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SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

ERIC MUNOZ, on behalf of other similarly situated and the State of California under the Private Attorneys General Act,

Plaintiffs,

vs.

REALMANAGE LLC; THE WALTERS MANAGEMENT COMPANY, LLC; and DOES 1 through 50, inclusive,

Defendants.

Case No. 25CU039520C

Judge:
Department:

CLASS ACTION

CLASS AND REPRESENTATIVE ACTION COMPLAINT

1. Failure to Pay All Wages Owed
2. Meal Period Violations
3. Rest Period Violations
4. Untimely Payment of Wages
5. Wage Statement Violations
6. Waiting Time Penalties
7. Failure to Reimburse Business Expenses
8. Unfair Competition
9. Retaliation
10. Civil Penalties under the Private Attorneys General Act (Labor Code §§ 2698 *et seq.*)

Action Filed:

Plaintiff ERIC MUNOZ, on behalf of all other similarly situated and the State of California under the Private Attorneys General Act ("Plaintiff") brings this CLASS AND REPRESENTATIVE ACTION COMPLAINT against Defendants REALMANAGE LLC; THE WALTERS MANAGEMENT COMPANY, LLC; and DOES 1 through 50, inclusive (collectively "Defendants"), alleging as follows:

INTRODUCTION

1. This is a class action brought under the California Code of Civil Procedure section 382 for Defendants' violations of the California Labor Code and Business Professions Code

2. Defendants underpaid meal and rest premiums by failing to include all forms of non-excludable remuneration into the regular rate of pay calculations.

3. Defendants failed to pay all regular hours due to underpayment of on-call hours.

4. Defendants failed to permit and authorize all meal and rest periods and otherwise pay all owed meal and rest period premiums.

5. Defendants failed to reimburse Plaintiff and the class members for necessary expenses incurred in furtherance of the aggrieved employee's job duties.

6. As set forth in the PAGA notice, Defendants failed to maintain lawful meal and rest periods and regular policies. Defendants' employment policies, practices, and payroll administration systems enabled and facilitated these violations on a company-wide basis with respect to the class members.

JURISDICTION & VENUE

7. Jurisdiction of this action is proper in this Court under Article VI, Section 10 of the California Constitution as the causes of action are premised upon violations of California law.

8. The monetary damages and restitution sought exceed the minimal jurisdiction limits of the Superior Court.

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

10. Venue is proper in this Court under Code of Civil Procedure sections 393(a), 395, and/or 395.5 because, upon information and belief, Defendants conducted business and committed some of the alleged violations in this County.

PARTIES

A. Plaintiff Eric Munoz

11. Plaintiff Munoz is an individual over 18 years of age who worked for Defendants in California as a non-exempt employee from about July 2022 to April 2025. Plaintiff worked as in various positions including Assistant Community Association Manager, Community Association Manager, Assistant Community Association Manager, and Community Guidelines Coordinator.

12. The State of California, via the Labor and Workforce Development Agency ("LWDA"), is the real party in interest in this action. (*Kim v. Reins Int'l California, Inc.* (2020) 9 Cal. 5th 73, 81 [The "government entity on whose behalf the plaintiff files suit is always the real party in interest."]). To the extent permitted by law, including pursuant *Balderas v. Fresh Start Harvesting, Inc.* (2024) 101 Cal. App. 5th 533 and *Rodriguez v. Packers Sanitation Services Ltd*. (Feb. 26, 2025, D083400) ___ Cal.Rptr.3d ___ [2025 WL 615064], the PAGA claim is brought exclusively as a representative action and does not include arbitrable claims.

B. Defendants

13. Defendant RealManage LLC is a Delaware limited liability company that maintains operations and conducts business throughout the State of California, including in this county.

14. Defendant The Walters Management Company, LLC is a California limited liability company that maintains operations and conducts business throughout the State of California, including in this county.

15. The true names and capacities, whether individual, corporate, or otherwise, of the parties sued as DOES 1 through 50, are presently unknown, unascertainable, or uncertain, and are sued by such fictitious names under Code of Civil Procedure section 474. Upon information and belief, each of DOES 1 through 50 constitutes a legal employer or is otherwise legally responsible in some manner for the acts and omissions alleged herein. This Complaint may be amended to reflect their true names and capacities once ascertained.

16. Upon information and belief, Defendants in this action are employers, co-employers, joint employers, and/or part of an integrated employer enterprise, as each of the Defendants exercised control over the wages, hours, and working conditions of the employees, suffered and permitted them to work, and otherwise engaged them as employees under California law.

17. Upon information and belief, at least some of the Defendants have common ownership, common management, interrelationship of operations, and centralized control over labor relations and are therefore part of an integrated enterprise and thus jointly and severally responsible for the acts and omissions alleged herein, including pursuant to Labor Code sections 558, 558.1, and 1197.1.

18. Upon information and belief, Defendants acted in all respects pertinent to this action as an alter-ego, agent, servant, joint employer, joint venturer, co-conspirator, partner, in an integrated enterprise, or in some other capacity on behalf of all other co-defendants, such that the acts and omissions of each defendant may be legally attributable to all others.

CLASS ALLEGATIONS

19. This action is brought individually and on behalf of the following class pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure section 382:

a. All current and former non-exempt employees who worked for Defendants in California at any time from four years (plus the additional 178-day statutory tolling period under Emergency Rule 9) prior to the filing of this action through date of class certification.

20. Plaintiff reserves the right to establish various subclass definitions as appropriate at the class certification stage, according to proof.

21. The class is ascertainable and shares a well-defined community of interest in this litigation:

a. Numerosity: The class is estimated to exceed 50 individuals, although the precise membership of the entire class is unknown at this time. The class is so numerous that joinder of all class members is impracticable. The identities of class members are ascertainable by inspection of Defendants' employment and payroll records.

b. Typicality: Plaintiff's claims are typical of the claims of the other class members. They were subject to the same policies and practices of Defendants, which resulted in losses to the class. Proof of common unlawful business practices, which Plaintiff experienced, will establish the right of the class to recover on the causes of action alleged herein.

c. Adequacy: Plaintiff is an adequate class representative; will take all necessary steps to protect the class members' interests adequately and fairly; has no interest antagonistic to other class members; and is represented by attorneys who have substantial experience prosecuting, defending, resolving, and litigating wage and hour class, collective, and representative actions in California state and federal courts.

d. Superiority: A class action is superior to other means for adjudicating this dispute. Individual joinder is impractical. Class treatment will allow for common issues to be resolved in a single forum, simultaneously, and without duplication of effort and expense.

e. Public Policy Considerations: Certification of this lawsuit as a class action advances the State of California's strong public interest in ensuring its approximately millions of employed residents are properly paid the wages they earned for the hours they worked. Class actions provide a mechanism for enforcement of labor laws and allow for vindication of employee rights by unnamed class members.

