the Court declare, adjudge and decree that Defendants violated California Labor Code sections 1194 and 1197 by willfully failing to pay minimum wages to Plaintiffs and the other class members;

24. For general unpaid wages and such general and special damages as may be appropriate;

25. For pre-judgment interest on any unpaid compensation from the date such amounts were due;

26. For reasonable attorneys' fees and costs of suit incurred herein pursuant to California Labor Code section 1194(a);

27. For liquidated damages pursuant to California Labor Code section 1194.2; and

28. For such other and further relief as the court may deem just and proper.

As to the Fifth Cause of Action

29. That the Court declare, adjudge and decree that Defendants violated California Labor Code sections 201, 202, and 203 by willfully failing to pay all compensation owed at the time of termination of the employment of Plaintiffs and the other class members no longer employed by Defendants;

30. For all actual, consequential, and incidental losses and damages, according to proof;

31. For statutory wage penalties pursuant to California Labor Code section 203 for the other class members who have left Defendants' employ;

32. For pre-judgment interest on any unpaid compensation from the date such amounts were due; and

33. For such other and further relief as the court may deem just and proper.

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35. For actual, consequential and incidental losses and damages, according to proof;
36. For statutory penalties pursuant to California Labor Code section 226(e);
37. For injunctive relief to ensure compliance with this section, pursuant to California Labor Code section 226(g); and
38. For such other and further relief as the court may deem just and proper.

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40. For actual, consequential and incidental losses and damages, according to proof;
41. For the imposition of civil penalties and/or statutory penalties;
42. For punitive damages and/or exemplary damages according to proof at trial;
43. For reasonable attorneys' fees and costs of suit incurred herein; and
44. For such other and further relief as the court may deem just and proper.

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1 46. For restitution of unpaid wages to Plaintiffs and the other class members and all
2 pre-judgment interest from the day such amounts were due and payable;

3 47. For the appointment of a receiver to receive, manage and distribute any and all
4 funds disgorged from Defendants and determined to have been wrongfully acquired by
5 Defendants as a result of violation of California Business and Professions Code sections
6 17200, *et seq.*;

7 48. For reasonable attorneys' fees and costs of suit incurred herein pursuant to
8 California Code of Civil Procedure section 1021.5;

9 49. For injunctive relief to ensure compliance with this section, pursuant to
10 California Business and Professions Code sections 17200, *et seq.*; and

11 50. For such other and further relief as the court may deem just and proper.

12 **As to the Ninth Cause of Action**

13 51. That the Court declare, adjudge and decree that Defendants violated California
14 Labor Code section 2698, *et seq.*, the PAGA, for civil penalties pursuant to Defendants'
15 violations of Labor Code §§ 201, 202, 203, 204, 210, 218.5, 221, 226(a), 226.3, 226.7, 246, 510,
16 512(a), 558, 1174(d), 1194, 1197, 1197.1, 1198, 2800, and 2802;

17 52. Upon the Cause of Action, for costs and attorneys' fees pursuant to Labor Code
18 Sections 210, 1194, and 2699, and any other applicable statute; and

19 53. For such other and further relief as the Court may deem just and proper.
20

21 Dated: January 16, 2023

JUSTICE LAW CORPORATION

22
23 By: 
24 Douglas Han
25 Shunt Tatavos-Gharajeh
26 Lizette Rodriguez
27 *Attorneys for Plaintiffs*
28

EXHIBIT 1

September 16, 2022

BY U.S. EMAIL/ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION

PAGAfilings@dir.ca.gov

State of California

Labor & Workforce Development Agency

800 Capitol Mall, MIC-55

Sacramento, California 95814

Re: COUNTYWIDE MECHANICAL SYSTEMS, INC.

Dear Representative:

We have been retained to represent Evan Harding against Countywide Mechanical Systems, Inc. (including any and all affiliates, managers, members, subsidiaries, and parents, and their shareholders, officers, directors, and employees), any individual, owner, officer and managing agent, DOES 1-10 as an "Employer" or person acting on behalf of an "Employer" pursuant to California Labor Code section 558.1, and DOES 11-20¹ for violations of California wage-and-hour laws (hereinafter collectively referred to as "CMS").

Mr. Harding is pursuing his California Labor Code section 2698, *et seq.*, the Private Attorneys General Act of 2004 ("PAGA") claim on a representative basis. Therefore, Mr. Harding may seek penalties for violations of the Labor Code on behalf of the State of California and aggrieved employees, which are recoverable under PAGA. This letter is sent in compliance with the reporting requirements of California Labor Code section 2699.3.

