



ZAGHI LAW, A.P.C.

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May 13, 2025

NOTICE OF LABOR CODE VIOLATIONS PURSUANT TO LABOR CODE SECTION SECTIONS 2698 *ET SEQ.*

VIA ONLINE SUBMISSION

California Labor and Workforce Development Agency
Private Attorneys General Act – Filing

VIA CERTIFIED MAIL (RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED)

Re: *CESAR RODARTE v. PRIMOS ESCONDIDO, L.P., et al.*

To Whom It May Concern:

The office represents CESAR RODARTE (“Claimant”) with respect to his claims against PRIMOS ESCONDIDO, L.P.; PRIMOS FRANCHISE HOLDINGS VIII, LLC; DOS PRIMOS, LLC; PRIMOS CLAIREMONT MESA, L.P.; PRIMOS SAN MARCOS, L.P.; 20 LOS PRIMOS L.P.; 21 LOS PRIMOS L.P.; LOS PRIMOS 16, L.P.; PRIMOS ALISO CREEK, LP; PRIMOS RANCHO, L.P.; 18 LOS PRIMOS L.P.; PRIMOS SANTA FE, L.P.; PRIMOS TEMECULA 76, L.P.; LOS PRIMOS GROVE, L.P.; PRIMOS LAGUNA NIGUEL, LP; PRIMOS MENIFEE, L.P.; PRIMOS MANAGEMENT, INC.; and FELIX CALERO (collectively, “Employer”) for violations of the California Labor Code and IWC Wage Orders. This letter is being sent simultaneously to Employer by certified mail. The above-named Employer engaged Claimant and Aggrieved Employees as there was sufficient control over wages, hours, and working conditions, whether directly or indirectly. Employer is a limited liability company doing business in the State of California. Employer employed Claimant as a non-exempt/hourly employee.

Employer employed or currently employs other Aggrieved Employees in California.

Claimant intends to seek penalties for violations of the California Labor Code, which are recoverable under California Labor Code section 2698, *et seq.*, the Private Attorneys General Act of 2004 (“PAGA”). Claimant is seeking penalties on behalf of himself and in a representative capacity on behalf of the State of California and all current and former non-exempt employees of any of the Employer (“Aggrieved Employees”). This letter is being sent in compliance with California Labor Code section 2699.3.

As detailed below, Employer violated several of California’s wage and hour laws during Claimant employment, including but not limited to violations of California Labor Code §§ 98.6, 98.7, 201, 202, 203, 204, 226(a), 226.3, 226.7, 227.3, 510, 512(a), 558, 558.5, 1174(d), 1194, 1197, 1197.1, 1198, 2800 and 2802, and the Industrial Welfare Commission Wage Orders (“IWC Wage Order”). The claims made on behalf of Claimant and Aggrieved Employees are based upon the following facts and theories:

1. FAILURE TO PAY FOR ALL TIME WORKED AT CORRECT RATES OF PAY, INCLUDING MINIMUM WAGES, STRAIGHT TIME WAGES, AND OVERTIME COMPENSATION.

Employer has engaged in numerous unlawful practices which resulted in the failure to pay Claimant and Aggrieved Employees for all time worked at the correct rates of pay, including minimum wages, straight time wages, and overtime compensation.

First, Employer regularly required Claimant and Aggrieved Employees to work off-the-clock in order to complete their duties and responsibilities. This off-the-clock work included, amongst other things, requiring Claimant and Aggrieved Employees to: (1) respond to Employer and work-related requests and perform work while clocked out for purported meal breaks. Claimant and Aggrieved Employees were not compensated for this off-the-clock work, resulting in a failure to pay minimum wages and straight time wages. Moreover, this off-the-clock work typically caused Claimant and Aggrieved Employees to work more than eight (8) hours in a day and forty (40) hours in week, resulting in a failure to pay overtime compensation.

In addition to requiring Claimant and Aggrieved Employees to perform work off-the-clock without compensation, Employer also failed to accurately record the actual time worked by Claimant and Aggrieved Employees, which resulted in a failure to pay Claimant and Aggrieved Employees for all hours worked, including minimum wages, straight time wages and overtime wages. Finally, and as a matter of policy and/or practice, Employer failed to pay overtime to Claimant and Aggrieved Employees for all overtime hours worked based on regular rates of pay correctly calculated to include all applicable remuneration.

As a result of the foregoing practices, Employer has failed to pay Claimant and Aggrieved Employees for all wages earned at the correct rates of pay, including minimum wages, straight time wages, and overtime compensation. Accordingly, Employer violated the applicable IWC Wage Order and California Labor Code sections 204, 510, 1194, 1197, 1197.1 and 1198. Claimant and Aggrieved Employees will therefore seek PAGA default penalties; penalties pursuant to paragraph (20)(A) of the applicable IWC Wage Orders; penalties pursuant to California Labor Code sections 558, 1197.1, and 1199; and attorneys' fees and costs.