22. Common questions of law and fact as to the class members predominate over questions affecting only individual members. The common questions of law and fact exist as to whether the employment policies and practices formulated by Defendants and applied to the class members constitute violations of California law.

GENERAL ALLEGATIONS

23. Plaintiff and the class members worked for Defendants as non-exempt employees.

24. Defendants failed to pay Plaintiff and the class members at the lawful minimum wage rate for all hours worked, resulting in unpaid minimum wages.

25. Specifically, Defendants maintained an unlawful flat rate on-call pay policy under which Plaintiff and, on information and belief, other class members were not paid at least the required minimum hourly rate for all on-call hours worked. During on-call shifts, Defendants required Plaintiff to respond to and assist with any resident emergencies within ten minutes. Additionally, Defendants required Plaintiff to be connected to the company's internet during on-call shifts at all times. These on-call shifts expanded from 5pm to 8am, resulting in 15 hours of on-call work. However, Defendants paid a flat rate of $30 that failed to amount to the minimum hourly rate for each hour worked. As a result, Defendants consistently failed to pay wages for all on-call hours worked.

26. Furthermore, Defendants failed to compensate Plaintiff and, on information and belief, other class members at the legally required overtime rate for hours worked in excess of eight hours per day and/or forty (40) hours per workweek. In addition to failing to pay the correct overtime premium, Defendants unlawfully excluded on-call compensation from the regular rate of pay used to calculate overtime wages. By failing to incorporate on-call pay into the regular rate, Defendants further reduced the amount owed to Plaintiff and other class members for overtime hours worked, in violation of the applicable state wage and hour laws.

27. Defendants failed to provide Plaintiff and the class members with all meal periods required by California law.

28. Specifically, Defendants often required Plaintiff and the class members to work through their shift's first six hours without stopping for a meal period.

29. Furthermore, Plaintiff and the class members often work 8-hour shifts and attend additional meetings lasting 2 hours, totaling a 10-hour day. On these occasions, Defendants failed to provide Plaintiff and the class members with their second meal periods as is required by California law. Each time Plaintiff and the class members experienced a non-compliant meal period, Defendants owed a meal period premium. However, as a matter of policy and practice, Defendants failed to pay all meal period premiums owed.

30. Second, Defendants failed to include all additional forms of remuneration into the regular rate of pay resulting in unpaid meal period premiums.

31. Specifically, Plaintiff and the class members earned additional forms of remuneration, e.g. on-call pay. However, as a matter of policy and practice, Defendants failed to include these additional forms of remuneration in the regular rate of pay for purposes of calculating meal period premiums.

32. Defendants also failed to provide compliant rest periods.

33. Specifically, Defendants failed to provide Plaintiff and the class members with the lawful amount of rest periods per shift.

34. Additionally, Defendants failed to release Plaintiff and the class members of all work-related duties during their paid rest periods. Each time Plaintiff and the class members experienced a non-compliant rest period, Defendants owed a rest period premium. However, as a matter of policy and practice, Defendants failed to pay all rest period premiums owed.

35. To the extent that Defendants did pay rest period premiums, they were underpaid. Defendants failed to include all additional forms of remuneration, e.g. the on-call pay in the regular rate of pay resulting in unpaid rest period premiums.

36. Defendants required Plaintiff and the class members to incur costs for work-related purposes without full reimbursement.

37. In direct consequence of their job duties, Plaintiff and the class members unavoidably and necessarily incurred these losses, expenditures, costs, and as a matter of policy and practice.

38. Specifically, Defendants required Plaintiff and the class members to download Outlook and Paycom to their personal phones or home computers for remote days. Defendants required Plaintiff and the class members to use these applications for email communication and pay tracking. However, Defendants failed to reimburse Plaintiff and the class members for the cellphone or home internet related costs associated with these mandatory applications, resulting in unreimbursed employee expenses.

39. Because of these violations, Defendants failed to provide accurate, itemized wage statements to Plaintiff and the class members that included accurate gross or net wages earned as

employees earned meal period premiums which were not paid at the lawful rate due to the regular rate and failure to pay wages for all on-call hours worked.

40. Defendants failed to provide accurate itemized wage statements to the class members each pay period as a result of the policies and practices set forth in this notice. Defendants violated Labor Code section 226(a)(1) and (5) by not listing the correct "gross wages earned" or "net wages earned," as the employees earned wages and premiums that were not paid, resulting in an inaccurate reflection, and recording of "gross wages earned" on those wage statements.

41. In violation of Labor Code section 226(a)(9), Defendants failed to state on employee wage statements each pay period the applicable hourly rates in effect and the number of hours worked at that rate, as Defendants failed to pay all wages and premiums owed to employees. The amounts stated are instead depreciated and underpaid, resulting in an inaccurate reflection on the pay stub. Specifically, Defendants consistently incorrectly coded hourly rates on Plaintiff and the class members' wage statements. For example, Defendants often used the code 'BOD' to indicate that the class members were on the clock for a Board of Directors meeting. However, Defendants also consistently coded the same activity as Weighted Overtime. These inconsistencies caused confusion for the class members in their ability to decipher their payments.

42. These violations create derivative liability for failure to timely pay all wages owed each payday or upon separation of employment.

43. Defendants unlawfully retaliated against Plaintiff in violation of California Labor Code § 98.6 after Plaintiff made complaints regarding Defendants' failure to compensate him for all hours worked and to provide compliant meal and rest periods.

44. Specifically, on multiple occasions, Plaintiff raised concerns to Defendants about his inability to take his first meal period within the first five hours of his shift and/or a second meal period when working shifts longer than ten (10) hours, as required by California law. Plaintiff also questioned Defendants' failure to pay meal period premiums for missed, late, or otherwise noncompliant meal breaks. Rather than addressing or remedying these issues, Defendants retaliated against Plaintiff by refusing to promote him to the position of Community Association Manager, despite the fact that Plaintiff was already performing the essential functions and responsibilities of that role.

45. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that Defendants' refusal to promote him was motivated by and directly in response to his complaints about meal period violations and unpaid wages, and that such adverse employment action constitutes unlawful retaliation in violation of California Labor Code § 98.6.

