

CLASS ACTION AND PAGA STIPULATION OF SETTLEMENT AND RELEASE

IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED AND AGREED that this Settlement Agreement (“Settlement Agreement” or “Agreement”) is made by and between plaintiff Isaias Mendoza Medina (“Plaintiff” or “Medina”) and defendant Desert Parks Landscaping, Inc. Dba Pacific Site Management (“Defendant” or “Desert Parks”) in connection with the case entitled *Isaias Mendoza Medina, et al. v. Desert Parks Landscaping, Inc Dba Pacific Site Management, et al.*, Case No. C22-02298 (the “Action” or “Lawsuit”), pending in the Superior Court of the State of California, Contra Costa. The Agreement refers to Plaintiff and Defendant collectively as “Parties” or individually as “Party.”

This Settlement is subject to the approval of the Court, pursuant to California Civil Code of Procedure, California Labor Code section 2699, and is made for the sole purpose of attempting to consummate settlement of the Action on a class-wide and representative basis subject to the following terms and conditions.

Subject to the approval of the Court, the settlement of the Action and released claims (as defined below) shall be effectuated upon and subject to the following terms and conditions in this Settlement. The Parties agree that this settlement shall fully, finally, and forever discharge and resolve the Action and Released Claims, upon and subject to the terms and conditions hereof. To that end, the Parties agree that this Action shall be, upon approval by the Court, ended, settled, resolved, and concluded without any admission of fault or liability, as set forth in this Settlement and for the consideration set forth herein, including but not limited to, a release of claims by Plaintiff as set forth herein.

Plaintiff is represented by Jonathan Melmed, Megan E. Ross, and Hannah Becker of Melmed Law Group P.C. (“Class Counsel”). Defendant is represented by Barbara Blackburn, Hovannes G. Nalbandyan and Nicholas W. McKinney of Littler Mendelson P.C. (“Defense Counsel”).

FACTUAL/PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Pacific Site Management, a subsidiary of Desert Parks Landscaping, is a commercial landscaping company based in Auburn, California. Plaintiff worked for Pacific Site Management as a commercial landscaper (general labor type position). Hourly employees can hold several positions, including but not limited to the following: commercial and residential landscapers, maintenance gardeners, foreman, nursery workers, general labor, and clerical office positions. Desert Parks maintains operations among three divisions in California and Nevada, including a Wholesale Nursery located in Chico, California. Desert Parks’ corporate headquarters is located in Auburn, California.

On October 26, 2022, Plaintiff, Oscar Gonzalez (“Gonzalez”) filed a “PAGA Letter” with the Labor Workforce Development Agency alleging the following: (1) Minimum Wage Violations; (2) Unpaid Overtime; (3) Rest Break Violations; (4) Meal Break Violations; (5) Failure to Maintain Accurate Records; (6) Failure to Pay Wages Timely During Employment; (7) Failure to Pay all Wages Earned at Separation; (8) Failure to Pay Business Expenses; (9) Failure to Provide Itemized Wage Statements; and (10) Failure to Pay Sick Leave.

On October 26, 2022, Gonzalez also filed this Class Action Complaint alleging the following cases of action: (1) Failure to Pay All Minimum Wage; (2) Failure to Pay All Overtime Wages; (3) Failure to Provide Rest Periods and Pay Missed Rest Period Premiums; (4) Failure to Provide Meal Periods and Pay Missed Meal Period Premiums; (5) Failure to Maintain Accurate Employment Records; (6) Failure to Pay Wages Timely During Employment; (7) Failure to Pay all Wages Earned and Unpaid at Separation; (8) Failure to Indemnify All Necessary Business Expenditures; (9) Failure to Furnish Accurate Itemized Wage Statements; and (10) Failure to Pay Sick Leave; and (11) Violation of California's Unfair Competition Law (Bus. & Prof. Code, §§ 17200-17210) ("Complaint").

On February 15, 2023, Gonzalez filed his First Amended Class and Representative Action alleging the same violations as the Complaint and adding a representative claim for Penalties Pursuant to the Labor Code Private Attorneys General Act of 2004 ("PAGA") for Violations of California Labor Code Sections 201, 202, 203, 204, 210, 226, 226.3, 226.7, 246, 256, 510, 512, 1174, 1185, 1194, 1194.2, 1197, 1197.1, 1198, 1198.5, 1199, 2802, 2804, and Other Provisions of the Labor Code ("FAC").

Prior to mediation, through informal discovery Plaintiff received the following, but not limited to, Plaintiff's personnel records, 2019-2021 Tax Returns, Bank Statements from Aug 2022 through Jan 2023, Profit and Loss Statements for 2021 and 2022, its PPP loan applications, and a summary of each. Plaintiff reviewed these documents with Judge Goldberg to determine Defendant's ability to pay any settlement or judgment that might result from this matter. Plaintiff's investigation was sufficient to satisfy the criteria for court approval set forth in *Dunk v. Foot Locker Retail, Inc.* (1996) 48 Cal.App.4th 1794, 1801 and *Kullar v. Foot Locker Retail, Inc.* (2008) 168 Cal.App.4th 116, 129-130.

On July 25, 2023, the Parties met with mediator Hon. Mitchel Goldberg (Ret.), to attempt to resolve the Lawsuit. Due to anticipated financial hardships as a result of the pending lawsuit, Judge Goldberg, a former bankruptcy judge, reviewed Defendant's financial records and worked with the parties to agree on a number that was reasonable given Defendant's financial position. The Parties agreed, subject to approval by the Court, to the Settlement of the Lawsuit. The Parties further agreed to enter into this Agreement to memorialize their settlement of the Lawsuit.

Following the July 25, 2023 mediation counsel for Plaintiff was unable to contact Gonzalez. In an effort to continue moving this matter forward Plaintiff's counsel connected with another class member and former employee of defendant, Isaias Mendoza Medina who agreed to move forward as the class representative in this matter. Defendant did not oppose the addition of Plaintiff to this matter.

After three months of attempting to locate Plaintiff and not being able to locate him, on or about October 16, 2023, the Parties agreed to amend the FAC to substitute in Medina as the class representative and to file a Second Amended Complaint, which asserted the following causes of actions: (1) Failure to Pay All Minimum Wage; (2) Failure to Pay All Overtime Wages; (3) Failure to Provide Rest Periods and Pay Missed Rest Period Premiums; (4) Failure to Provide Meal Periods and Pay Missed Meal Period Premiums; (5) Failure to Maintain Accurate Employment Records; (6) Failure to Pay Wages Timely During Employment; (7) Failure to Pay all Wages Earned and Unpaid at Separation; (8) Failure to Indemnify All Necessary Business Expenditures; (9) Failure to Furnish Accurate Itemized Wage Statements; and (10) Failure to Pay Sick Leave; (11) Violation

of California's Unfair Competition Law (Bus. & Prof. Code, §§ 17200-17210); and (12) Penalties Pursuant to the Labor Code Private Attorneys General Act of 2004 ("PAGA") for Violations of California Labor Code Sections 201, 202, 203, 204, 210, 226, 226.3, 226.7, 246, 256, 510, 512, 1174, 1185, 1194, 1194.2, 1197, 1197.1, 1198, 1198.5, 1199, 2802, 2804, and Other Provisions of the Labor Code ("SAC").

On November 22, 2023, the Court entered the SAC as the Operative Complaint.

On January 8, 2024, the Parties entered into a Memorandum of Understanding Regarding the Class and PAGA Action Settlement memorializing the key terms of the Settlement ("MOU"). The MOU is incorporated herein by this reference. This MOU is intended to and shall be fully enforceable pursuant to the terms of California Code of Civil Procedure section 664.6 and/or applicable federal law counterpart. The Parties accepted the MOU, reaching agreement on the terms of the class- and PAGA-wide settlement that, once approved by the Court, will resolve the Action in its entirety, and will settle all class claims running from October 26, 2018, up to the date of November 9, 2023, or the date of Preliminary Approval of the Settlement, whichever comes earlier.

Class Counsel has conducted a thorough investigation of the claims that Plaintiff asserted against Defendant in this Lawsuit and/or that relate to or could have arisen out of the same facts alleged in the Lawsuit or relating to the employment of the Plaintiff and Class Members, including both asserted and unasserted claims. Based on their independent investigation and evaluation, Class Counsel believes that the settlement with Defendant for the consideration of and on the terms set forth in this Agreement is fair, reasonable, and adequate, and is in the best interest of Plaintiff, Class Members, and the alleged aggrieved employees in light of all known facts and circumstances, including (a) the financial constraints of the Defendant; (b) the substantial factual and legal defenses available to Defendant to the claims asserted in the Lawsuit, which render the outcome of the Action substantially uncertain; (c) the potential difficulties Plaintiff and Class Members would encounter in establishing the elements of their claims; (d) the substantial benefits made available to Class Members and PAGA Releasees pursuant to the Settlement; (e) the fact that the Settlement ensures that Class Members will receive relief in the most expeditious and efficient manner practicable, and thus much sooner than would be possible were the claims to be litigated successfully through trial and appeal; and (f) the fact that the Settlement allows persons who would otherwise fall within the definition of the Class, if they so desire, to opt out of the class action and individually pursue any Released Claims that he or she may have.

Defendant categorically denies all of the contentions and allegations raised and in support of the claims in the FAC. To that end, Defendant has denied and continue to deny each, and all of the allegations and claims alleged by Plaintiff in the Lawsuit and have further denied and continue to deny all charges of wrongdoing or liability against them arising out of any of the conduct, statements, acts or omissions alleged in the Lawsuit. Defendant contends that it complied in good faith with wage and hour laws and have dealt legally and fairly with Plaintiff and putative Class Members and alleged Aggrieved Employees. Defendant further contends that, for any purpose other than settling the Lawsuit, these claims are not appropriate for class or representative treatment. Nonetheless, the Parties have concluded that further proceedings in the Lawsuit would be protracted and expensive and that it is desirable that the Action be fully and finally settled in the manner and upon the terms and conditions set forth in this Agreement. To dispose of

burdensome and protracted litigation, and to permit the operation of Defendant's businesses without further expensive litigation and the distraction and diversion of their respective personnel with respect to matters at issue in the Lawsuit, the Parties agreed to resolve the Lawsuit. Defendant has also considered the uncertainty and risks inherent in any litigation, especially in complex cases such as the Lawsuit. Defendant has, therefore, determined that it is desirable and beneficial to it that the Lawsuit be settled in the manner and upon the terms and conditions set forth in this Agreement.

This Agreement is entered into solely for the purpose of compromising highly disputed claims. Nothing in this Agreement is intended or will be construed as an admission by Defendant of liability or wrongdoing. Accordingly, without admitting any wrongdoing or liability, Defendant is willing to agree to the terms of the Agreement in order to settle, compromise, and fully resolve the Action and Released Claims. Defendant makes no admission of liability or wrongdoing by virtue of entering into this Agreement. Additionally, Defendant reserves the right to contest any issues relating to manageability, trial plans, and liability if the Settlement is not approved.

It is the desire and intention of the Parties that this Agreement shall, fully, finally, and forever completely settle, compromise, release, and discharge any and all of Plaintiff's Released Claims, Settlement Class Members' Released Claims, and the PAGA Claim, as they are defined above and below. The Parties jointly believe this Settlement is a fair, adequate, and reasonable settlement of the Action and have arrived at this Settlement and Agreement after lengthy, extensive arms-length negotiations, facilitated by an experienced mediator, considering all relevant factors, present and potential. This Agreement shall not be construed in favor of or against any of the Parties because of their participation in the drafting of this Agreement.

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

Accordingly, in consideration of the promises and warranties set forth below, and intending to be legally bound and acknowledging the sufficiency of the consideration and undertakings set forth below, Plaintiff, individually and as a representative of the Lawsuit on behalf of himself, the Class Members and the alleged Aggrieved Employees, and Defendant, subject to the recitals set forth above which by this reference become an integral part of this Agreement, agree that the Lawsuit is finally and fully compromised and settled on the following terms and conditions:

DEFINITIONS

As used in this Agreement, the following terms shall have the meanings specified below. To the extent the terms or phrases used in this Agreement are not specifically defined below, but are defined elsewhere in this Agreement, they are incorporated by reference into this definition section.

1. **“Action” or “Lawsuit”** means the lawsuit alleging wage and hour violations against Defendant captioned *Isaias Mendoza Medina, et al. v. Desert Parks Landscaping, Inc Dba Pacific Site Management, et al.*, Contra Costa County Superior Court, Case No. C22-02298, and the PAGA Letter that was submitted to the Labor and Workforce Development Agency (“LWDA”), on or about October 26, 2022.