Countywide Mechanical Systems, Inc. is a California corporation located at 1400 North Johnson Avenue Suite 114, El Cajon, California 92020.

CMS employed Mr. Harding as an hourly-paid non-exempt Journeymen Plumber within one year of the date of this letter (until in or around February of 2022) in the State of California. CMS directly controlled the wages, hours and/or working conditions of Mr. Harding and other aggrieved employees' employment, including direction, retention, scheduling, supervision, and termination.

The "aggrieved employees" that Mr. Harding may seek penalties on behalf of are all current and former hourly-paid or non-exempt employees (whether hired directly or through a staffing agency) of CMS within the State of California.

¹ Mr. Harding does not know the true names or capacities, whether individual, partner or corporate, of DOES 1 through 20, inclusive, and for that reason, said DOES are designated under such fictitious names. Mr. Harding will amend this notice when the true names and capacities are known. Mr. Harding is informed and believes that each DOE was responsible in some way for the matters alleged herein and proximately caused Mr. Harding and other current and former aggrieved employees to be subject to the illegal employment practices, wrongs and injuries complained of herein.

CMS failed to properly pay its hourly-paid or non-exempt employees for all hours worked, failed to properly provide or compensate minimum and overtime wages and for meal and rest breaks, failed to issue compliant wage statements and failed to reimburse for all necessary business-related costs and expenses, thus resulting in other Labor Code violations as stated below.

Pursuant to *Huff v. Securitas Security Services*, 23 Cal. App. 5th 745, 751 (2018), an employee who brings a representative action and was affected by at least one of the violations alleged in the complaint has standing to pursue penalties on behalf of the state not only for that violation, but for violations affecting other employees as well. Accordingly, Mr. Harding has standing to pursue penalties on behalf of the state for violations affecting all the aggrieved employees at CMS, regardless of their classification, job title, location, or whether they were hired directly or through a staffing agency.

CMS has violated and/or continues to violate, among other provisions of the California Labor Code and applicable wage law, California Labor Code sections 201, 202, 203, 204, 210, 218.5, 221, 226(a), 226.3, 226.7, 246, 510, 512(a), 558, 1174(d), 1194, 1197, 1197.1, 1198, 2800 and 2802, and the IWC Wage Orders.

California Labor Code sections 510, 1194, and 1198 require employers to pay at least minimum wage for all hours worked, pay time-and-a-half, or double-time overtime wages, and make it unlawful to work employees for hours longer than eight hours in one day and/or over forty hours in one week without paying the premium overtime rates. During the relevant time period, Mr. Harding and other aggrieved employees routinely worked in excess of 8 hours in a day and 40 hours in a week. CMS failed to compensate Mr. Harding and other aggrieved employees for all hours worked and performing off-the-clock work, including pre- and post-shift, and during meal breaks. CMS also failed to include non-discretionary bonuses and incentives in Mr. Harding and other aggrieved employees' regular rate of pay for purposes of overtime compensation. Therefore, Mr. Harding and aggrieved employees were entitled to receive certain wages for overtime compensation, but they were not paid for all overtime hours worked.

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California Labor Code section 246 requires that employers provide employees with paid sick leave of not less than one hour per every 30 hours worked. California Labor Code section 246(l) also requires that paid sick leave be paid at a non-exempt employee's regular rate of pay for the workweek in which the employee uses paid sick time or at a rate calculated by dividing the employee's total wages, not including overtime premium pay, by the employee's total hours worked in the full pay periods of the prior 90 days of employment. During the relevant time period, CMS failed to pay Mr. Harding and other aggrieved employees with paid sick leave that complied with California Labor Code section 246, by, for example, failing to pay paid sick leave at non-exempt employee's regular rate of pay or at a rate calculated by dividing the employee's total wages, not including overtime premium pay, by the employee's total hours worked in the full pay periods of the prior 90 days of employment.

California Labor Code sections 226.7 and 512 require employers to pay an employee one additional hour of pay at the employee's regular rate for each workday that a meal or rest break is not provided. During the relevant time period, CMS routinely required Mr. Harding and other aggrieved employees to work through, interrupt, cut short, and/or delay their meal and rest breaks to comply with CMS's policies and expectations. CMS failed to provide coverage to Mr. Harding and other aggrieved employees so they may be relieved of all work duties and take legally mandated meal and rest breaks. Moreover, CMS also failed to authorize and permit Mr. Harding and other aggrieved employees to take the requisite number of meal and rest breaks, including second meal breaks and third rest breaks, when working shifts exceeding 10 hours in length. Despite these facts, CMS failed to compensate Mr. Harding and other aggrieved employees all the premium wages they were owed, including failing to pay premium wages at Mr. Harding and other aggrieved employees' regular rate of pay.