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

FAILURE TO PAY ALL WAGES OWED

Violation of Labor Code §§ 200, 218, 1194, 1194.2 and 1197

(All Claims Alleged by Plaintiff and Class Members Against All Defendants)

46. All outside paragraphs of this Complaint are incorporated into this section.

47. This cause of action is brought pursuant to the IWC Wage Orders and Labor Code §§ 200, 218, 1182.12, 1194, 1194.2, 1197, 1197.1 and 1198 and the IWC Wage Orders (the "Hours and Days of Work" and "Minimum Wages" sections of the applicable orders), which require non-exempt employees be timely paid at least the state or local minimum wage (if higher) for each hour of work, and further provide a private right of action for an employer's failure to pay all minimum wages (plus liquidated damages). In addition to minimum wages, Labor Code § 200 states that "'wages' includes all amounts for labor performed by employees of every description, whether the amount is fixed or ascertained by the standard of time, task, piece, commission basis, or other method of calculation."

48. Defendants willfully failed in their affirmative obligation to pay Plaintiff and class members at least the lawful minimum wage for each hour worked in violation of Labor Code sections 1182.12, 1194, 1194.2, 1197, 1197.1 and 1198 and the IWC Wage Orders (the "Hours and Days of Work" and "Minimum Wages" sections of the applicable orders), including payment at the lawful local and county minimum wage ordinances in effect. As a result, Defendants are liable for all associated damages, including liquidated damages for the minimum wage violations pursuant to Labor Code § 1194.2.

49. Defendants' unlawful acts and omissions deprived Plaintiff and class members of minimum, regular and overtime wages in amounts to be determined at trial. Plaintiff and class members are entitled to recover the full amount of the unpaid wages, plus liquidated damages in an

amount equal to the wages unlawfully unpaid (and interest thereon), in addition to interest, attorneys' fees, and costs to the extent permitted by law, including under Labor Code sections 1194 and 1194.2, 218.6 and any other applicable statutes.

SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION

MEAL PERIOD VIOLATIONS

Violation of Labor Code §§ 226.7 and 512

50. All outside paragraphs of this Complaint are incorporated into this section.

51. This cause of action is brought pursuant to the IWC Wage Orders and Labor Code §§ 226.7, 558 and 512, which require non-exempt employees be provided complaint meal periods (or meal period premiums in lieu thereof), and which further provide a private right of action for an employer's failure to lawfully provide all meal periods and/or pay meal period premiums at the lawful regular rate of compensation.

52. Defendants willfully failed in their affirmative obligation to consistently provide Plaintiff and class members compliant, duty-free meal periods of not less than 30 minutes beginning before the fifth hour of hour for each work period of more than five hours per day and a second duty-free meal period of not less than 30 minutes beginning before the tenth hour of hour of work in violation of Labor Code sections 226.7, 512, 558, 1198 and the IWC Wage Orders (the "Meal Periods" sections of the applicable orders).

53. Further, Defendants willfully failed in their affirmative obligation to consistently pay Plaintiff and class members one additional hour of pay at the respective regular rate of compensation for each workday that a fully compliant meal period was not provided, in violation of Labor Code sections 226.7, 512, 558, and 1198 and the IWC Wage Orders (the "Meal Periods" sections of the applicable orders).

54. Plaintiff and class members are entitled to recover the full amount of the meal period premiums owed, in addition to interest, statutory and civil penalties, and attorneys' fees, and costs to the extent permitted by law.

<u>THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION</u>

REST PERIOD VIOLATIONS

Violation of Labor Code §§ 226.7 and 516

55. All outside paragraphs of this Complaint are incorporated into this section.

56. This cause of action is brought pursuant to the IWC Wage Orders and Labor Code §§ 226.7 and 516, which require non-exempt employees be authorized to take complaint rest periods (or rest period premiums in lieu thereof), and which further provide a private right of action for an employer's failure to lawfully provide all rest periods and/or pay rest period premiums at the lawful regular rate of compensation.

57. Defendants willfully failed in their affirmative obligation to consistently authorize and permit Plaintiff and class members to receive compliant, duty-free rest periods of not less than ten (10) minutes for every four hours worked (or major fraction thereof) in violation of Labor Code sections 226.7, 516, 558, and 1198 and the IWC Wage Orders (the "Rest Periods" sections of the applicable orders).

58. Further, Defendants willfully failed in their affirmative obligation to consistently pay Plaintiff and class members one additional hour of pay at the respective regular rate of compensation for each workday that a fully compliant rest period was not provided, in violation of Labor Code sections 226.7, 516, 558, and 1198 and the IWC Wage Orders.

<u>FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION</u>

UNTIMELY PAYMENT OF WAGES

Violation of Labor Code §§ 204, 210, 218

59. All outside paragraphs of this Complaint are incorporated into this section.

60. This cause of action is brought pursuant to the IWC Wage Orders and Labor Code §§ 204, 204b, and 210 which require non-exempt employees be timely paid all wages owed each pay period, and which further provide a private right of action for an employer's failure to comply with this obligation. Labor Code § 218 authorizes individuals to sue directly for wages and penalties due under these sections, including Labor Code § 210(c)'s statutory late payment penalties.

61. Defendants willfully failed in their affirmative obligation to timely pay all wages, including paid sick leave and meal and rest premiums, earned by Plaintiff and class members twice during each calendar month on days designated in advance by the employer as regular paydays (for employees paid on a non-weekly basis) and on the regularly-scheduled weekly payday for weekly employees, if any, in violation of Labor Code sections 204 and 204b and the IWC Wage Orders (the "Minimum Wages" sections of the applicable orders).

62. Plaintiff and class members are entitled to recover the full amount of the unpaid wages, in addition to a statutory penalty in the amount of $100 for the initial violation for each failure to pay each employee and $200 for all subsequent violations and for all willful or intentional violations for each failure to pay each employee, plus 25 percent of the amount unlawfully withheld under provided in Labor Code § 210, in addition to interest, attorneys' fees, and costs to the extent permitted by law.

FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION

WAGE STATEMENT VIOLATIONS

Violation of Labor Code § 226

63. All outside paragraphs of this Complaint are incorporated into this section.

64. This cause of action is brought by a wage statement subclass pursuant to Labor Code § 226(a) which requires non-exempt employees be provided accurate itemized wage statements each pay period, and which further provide a private right of action for an employer's failure to comply with this obligation.