2. **“Aggrieved Employee”** means all California citizens currently or formerly employed by Defendant as a non-exempt employee in the State of California at any time during the PAGA Period.

3. **“Class”** or **“Class Members”** means all current and former hourly-paid or non-exempt employees employed by Defendant within the State of California at any time during the Settlement Period. Any Class Member who does not opt out or submit a Request for Exclusion is a “Settlement Class Member” and shall be bound by the terms of the Agreement.

4. **“Class Counsel,”** refers to Jonathan Melmed, Megan E. Ross, and Hannah Becker of Melmed Law Group P.C., and any other attorney(s) associated with the law firm.

5. **“Class Notice”** refers to the class notice as set forth in the form of **“Exhibit A”** attached hereto, or as otherwise modified or approved by the Court, which is to be mailed to the Class Members.

6. **“Class Representative”** means Plaintiff Isaias Mendoza Medina.

7. **“Class Settlement”** means the non-PAGA portion of this Settlement and release of class claims that is subject to the Court’s preliminary and final approval.

8. **“Court”** means the Superior Court of California, County of Contra Costa.

9. **“Defendant”** means Desert Parks Landscaping, Inc. Dba Pacific Site Management.

10. **“Defense Counsel,”** or **“Counsel for Defendant,”** means Littler Mendelson, P.C., and any attorney(s) associated with the law firm, including Barbara Blackburn, Hovannes G. Nalbandyan and Nicholas W. McKinney.

11. **“Effective Date”** means thirty (30) calendar days after the Court has entered a Final Approval Order if no objections to the Settlement are filed, or if any objections to the Settlement are filed and subsequently withdrawn. If objections are filed and overruled, and no appeal of the Final Approval Order is filed, then the Effective Date will be sixty (60) calendar days following the date the Final Approval Order is entered. In the event an appeal is filed, the Effective Date is the day after the date on which the appeal is disposed of in the Parties’ favor, dismissed or otherwise resolved in a manner that upholds the Settlement in its entirety and is no longer subject to review by any court, whether by appeal, petition for rehearing or re-argument, petition for review, or otherwise. Should any appeal not result in approval of the Parties’ Settlement as described herein, the Agreement shall be *void ab initio* and of no further force or effect, and the Parties shall be returned in all respects to their respective positions. In the event an appeal, writ, motion challenging the judgment or other collateral attack is made, the Gross Settlement Amount shall not be distributed until the challenge is resolved in a manner that upholds the Agreement in its entirety. This definition presupposes that the Agreement has been signed by the Parties and Class Counsel, the Court has entered the Preliminary Approval Order, and that the Class Notice has been mailed to the Class Members as ordered by the Court in this Agreement.

12. **“Employee’s Taxes and Required Withholdings”** means the employee’s share of any and all applicable federal, state or local payroll taxes, including those collected under authority

of the Federal Insurance Contributions Act (“FICA”), FUTA and/or SUTA on the portion of the Individual Settlement Payment that constitutes wages. The Employee’s Taxes and Required Withholdings will be withheld from and paid out of the Net Settlement Amount.

13. **“Employer Taxes”** means and refers to the employer’s share of corporate federal, state and/or local payroll taxes, including Medicare taxes, Social Security taxes, federal unemployment taxes, state unemployment insurance taxes, and employment training taxes, that is owed on the Individual Settlement Payment that constitutes wages, and if applicable, any portion of the Service Award that constitutes wages. The Employer Taxes shall be paid separate and apart from the Gross Settlement Amount.

14. **“Final Approval Hearing”** refers to the hearing at which the Court will make a final determination whether the Settlement and the terms of the Agreement are fair, reasonable, and adequate for the Class and meet all applicable requirements for final approval.

15. **“Final Approval Order”** refers to the entry of the final Court order approving the Settlement following the Final Approval hearing and entering final judgment in accordance with the terms herein and under the specific terms requested. Any judgement entered will be subject to the continuing jurisdiction of the Court as set forth below and pursuant to the terms of California Code of Civil Procedure section 664.6. The Court will retain jurisdiction over the enforcement, implementation, construction, administration, and interpretation of the Agreement.

16. **“Gross Settlement Amount” (as referred to herein as “GSA”)** refers to the maximum payment of **One Hundred Ninety-Two Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents (\$192,000.00)**, which includes all attorneys’ fees and costs/expenses petitioned by Class Counsel; any enhancement award; costs of administration of the Settlement; and payment for settlement of Plaintiff’s individual claims including the individual PAGA claims asserted in his letter to the LWDA. In no event shall Defendant be liable for the payment of any amounts exceeding the Gross Settlement Amount with the exception of the employer’s share of the Employer Taxes due and payable as a result of this Settlement, which shall be paid separately from the Gross Settlement Amount. The GSA represents an “all in” figure and includes all payments made to Settlement Class Members (excluding any appropriate and lawfully required Employer Taxes owed by Defendant on such payments which Defendant shall be separately responsible for apart from the GSA), the Service Award paid to the Class Representative, all costs and expenses associated with the Settlement Administrator, the PAGA Payment, and all attorneys’ fees and litigation costs and expenses to Class Counsel, as approved by the Court. Except as otherwise specified herein, Defendant shall not be required to pay any additional monies beyond the amount of the GSA plus the Employer Taxes.

17. **“Individual Settlement Payment”** means the amount which is ultimately distributed to each Settlement Class Member from the Net Settlement Amount, net of any Employee’s Taxes and Required Withholdings, and separate and distinct from the Settlement Class Member’s share of the PAGA Payment.

18. **“Judgment”** means the judgment entered by the Court based upon Final Approval.

19. **“LWDA Letter” or “PAGA Letters”** refers to the PAGA Letter, dated October 26, 2022, that was submitted to the LWDA by Megan E. Ross of Melmed Law Group PC, under

Case No: LWDA-CM-916079-22, and that outlines the allegation of various wage and hour claims, and PAGA penalties, asserted in the First Amended Complaint, including violation of Labor Code sections 201, 202, 203, 204, 210, 226, 226.3, 226.7, 246, 256, 510, 512, 1174, 1185, 1194, 1194.2, 1197, 1197.1, 1198, 1198.5, 1199, 2698, 2699, 2699.3, 2802, 2804, and California Industrial Welfare Commission Wage Orders Wage Order 4-2001, and others that may be applicable. (Cal. Code of Regs., tit. 8, § 11040.)

20. **“Motion for Final Approval”** means Plaintiff’s submission of a written motion, including any evidence as may be required for the Court to conduct an inquiry into the fairness of the Settlement as set forth in this Agreement, to conduct a Final Fairness and Approval Hearing, and to enter a Final Order in this Action.

21. **“Motion for Preliminary Settlement Approval”** means Plaintiff’s submission of a written motion, including any evidence as may be required for the Court to grant preliminary approval of the Settlement as required by Rule 3.769 of the California Rules of Court.

22. **“MOU”** means and refers to the Memorandum of Understanding entered into between the Parties on January 8, 2024.

23. **“Net Settlement Amount” (also referred to herein as “NSA”)** is the GSA minus Court-approved attorney’s fees and litigation costs, PAGA Payment, Court-approved Settlement Administrator’s costs, fees and expenses, and Court-approved Service Award. The NSA is the maximum amount that will be available for distribution to Settlement Class Members. To the extent that the Court approves and awards an amount for the Service Award to the Plaintiff, Settlement Administration Costs to the Settlement Administrator, and/or the award to Class Counsel for attorneys’ fees and costs, that is less than the amount(s) requested by Plaintiff, the difference shall be included in the Net Settlement Amount and distributed to the Settlement Class Members, as set forth herein. The Net Settlement Amount is currently estimated at **\$90,000.00**.

24. **“Notice Period” or “Response Deadline”** refers to a date that is forty-five (45) calendar days from the date that the Class Notice is mailed to Class Members and the deadline by which Class Members’ Requests for Exclusion, disputes regarding Weeks at Issue credited to them, and/or Objections must be postmarked in order to be timely. An Objection or Request for Exclusion must be mailed to the Settlement Administrator with a postmark dated during the Notice Period for it to be considered. Similarly, a written notice disputing the number of Workweeks at Issue must be returned to the Settlement Administrator with a postmark dated during the Notice Period for the Class Member to raise a valid dispute regarding the number of Workweeks at Issue used to determine his or her Individual Settlement Payment.

25. **“Objection”** means a written statement by a Class Member setting forth his or her objection to this Settlement, which must be completed and mailed to the Settlement Administrator in the manner set forth in this Agreement and the Class Notice.

26. **“Operative Complaint”** refers to the Second Amended Complaint that Plaintiff filed as a condition of this Settlement to incorporate the individual and class claims and substitute Plaintiff Medina.

27. **“PAGA Check”** means the check issued to each PAGA Releasee for his/her share of the PAGA Payment.

28. **“PAGA Claims”** means all disputes, claims, and/or causes of action that are premised in whole or in part on any of the claims asserted in the Operative Complaint or the LWDA Letter.

29. **“PAGA Payment”** means the payment to the State of California LWDA and the PAGA Releasees in settlement of all claims for PAGA penalties.

30. **“PAGA Releasee”** means an individual who was employed by Defendant within the State of California at any time as a non-exempt or hourly-paid employee during the PAGA Settlement Period.

31. **“PAGA Settlement”** means the PAGA portion of the Gross Settlement Amount embodied in this Agreement, which is subject to the Court’s approval.

32. **“PAGA Settlement Period”** means the period beginning on October 26 2021, through the date of November 9, 2023 or the date of court approval of the Settlement, whichever is earlier.

33. **“PAGA Pay Periods”** means the number of pay periods worked by PAGA Releasees between October 26, 2021, and November 9, 2023.

34. **“Parties”** refers to the Plaintiff and Defendant, and, in the singular, refers to any of them, as the context makes apparent.

35. **“Payout Calculation”** refers to the amounts calculated under this Agreement for Plaintiff and each Settlement Class Member.

36. **“Plaintiff”** means Isaias Mendoza Medina, the named plaintiff in the Action. Where required by the context of the Agreement, this term includes all persons acting under Plaintiff’s direction or control or on his behalf, and/or any other agent, heir, beneficiary, devisee, legatee, executor, administrator, trustee, conservator, guardian, estate, personal representative, successor-in-interest, and/or assign.

37. **“Plaintiff’s Released Claims”** means the claims that Plaintiff releases, remises, and forever discharges against Defendant and the Released Parties from any and all demands, damages, debts, liabilities, actions, causes of action, obligations, and claims of every kind and nature whatsoever, whether now known or unknown, suspected or unsuspected, which he ever had or now has against the Defendant or the Released Parties arising or accruing at any time before the Effective Date. Plaintiff’s Released Claims include, but are not limited to, all the claims and causes of action asserted in the Operative Complaint, regardless of whether such claims arise under federal, state and/or local law, statute, ordinance, regulation, common law, or other source of law. Plaintiff’s Released Claims also include, but are not limited to, any applicable California law, wage and hour claims and all other claims for willful misclassification, unpaid wages, unpaid commissions, overtime compensation, liquidated damages, willful exemplary damages, interest, hours worked, minimum wages, unpaid meal or rest period premiums, miscalculated wages,

improper deduction(s), late payment of wages, frequency of pay, premium pay, incentives, bonuses, non-compliant wage statements, failure to reimburse business expenses, failure to keep accurate and complete payroll records, and any other claims or relief of any kind under statute, tort, contract, quasi-contract, injunctive relief theories or claims, including those permitted under California labor code § 2699, et seq. (PAGA), and as alleged in the LWDA Letter (as defined above), and claims for exemplary, punitive, or penalty damages, interest, and attorneys' fees and costs beyond those provided for or contemplated as part of this Agreement, other damages, and/or any other form of relief, as permitted by law. Plaintiff expressly acknowledges that this Agreement and the release contained herein extends to all claims that he has or might have against the Released Parties, including those which are presently unknown to him. Plaintiff may hereafter discover facts in addition to or different from those which he now knows or believes to be true, but stipulates and agrees that, upon the Defendant's deposit of the GSA with the Settlement Administrator, he fully, finally, and forever settles and releases any and all claims, known or unknown, suspected or unsuspected, contingent or non-contingent, whether or not concealed or hidden, which now exist, or heretofore have existed, upon any theory of law or equity and without regard to the subsequent discovery or existence of such different or additional facts. Plaintiff further remises, releases, and forever discharges the Released Parties from any and all manner of actions, causes of actions, suits, debts, accounts, contracts, agreements, torts, controversies, judgments, damages, claims, charges, liabilities, and demands of any kind or nature whatsoever, he ever had or now has, or may have, against Defendant or the Released Parties arising from the Plaintiff's employment or contractual relationship with Defendant. Plaintiff is deemed by operation of the Final Approval Order of the Settlement to have agreed not to sue or otherwise make a claim against any of the Released Parties for any claim arising out of his employment relationship with Defendant. Plaintiff acknowledges that he has had the opportunity to review, and has reviewed, California Civil Code section 1542, which provides:

A GENERAL RELEASE DOES NOT EXTEND TO CLAIMS THAT THE CREDITOR OR RELEASING PARTY DOES NOT KNOW OR SUSPECT TO EXIST IN HIS OR HER FAVOR AT THE TIME OF EXECUTING THE RELEASE AND THAT, IF KNOWN BY HIM OR HER, WOULD HAVE MATERIALLY AFFECTED HIS OR HER SETTLEMENT WITH THE DEBTOR OR RELEASED PARTY.