Fact Summary: Claimant and Aggrieved Employees regularly worked off-the-clock without pay. They received calls from managers on their personal cell phones 3–4 times per week, made bank deposits after clocking out 6–7 times per month, and were sent to pick up supplies from stores 7–8 times per month. They also responded to work emails outside of their recorded hours.

2. FAILURE TO PROVIDE MEAL PERIODS AND PAY MEAL PERIOD PREMIUMS.

Employer failed to provide Claimant and Aggrieved Employees with legally compliant 30-minute meal periods. On the occasions that Claimant and Aggrieved Employees did take a meal period, their meal periods were frequently interrupted or cut short. Furthermore, Employer's supervisors and managers observed Plaintiff and Aggrieved Employees work through meal periods without legal compensation.

Employer's policies, practices, and procedures were responsible for the violations alleged above and prevented Claimant and other Aggrieved Employees from taking timely, complete and duty-free meal periods because, amongst other reasons: (1) Employer did not have legally-compliant policies regarding the provision and timing of meal periods or systematically disregarded its own purported meal period policies; (2) Employer's management at various levels, affecting all hourly-non-exempt employees, failed and refused to implement and enforce legally compliant meal period policies and practices; (3) Employer failed to adequately inform and train Claimant

and other Aggrieved Employees regarding their right to take timely, uninterrupted, and duty-free meal periods; (4) Employer failed to adequately inform and train Claimant and other Aggrieved Employees regarding their right to premium wages for non-compliant meal periods; (5) Employer failed to ensure that there was adequate staffing to allow Claimant and other Aggrieved Employees to take timely, uninterrupted, and duty-free meal periods; (6) Employer required Claimant and other Aggrieved Employees to remain on-call and respond to work-related requests at all times, including during meal periods, which included responding to in-person verbal interruptions; and (7) Employer's policy and culture prevented Claimant and other Aggrieved Employees from taking timely, uninterrupted, and duty-free meal periods because of the priority placed on completing job requirements over employees' right to receive timely, uninterrupted, and duty-free meal periods.

Accordingly, Employer violated the applicable IWC Wage Order and California Labor Code sections 226.7(a), 512(a) and 1198. Claimant and Aggrieved Employees will therefore seek PAGA default penalties pursuant to Labor Code section 2699; penalties pursuant to paragraph (20)(A) of the IWC Wage Orders penalties pursuant to California Labor Code California Labor Code sections 558 and 1199; and attorneys' fees and costs.

Fact Summary: Claimant and Aggrieved Employees were routinely denied timely, duty-free meal breaks. Their lunches were interrupted nearly every day, and they were often forced to take only 10 actual minutes despite records reflecting a full 30-minute break. They frequently took meal breaks late—about four (4) times per week—and were required to monitor their phones throughout. Despite these ongoing violations, Employer failed to pay any meal period premiums as required by law.

3. FAILURE TO AUTHORIZE AND PERMIT REST PERIODS AND PAY REST PERIOD PREMIUMS.

Employer failed to authorize and permit Claimant and Aggrieved Employees to take legally compliant 10-minute rest periods. Employer required Claimant and Aggrieved Employees to work through rest periods. Claimant and Aggrieved Employees were not provided with uninterrupted, duty-free rest periods when they worked more than four (4) hours or a major fraction thereof. Further, Claimant and Aggrieved Employees were not provided with a second uninterrupted, duty-free rest period when they worked more than six (6) hours in a day, or a third uninterrupted, duty-free rest period after working more than ten (10) hours in day. In the rare event that a rest period was taken, it was frequently interrupted or cut short. Moreover, Claimant and Aggrieved Employees were never completely relieved of duty as required by *Augustus v. ABM Security Services, Inc.*, 2 Cal.5th 257 (2016).

Employer's policies, practices, and procedures were responsible for the violations alleged above and prevented Claimant and other Aggrieved Employees from taking timely and complete rest periods because, amongst other reasons: (1) Employer did not have legally-compliant policies regarding the provision and timing of rest periods or systematically disregarded its own purported rest period policies; (2) Employer' management at various levels, affecting all hourly-non-exempt employees, failed and refused to implement and enforce legally compliant rest period policies and practices; (3) Employer failed to adequately inform and train Claimant and other Aggrieved Employees regarding their right to take timely, uninterrupted, and duty-free rest periods; (4) Employer failed to adequately inform and train Claimant and other Aggrieved Employees about their right to premium wages for non-compliant rest periods; (5) Employer failed to ensure that there was adequate staffing to allow Claimant and other Aggrieved Employees to take timely, uninterrupted, and duty-free rest periods; (6) Employer required Claimant and other Aggrieved Employees to remain on-call and respond to work-related requests at all times, including during rest periods, which included responding to in person verbal

interruptions; and (7) Employer's policy and culture prevented Claimant and other Aggrieved Employees from taking timely, uninterrupted, and duty-free rest periods because of the priority placed on completing job requirements over employees' right to receive rest periods.