65. Defendants knowingly and intentionally failed in their affirmative obligation to provide accurate itemized wage statements to Plaintiff and class members resulting in injury to Plaintiff and class members. Specifically, the wage statements issued to Plaintiff and class members did not accurately state each pay period all of the information required by Labor Code § 226(a)(1)-(9).

66. Defendants' unlawful acts and omissions deprived Plaintiff and class members of accurate itemized wage statements, causing confusion and concealing wage and premium underpayments.

67. As a result, Plaintiff and class members are entitled to recover the statutory penalty of $50 per employee for the initial pay period in which a violation occurred and $100 per employee for

each violation in a subsequent pay period, up to an aggregate penalty of $4,000 per employee, in addition to interest, attorneys' fees, and costs to the extent permitted by law, including under Labor Code section 226(e).

<u>SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION</u>

WAITING TIME PENALTIES

Violation of Labor Code §§ 201 *et seq*.

68. All outside paragraphs of this Complaint are incorporated into this section.

69. This cause of action is brought by a waiting time subclass pursuant to Labor Code §§ 201 through 203, which require an employer to timely pay all wages earned upon termination of employment, and which further provide a private right of action to recover statutory waiting time penalties each day an employer fails to comply with this obligation, up to a maximum of 30 days wages.

70. Defendants willfully failed and continue to fail in their affirmative obligation to pay all wages earned and unpaid to Plaintiff and class members immediately upon termination of employment or within 72 hours thereafter for employees who did not provide at least 72 hours prior notice of his or her intention to quit, and further failed to pay those sums for 30 days thereafter in violation of Labor Code sections 201 through 203 and the IWC Wage Orders.

71. Plaintiff and class members are entitled to recover a waiting time penalty for a period of up to 30 days, in addition to interest, attorneys' fees, and costs to the extent permitted by law.

<u>SEVENTH CAUSE OF ACTION</u>

FAILURE TO REIMBURSE BUSINESS EXPENSES

Violation of Labor Code § 2802

72. All outside paragraphs of this Complaint are incorporated into this section.

73. Defendants willfully failed in their affirmative obligation to reimburse Plaintiff and a reimbursement subclass for all necessary expenditures, losses, expenses, and costs incurred by them in direct discharge of the duties of their employment, in violation of Labor Code section 2802.

74. Defendants' unlawful acts and omissions deprived Plaintiff and class members of lawful reimbursements for business expenses in amounts to be determined at trial. Plaintiff and class

members are entitled to recover the amount unreimbursed expenses of Plaintiff and class members in addition to interest, attorneys' fees, and costs to the extent permitted by law, including under Labor Code section 2802.

<u>EIGHTH CAUSE OF ACTION</u>

UNFAIR COMPETITION

Violation of Business and Professions Code §§ 17200 *et seq.*

75. All outside paragraphs of this Complaint are incorporated into this section.

76. Defendants have engaged and continue to engage in unfair and/or unlawful business practices in the State of California in violation of California Business and Professions Code § 17200 by committing the foregoing wage and hour violations alleged throughout this Complaint.

77. Defendants' dependence on these unfair and/or unlawful business practices deprived Plaintiff and continue to deprive other class members of compensation to which they are legally entitled, constitutes unfair and/or unlawful competition, and provides an unfair advantage to Defendants over competitors who have been and/or are currently employing workers in compliance with California's wage and hour laws. These failures constitute unlawful, deceptive, and unfair business acts and practices in violation of Business and Professions Code section 17200 *et seq.*

78. Plaintiff is a victim of Defendants' unfair and/or unlawful conduct alleged in this Complaint, and Plaintiff, as an individual and on behalf of others similarly situated, seeks full restitution of the moneys as necessary and according to proof to restore all monies withheld, acquired, and/or converted by Defendants pursuant to Business and Professions Code §§ 17203 and 17208.

79. Plaintiff does not have an adequate remedy at law for past or future violations, to the extent the statute of limitations on each of the alleged causes of action do not extend to the four year limitation provided under the UCL or to the extent the underlying Labor Code and IWC Wage Order violations do not provide a private right of action.

80. Plaintiff and class members are entitled to injunctive relief against Defendants, restitution, and other equitable relief to return all funds over which Plaintiff and class members have an ownership interest and to prevent future damage and the public interest under Business and Professions Code § 17200 *et seq.* Plaintiff and class members are further entitled to recover interest,

attorneys' fees, and costs to the extent permitted by law, including under Code of Civil Procedure § 1021.5.

<u>NINTH CAUSE OF ACTION</u>

<u>RETALIATION</u>

Violation of Labor Code §§ 98.6

(Alleged by Plaintiff Individually)

81. All outside paragraphs of this Complaint are incorporated into this section.

82. At all times herein mentioned, Labor Code § 98.6 was in full force and effect, and was binding upon Defendants. Said section prohibits employers from discriminating or retaliating against employees who complain to the Labor Commissioner regarding an employer's violations of wage and hour laws.

83. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that he was subjected to retaliation by Defendants as a direct result of his good-faith complaints regarding Defendants' failure to (1) compensate him for all hours worked, and (2) provide meal and rest periods in compliance with California labor laws.

84. Plaintiff's complaints and efforts to enforce his rights under the California Labor Code constitute protected activity under Labor Code § 98.6. In retaliation for engaging in such protected conduct, Defendants refused to promote Plaintiff and took other adverse employment actions against him.

85. To the extent Defendants' conduct was motivated by Plaintiff's exercise of rights related to reporting wage and hour violations and seeking lawful working conditions, such conduct constitutes unlawful retaliation in violation of Labor Code § 98.6.

86. Moreover, Plaintiff's efforts to enforce his rights under California labor laws are protected by the fundamental public policy of the State of California. Defendants' retaliatory actions, including the refusal to promote Plaintiff, also constitute a violation of public policy.

87. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' retaliatory conduct, Plaintiff has suffered and continues to suffer substantial harm, including but not limited to loss of wages and

benefits, damage to career advancement opportunities, and emotional distress, all in an amount to be proven at trial.

TENTH CAUSE OF ACTION

CIVIL PENALTIES UNDER THE PRIVATE ATTORNEYS GENERAL ACT

Violation of Labor Code §§ 2698 *et seq.*

(By Plaintiff on Behalf of the State and the Aggrieved Employees Against All Defendants)

88. All outside paragraphs of this Complaint are incorporated into this section.

89. Plaintiff brings this cause of action as a proxy for the State of California on behalf of the following "aggrieved employees" pursuant to the Private Attorneys General Act ("PAGA"), codified as Labor Code section 2698 *et seq.*:

a. All current and former non-exempt employees who worked for Defendants in California at any time from one year prior to the postmark date of the initial PAGA notice through date of trial.