Being fully informed of this provision of the Civil Code and understanding its provisions, Plaintiff agrees to waive any rights under that section and any rights and benefits he may have under laws of any state that are similar to California Civil Code section 1542. The above-defined scope of released claims by Plaintiff is meant to be as broad as possible as permitted by law. Plaintiff also releases claims against Defendant and Released Parties for attorneys' fees, costs and expenses related to this litigation, beyond those provided for or contemplated as part of this Settlement. In consideration for the release described herein and service to the Class, and subject to approval by the Court, the Plaintiff will receive additional monetary compensation by way of the Service Award (as defined below).

38. **“Preliminary Approval Hearing”** means the hearing held to determine whether the Court will enter a Preliminary Approval Order preliminarily approving this Settlement.

39. **“Preliminary Approval Order”** means an entry of an order from the Court preliminarily approving this Agreement and the settlement of the Action.

40. **“Released Class Claims” or “Released Claims”** means all claims, charges, complaints, liens, demands, causes of action, obligations, damages, and liabilities, known or unknown, suspected or unsuspected, relating to the allegations that were asserted, or could have been asserted, based on the facts alleged in the Operative Complaint. Settlement Class Members shall release all Released Class Claims that accrued during the Settlement Period as to the Released Parties upon Defendant’s funding of the GSA, as set forth herein. The scope of the Released Class Claims by each Settlement Class Member is meant to be as broad as possible as permitted under the law and includes all claims that are asserted or could have been asserted based on the same factual predicate alleged in the Operative Complaint. Such allegations include assertions that Plaintiff or Class Members were not properly or timely compensated for all hours worked, and were subject to wage and hour law violations, regardless of whether such claims arise under California law, common law, local law, or federal law, or any statute, ordinance, regulation, or applicable wage and hour law. The Released Class Claims include, but are not limited to, the causes of actions alleged in the Action and the Operative Complaint, which are asserted as follows: (1) failure to pay all minimum wages; (2) failure to pay proper overtime wages in violation of Labor Code sections 510, 1197, and 1198, and the applicable IWC Wage Order(s); (3) failure to provide compliant rest periods and pay missed rest break premiums in violation of Labor Code section 226.7 and the applicable IWC Wage Order(s); (4) failure to provide compliant meal periods and pay missed meal period premiums in violation of Labor Code sections 226.7 and 512, and the applicable IWC Wage Order(s); (5) failure to maintain accurate employment records in violation of Labor Code section 1174; (6) failure to pay wages timely during employment in violation of Labor Code sections 204, 210; (7) failure to pay all wages earned, due and unpaid at separation in violation of Labor Code sections 201, 202, and 203; (8) failure to indemnify all necessary business expenditures in violation of Labor Code sections 2802 and 2804; (9) failure to furnish complete and accurate wage statements in violation of Labor Code sections 226 and 226.3; (10) Failure to Pay Sick Leave; (11) deceptive, fraudulent, or otherwise unlawful business practices based on the foregoing in violation of California’s Unfair Competition Law (Bus. & Prof. Code, §§ 17200–17210); and (12) all claims for liquidated damages, penalties, interest, fees, costs based on the foregoing. The release shall include all claims and/or causes of action arising from or related to the Action under any federal, state or local law or administrative order that were pled or could have been pled in this case based on the facts alleged in the operative complaint, letter to the Labor and Workforce Development Agency, or which arise out of or directly or indirectly relate to such facts, whether known or unknown, including but not limited to, the failure to pay wages, the failure to pay for all hours worked, including “off the clock” claims, and other claims whatsoever that were alleged in this case or which arise out of, or directly or indirectly relate to such facts, including without limitation, all related claims for restitution and other equitable relief, conversion, liquidated damages, punitive damages, penalties, statutory penalties, civil penalties, and any other related claims and/or penalties of any nature. The Released Claims encompass all types of relief available for the foregoing claims, including, without limitation, any claims for damages, restitution, losses, penalties, fines, liens, attorneys’ fees, costs, expenses, debts, interest, willful exemplary damage, injunctive relief, declaratory relief, or liquidated damages. The Settlement Class Members also release claims against Released Parties for attorneys’ fees, costs and expenses related to this litigation, beyond those provided for or contemplated as part of this Settlement. Notwithstanding the foregoing, nothing in this Agreement releases any claims that may not be released as a matter of law.

41. **“Released PAGA Claims”** PAGA Releasees shall release all statutory penalties pursuant to the Labor Code Private Attorneys General Act of 2004 (“PAGA”) for Violations of

California Labor Code Sections 201, 202, 203, 204, 210, 226, 226.3, 226.7, 246, 256, 510, 512, 1174, 1185, 1194, 1194.2, 1197, 1197.1, 1198, 1198.5, 1199, 2802, 2804, the Applicable Wage Order (Cal. Code of Regs., tit. 8, § 11040), other provisions of the Labor Code, and all PAGA Claims that accrued during the PAGA Settlement Period as to the Released Parties upon Defendant's funding of the GSA, as set forth herein. The Released PAGA Claims include, but are not limited to the Civil Penalties Pursuant to PAGA and all other claims asserted in the Operative Complaint and the LWDA Letter. The scope of the Released PAGA Claims by each PAGA Releasee includes all claims that are asserted or could have been asserted based on the same factual predicate alleged in the LWDA Letter and Operative Complaint.

42. **"Released Parties"** means Defendant, and any of Defendant's predecessors and successors in interest, current or former parent companies, subsidiaries, sister companies, divisions, joint ventures, affiliates, affiliated companies, assigns, trustees, guarantors, fiduciaries, partnerships, present and former owners, affiliated entities, and any other associated or related company. The Released Parties also include, but are not limited to, companies acquiring any or all of Defendant's assets, Defendant's past or present customers, clients, contractors, vendors, and divisions, and any other individual, company, or entity which could be jointly liable with Defendant for the Released Claims. The Released Parties also include, but are not limited to, the current or former officers, directors, shareholders, investors, managers, agents, attorneys, representatives, accountants, administrators, employees, contractors, insurers, beneficiaries, reinsurers, or carriers of any of the foregoing persons or entities.

43. **"Request for Exclusion,"** refers to a written request by a Class Member to be excluded from the Settlement, which must be made in writing and in conformity with the requirements set forth in the Class Notice, the Agreement, and the Court's Preliminary Approval Order, as applicable, and must be mailed to the Settlement Administrator and postmarked on or before the Notice Period has ended.

44. **"Service Award, or "Representative Enhancement"** means the monetary award made to the Plaintiff, in the amount **Ten Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents (\$10,000.00)**, or other lesser amount as approved by the Court, for his service as Class Representative and in recognition of his efforts for prosecuting this Action on behalf of himself, the Class Members, PAGA Releasees, and for the broader release of his claims (as defined above in "Plaintiff's Released Claims"). The Service Award is to be paid from the GSA, and is subject to approval by the Court, as described below.

45. **"Settlement"** means the disposition of the Lawsuit effected by this Settlement Agreement and the Judgment.

46. **"Settlement Administrator"** refers to the third-party administrator mutually selected by the Parties, ILYM Group, subject to approval by the Court, to perform the notice, claims administration, and distribution functions further described in this Agreement.

47. **"Settlement Administration Costs"** refers to the costs and expenses of the administrator, to perform its tasks and duties as provided by this Agreement. These costs will be paid out of the GSA.

48. **“Settlement Agreement”** means and refers to the instant settlement agreement intended to settle the claims in the Action and the Operative Complaint, including any attached exhibits. Settlement also refers to the settlement of the Action effectuated by this Agreement between the Parties.

49. **“Settlement Class”** means all individuals who are or were employed by defendant as non-exempt employees in California during the class period.

50. **“Settlement Class Member”** means all Class Members who have not timely and properly submitted a Request for Exclusion. All Settlement Class Members shall be bound by the terms of the Agreement.

51. **“Settlement Period”** means the time period from October 26, 2018, through November 9, 2023 or the date of the Preliminary Approval Hearing of settlement, whichever is earlier.

52. **“Workweeks at Issue”** means all workweeks that each Settlement Class Member worked during the Settlement Period as a non-exempt or hourly employee of Defendant, which shall be calculated based on information that Defendant provides to the Settlement Administrator. Estimations and approximations may be used to the extent that there may be gaps in the information that Defendant provide to the Settlement Administrator. If needed, the Settlement Administrator will calculate the number of Workweeks at Issue by calculating the number of weeks in which each Settlement Class Member earned wages from Defendant during the Settlement Period. Any Settlement Class Member with less than one complete week of employment will be credited with one workweek, even if they only worked one day during that period.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF SETTLEMENT

• **A. TERMS AND SCOPE OF SETTLEMENT**

For purposes of this Settlement Agreement only, the Parties stipulate that any individual who is a member of the Settlement Class is a Settlement Class Member and if they do not opt-out of the settlement, they will be subject to the Settlement and this Agreement. The Parties agree this Action and any claims, damages, or cause of action arising out of the dispute, which is the subject of the Action, or which could have been alleged in the Action, be settled subject to court approval and under the terms set forth in this Settlement. This Settlement is a “non-claims-made” and “non-revisionary” settlement. Each Settlement Class Member will be entitled to a share of the NSA in accordance with the formula set forth below. Payments will be made from the NSA only to Settlement Class Members, as set forth herein.

1. **Scope of Settlement.** Subject to Court approval, the Settlement shall cover all eligible members of the Settlement Class Members.

- a. **Settlement of California Class Action:** The Settlement shall bind all current and former non-exempt and hourly-paid employees of Defendant that have worked or are presently working for Defendant in the State of California during the Settlement Period.

- b. **Settlement of Individual Claims:** The Settlement shall bind the Plaintiff to the extent of the Plaintiff's Released Claims.
- c. **Settlement of PAGA Action:** The Settlement shall bind all current and former non-exempt and hourly-paid employees of Defendant that have worked or are presently working for Defendant in the State of California during the PAGA Settlement Period.

2. **Appointment of Class Representative.** Solely for the purposes of this Settlement, the Parties stipulate and agree that Plaintiff Isaias Mendoza Medina shall be appointed as representative for the Class Action.

3. **Appointment of Class Counsel.** Solely for the purposes of this Settlement, the Parties stipulate and agree that Jonathan Melmed, Megan E. Ross, and Hannah Becker of **Melmed Law Group P.C.**, and any other attorney(s) associated with the law firm shall be appointed as Class Counsel.

4. **Conditional Nature of Stipulation for Certification of the Class Action Claims:** Solely for purposes of this Settlement, the Parties shall stipulate to the certification of the California Class. Defendant does not waive, and instead expressly reserve their rights to challenge the propriety of the class certification for any purpose if this Settlement had not been entered into by the Parties should the Court not approve the Settlement or should counsel for either Party exercises their rights to terminate the Settlement as permitted by this Agreement. Should for whatever reason the Settlement not become effective, the fact that the Parties were willing to stipulate to certification of the Class Action as part of the Settlement shall have no bearing on, and shall not be admissible in connection with, the issue of whether the Class Action, or any claim or class, should be certified in a non-settlement context in this Class Action or in any other Action. Defendant expressly reserves its right to oppose class certification in this or any other action should this Settlement not become effective. The Parties are not certifying any PAGA Claims. In support of this Agreement, Plaintiff shall request that the Court certify for settlement purposes the Class as to all non-PAGA claims that have been asserted, which Defendant shall not oppose or object to.