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California Labor Code section 201 requires that if an employer discharges an employee, the wages earned and unpaid at the time of discharge are due and payable immediately. California Labor Code section 202 requires that if an employee not having a written contract for a definite period quits his or her employment, his or her wages shall become due and payable not later than 72 hours thereafter, unless the employee has given 72 hours previous notice of his or her intention to quit, in which case the employee is entitled to his or her wages at the time of quitting. California Labor Code section 203 provides that if an employer willfully fails to pay, without abatement or reduction, in accordance with Labor Code sections 201, 201.3, 201.5, 201.6, 201.8, 201.9, 202, and 205.5, any wages of an employee who is discharged or who quits, the wages of the employee shall continue as a penalty from the due date thereof at the same rate until paid or until an action therefor is commenced; but the wages shall not continue for more than 30 days. During the relevant time period, CMS failed to pay Mr. Harding and other aggrieved employees all wages, including for uncompensated off-the-clock work, unpaid overtime premiums and premium wages for failing to provide legally mandated meal and rest breaks, due to them within any time period specified by California Labor Code sections 201 and 203 and therefore is liable under California Labor Code section 203.

California Labor Code section 204 requires that all wages earned by any person in any employment between the 1st and the 15th days, inclusive, of any calendar month, other than those wages due upon termination of an employee, are due and payable between the 16th and the 26th day of the month during which the labor was performed, and that all wages earned by any person in any employment between the 16th and the last day, inclusive, of any calendar month, other than those wages due upon termination of an employee, are due and payable between the 1st and the 10th day of the following month. California Labor Code section 204 also requires that all wages earned for labor in excess of the normal work period shall be paid no later than the payday for the next regular payroll period. During the relevant time period, CMS failed to pay Mr. Harding and other aggrieved employees all wages due to them, including for uncompensated off-the-clock work, unpaid overtime premiums and premium wages for failing to provide legally mandated meal and rest breaks within any time period specified by California Labor Code section 204.

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California Labor Code section 226 requires employers to make, keep and provide complete and accurate itemized wage statements to their employees. During the relevant time period, CMS did not provide Mr. Harding and other aggrieved employees with complete and accurate itemized wage statements. The wage statements they received from CMS were in violation of California Labor Code section 226(a). The violations include, but are not limited to, the failure to include (1) gross wages earned by Mr. Harding and other aggrieved employees, (2) total hours worked by Mr. Harding and other aggrieved employees, (3) the number of piece-rate units earned and any applicable piece rate by Mr. Harding and other aggrieved employees (4) all deductions for Mr. Harding and other aggrieved employees, (5) net wages earned by Mr. Harding and other aggrieved employees, (6) the inclusive dates of the period for which Mr. Harding and other aggrieved employees are paid, (7) the name of the aggrieved employee and only the last four digits of his or her social security number or an employee identification number other than a social security number, (8) the name and address of the legal entity that is the employer and (9) all applicable hourly rates in effect during the pay period and the corresponding number of hours worked at each hourly rate by Mr. Harding and other aggrieved employees.

California Labor Code section 558 allows recovery of penalties. (a) Any employer or other person acting on behalf of an employer who violates, or causes to be violated, a section of this chapter or any provision regulating hours and days of work in any order of the Industrial Welfare Commission shall be subject to a civil penalty as follows: (1) For any initial violation, fifty dollars (\$50) for each underpaid employee for each pay period for which the employee was underpaid in addition to an amount sufficient to recover underpaid wages. (2) For each subsequent violation, one hundred dollars (\$100) for each underpaid employee for each pay period for which the employee was underpaid in addition to an amount sufficient to recover underpaid wages. (3) Wages recovered pursuant to this section shall be paid to the affected employee. Mr. Harding and other aggrieved employees have been denied their wages and premium wages and, therefore, are entitled to penalties.

California Labor Code sections 1174(d) requires an employer to keep, at a central location in the state or at the plants or establishments at which employees are employed, payroll records showing the hours worked daily by and the wages paid to, and the number of piece-rate units earned by and any applicable piece rate paid to, employees employed at the respective plants or establishments. These records shall be kept with rules established for this purpose by the commission, but in any case, shall be kept on file for not less than two years. During the relevant time period, CMS failed to keep accurate and complete payroll records showing the hours worked daily and the wages paid, to Mr. Harding and other aggrieved employees.