90. Plaintiff reserves the right to amend, supplement, or add to this description of the aggrieved employees, according to proof.

91. The State of California, via the Labor and Workforce Development Agency ("LWDA"), is the real party in interest in this action with respect to this cause of action. (*Kim v. Reins Int'l California, Inc.* (2020) 9 Cal. 5th 73, 81 [The "government entity on whose behalf the plaintiff files suit is always the real party in interest."])

92. Labor Code section 2699(a) provides: "Notwithstanding any other provision of law,, any provision of this code that provides for a civil penalty to be assessed and collected by the Labor and Workforce Development Agency or any of its departments, divisions, commissions, boards, agencies, or employees, for a violation of this code, may, as an alternative, be recovered through a civil action brought by an aggrieved employee on behalf of the employee and other current or former employees against whom a violation of the same provision was committed pursuant to the procedures specified in Section 2699.3. "

93. Any allegations regarding violations of the IWC Wage Orders are enforceable as violations of Labor Code section 1198, which states: “[t]he employment of any employee for longer hours than those fixed by the order or under conditions of labor prohibited by the order is unlawful.”

94. Labor Code section 2699.3 sets forth the procedure for commencing an action for civil penalties under the PAGA.

95. On or about **May 15, 2025**, Plaintiff paid the requisite PAGA filing fee and provided written notice (by online electronic filing with the LWDA and by certified mail to Defendants) of Defendants’ alleged Labor Code violations, including the facts and theories to support the alleged violations.

96. A true and correct copy of Plaintiff’s written PAGA notice, entitled “Notice of Labor Code Violations” is attached hereto as Exhibit 1 and incorporated by reference as though fully set forth herein (the “PAGA notice”).

97. To date, neither Plaintiff nor Plaintiff’s counsel has received a response to Plaintiff’s written PAGA notice from the LWDA.

98. Within 33 calendar days of the postmark date of the notice sent by Plaintiff, neither Plaintiff nor Plaintiff’s counsel has received written notice by certified mail from any defendant providing a description of any actions taken to cure the alleged violations.

99. Now that at least 65 days have passed from Plaintiff notifying Defendants of these violations, without notice of cure from Defendants or notice from the LWDA of its intent to investigate the alleged allegations and issue the appropriate citations to Defendants, Plaintiff exhausted all prerequisites and commenced this civil action under Labor Code section 2699 *et seq.*

100. As set forth in the PAGA notice attached as Exhibit 1 and incorporated into this Complaint, Defendants committed the following violations and are liable for all corresponding civil penalties:

a. ***Unpaid Hours Worked/Minimum Wage.*** Violation of Labor Code §§ 1194, 1197, 1198; IWC Wage Orders.

b. ***Unpaid Meal Period Premium Wages.*** Violation of Labor Code §§ 226.7, 512, 1198; IWC Wage Orders.

c. ***Unpaid Rest Period Premium Wages.*** Violation of Labor Code §§ 226.7, 516, 1198; IWC Wage Orders.

d. ***Untimely Payment of Wages During Employment.*** Violation of Labor Code §§ 204, 204b, 210.

e. ***Non-Compliant Wage Statements.*** Violation of Labor Code §§ 226, 226.3.

f. ***Unreimbursed Employee Expenses.*** Violation of Labor Code §§ 2802, 2804.

g. ***Failure to Maintain Accurate Records.*** Violation of Labor Code § 1174; IWC Wage Orders.

h. ***Retaliation.*** Violation of Labor Code §§ 98.6.

101. Plaintiff seeks to collect all recoverable civil penalties for the Labor Code violations alleged in this Complaint and the PAGA notice (including amendments thereto) against Defendants pursuant to Labor Code section 2699(a) and (f), in addition to attorneys' fees, costs, and interest to the extent permitted by law, including under Labor Code section 2699(k).

PRAYER

Plaintiff prays for judgment as follows:

a. For certification of this action as a class action;

b. For appointment of Plaintiff as the class representative;

c. For appointment of above-captioned counsel for Plaintiff as Class Counsel;

d. For division of class members into appropriate classes and/or subclasses according to proof;

e. For recovery of all statutory penalties and liquidated damages;

f. For disgorgement of all amounts wrongfully obtained to the extent permitted by law;

g. For restitution and injunctive relief;

h. For attorneys' fees and costs of suit, including expert fees, to the extent permitted by law, including (without limitation) under Labor Code §§ 218.5, 226, 1194, 2802 and Code of Civil Procedure § 1021.5.

i. For recovery of damages in amount according to proof;

j. For all recoverable pre- and post-judgment interest;

k. For this action to be maintained as a representative action under the PAGA;

l. For Plaintiff and counsel of record to be provided with all enforcement capability as if the action were brought by the State of California or the California Division of Labor Enforcement;

m. For recovery of all civil penalties and other recoverable amounts under the PAGA;

n. For reasonable attorneys' fees and costs of suit, including expert fees, to the extent permitted by law, associated with the PAGA claims pursuant to Labor Code § 2699, and Code of Civil Procedure section 1021.5 and any other applicable sections; and

o. For such other relief the Court deems just and proper.

Dated: July 28, 2025

Ferraro Vega Employment Lawyers, Inc.

Dorota James

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EXHIBIT 1

Notice of Labor Code Violations

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May 15, 2025

NOTICE OF LABOR CODE VIOLATIONS
CALIFORNIA LABOR CODE SECTIONS 2698 *et seq.*

VIA CERTIFIED U.S. MAIL
- Electronic Return Receipt -

RealManage, LLC
6400 International Pkwy, Ste 1000
Plano, TX 75093

- PAGA Notice & Filing Fee -
Submitted electronically to the Labor and Workforce Development Agency

The Walters Management Company
6400 International Pkwy, Ste 1000
Plano, TX 75093

Dear LWDA Officer and Company Representatives:

This letter serves as written notice under Labor Code section 2699.3 on behalf of **ERIC MUNOZ** ("Plaintiff(s)") and all other "aggrieved employees" of the following "Defendant(s)":

REALMANAGE LLC; THE WALTERS MANAGEMENT COMPANY

Defendant(s) shall mean and include the foregoing in addition to any other related employer entities, individuals under Labor Code sections 558 and 558.1, and all others who may be later added upon further investigation and discovery as liable employers.