5. **Request Exclusion from the Class Settlement.** Any Class Member who wishes to be excluded from the Settlement may seek exclusion under this Paragraph. However, no PAGA Releasee can seek exclusion from the PAGA portion of the settlement. In order to opt out and not participate in the Settlement, a Class Member must submit a written Request for Exclusion containing: (1) the Class Member's full name, mailing address, last four digits of his or her Social Security number, and signature; (2) the case name and/or case number of the action (i.e., *ISAIAS MENDOZA MEDINA, et al. v. DESERT PARKS LANDSCAPING, INC. dba PACIFIC SITE MANAGEMENT, et al.*, Case No. C22-02298); and (3) an unambiguous statement indicating that the Class Member seeks to exclude himself or herself from the Settlement. The Request for Exclusion must be completed by the Class Member seeking exclusion from the Settlement. The Request for Exclusion must be submitted to the Settlement Administrator, by U.S. mail, postmarked on or before the Notice Period. Upon receipt of any Request for Exclusion within the Notice Period, the Settlement Administrator shall review the request to verify the information contained therein, and to confirm that the request complies with the requirements of this

Settlement. ***The Settlement Administrator shall immediately send all Requests for Exclusion to Defense Counsel and Class Counsel.***

- a. **Opting Out of the Class Settlement.** Any Class Member who properly submits a timely, complete and valid Request for Exclusion using this procedure specified above will not be entitled to an Individual Settlement Payment and will not be bound by the Settlement or have any right or standing to submit any Objection, appeal or comment of the Agreement or proposed settlement, except that a Class Member that is also a PAGA Releasee will be bound by the release of PAGA Claims set forth in this Agreement and will be issued the PAGA Releasee's share of the PAGA Payment, and therefore any right to receive or pursue penalties pursuant to Labor Code §2699, *et seq.* whether on an individual or representative basis shall be extinguished upon Final Approval of this Settlement.
 - b. **Not Opting Out of the Class Settlement.** A Class Member who does not submit a timely and valid Request for Exclusion in the manner and by the deadline specified above shall be deemed to have waived his or her right to be excluded from the Settlement, and shall be bound by all the terms and conditions of this Settlement, including all orders issued pursuant thereto, and shall also be bound by the Court's Order enjoining all Settlement Class Members from pursuing, or seeking to reopen, any of the Released Claims against the Released Parties.
 - c. **Until Submission of Request for Exclusion.** Any Class Member who fails to submit a timely, complete, and valid Request for Exclusion shall be barred from opting out of the proposed settlement or Settlement Agreement. The Settlement Administrator shall not review nor consider any Request for Exclusion postmarked after the end of the Notice Period. It shall be conclusively presumed that, if any Request for Exclusion is not postmarked on or before the end of the Notice Period, or is not received by the Settlement Administrator, the Class Member did not make the request in a timely or valid manner. Under no circumstances shall the Settlement Administrator have the authority to extend the deadline for Class Members to submit a Request for Exclusion.
 - d. **Weekly Updates.** The Settlement Administrator's weekly update shall provide the number of Request for Exclusions it receives that week as well as the total number of Request for Exclusions received to date.
6. **Objection to the Class Settlement.** A Class Member who does not submit a timely and valid Request for Exclusion will have the right to submit a written Objection during the Notice Period. The written Objection must contain: (1) the objector's full name and mailing address, last four digits of his or her Social Security number, and signature; (2) the case name and/or case number of the action (i.e., *ISAIAS MENDOZA MEDINA, et al. v. DESERT PARKS LANDSCAPING, INC. dba PACIFIC SITE MANAGEMENT, et al.*, Case No. C22-02298) (3) a statement indicating that the Settlement Class Member objects to the Settlement; (4) the specific ground(s) for the objection(s); (5) a statement indicating whether or not they are represented by counsel (if so, the statement shall state the name and contact information of said counsel); and (6) a statement indicating whether or not the Objector will appear at the Final Approval Hearing. The Settlement Administrator shall immediately send all objections to Defendants' Counsel and Class

Counsel.

- a. The written Objection must be submitted to the Settlement Administrator, by U.S. Mail, postmarked on or before the Response Deadline. The Settlement Administrator shall then promptly forward any Objections that it receives to Class Counsel and Defense Counsel. A Settlement Class Member may still appear and object to the Settlement at the Final Approval Hearing even if he or she does not submit a written objection. A Settlement Class Member who does not object to the Settlement by either tendering an objection at the Final Approval Hearing or submitting a written Objection in the manner and by the deadline specified above shall be deemed to have waived all objections and shall be foreclosed from making any objections to the Settlement, whether by appeal or otherwise. Settlement Class Members who fail to timely submit an Objection in this manner shall be foreclosed from making any objection to this Settlement Agreement *after* the Notice Period. If the Court permits, a Settlement Class Member may appear at the Final Approval Hearing and orally present their Objection. Only Settlement Class Members may object to the Settlement. PAGA Releasees will not have the opportunity to opt out or object to the PAGA Payment and/or release of PAGA Claims although the PAGA Payment will be subject to Court approval.
- b. Counsel for the Parties shall file any responses to any Objections at the time the Motion for Final Approval is filed. Class Members may, prior to the Final Approval Hearing, withdraw their Objections in a writing to the Settlement Administrator, which may then be filed with the Court.
- c. All Parties and their counsel will not seek to solicit or otherwise encourage any Class Member to submit an Objection, nor encourage any Class Member to appeal from the final judgment.
- d. If a Class Member submits both a Request for Exclusion and a written Objection, the Request for Exclusion shall be void and the Class Member shall be deemed part of the Settlement Class and bound by the Judgment upon approval by the Court.

7. **Workweek Disputes.** A Settlement Class Member must submit a written dispute to the Settlement Administrator in order to dispute the number of Workweeks at Issue credited to him or her (“Workweek Dispute”) which must: (1) contain the Settlement Class Member’s full name, mailing address, last four digits of his or her Social Security number, and signature; (2) contain the case name and case number of the action (i.e., *ISAIAS MENDOZA MEDINA, et al. v. DESERT PARKS LANDSCAPING, INC. dba PACIFIC SITE MANAGEMENT, et al.*, Case No. C22-02298); (3) contain an unambiguous statement indicating that the Settlement Class Member disputes the Workweeks at Issue credited to him or her and indicating what number of Workweeks he or she contends is correct or incorrect; and (5) attach documentation and information supporting his or her contention about the correct number of Workweeks that should be credited to him or her. Absent evidence rebutting Defense records, Defendant’s records will be presumed determinative. The Workweek Dispute must be submitted to the Settlement Administrator, by U.S. mail, postmarked on or before the Notice Period. The Settlement Administrator shall refer all disputes to Class Counsel and Defense Counsel and shall also examine the records and verify the calculation or provide a corrected calculation to counsel for the Parties where possible. The Parties will meet and confer in an effort to reach a resolution. The Parties’ determination of disputes will

be a final and binding determination without hearing or right of appeal. In the event that the Parties are unable to resolve the dispute, they shall present it to the Court for resolution.

- a. If a Class Member timely disputes the number of Workweeks at Issue listed on his or her Class Notice, the dispute will be submitted to the Settlement Administrator, who will examine the records and either verify the calculation or provide a corrected calculation. Disputes must be in a writing that is submitted to the Settlement Administrator, postmarked on or before the Notice Period. The Weeks at Issue dispute must be submitted to the Settlement Administrator, by U.S. Mail, postmarked on or before the final date of the Notice Period.
- b. In the event that any person self-identifies as a Class Member that was not included on the Class List, he or she must submit evidence supporting this contention to the Settlement Administrator or Class Counsel. The Parties shall resolve the claim pursuant to the procedures and standards set forth in Paragraph A(7), as applicable.

All disputes relating to the Parties' or Settlement Administrator's ability and need to perform its duties shall be referred to the Court, if necessary, which shall have continuing jurisdiction over the Settlement Agreement until all obligations contemplated have been fully carried out.

B. RELEASED CLAIMS

1. Upon Defendant's deposit of the Gross Settlement Amount with the Settlement Administrator, Plaintiff and all other Settlement Class Members, on behalf of themselves, as well as on behalf of all of their agents, heirs, beneficiaries, devisees, legatees, grantees, transferees, executors, administrators, trustees, conservators, guardians, estates, personal representatives, successors-in-interest, and assigns, fully and forever release, acquit, and discharge the Released Parties from all Released Class Claims. Upon Defendant's deposit of the Gross Settlement Amount with the Settlement Administrator, Plaintiff, the State of California and all other PAGA Releasees, on behalf of themselves, as well as on behalf of all of their agents, heirs, beneficiaries, devisees, legatees, grantees, transferees, executors, administrators, trustees, conservators, guardians, estates, personal representatives, successors-in-interest, and assigns, fully and forever release, acquit, and discharge the Released Parties from all Released PAGA Claims.

2. **Release of Settlement Class Members' Claims.** After Defendant funds the GSA, each Settlement Class Member will be deemed to have released, waived, and discharged the Released Parties from his or her Released Class Claims as defined in the Settlement. Each Settlement Class Member further covenants and agrees that, since each Settlement Class Member is settling disputed claims, a Settlement Class Member will not accept, recover, or receive any overtime compensation, back pay, liquidated damages, exemplary damages, punitive damages, penalties, interest, attorneys' fees and costs, other damages, or any other form of relief based on any Released Claims settled in the Action, or in connection with any other individual, class, collective, representative, administrative, or arbitral proceeding pursued by any individual, class, or federal, state or local governmental agency against the Released Parties for Released Claims during the Settlement Period. Settlement Class Members further acknowledge and agree that they are enjoined from pursuing any Released Claims settled as part of this Settlement and will not file, cause to be filed, or affirmatively join or opt in, as a collective member, beneficiary or other

participant in any action that pursues any claim released under the Released Claims and will not seek to obtain recovery based on the facts giving rise to the claims pled of which could have pled in the Action. If involuntarily joined in any Action against Released Parties regarding claims released under the Released Claims, Settlement Class Members agree to waive their rights to any recovery that may result from such action or proceedings, and not to pursue claims on their own behalf.

- a. **Settlement Class Release:** Each Settlement Class Member who been issued a settlement check for their Individual Settlement Payment shall hereby knowingly, voluntarily and completely release the Released Parties, as defined in this Settlement, from/for all the Released Claims they have against the Released Parties during the Settlement Period and/or PAGA Settlement Period. Settlement Class members are bound by the Settlement regardless of whether they cash their Individual Settlement Payment.
- b. **1542 Waiver and Additional Release:** Upon the Effective Date, in addition to the Released Class Claims and Released PAGA Claims, Settlement Class Members waive and relinquish, to the fullest extent permitted by law, the benefits of section 1542 of the California Civil Code as set forth above and below (as well as any and all provisions, rights, and benefits of any similar state or federal law), only insofar as the claims arise from, or are related to, the Released Class Claims. The provisions of this paragraph also apply to the Released PAGA Claims that are released by Settlement Class Members who opt-out of the non-PAGA portions of the Settlement.

3. **Plaintiff's General Release:** For the purpose of implementing a full and complete release and discharge, the Plaintiff expressly acknowledges that the release given in this Agreement is intended as a general release of all claims, including, but not limited to, Plaintiff's Released Claims, and those that he did not know or suspect at the time of execution hereof, regardless of whether the knowledge of such claims, or the facts upon which they might be based, would materially have affected the settlement of the Action. Plaintiff expressly acknowledges that the consideration given under this Settlement is also for the release of those claims and contemplates the extinguishment of any such claims against the Released Parties. Plaintiff shall knowingly, voluntarily, and completely release the Released Parties as defined in this Settlement from/for all the Plaintiff's Released Claims. Other than the Operative Complaint, and the LWDA Letter, Plaintiff represents he has no other action, administrative complaint, or charge against the Released Parties in any local, state or federal court or administrative agency. Plaintiff further acknowledges that all claims raised in the Operative Complaint and the LWDA Letter shall be fully and finally extinguished by virtue of this Settlement and the Court's Final Approval Order. Plaintiff further represents that he will not bring any action in the future in which he seeks to recover any damages from Defendant or the Released Parties relating to or arising from Plaintiff's employment with Desert Parks, other than an action to enforce his rights under this Settlement. Plaintiff is bound by the Settlement regardless of whether he cashes his settlement check. Plaintiff shall release all of his individual claims, including his individual PAGA claims, with prejudice. The Released Claims expressly exclude any PAGA claims for aggrieved employees other than the Named Plaintiff, and such claims will be dismissed without prejudice upon Final Approval of the Settlement.