LWDA

September 16, 2022

Page 6 of 7

California Labor Code sections 1194, 1197 and 1197.1 provide the minimum wage to be paid to employees, and the payment of a lesser wage than the minimum so fixed is unlawful. During the relevant time period, CMS did not provide Mr. Harding and other aggrieved employees with the minimum wages to which they were entitled despite constructive and actual knowledge of off-the-clock work, including pre- and post-shift, and during meal breaks.

California Labor Code sections 2800 and 2802 require an employer to reimburse its employee for all necessary expenditures incurred by the employee in direct consequence of the discharge of his or her job duties or in direct consequence of his or her obedience to the directions of the employer. During their employment, aggrieved employees incurred necessary business-related expenses and costs that were not fully reimbursed by CMS, including for purchasing equipment they were required to wear while working and using their personal cellular phones for work purposes.

We believe that Mr. Harding and other current and former California-based hourly-paid or non-exempt employees are entitled to penalties as allowed under California Labor Code section 2698, *et seq.* for violations of Labor Code sections 201, 202, 203, 204, 210, 218.5, 221, 226(a), 226.3, 226.7, 246, 510, 512(a), 558, 1174(d), 1194, 1197, 1197.1, 1198, 2800 and 2802, and the IWC Wage Orders.

California Labor Code section 2699.3 requires that a claimant send a certified letter to the employer in questions and the California Labor & Workforce Development Agency setting forth the claims, and the basis for the claims, thereby giving the California Labor & Workforce Development Agency an opportunity to investigate the claims and/or take any action it deems appropriate.

The purpose of this letter is to satisfy the requirement created by California Labor code section 2699 prior to seeking penalties allowed by law for the aforementioned statutory violations. We look forward to determining whether California Labor & Workforce Development Agency intends to take any action in reference to these claims. We kindly request that you respond to this notice according to the time frame contemplated by the California Labor Code.

Mr. Harding will seek these penalties on his own behalf and on behalf of other similarly situated California-based hourly-paid or non-exempt employees of CMS within one year of the date of this letter, as allowed by law.

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LWDA

September 16, 2022

Page 7 of 7

If you have any questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact us. Thank you for your attention to this matter and the noble cause you advance each and every day.

Very truly yours,

JUSTICE LAW CORPORATION

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Han', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Douglas Han, Esq.

CC: (By Certified U.S. Mail Only):

Countywide Mechanical Systems, Inc.

c/o CSC - Lawyers Incorporating Services

2710 Gateway Oaks Dr. Ste. 150N

Sacramento, California 95833

Agent for Service of Process for Countywide Mechanical Systems, Inc.

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**PROOF OF SERVICE
1013A(3) CCP**

STATE OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

I am employed in the County of Los Angeles, State of California. I am over the age of 18 and not a party to the within action. My business address is 751 N. Fair Oaks Avenue, Suite 101, Pasadena, CA 91103 and my electronic service address is jtorrez@justicelawcorp.com

On January 20, 2023, I served the foregoing document described as

FIRST AMENDED CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES

for the following case: **Nava, et al. v. Countywide Mechanical Systems, Inc.**
LWDA/Court Case No.: **LWDA Case No.: CM- 908274-22**
Court Case No.: 37-2021-00049164-CU-OE-CTL
San Diego County Superior Court

on interested parties in this action by electronically submitting as follows:

State of California
Labor & Workforce Development Agency
800 Capitol Mall, MIC-55
Sacramento, California 95814

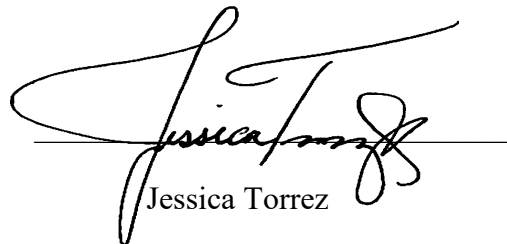
[X] BY ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION

Pursuant to California Senate Bill No. 836, I caused the documents described above to be electronically submitted by and through the procedure stated on the website of the State of California Labor and Workforce Development Agency.

[X] STATE

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the above is true and correct.

Executed on January 20, 2023, at Pasadena, California.


Jessica Torrez