This office serves as legal counsel for Plaintiff. If the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency ("LWDA") does not investigate the facts, allegations, and violations set forth in this notice within the statutorily prescribed 65-day period under Labor Code section 2699.3, Plaintiff intends to commence a civil action against Defendants as a proxy and agent of the State of California under the Private Attorneys General Act ("PAGA"). "PAGA allows an 'aggrieved employee'—a person affected by at least one Labor Code violation committed by an employer—to pursue penalties for all the Labor Code violations committed by that employer." *Huff v. Securitas Security Services USA, Inc.* (2018) 23 Cal.App.5th 745, 751; *Kim v.*

Reins International California, Inc. (2020) 9 Cal.5th 73, 79. Plaintiff maintains standing to pursue these claims against Defendants as an aggrieved employee.

Through this notice, Plaintiff requests that Defendants complete an internal investigation and audit of the wage and hour and employment practices at issue and make a good faith effort to correct any violations. Plaintiff attempts to identify the non-compliant policies and practices affecting the aggrieved employees so that the parties may resolve the underlying damages and penalties in judgment or settlement approved by the Superior Court of California under Labor Code section 2699(s). Defendants are notified that any attempt to resolve this case should be conducted in coordination with Plaintiff's counsel to protect the interests of Plaintiff, the aggrieved employees, and the State of California via the LWDA. Plaintiff advises Defendants this letter should be also considered a reasonable attempt at settlement of this matter, subject to an exchange of additional documents and information. *Graham v. Daimler Chrysler Corp.* (2004) 24 Cal.4th 553, 561.

- BACKGROUND -

Defendants employed Plaintiff during the PAGA Period in various positions including Assistant Community Association Manager, Community Association Manager, and Community Guidelines Coordinator from July 2022 to Present. During their employment Plaintiff and the other aggrieved employees were subject to the wage and hour and employment protections set forth in the California Labor Code and IWC Wage Orders.

Through this notice, Plaintiff informs the LWDA of the Labor Code violations set forth herein. The "aggrieved employees" include Plaintiff and the following individuals:

> All current and former non-exempt employees who worked for Defendants in the State of California during one-year period preceding the date of this notice through the current date and the date of trial in any pending action (the "aggrieved employees" and the "PAGA Period").

Plaintiff reserves the right to expand or narrow the definition of the "aggrieved employees" in the forthcoming civil action. Furthermore, Plaintiff seeks all recoverable civil penalties for Defendants' violations and reserves the right to supplement this notice as further investigation is completed and further facts, witnesses, and violations are uncovered.

- PAGA CLAIMS -

Unpaid Hours Worked/Minimum Wage
Violation of Labor Code §§ 1194, 1197, 1198; IWC Wage Orders

Defendants violated Labor Code sections 1194, 1197, and 1198, along with the California Minimum Wage Order, the applicable local minimum wage ordinances, and the "Hours and

Days of Work" and "Minimum Wages" sections of the applicable IWC Wage Orders with respect to the aggrieved employees.

Labor Code section 1194 renders it unlawful for an employee to receive less than the legal minimum wage for hours worked in California. Labor Code section 1197 further mandates that "[t]he minimum wage for employees fixed by the commission is the minimum wage to be paid to employees, and the payment of a lower wage than the minimum so fixed is unlawful." Labor Code section 1198 renders "employment of any employee for longer hours than those fixed by the order or under conditions of labor prohibited by the [IWC Wage Orders]" unlawful. The California Minimum Wage Order and the applicable sections of the IWC Wage Orders further require payment of minimum wages for all hours worked. The "Minimum Wages" sections of the applicable IWC Wage Order provide that "[e]very employer shall pay to each employee, on the established payday for the period involved, not less than the applicable minimum wage for all hours worked in the payroll period, whether the remuneration is measured by time, piece, commission, or otherwise." The foregoing California wage laws require payment of "not less than the applicable minimum wage *for all hours worked* in the payroll period" and California law does not allow averaging of pay over the hours worked in the pay period, even if the total pay results in an average above the minimum wage. *Armenta v. Osmose, Inc.* (2005) 135 Cal.App.3d 314, 324.

Defendants failed to pay Plaintiff and the aggrieved employees at the lawful minimum wage rate for all hours worked, resulting in unpaid minimum wages. Specifically, Defendants maintained an unlawful flat rate on-call pay policy under which Plaintiff and other aggrieved employees were not paid at least the required minimum hourly rate for all on-call hours worked. During on-call shifts, Defendants required Plaintiff and the aggrieved employees to respond to and assist with any resident emergencies within ten minutes. Additionally, Defendants required Plaintiff and the aggrieved employees to be connected to the company's internet during on-call shifts at all times. These on-call shifts expanded from 5pm to 8am, resulting in 15 hours of on-call work. However, Defendants paid a flat rate of $30 that failed to amount to the minimum hourly rate for each hour worked. As a result, Defendants consistently failed to pay wages for all on-call hours worked.

As a result, Plaintiff may recover civil penalties as an individual and on behalf of the State of California and the aggrieved employees, up to the maximum amount allowed as set forth under the Labor Code.

Unpaid Meal Period Premium Wages
Violation of Labor Code §§ 226.7, 512, 1198; IWC Wage Orders

Defendants violated Labor Code sections 226.7, 512, and 1198, along with the related sections of the IWC Wage Orders with respect to the aggrieved employees.

Labor Code section 512 and the IWC Wage Orders require that employers provide an uninterrupted 30-minute meal period after no more than five hours of work and a second meal period after no more than 10 hours of work. *See Brinker Restaurant Corp. v. Superior Court* (2012) 53 Cal.4th 1004, 1049. Labor Code section 226.7 requires that if a meal period is late, missed, short, or interrupted, the employer must pay one additional hour of pay at the employee's "regular rate" of compensation. *Ferra v. Loews Hollywood Hotel, LLC* (2021) 11 Cal.5th 858, 862 ("We hold that the terms are synonymous: "regular rate of compensation" under section 226.7(c), like "regular rate of pay" under section 510(a), encompasses all nondiscretionary payments, not just hourly wages"). "[T]ime records showing noncompliant meal periods raise a rebuttable presumption of meal period violations, including at the summary judgment stage." *Donohue v. AMN Services, LLC* (2021) 11 Cal.5th 58, 61. Labor Code section 1198 renders "employment of any employee for longer hours than those fixed by the order or under conditions of labor prohibited by the [IWC Wage Orders]" unlawful. The IWC Wage Orders, including Section 11 (Meal Periods), further require one uninterrupted 30-minute meal period after no more than five hours of work and a second meal period after no more than 10 hours of work and an additional hour of pay at the employee's regular rate of compensation for each workday that a compliant meal period is not provided. Pursuant to Section 11(A) of the IWC Wage Orders, the California Supreme Court has held that the on-duty meal period exception is "exceedingly narrow" and applies only when (1) "the nature of the work prevents the employee from being relieved of all duty" and (2) *both* "the employer and employee have agreed, in writing, to the on-duty meal period." *Augustus v. AMB Security Services, Inc.* (2016) 2 Cal.5th 257, 266-276 (emphasis added). If these two requirements are not met, then the employer owes the employee one hour of premium pay for each non-compliant meal period taken under the purported on-duty meal arrangement. *Naranjo v. Spectrum Security Services, Inc.* (2019) 40 Cal.5th 444, 459.