- a. **1542 Waiver and Additional Release.** In addition to the above, as of the Effective Date, Plaintiff hereby waives and releases any and all provisions, rights,

or benefits conferred by section 1542 of the California Civil Code, or by any other similar, comparable or equivalent laws of any other state, territory, or province of the United States or other jurisdiction, or principle of common law, that are similar, comparable or equivalent to §1542 of the California Civil Code to the fullest extent that they may lawfully waive such rights or benefits with respect to the Released Claims. Section 1542 of the California Civil Code provides as follows:

A GENERAL RELEASE DOES NOT EXTEND TO CLAIMS THAT THE CREDITOR OR RELEASING PARTY DOES NOT KNOW OR SUSPECT TO EXIST IN HIS OR HER FAVOR AT THE TIME OF EXECUTING THE RELEASE AND THAT, IF KNOWN BY HIM OR HER, WOULD HAVE MATERIALLY AFFECTED HIS OR HER SETTLEMENT WITH THE DEBTOR OR RELEASED PARTY.

Plaintiff expressly acknowledges and shall be deemed by operation of the Final Approval Order to have acknowledged, that the foregoing waiver was separately bargained for and is a material element of the Settlement and that he has been advised by his attorney(s) of the contents and effect of Section 1542. Plaintiff may hereafter discover facts other than or different from those which he knows to be true with respect to the Released Claims, but Plaintiff hereby expressly fully, finally, and forever settles and releases any known or unknown, suspected, or unsuspected, contingent or non-contingent claim that would otherwise fall within the definition of Plaintiff's Released Claims, without regard to subsequent discovery or existence of such different or additional facts.

4. **Release of PAGA Claims.** Upon the Court's approval of the PAGA Payment and this release of PAGA Claims, Plaintiff and the PAGA Releasees and all persons purporting to act on the PAGA Releasees' behalf or purporting to assert a claim under or through them, hereby do and shall be deemed to have fully, finally, and forever released, settled, compromised, relinquished and discharged any and all of the Released Parties of and from the Released PAGA Claims, and any and all PAGA Claims premised in whole or in part on any of the claims set forth in the Operative Complaint and LWDA Letter that arose at any time during the PAGA Settlement Period. The PAGA Releasees will be issued a check for their share of the PAGA Payment and will not have the opportunity to opt out of, or object to, the PAGA Payment and release of the PAGA Claims set forth in this Paragraph. The PAGA Releasees are bound by the release of the PAGA Claims regardless of whether they cash their PAGA Payment Check.

- a. **1542 Waiver and Additional Release:** Upon the Effective Date, in addition to the Released PAGA Claims, PAGA Releasees waive and relinquish, to the fullest extent permitted by law, the benefits of section 1542 of the California Civil Code as set forth above and below (as well as any and all provisions, rights, and benefits of any similar state or federal law), only insofar as the claims arise from, or are related to, the Released PAGA Claims.

5. **Release of Claims by Class Counsel.** Upon receipt of the Attorneys' Fees and Costs, as ordered by the Court on Final Approval of the Class Settlement, Class Counsel shall fully and finally release Defendant and the Released Parties from any and all claims for attorneys' fees and expenses arising from the Action, and for attorneys' fees and expenses for any claims released by the Settlement Class Members related to the Action, whether known and unknown, whether under federal, state and/or local law, statute, ordinance, regulation, common law, or other source of law. Class Counsel's Released Claims include, but are not limited to, claims for attorneys' fees and expenses arising from or dependent on the California Civil Code, the California Code of Civil Procedure, the California Labor Code; the Wage Orders of the California Industrial Welfare Commission; California Business and Professions Code sections 17200, *et seq.*; California Labor Code sections 2698, *et seq.*; the California common law of contract and tort, and any and all other applicable wage and hour laws, including the Fair Labor Standards Act.

6. **No Additional Attorneys' Fees or Costs.** The Parties agree to bear its/their own attorneys' fees and costs related to the Action except as specifically provided above with respect to the Attorneys' Fees and Costs, and as specifically provided in this Settlement Agreement.

7. **Labor Code Sections That Do Not Apply to Releases.** The Parties agree that this is a settlement of disputed claims not involving undisputed wages and that Labor Code Section 206.5 is therefore inapplicable. The Parties further agree that California Labor Code sections 206.5 and 2804 do not invalidate any provision of this Agreement, because among other things, the claims, Plaintiff's Released Claims, Released Class Claims, and Released PAGA Claims are disputed and contested, and the Settlement was bargained for at arms' length and approved by the Court.

8. **Binding Effect of Agreement on Settlement Class Members.** Upon the Court's entry of its Final Approval Order, all Settlement Class Members shall be bound by this Agreement, whether they cash their settlement check or not, and the Released Claims shall be released as against the Released Parties to the greatest extent permitted by law. In addition, unless a Class Member effectively submits a Request for Exclusion to opt out of the Settlement, he or she shall be bound by the Court's Order enjoining all Settlement Class Members from pursuing or seeking to reopen Released Claims against the Released Parties to the greatest extent permitted by law. Upon the Court's entry of its Final Approval Order and Judgment regarding the PAGA Payment and the release of the PAGA Claims, all PAGA Releasees shall be bound by the release of the PAGA Claims and the PAGA Claims shall be released as against all the Released Parties to the greatest extent permitted by law.

C. SETTLEMENT AMOUNTS, ATTORNEY FEES, SERVICE AWARD, AND DISTRIBUTION OF SETTLEMENT PAYMENTS

1. **Gross Settlement Amount.** In exchange for the releases, obligations, and promises set forth in this Settlement (and subject to the terms and conditions contained in this Agreement), Defendant agrees to pay the Gross Settlement Amount of **One Hundred Ninety-Two Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents (\$192,000.00)**, which is the total and all-inclusive amount Defendant shall be obligated to pay under the Settlement embodied by this Agreement (except that Defendant shall pay the Employer Taxes and withholdings with respect to the wages portion of Individual Settlement Payment separately and in addition to the GSA), for the full resolution of the Action and released claims. The GSA includes amounts appropriated to the Settlement Class Members,

the PAGA Payment, Settlement Administration Costs to the Settlement Administrator, Attorney's Fees and Costs to Class Counsel, and the Service Award. Defendant will deposit money into a Qualified Settlement Fund ("QSF"), established by the Settlement Administrator, in an amount equal to the GSA.

- a. **No Additional Contribution by Defendant.** Defendant's monetary obligation under this Settlement is limited to the Gross Settlement Amount and Employer Taxes. Defendant shall not be obligated to make any payments contemplated by this Settlement until the conditions set forth in this Settlement occur. Defendant shall not be required to pay more than the Gross Settlement Amount and Employer Taxes to obtain the relief (including, but not limited to, enforcement of the Settlement, releases of all claims, and issuance of the Final Approval Order) provided in this Settlement or to fully and finally settle and resolve the Released Class Claims, Released PAGA Claims, or the Plaintiff's Released Claims. Notwithstanding the above, in the event that this Settlement is voided or nullified, in whole or in part, however that may occur, or the settlement of the Action are barred by operation of law, or invalidated, or ordered not to be carried out by a Court of competent jurisdiction, Defendant shall cease to have any obligation to pay any portion of the GSA to anyone under the terms of this Settlement.

2. **Distribution of Net Settlement Amount.** The Net Settlement Amount shall be allocated among the members of the Settlement Class on a *pro rata* basis based on the number of Workweeks at Issue for each Settlement Class Member, and number of PAGA Pay Periods for each PAGA Releasee. The allocations to the Class Settlement Amount and the PAGA Settlement Amount is based on Workweeks at Issue and PAGA Pay Periods within each allocation group and the applicable statute of limitations periods. The initial calculation prior to the mailing of the Class Notice shall estimate (1) the gross Individual Settlement Payment that each Settlement Class Member may be eligible to receive based on their Workweeks at Issue, assuming that no Class Members opt out of the Class Settlement; and (2) the gross PAGA Payment that each PAGA Releasee may be eligible to receive based on the PAGA Pay Period. To the extent that individuals are both Settlement Class Members and PAGA Releasees, they shall be eligible to receive both an Individual Settlement Payment and a PAGA Payment. Separate check payments may be issued for Individual Settlement Payment checks and PAGA Payment checks; thus, individuals that are both Settlement Class Members and PAGA Releasees may be issued two separate check payments. The Net Settlement Amount shall be fully distributed, as follows:

- a. Class Members who do not opt out of the Class Settlement (i.e., Settlement Class Members) will receive a *pro rata* share of the Class Settlement Amount, as follows:
 - i. Settlement Class Members will receive a *pro rata* share of the Net Settlement Amount, based on their respective number of Workweeks at Issue in the Settlement Period as compared to the total Workweeks of all Settlement Class Members in the Settlement Period;
 - ii. Settlement Class Members shall have one hundred eighty (180) calendar days from the date of mailing of their Individual Settlement Payment check to cash their Individual Settlement Payment check. The Settlement

Administrator shall mail a check cashing reminder postcard to those Settlement Class Members who have not negotiated their Individual Settlement Payment checks within sixty (60) days of mailing. Any failure of a Settlement Class Member to deposit a check shall not affect the enforceability of the release of all Released Class Claims, as the Parties jointly agree that valid consideration for same is the offer of monetary consideration by means of the offer of settlement and mailing of settlement checks. In the event that any Individual Settlement Payment checks are not deposited, cashed, or otherwise negotiated within the 180-day period, shall be void. Any funds not distributed after the expiration of the Individual Settlement Payment checks shall escheat to the State of California Controller's Office to be held in the name of the Settlement Class Member who is the payee of the check.

- iii. The amount distributed to Settlement Class Members, plus all required withholdings (if any), shall not exceed the NSA.
- iv. If a Class Member timely and validly submits a Request for Exclusion, as set forth herein, his or her share of the NSA will remain part of the NSA and will be distributed to the Settlement Class Members in accordance with the above formula.

3. **Settlement Checks / Language on Settlement Checks.** Pursuant to *Amaro v. Anaheim Arena Mgmt., LLC*, 69 Cal. App. 5th 521, 528 (2021), the Parties agree that an opt-in process is not needed for Settlement Class Members to release their FLSA claims. As the Court held in *Amaro*, "The FLSA's written consent requirement does not apply to a release in a class settlement of state wage and hour claims." In the event the Court orders otherwise, the Parties agree that any individual who worked for Defendant during the FLSA period from October 26, 2019 to November 9, 2023, and that cashes, deposits, or otherwise negotiates the Individual Settlement Payment check shall be deemed to have opted into *ISAIAS MENDOZA MEDINA, et al. v. DESERT PARKS LANDSCAPING, INC. dba PACIFIC SITE MANAGEMENT, et al.*, Case No. C22-02298, for purposes of fully and finally releasing all FLSA claims that they may have against Defendant and/or the Released Parties. No settlement check shall be issued until the Settlement Administrator provides final calculations of the Individual Settlements Payments to Defense counsel, who shall confirm or object to said calculations within five (5) calendar days of receipt. The Parties also agree that each Individual Settlement Payment check shall contain language in substantially the following form: "I understand that by cashing, depositing, or otherwise negotiating this check I will be deemed to have opted into *ISAIAS MENDOZA MEDINA, et al. v. DESERT PARKS LANDSCAPING, INC. dba PACIFIC SITE MANAGEMENT, et al.*, Case No. C22-02298, for purposes of the federal Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) release to the extent required to do so under applicable law for purposes of the court-approved settlement therein." In the event it is ordered by the Court to include such language, Class Counsel will notify the Settlement Administrator.

4. **PAGA Payment.** Subject to Court approval, the Parties agree to allocate an amount of **Ten Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents (\$10,000.00)** to the settlement of all claims for civil penalties under the Labor Code Private Attorneys General Act of 2004, Labor Code sections 2698, *et seq.* ("PAGA Payment"), which will be paid from the Gross Settlement Amount. Of this, an

amount of **Seven Thousand Five Hundred Dollars and Zero Cents (\$7,500.00)**, which is 75% of the PAGA Payment, shall be paid to the State of California LWDA. The remaining 25% of the **\$10,000.00** PAGA Payment, which amounts to **Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars and Zero Cents (\$2,500.00)**, shall be distributed *pro rata* to all PAGA Releasees, based on the number of PAGA Pay Periods worked by a PAGA Releasee, as a fraction of the total PAGA Pay Periods worked of all PAGA Releasees. The portion of the PAGA payment to the PAGA Releasees shall be treated entirely as penalties. Although the PAGA Settlement will be subject to Court approval, PAGA Releasees will not have the opportunity to opt-out or object to the PAGA Payment or the release of PAGA Claims set forth in this Agreement. In the event the LWDA or the Court rejects this allocation, the Parties will meet and confer with the Court and the LWDA to reach a penalty allocation acceptable to all parties that does not materially alter the terms of Settlement, nor require Defendant to pay more than the GSA. Concurrently, when Plaintiff files his Motion for Preliminary Approval, Plaintiff shall send a copy of the Settlement to the LWDA pursuant to the 2016 amendments to PAGA. The PAGA Payment shall be paid from the Gross Settlement Amount.