Claimant and Aggrieved Employees did not receive an extra hour of wages at their regular rate of pay for the rest periods, which were not provided to them in compliance with California law. Accordingly, Employer violated the applicable IWC Wage Orders and California Labor Code sections 226.7(a), and 1198.

Claimant and Aggrieved Employees will therefore seek PAGA default penalties pursuant to Labor Code section 2699; penalties pursuant to paragraph (20)(A) of the applicable IWC Wage Order; California Labor Code sections 558 and 1199 penalties; and attorneys' fees and costs.

Factual Summary: Claimant and Aggrieved Employees were consistently denied lawful 10-minute rest breaks, as in practice, rest periods were entirely non-existent. Despite these ongoing violations, Employer failed to pay any rest period premiums.

4. FAILURE TO TIMELY PAY WAGES DURING EMPLOYMENT.

As a result of the foregoing, as to each pay period, Employer has failed to timely pay all wages earned because Claimant and Aggrieved Employees were not paid all the wages they were owed including, inter alia, overtime compensation, straight time wages, and meal and rest period premiums. Accordingly, Employer violated California Labor Code section 204(a).

Claimant and Aggrieved Employees will therefore seek PAGA default penalties pursuant to Labor Code section 2699; penalties pursuant to California Labor Code sections 210 and 1199; and attorneys' fees and costs.

5. FAILURE TO PROVIDE ACCURATE ITEMIZED WAGE STATEMENTS.

As a result of the practices described herein, the wage statements provided to Claimant and Aggrieved Employees never included the actual hours worked, the name and address of the legal employing entity, and the correct rates of pay. Accordingly, Employer violated California Labor Code section 226(a).

Claimant and Aggrieved Employees will therefore seek PAGA default penalties; penalties pursuant to California Labor Code §§ 226, 226.3; and attorneys' fees and costs.

6. FAILURE TO MAINTAIN ACCURATE RECORDS.

As a result of the practices described herein, Employer failed to maintain accurate records relating to Claimant and Aggrieved Employees' work periods, meal periods, shifts, total daily hours worked, and total hours worked per payroll period. Accordingly, Employer violated section 7 of the applicable IWC Wage Order(s) and California Labor Code sections 1198.5 and 1174(d).

7. FAILURE TO PAY VACATION TIME & SICK PAY.

Pursuant to California Labor Code section 227.3, ". . . whenever a contract of employment or employer policy provides for paid vacations, and an employee is terminated without having taken off her vested vacation time, all vested vacation shall be paid to her as wages at her final rate in accordance with such contract of employment or employer policy respecting eligibility or time served."



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As a result of the practices described herein, during the relevant time period, Employer failed to pay Claimant and other Aggrieved Employees for all earned and unused and accrued vacation time and sick pay at their final rate of pay at the time of termination of their employment or upon accrual of sick or vacation pay or calculated the incorrect sick or vacation pay. Accordingly, Employer has violated California Labor Code section 227.3.

Claimant and Aggrieved Employees will therefore seek PAGA default penalties pursuant to Labor Code section 2699; penalties pursuant to paragraph (20)(A) of IWC Wage Order(s); California Labor Code section 1174.5 penalties; and attorneys' fees and costs.

Sincerely,

ZAGHI LAW, A.P.C.

Brian Zaghi, Esq.

cc: PRIMOS ESCONDIDO, L.P.; PRIMOS FRANCHISE HOLDINGS VIII, LLC; DOS PRIMOS, LLC; PRIMOS CLAIREMONT MESA, L.P.; PRIMOS SAN MARCOS, L.P.; 20 LOS PRIMOS L.P.; 21 LOS PRIMOS L.P.; LOS PRIMOS 16, L.P.; PRIMOS ALISO CREEK, LP; PRIMOS RANCHO, L.P.; 18 LOS PRIMOS L.P.; PRIMOS SANTA FE, L.P.; PRIMOS TEMECULA 76, L.P.; LOS PRIMOS GROVE, L.P.; PRIMOS LAGUNA NIGUEL, LP; PRIMOS MENIFEE, L.P.; PRIMOS MANAGEMENT, INC.; and FELIX CALERO (via U.S. Certified Mail).