First, Defendants failed to provide Plaintiff and the aggrieved employees with all meal periods required by California law. Specifically, Defendants often required Plaintiff and the aggrieved employees to work through their shift's first six hours without stopping for a meal period. Furthermore, Plaintiff and the aggrieved employees often work 8-hour shifts and attend additional meetings lasting 2 hours, totaling a 10-hour day. On these occasions, Defendants failed to provide Plaintiff and the aggrieved employees with their second meal periods as is required by California law. Each time Plaintiff and the aggrieved employees experienced a non-compliant meal period, Defendants owed a meal period premium. However, as a matter of policy and practice, Defendants failed to pay all meal period premiums owed.

Second, Defendants failed to include all additional forms of remuneration into the regular rate of pay resulting in unpaid meal period premiums. Specifically, Plaintiff and the aggrieved employees earned additional forms of remuneration. However, as a matter of policy and practice, Defendants failed to include these additional forms of remuneration in the regular rate of pay for purposes of calculating meal period premiums.

As a result, Plaintiff may recover civil penalties as an individual and on behalf of the State of California and the aggrieved employees, up to the maximum amount allowed as set forth under the Labor Code.

Unpaid Rest Period Premium Wages
Violation of Labor Code §§ 226.7, 516, 1198; IWC Wage Orders

Defendants violated Labor Code sections 226.7, 516, and 1198, and the related sections of the IWC Wage Orders with respect to Plaintiff and the aggrieved employees.

Labor Code sections 226.7 and 516 and the IWC Wage Orders require that employers authorize and permit an uninterrupted 10-minute rest period for each four-hour period (or major fraction thereof) that an employee works. Labor Code section 226.7 requires that if a rest period is non-compliant, the employer must pay one additional hour of pay at the employee's "regular rate" of compensation. *Ferra v. Loews Hollywood Hotel, LLC* (2021) 11 Cal.5th 858, 862 ("We hold that the terms are synonymous: "regular rate of compensation" under section 226.7(c), like "regular rate of pay" under section 510(a), encompasses all nondiscretionary payments, not just hourly wages"). Labor Code section 1198 renders "employment of any employee for longer hours than those fixed by the order or under conditions of labor prohibited by the [IWC Wage Orders]" unlawful. The IWC Wage Orders, including Section 12 (Rest Periods), further require one uninterrupted 10-minute rest period for each four-hour period (or major faction thereof) worked and an additional hour of pay at the employee's regular rate of compensation for each workday that a compliant rest period is not authorized or permitted.

First, Defendants failed to provide compliant rest periods. Specifically, Defendants failed to provide Plaintiff and the aggrieved employees with the lawful amount of rest periods per shift. Additionally, Defendants failed to release Plaintiff and the aggrieved employees of all work-related duties during their paid rest periods. Each time Plaintiff and the aggrieved employees experienced a non-compliant rest period, Defendants owed a rest period premium. However, as a matter of policy and practice, Defendants failed to pay all rest period premiums owed.

To the extent that Defendants did pay rest period premiums, they were underpaid. Defendants failed to include all additional forms of remuneration in the regular rate of pay resulting in unpaid rest period premiums. Specifically, Plaintiff and the aggrieved employees earned additional forms of remuneration. However, as a matter of policy and practice, Defendants failed to include these additional forms of remuneration in the regular rate of pay for purposes of calculating rest period premiums.

As a result, Plaintiff may recover civil penalties as an individual and on behalf of the State of California and the aggrieved employees, up to the maximum amount allowed as set forth under the Labor Code.

Untimely Payment of Wages During Employment
Violation of Labor Code §§ 204, 204b, 210

Defendants violated Labor Code sections 204 and/or 204b and 210, as applicable, with respect to Plaintiff and the aggrieved employees.

Labor Code section 204(a) requires payment of "all wages" for non-exempt employees at least twice each calendar month. Labor Code section 204(d) states all wages due must be paid "not more than seven calendar days following the close of the payroll period." Labor Code section 204b applies to employees paid on a weekly basis and also requires the payment for all labor within the required pay periods. Labor Code section 210 provides "every person who fails to pay the wages of an employee as provided in Section … 204 … shall be subject to a civil penalty" of $100 for an initial violation and $200 plus 25% of the amount unlawfully withheld for a subsequent violation.

Because Defendants failed to pay all wages and premiums in each pay period in which such wages were earned at the lawful rate, Defendants violated Labor Code section 204 and/or 204b (for weekly employees, as applicable). Defendants violated Labor Code sections 204 and 204b by failing to pay all wages and premiums owed on the regular pay days scheduled each pay period within seven calendar days of the close of the payroll period, as a result of the policies and practices set forth in this notice.

As a result, Plaintiff may recover civil penalties as an individual and on behalf of the State of California and the aggrieved employees, up to the maximum amount allowed as set forth under the Labor Code.

Non-Compliant Wage Statements
Violation of Labor Code §§ 226, 226.3

Defendants violated Labor Code sections 226(a) and 226.3 with respect to the aggrieved employees by failing to furnish itemized wage statements each pay period that accurately list all information required by Labor Code section 226(a)(1) through (9).

Labor Code section 226(a) requires an employer to furnish wage statements to employees semimonthly or at the time of each payment of wages, "an accurate itemized statement in writing showing:" (1) gross wages earned, (2) total hours worked, (3) the number of piece rate units earned and applicable piece-rate in effect, (4) all deductions, (5) net wages earned, (6) the inclusive dates of the pay period, (7) the name of the employee and last four digits of SSN or an EIN, (8) the name and address of the legal name of the employer, and (9) all applicable hourly rates in effect during the pay period and the number of hours worked at each hourly rate by the employee.