5. **Attorneys' Fees, Costs, and Expenses.** Class Counsel shall request attorneys' fees up to 1/3 of the GSA, i.e., **Sixty-Four Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents (\$64,000.00)** for attorneys' fees; and **Ten Thousand Dollar and Zero Cents (\$10,000.00)** for reimbursement of reasonable out-of-pocket litigation costs and expenses ("Attorneys' Fees and Costs"). Class Counsel agrees not to seek from Defendant any additional attorneys' fees, costs and/or expenses stemming from their involvement in the Action. Plaintiff and Class Counsel will apply to the Court for payment of Class Counsel's request for Attorneys' Fees and Costs. Defendant agrees not to oppose Class Counsel's request for Attorneys' Fees and Costs in these amounts. The terms of this Agreement will not be abrogated and will continue in full force even if the Court awards a lesser amount of Attorneys' Fees and Costs than requested by Class Counsel. The outcome of the Court's ruling on the application for Attorneys' Fees and Costs shall not terminate the Settlement or otherwise affect the Court's ruling on the Final Approval Order. To the extent the Court does not approve payment of Attorneys' Fees and Costs in the amount set forth herein, the amount that is not awarded to Class Counsel shall remain a part of the NSA for distribution to the Settlement Class Members on a *pro rata* basis. Except as provided in this Paragraph, upon final approval, each Party shall bear his or its own attorneys' fees, costs, and expenses incurred in the prosecution, defense, and settlement of the Action. Attorneys' Fees and Costs shall be paid without withholding, and an IRS Form 1099 will be issued for such payments. Class Counsel will provide the Settlement Administrator with IRS Form W-9, with all corresponding taxpayer identification entered, so that an IRS Form 1099 may be issued. Any reduction in amount by the Court of the application for Attorneys' Fees and Costs, Service Award, and/or Settlement Administration Costs will in no way affect the validity of the remainder of this Agreement or give rise to a right to abrogate this Settlement.

6. **Service Award to Plaintiff.** In return for services rendered to the Class Members, Plaintiff will request that the Court approve a Service Award of up to **Ten Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents (\$10,000.00)** for himself from the GSA. Defendant will not oppose such an application. The terms of this Agreement will not be abrogated and will continue in full force even if the Court awards a lesser amount for the Service Award. The outcome of the Court's ruling on the application for a Service Award shall not terminate this Settlement or otherwise affect the Court's ruling on the Final Approval Order. Any amount not approved by the Court shall become part of the Net Settlement Amount for distribution to the Settlement Class Members on a *pro rata*

basis. In return for the Service Award, Plaintiff will release Plaintiff's Released Claims upon Defendant's funding of the GSA. The Service Award payable to Plaintiff shall be in addition to any Individual Settlement Payments he may receive. Notwithstanding the foregoing, nothing in this Agreement releases any claims that may not be released as a matter of law. Plaintiff will receive an IRS Form 1099 for his Service Award and will be responsible for payment of any taxes owing on said amount.

7. **Taxes & Tax Treatment.** Each Settlement Class Member's payment shall be treated 20% as wages and will be reported as such to each Settlement Class Member on an IRS Form W-2; 40% as civil penalties or liquidated damages and will be reported as such to each Settlement Class Member on an IRS Form 1099, if applicable; and 40% as interest and will be reported as such to each Settlement Class Member on an IRS Form 1099, if applicable. The wage portion shall be paid net of all Employee's Taxes and Required Withholdings, including federal, state, and local income tax, FICA taxes, and federal and state unemployment taxes. The Parties further agree that the PAGA Payment distributed to each PAGA Releasee will be treated entirely as civil penalties and will be reported as such to each PAGA Releasee on an IRS Form 1099, if applicable. Defendant shall transmit to the Settlement Administrator for payment of the employer share of all payroll taxes imposed by law separately and in addition to the Gross Settlement Amount ("Employer Taxes"). All Employer Taxes withheld and paid by the Settlement Administrator shall be reported by the Settlement Administrator to the appropriate taxing authorities under the payee's name and social security number. To the extent applicable, all Settlement Class Members are obligated to pay their respective share of any taxes, local, state or federal, which may become due and owing on the monies received under this Settlement.

- a. **Indemnification.** In the event that any taxing body determines that different amounts should have been withheld from the payments (or any portion thereof) provided for in this Paragraph, the Settlement Class Member shall be liable for the payment of any such employee's share of taxes and agree to defend, indemnify and hold the Released Parties harmless for the payment of such taxes, the failure to withhold, and any interest and penalties imposed thereon. In the event that any taxing body determines that different amounts should have been withheld from the payments (or any portion thereof) provided for in this Paragraph, Defendant shall be accountable for the payment of any such employer's share of taxes.
- b. **Plans and Funds.** None of the payments provided under the Settlement shall be considered for purposes of determining benefits under any qualified or non-qualified plans of Defendant or their affiliated companies. The Parties agree that the Gross Settlement Amount will qualify as a QSF pursuant to the requirements of section 468(B)(g) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, and section 1.468B-1. *et seq.* of the income tax regulations. Furthermore, the Settlement Administrator is hereby designated as the "Administrator" of the qualified settlement funds for purposes of section 1.46B-2(k) of the income tax regulations. As such, to the extent applicable, all taxes imposed on the gross income of the Gross Settlement Amount and any tax-related expenses arising from any income tax return or other reporting document that may be required by the Internal Revenue Service, or any state or local taxing body will be paid from the Gross Settlement Amount.

- c. **No Tax Advice.** All Parties represent that they have not received, and shall not rely on, advice or representations from the other Party or her/its agents regarding the tax treatment of payments under federal, state, or local law. To that end, neither Plaintiff nor Defendant, nor the Parties' attorneys, shall give or are giving any tax advice in connection with the Settlement or any payments to be made pursuant to this Settlement. Each Settlement Class Member agrees to indemnify and hold harmless Defendant from any liability for employee-side taxes and/or related fees, costs, or assessments resulting from his or her failure to timely pay his or her share of employee-side taxes and/or related interest, fees, or penalties owed.

8. **Funding of Settlement.** Within **thirty (30) business days** after the Effective Date, Defendant shall pay the settlement sum of \$192,00.00 and the amount that the Settlement Administrator advises is due for Employer Taxes, by transferring these amounts to the QSF account established by the Settlement Administrator for administration of the Settlement. The successful delivery of the Gross Settlement Amount to the Settlement Administrator plus its share of Employer's Taxes shall be deemed to have satisfied all the terms and conditions under this Settlement, shall be entitled to all protections afforded to Defendant, shall constitute full and complete discharge of the entire obligation of Defendant, and will trigger the release of the Released Class Claims, Released PAGA Claims, and Plaintiff's Released Claims under this Agreement. Additionally, no Released Parties shall have any further obligation or liability to the PAGA Releases or Settlement Class Members under this Agreement.

- a. **Distribution of the Settlement Funds.** The Settlement Administrator shall distribute the Individual Settlement Payments and PAGA Payments to Settlement Class Members and PAGA Releasees, the Service Award to Plaintiff, Settlement Administration Costs to the Settlement Administrator, and Attorneys' Fees and Costs to Class Counsel, within **fifteen (15) calendar days** of receipt of settlement funds from Defendant.
- b. **No Claims Resulting from Payments.** No person shall have any claim of any kind whatsoever against the Plaintiff, Defendant, Released Parties, the Settlement Administrator, Defense Counsel, and/or Class Counsel, or any other agent designated by the Plaintiff or Defendant based upon distribution of the Individual Settlement Payments and the PAGA Payments (including, without limitation, the Attorneys' Fees and Costs, Service Award, etc.) made substantially in accordance with this Settlement or further orders of the Court. The Settlement Administrator shall be deemed to have timely distributed all such payments to the Settlement Class Members if it places in the mail Individual Settlement Payments for all Settlement Class Members and the PAGA Payments to the PAGA Releasees and the State of California LWDA by the applicable deadlines set forth in this Settlement or by the deadlines set by the Court. Similarly, neither Plaintiff nor Defendant shall bear any liability for lost or stolen checks, forged signatures on checks, or unauthorized negotiation of checks. Unless responsible by its own acts of omission or commission, the same is true for the Settlement Administrator.
- c. **PAGA Check.** Payment to the PAGA Releasees of their portion of the PAGA Payment shall be paid to each of them by way of a check ("PAGA Check"), which

may be combined with the Class Settlement payment. The PAGA Check represents the portion of the civil penalties awarded directly under PAGA and may be included in conjunction with the Class Settlement payment, or separately. The Settlement Administrator will assess how best to distribute the PAGA Check.

- d. **Class Settlement Payment.** Any Class Member will become a Settlement Class Member and receive an Individual Settlement Payment unless he or she opts out of the Settlement by timely submitting a valid Request for Exclusion pursuant to the terms of this Agreement.

9. **No Credit Toward Benefit Plans.** Except as otherwise required by applicable plan documents, the Individual Settlement Payments, Service Award, and PAGA Payment made to Plaintiff, Settlement Class Members and PAGA Releasees under this Settlement shall not be utilized to calculate any additional benefits under any benefit plans to which any Settlement Class Member may be eligible including, but not limited to: retirement plans, profit-sharing plans, bonus plans, 401(k) plans, stock purchase plans, vacation benefit plans, sick leave plans, PTO plans, pension plans, unemployment compensation, any perceived plans related to the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (“ERISA”), and/or any other benefit plan. It is the Parties’ intention that this Settlement will not affect any rights, contributions, or amounts to which Settlement Class Members may be entitled under any benefit plans.

E. SETTLEMENT ADMINISTRATOR

The Parties have mutually agreed to the selection of the Settlement Administrator to undertake the administration of the Settlement in this Action. The reasonable Settlement Administration Costs through and beyond the Final Approval Hearing are estimated not to exceed **\$8,000.00** and shall be paid from the Gross Settlement Amount subject to Court approval. The terms of this Settlement Agreement will not be abrogated and will continue in full force even if the Court awards a lesser amount for Settlement Administration Costs. The outcome of the Court’s ruling on Settlement Administration Costs shall not terminate this Agreement or otherwise affect the Court’s ruling on the Final Approval Order. Any amount not approved by the Court shall become part of the Net Settlement Amount for distribution to the Settlement Class Members on a *pro rata* basis.

F. MOTIONS FOR PRELIMINARY AND FINAL APPROVAL OF THE SETTLEMENT

1. **Preparation of Approval Documents.** Class Counsel shall draft and file a motion seeking preliminary approval of the Settlement (“Motion for Preliminary Approval”), and if the Settlement is granted preliminary approval, a motion seeking final approval of the Settlement (“Motion for Final Approval”). Class Counsel may bring a separate motion for approval of Class Counsel’s Attorneys’ Fees and Costs and for approval of the Service Award, or they may request such approval as part of the Motion for Final Approval, at Class Counsel’s option. Prior to filing the Motion for Preliminary Approval and Motion for Final Approval, respectively, Class Counsel will provide Defense Counsel with drafts for review and approval. Parties agree to meet and confer if additional time is needed to complete drafting of approval documents and will provide each other a reasonable amount of time to complete the drafting of said documents. Class Counsel need not provide Defense Counsel with drafts of the separate motion for approval of Class Counsel’s Attorneys’ Fees and Costs and for approval of the Service Award. The Parties will jointly agree

on the contents and form of the contemplated proposed orders, which will be submitted to the Court in conjunction with the aforementioned motions. The Parties further agree to fully cooperate in the drafting and/or filing of any further documents or filings reasonably necessary to be prepared or filed, including responding to challenges by any third parties, and shall take all steps that may be requested by the Court relating to the approval and implementation of the Settlement described in this Settlement.

2. **Declaration from Settlement Administrator:** Class Counsel shall provide to the Court, at or before the Final Approval Hearing, the Administrator's Declaration.

3. **Resolution of Disputes Related to Drafting:** In the event of a dispute between Class Counsel and Defense Counsel regarding the content or form of the above-mentioned motions, the contemplated proposed orders, and/or any drafting issues related to this Settlement, the Parties will meet and confer in good faith to resolve the issue. If the Parties cannot reach an agreement, they will turn to the Court for assistance. If the Parties are unable to resolve matter through such good faith conferral efforts, said issues shall be resolved by mediator Judge Goldberg.

1. **Motion for Preliminary Approval.** As soon as reasonably possible after the execution of this Agreement, Class Counsel shall submit this fully executed Settlement to the Court and shall file a Motion for Preliminary Approval, requesting a Preliminary Approval Order that contains the following provisions:

- a. Preliminarily approving the Settlement in its entirety, including the PAGA Payment and the release of the PAGA Claims set forth in this Agreement, and finding its terms as fair, reasonable and adequate to the members of the Class and the PAGA Releasees;
- b. Preliminarily approving and certifying the Class for settlement purposes only;
- c. Permanently enjoining all Class Members from pursuing or seeking to reopen the Released Claims against Defendant and the Released Parties, and enjoining all PAGA Releasees from pursuing or seeking to reopen the PAGA Claims against Defendant and the Released Parties;
- d. Scheduling a Final Approval Hearing for consideration of final approval of this Settlement Agreement;
- e. Preliminarily approving Plaintiff and Class Counsel to represent the Settlement Class for settlement purpose only;
- f. Preliminarily approving the allocation and distribution plan of the GSA as stated in this Settlement Agreement;
- g. Approving the form of the proposed Class Notice, and finding that the proposed method of disseminating the Class Notice meets the requirements of due process and is the best notice practicable under the circumstances;
- h. Directing the delivery of the Class Notice to Class Members;
- i. Establishing the procedures and the deadline by which Settlement Class Members may assert objections to the Settlement, seek exclusion from the Settlement, and/or dispute their Workweeks at Issue; and
- j. Appointing and approving the Settlement Administrator as chosen by the Parties and approved by the Court, to administer the claims and settlement payment procedures required by this Settlement Agreement.

- k. Counsel for Defendant will be given an opportunity to review and comment on the Motion for Preliminary Approval of the Settlement and all supporting papers prior to being filed with the Court, and such comments will be implemented to the extent reasonable. Plaintiff will provide a draft copy to Defendant for review no later than fourteen (14) calendar days before the filing date.
2. **Motion for Final Approval:** If the Settlement is preliminarily approved by the Court, the Parties shall thereafter request that the Court enter a Final Approval Order, which grants final approval of the Settlement and enters judgment thereon, and includes the following provisions:
- a. Finally approving the Settlement and determining the terms thereof to be fair, reasonable, just, adequate, and in the best interests of the Settlement Class Members;
 - b. Confirming certification of the Class for settlement purposes only;
 - c. Directing the Parties to implement and carry out the terms and provisions of the Settlement;
 - d. Finding that the dissemination of the Class Notice in the form and manner ordered by the Court was accomplished as directed, and met the requirements of due process;
 - e. Finally approving Class Counsel's application for an award of Attorneys' Fees and Costs;
 - f. Awarding Settlement Administration Costs to the Settlement Administrator;
 - g. Awarding the Service Award to the Class Representative;
 - h. Resolving and settling all the Released Claims by the Class Representative and all Settlement Class Members, as herein above provided, with the release precluding them from instituting, commencing, or continuing to pursue, directly or indirectly, as an individual or collectively, representatively, derivatively, or on behalf of himself or herself, or in any other capacity of any kind whatsoever, any action in this Court, any other state court, or any arbitration or mediation proceeding or any other similar proceeding, against any of the Released Parties, that asserts any Released Claims;
 - i. Releasing, discharging, and fully extinguishing the Released Parties from any and all liability with respect to the Released Class Claims and Released PAGA Claims as hereinabove provided;
 - j. Entering a final judgment that permanently enjoins and bars all Settlement Class Members from reopening or prosecuting any and all of the Released Class Claims and Released PAGA Claims and the Plaintiff's Released Claims against any of the Released Parties, on satisfaction of all payments and obligations hereunder; and
 - k. Preserving continuing and exclusive jurisdiction over all matters related to the administration and consummation of the terms of this Settlement and enforcement of the Final Approval Order.
 - l. Counsel for Defendant will be given an opportunity to comment on the Motion for Final Approval of the Settlement and supporting papers prior to

being filed with the Court, and such comments will be implemented to the extent reasonable. Class Counsel will provide a draft copy to Defendant for review no later than fourteen (14) calendar days before the filing date.

- m. **Entry of Final Judgment:** With the Motion for Final Approval, Plaintiff (or Plaintiff jointly with Defendant) will request that the Court enter the Final Approval Order (which includes a final judgment) as agreed to by the Parties.

G. SETTLEMENT ADMINISTRATION PROCEDURES

1. No later than thirty (30) calendar days after preliminary approval by the Court of this Settlement, Defendant shall provide the Settlement Administrator with a database containing the following information: (1) the full name, last known address and full social security number of all Settlement Class Members; and (2) the information necessary to determine the estimated settlement allocation to each Settlement Class Member, including without limitation, the start and end dates for each employee so the Settlement administrator can calculate the total number of Workweeks at Issue. The information provided to the Settlement Administrator shall be marked and considered “Confidential,” shall not be disclosed to anyone other than Defense Counsel and the Settlement Administrator. The Settlement Administrator will keep the list confidential, use it only for the purposes described herein, and return it to Defendant and/or destroy it upon completion of the settlement administration process.

2. Class Counsel and Defendant’s Counsel may review and approve any documents contemplated by the Settlement before they are mailed or sent. The Settlement Administrator may mail no documents without first receiving written approval to do so from Class Counsel and Defendant’s Counsel. The Settlement Administrator must have in place an effective information and data security protocols and/or program capable of protecting the personal information of the Class Members and PAGA Releasees. In addition, the Settlement Administrator must maintain reasonable physical, administrative, and technical controls to protect such information. Class Counsel and Defense Counsel may object to the selection of a Settlement Administrator that cannot reasonably maintain the security of Class Members and PAGA Releasees’ contact information. All of the information produced to the Settlement Administrator will be subject to the Parties’ Stipulated Protective Order.

3. Based on the information in the Class List, any pay and time data forwarded by Defendant (if needed), and the formula set forth in this Agreement, the Settlement Administrator shall promptly calculate the share of PAGA Payment to every PAGA Releasee and an estimated Individual Settlement Payment for every Class Member, to be included in the individualized Class Notice to be sent to that Class Member, and shall prepare and mail a spreadsheet setting forth those calculations to Defense Counsel no fewer than seven (7) calendar days before mailing of the Class Notice to the Class Members and PAGA Releasees. The Class Notice will inform each Class Member of his/her right to do nothing and receive an Individual Settlement Payment, dispute the number of Workweeks at Issue, submit a Request for Exclusion, or to object to Settlement as described herein.

4. Every seven (7) calendar days after mailing of the Class Notice, the Settlement Administrator shall provide regular, periodic updates to the Parties regarding the administration process. The report will list the number of Class Notices sent by U.S. Mail in the

initial mailing; the number of Class Notices sent by U.S. Mail that were returned as undeliverable with forwarding address; the number of Class Notices sent by U.S. Mail that were returned as undeliverable without forwarding address; the number of Class Notices sent by U.S. Mail for which an updated mailing address was located via skip tracing; the number of Class Notices sent by U.S. Mail that were remailed; a list by name of all Class Members who timely and validly opted out by submitting a Request for Exclusion; a list by name of all Settlement Class Members who timely objected by submitting an Objection; a list of all Settlement Class Members who timely submitted a dispute of Workweeks at Issue; the number of Requests for Exclusion, Objections, and disputes of Workweeks at Issue received in the past seven days, and in total; and other relevant information as may be necessary.

5. The Settlement Administrator shall mail class the Class Notice, with Spanish translation, substantially in the form attached hereto as **Exhibit A**, to all Class Members and PAGA Releasees. The Parties agree that for settlement purposes only, because the Class Members are so numerous, it is impossible or impracticable to have each Class Member execute this Agreement. Accordingly, the Class Notice will advise all Class Members of the binding nature of the release of claims and any such notice shall have the same force and effect as if the Agreement were executed by each Class Member. The Parties intend that reasonable means be used to maximize the probability that all Class Members shall receive the Class Notice. Prior to mailing the class settlement notice, the Settlement Administrator will run a National Change of Address (“NCOA”) search. If a class settlement notice is returned because of an undeliverable address without a forwarding address, the Settlement Administrator shall conduct a skip trace to locate a correct address. Once the Settlement Administrator locates a new address, it will mail the class settlement notice to the new address and the member of the Settlement Class shall have an additional ten (10) calendar days from the date of re-mailing to object, opt-out or dispute workweeks. The Class Notice shall also state the number of Workweeks at Issue credited to each Class Member as a Settlement Class Member; and his or her estimated gross Individual Settlement Payment based thereon.

- a. **Timing.** Within twenty-one (21) calendar days after receiving the Class List, the Settlement Administrator shall disseminate the Class Notice to all the Class Members and PAGA Releasees by U.S. Mail at the addresses identified through the process described above. The Settlement Administrator and all those working through, in concert with, or on behalf of the Settlement Administrator, shall be obligated to take all reasonable steps to maintain the confidentiality of Class Member information and to carry out the other duties enumerated in the Settlement Agreement, including calculating each Class Member’s potential share of the Settlement. The Settlement Administrator shall provide Defense counsel and Class Counsel with weekly summary reports. The Settlement Administrator shall maintain records of its work, which will be available for inspection upon request by Defendant’s counsel.

6. Class Members will have thirty (30) calendar days from the mailing of the class settlement notice (the “Notice Period”) to submit a request for exclusion, a workweek dispute, or an objection to the settlement to the Settlement Administrator.

- a. Any Qualified Class Member may object to the settlement in writing. Written objections must be mailed to the Settlement Administrator and

postmarked no later than the last day of the Notice Period. The Settlement Administrator shall email a copy of any objections received forthwith to Defense Counsel and Class Counsel shall lodge a copy of the objection with the Court at the time they file their Motion for Final Approval.

- b. Any Class Member may exclude him or herself from (i.e., opt-out of) the Settlement Class by submitting a written request for exclusion to the Settlement Administrator, postmarked no later than the last day of the Notice Period. To be valid, exclusion requests must state the Class Member's name and address, the last four digits of their social security number, state that they wish to opt out of the settlement, and be signed and dated by the Class Member. In the event of a deficient opt-out request, the Settlement Administrator shall promptly give notice by mail to the class member so that they may correct any deficiencies.
- c. Any Settlement Class Member may dispute the number of workweeks stated on his or her settlement class notice by submitting a written dispute to the Settlement Administrator, postmarked no later than the last day of the Notice Period. Disputes should include the basis for the dispute, including documentation to substantiate the dispute. The Parties agree that if any Settlement Class Member disputes the basis for determining their share of the Net Settlement Amount, Defendant's records shall presumptively control. The Parties further agree that any dispute that cannot be resolved by Settlement Class Counsel and Defendant's counsel may be brought before the Court prior to the court's final approval of the Lawsuit settlement.

7. The Settlement Administrator shall mail individual settlement payment checks to Settlement Class Members no later than ten (10) calendar days after Defendant funds the Settlement. No later than that date, it shall transmit the award of attorneys' fees and costs to Class Counsel, the enhancement award to the Plaintiff, and pay itself all fees actually incurred, in the amounts approved by the Court.

8. A Qualified Settlement Class Member must cash his or her individual settlement payment check within 180 calendar days after it is mailed to him or her. If a check is returned to the Settlement Administrator, the Settlement Administrator will make all reasonable efforts to re-mail it to the Qualified Settlement Class Member at his or her correct address. If any Qualified Settlement Class Member's individual settlement payment check is not cashed within 120 days of its initial issuance to the Qualified Settlement Class Member, the Settlement Administrator will send the Qualified Settlement Class Member a postcard, days from the initial mailing, informing him or her that, unless the check is cashed within 60 days of the date of this postcard, it will expire and become non-negotiable, and offer to replace the check if it was lost or misplaced but not cashed. If the check remains uncashed by the expiration of the 60-day period after this interim notice, the Settlement Administrator will keep an accounting of such funds, including the identification of the Qualified Settlement Class Member. The Settlement Administrator will then transmit said funds to the State of California State Controller's Office Unclaimed Property Fund, in the Qualified Settlement Class Member's name to be held as unclaimed property for the Qualified Settlement Class Member. In such event, the Qualified

Settlement Class Member will nevertheless remain bound by the Settlement Agreement and the releases contained herein.

9. **Resolution of Disputes.** In the event of a dispute regarding the validity of a Class Member, or their number of Workweeks at Issue, the Parties will meet and confer in an effort to reach a resolution. Absent evidence rebutting Defendant's records, Defendant's records will be presumed determinative. The Parties' decision will resolve the challenge and will constitute a final and binding determination without hearing or right of appeal. All disputes relating to Settlement Administrator's ability and need to perform its duties shall be referred to the Court, if necessary, which shall have continued jurisdiction over the Settlement until all obligations contemplated have been fully carried out.