Defendants failed to provide accurate itemized wage statements to the aggrieved employees each pay period as a result of the policies and practices set forth in this notice. Defendants violated Labor Code section 226(a)(1) and (5) by not listing the correct "gross wages earned" or "net wages earned," as the employees earned wages and premiums that were not paid, resulting in an inaccurate reflection, and recording of "gross wages earned" on those wage statements. Likewise, in violation of Labor Code section 226(a)(9), Defendants failed to state on employee wage statements each pay period the applicable hourly rates in effect and the number of hours worked at that rate, as Defendants failed to pay all wages and premiums owed to employees. The amounts stated are instead depreciated and underpaid, resulting in an inaccurate reflection on the pay stub. Specifically, Defendants consistently incorrectly coded hourly rates on Plaintiff and the aggrieved employees' wage statements. For example, Defendants often used the code BOD to indicate that the aggrieved employees were on the clock for a Board of Directors meeting. However, Defendants also consistently coded the same activity as Weighted Overtime. These inconsistencies caused confusion for the aggrieved employees in their ability to decipher their payments.

Plaintiff and other aggrieved employees cannot promptly and easily determine from the wage statement alone the wages paid or earned without reference to other documents or information. Indeed, these wage statement violations are significant because they sow confusion among Plaintiff and other aggrieved employees with respect to what amounts were owed and paid, at what rates, the number of hours worked, and how those amounts were or should be calculated. The wage statements reflect a false statement of earnings and concealed the underlying problems and underpayments of employee wages.

As a result, Plaintiff may recover civil penalties as an individual and on behalf of the State of California and the aggrieved employees, up to the maximum amount allowed as set forth under the Labor Code.

<u>Unreimbursed Employee Expenses</u>
Violation of Labor Code §§ 2802, 2804

Defendants violated Labor Code section 2802 with respect to the aggrieved employees by failing to reimburse the aggrieved employees for all necessary expenditures or losses incurred as part of their job duties.

<u>Labor Code section 2802</u> requires an employer to "indemnify his or her employee for all necessary expenditures or losses incurred by the employee in direct consequence of the discharge of his or her duties, or of his or her obedience to the directions of the employer, even though unlawful, unless the employee, at the time of obeying the directions, believed them to be unlawful." *See, e.g., Espinoza v. West Coast Tomato Growers, LLC*, 2016 WL 4468175 at *4, n.2 (S.D. Cal. Aug. 24, 2016, No. 14-CV-2984 W (KSC)).

<u>Labor Code section 2804</u> affirms that "[a]ny contract or agreement, express or implied, made by any employee to waive the benefits of this article or any part thereof, is null and void, and this article shall not deprive any employee or his personal representative of any right or remedy to which he is entitled under the laws of this State."

Defendants required Plaintiff and the aggrieved employees to incur costs for work-related purposes without full reimbursement. In direct consequence of their job duties, Plaintiff and the aggrieved employees unavoidably and necessarily incurred these losses, expenditures, costs, and as a matter of policy and practice. Specifically, Defendants required Plaintiff and the aggrieved employees to download Outlook and Paycom to their personal phones or home computers for remote days. Defendants required Plaintiff and the aggrieved employees to use these applications for email communication and pay tracking. However, Defendants failed to reimburse Plaintiff and the aggrieved employees for the cellphone or home internet related costs associated with these mandatory applications, resulting in unreimbursed employee expenses.

As a result, Plaintiff may recover civil penalties as an individual and on behalf of the State of California and the aggrieved employees, up to the maximum amount allowed as set forth under the Labor Code.

Failure to Maintain Accurate Records
Violation of Labor Code § 1174; IWC Wage Orders

Defendants violated Labor Code sections 1174 and the IWC Wage Orders by failing to maintain accurate employee payroll records with respect to Plaintiff and other aggrieved employees.

Labor Code section 1174 requires that employers maintain accurate "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." Section 7(A) of the IWC Wage Orders, which may be enforced through Labor Code section 1198, mandates similar recordkeeping obligations.

Because of the policies and practices set forth in this notice, including the failure to accurately account for wages earned or hours worked, Defendants failed to accurately maintain records in accordance with Labor Code section 1174 and the IWC Wage Orders.

As a result, Plaintiff may recover civil penalties as an individual and on behalf of the State of California and the aggrieved employees, up to the maximum amount allowed as set forth under the Labor Code.

Attorneys' Fees and Costs
Labor Code § 2699(k)(1)

Plaintiff has been compelled to retain the services of counsel to protect the interests of other aggrieved employees and the State of California. Plaintiff continues to incur attorneys' fees and costs, which are recoverable under California law, including Labor Code section 2699(k)(1).

- LITIGATION HOLD NOTICE –

This letter imposes a duty upon all defendants and their respective employees, officers, directors, executives, attorneys, human resource and payroll personnel, accountants, and other agents to preserve all physical and electronic evidence, including electronically stored information and emails, which relate to the employment of Plaintiff and the aggrieved employees specified in this notice. Evidence includes, but is not limited to, Defendants' written employment and payroll policies and handbooks; the aggrieved employees' personnel files and payroll records, such as paystubs, time records, wage statements, compensation reports, as well as the underlying electronically data in Excel or similar format. Memoranda and internal and external correspondence relating to the subject matter of this notice shall also be maintained. Failure to preserve and retain relevant evidence may constitute spoliation of evidence and result in an adverse inference or sanctions.

If you have any questions regarding the scope of your obligations to preserve evidence, please consult your legal counsel and always err on the side of caution. Periodic or regularly scheduled purges or deletions of information covered by this hold must be suspended immediately.

- CONCLUSION -

If the LWDA does not pursue enforcement, Plaintiff intends to bring representative claims on behalf of the State of California and the aggrieved employees seeking civil penalties for violations of the Labor Code and the IWC Wage Orders, along with attorneys' fees, costs, interest, and other appropriate relief.

Please advise if the LWDA intends to investigate any of the factual or legal allegations set forth in this notice. Defendants may contact Plaintiff's counsel with any questions regarding this letter or the forthcoming lawsuit.

Sincerely,

Dorota James

Dorota James

Cc Plaintiff Eric Munoz

Defense Counsel, Claudia Areyzaga – claudia.areyzaga@realmange.com

lmp