10. **Calculation of Employer Taxes.** Within seven (7) calendar days after the Effective Date, Settlement Administrator shall calculate all Employer Taxes and advise Defendant of the total amount that is due for Employer Taxes separate and apart from the Gross Settlement Amount. The Settlement Administrator will issue appropriate tax forms to each Settlement Class Member and PAGA Releasee consistent with the foregoing breakdown.

11. **Calculation of Employee's Taxes and Required Withholdings:** The Settlement Administrator shall calculate, withhold from each Individual Settlement Payment and the Service Award, and remit to applicable governmental agencies sufficient amounts as may be owed by the Settlement Class Members and Plaintiff for applicable employee taxes. The Settlement Administrator will issue appropriate tax forms to each Settlement Class Member, Plaintiff, and PAGA Releasee consistent with the foregoing breakdown. All Individual Settlement Payments paid to Settlement Class Members, and Plaintiff shall be paid in a net amount after applicable state and federal withholdings, including payroll taxes, have been deducted.

H. VOIDING AGREEMENT / TERMINATION OF SETTLEMENT

Defendant shall retain the right, in the exercise of its sole discretion, to nullify the Settlement if Class Members representing more than an aggregate total of 5% of the Class Members opt out of the Settlement. Defendant must provide written notice to Class Counsel of its withdrawal within ten (10) business days after the later of the Notice Period and the Settlement Administrator's providing Defendant with the final number of Class Members that have excluded themselves or otherwise opted out of the Settlement. Such rescission shall have the same effect as a termination of this Settlement Agreement for failure to satisfy a condition of settlement, and the Agreement shall become null and void and have no further force or effect, and the Class certified pursuant to this Settlement Agreement will be decertified for all purposes. The Settlement Administrator shall report to the Parties' respective counsel after the mailing of the Class Notice regarding the percentage of Class Members who have opted out, as set forth above. All signatories and their counsel agree not to encourage opt-outs or Requests for Exclusions. Class Counsel and Defendant specifically agree not to solicit opt-outs, directly or indirectly, through any means. If Defendant exercises its right to terminate, the Settlement will be *void ab initio* and of no force or effect, and will not be admissible in any judicial, administrative, or arbitral proceeding for any purpose or with respect to any issue, substantive or procedural. In addition, none of the Parties to this Settlement will be deemed to have waived or assigned any claims, objections, defenses, or arguments in this action, including with respect to the issue of class certification. If Defendant

chooses to terminate the Settlement Agreement under this provision, the Parties may re-negotiate settlement terms.

Defendant and Plaintiff agree that, during the settlement negotiations, the settlement amount was determined in part based on Defendant's representation there were approximately 292 putative class members from October 26, 2018 through June 26, 2023. The Parties negotiated based on approximately 15,151 workweeks through the date of July 25, 2023 ("total workweeks"). If the number of workweeks increases to more than 16,000 workweeks, Defendant shall have the option to select between whether the GSA will be increased proportionately at \$12 per workweek, or the release period shall cut off at the date that the workweeks exceed 16,000 workweeks.

I. CONFIDENTIALITY AND NON-DISPARAGEMENT

Except as requested by the Court, the Parties and attorneys will keep the Settlement confidential through the filing of Plaintiff's Motion for Preliminary Approval. Thereafter, the Parties will agree to make no comments to the media or otherwise publicize the terms of the Settlement, including no reference to the case, the Defendant, or any description regarding the Defendant's business. This provision shall not restrict Class Counsel from responding to inquiries posed by Class Members. To that end, prior to filing of the Motion for Preliminary Approval, Class Counsel shall not discuss the terms of the Agreement or the negotiations leading to Settlement with any person other than the Plaintiff, except that Class Counsel may discuss the general terms of the Settlement with the Class Members. Additionally, the Parties agree that prior to the filing of a Motion for Preliminary Approval of this Settlement, the only permitted disclosures of this Agreement are those mutually agreed to by the Parties and as requested by the Court. This provision shall not preclude Defendant from making any necessary corporate disclosures. Plaintiff agrees that he shall not promote, or publicize the filing of the Action, the Parties' Settlement, this Agreement and its terms, or the negotiations leading to this Agreement with anyone other than the Court. Notwithstanding the foregoing, Plaintiff may disclose the terms of this Agreement to his spouse, and to those persons to whom disclosure is necessary for the preparation of tax returns and other financial reports, without specific reference to Defendant by name or any other descriptive information that could lead to the identification of Defendant. Plaintiff agrees that he may disclose the terms of the Settlement to his spouse, but only so long as he first obtains his spouse's express agreement to maintain that information in confidence without specific reference to Defendant by name or any other descriptive information that could lead to the identification of Defendant. This Paragraph shall not limit Plaintiff's ability to disclose the Action, this Settlement Agreement, and its terms, to the extent ordered by a court of competent jurisdiction or otherwise required by law. The Parties and their counsel further agree that they will not issue any press releases, engage in any communications, or take any other action that would directly or indirectly provide the press or media or any litigation reporting service with information about the Action, this Agreement, or the Parties' Settlement or would otherwise enable or allow the press or other media or any litigation reporting service to learn or obtain such information. Plaintiff and Class Counsel also agree not to post any information concerning this Settlement on the internet or social media, including Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and Snapchat. The Parties and their counsel lastly agree that they will not post any information regarding this Agreement or the Settlement on their internet websites or take any such action that would cause or allow such information to be posted on any other internet website or on the web. Notwithstanding the foregoing, Defendant and its counsel shall not be precluded from making any disclosures required by law or in connection with an SEC filing, under generally accepted accounting principles, or in Defendant's judgment are required under the

ordinary course of business, and Defendant shall also have the right to respond in reasonably general terms to inquiries from the media and investment-related entities.

J. COMMUNICATION BY COUNSEL

The Parties and their counsel agree that they shall not seek to solicit or otherwise encourage Class Members to submit a Request for Exclusion or an objection to the Settlement or to appeal from the Preliminary Approval Order and Order Approving PAGA Settlement, Final Approval Order, or Final Judgment. Class Counsel agree that they shall not initiate or contact or have any communications with the Class Members during the settlement approval process. Nothing shall prevent Class Counsel from responding to inquiries from Class Members and PAGA Releasees. For its part, Defendant agrees that it shall not discourage Class Members from participating in the Settlement and shall refer any questions to the Settlement Administrator.

K. NO ADMISSION/DENIAL OF LIABILITY

The Parties enter into this Settlement to resolve the dispute that has arisen between them and to avoid the burden, expense, and risk of continued litigation. In entering into this Agreement, Defendant does not admit, and specifically denies, that it has violated any federal, state, or local law; violated any regulations or guidelines promulgated pursuant to any statute or any other applicable laws, regulations or legal requirements; breached any contract, violated or breached any duty; engaged in any misrepresentation or deception; or engaged in any other unlawful conduct with respect to Plaintiff or any Class Member or PAGA Releasee. Nothing in this Agreement is intended as or may be construed as an admission or concession of liability, unlawful conduct, or wrongdoing by Defendant (and/or any of the Released Parties) in any way, shape, or form. Defendant and the Released Parties deny any liability or wrongdoing of any kind associated with the claims alleged in the Action. Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed or deemed as an admission of liability, culpability, negligence, or wrongdoing on the part of the Defendant. The Parties to this Settlement agree that it reflects their good faith compromise of the claims raised in the Action, based upon their assessment of the mutual risks and costs of further litigation and the assessments of their respective counsel. Defendant further denies that it has engaged in any unlawful activity, denies that it has failed to comply with the law in any respect, denies it has any liability to anyone under the claims asserted in this matter, and contend that but for this Settlement, the Action would not be able to proceed as a class or representation action. This Agreement is entered into solely for the purpose of compromising highly disputed claims. This Agreement and the fact that the Plaintiff and Defendant are willing to settle the Action shall have no bearing on, and shall not be admissible in connection with, any litigation (other than solely in connection with approval and enforcement of this Agreement). Pursuant to California Evidence Code section 1152, this Settlement Agreement is inadmissible in any proceeding, except a proceeding to approve, interpret, or enforce this Settlement Agreement. If the Court does not grant a Final Approval Order, the Parties agree that this Settlement Agreement is void, but remains protected by California Evidence Code section 1152. The Parties consent to the continuing jurisdiction of the Court for the purposes of enforcement of the Settlement, pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure section 664.6.

L. RES JUDICATA

Plaintiff agrees that the Released Parties can assert this Settlement Agreement and the Order of Approval and Judgment as a defense to any future claims for any Released Claims alleged

to have occurred during the Settlement Period. The Parties intend this settlement and the resulting judgment to have claim preclusive effect, issue preclusive effect, estoppel effect and to otherwise bar an action to the fullest extent permissible under applicable law.

M. MUTUAL PREPARATION OF AGREEMENT

The Parties have had a full opportunity to negotiate the terms and conditions of this Settlement Agreement. Accordingly, this Settlement Agreement shall not be construed more strictly against one party than another merely by virtue of the fact that it may have been prepared by counsel for one of the Parties, it being recognized that, because of the arms-length negotiations between the Parties, all Parties have contributed to the preparation of this Settlement Agreement.

N. COOPERATION CLAUSE

The Parties agree to cooperate fully, completely, and promptly with each other to accomplish the terms of the Agreement, including, but not limited to, execution of documents and taking such actions as may be reasonably necessary to implement the terms of the Agreement. The Parties agree to engage in good faith and reasonable efforts, including all efforts contemplated by this Agreement and any other reasonable efforts that may become necessary by order of the Court, or otherwise, to acquire a Final Approval Order and to enforce this Agreement and the terms set forth herein. As soon as practicable after execution of this Agreement, Class Counsel and Plaintiff will, with the assistance and cooperation of Defendant and Defense counsel, take all necessary steps to secure the Court's Final Approval of the Settlement, which may include promptly filing stipulations, declarations, or requests that the Court deems necessary, and making such appearances as the Court may deem necessary to secure the total and complete approval of this Settlement and the terms set forth herein.

O. MATERIAL CONDITIONS

A failure of the Court to approve any material condition of this Agreement that affects a fundamental change to the Settlement, excluding the proposed Attorneys' Fees and Costs, the Service Award, and/or Settlement Administration Costs, shall render the entire Settlement void and unenforceable as to all Parties. Any of the Parties may declare the Settlement void and unenforceable, on the basis of a failure of the Court to approve any material condition, by giving written notice to all Parties within fourteen (14) calendar days of learning of that failure. If any of the Parties exercise their option to terminate the Agreement under this Paragraph, the certification of the class provided for herein shall be vacated and the litigation shall proceed without prejudice to any Party's position on the issue of class certification, adequacy of representation, standing, or any other issue. Prior to enforcing this Paragraph, the Parties shall meet in good faith to resolve issues pursuant the Cooperation Clause. Specifically, the Parties must meet and confer in good faith to ensure that the Parties are able to completely satisfy all the material terms and conditions as required by the Agreement, as modified by the Court's failure to approve the material condition(s). In the event the Parties are unable to resolve/remedy their issues through meet and confer efforts, they will seek assistance from the Court to resolve said issues before voiding or nullifying the Settlement.

P. ADDITIONAL/MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

1. **Voluntariness.** This Settlement is executed voluntarily and without duress or undue influence on the part of or on behalf of any of the Parties, or of any other person, firm or other entity.

2. **No Prior Assignment.** None of the rights, commitments, or obligations recognized under this Agreement may be assigned by any Party, Plaintiff, the State of California, Class Counsel, or Defense Counsel without the express written consent of each Party. Plaintiff expressly warrants that he has not transferred to any person or entity any right or cause of action, or claim released by this Settlement.

3. **Additional Representation and Warranties.** Class Counsel and Plaintiff jointly and severally represent and warrant to Defendant that there are no attorneys beyond those named as Class Counsel who have claims for fees arising out of the Action or the Settlement contemplated hereby. With respect to themselves, each of the Parties to this Settlement and or their agent or counsel represents, covenants and warrants that (a) they have full power and authority to enter into and consummate all transactions contemplated by this Settlement and have duly authorized the execution, delivery and performance of this Settlement; (b) the persons executing this Settlement have the full right, power and authority to enter into this Settlement on behalf of the party for whom he/she has executed this Settlement, and the full right, power and authority to execute any and all necessary instruments in connection herewith, and to fully bind such party to the terms and obligations of this Settlement; and (c) the Parties acknowledge that they have been represented by counsel throughout all negotiations that preceded the execution of this Settlement Agreement, and that this Settlement Agreement has been executed with the consent and advice of counsel. Further, Plaintiff and Class Counsel warrant and represent that there are no liens on the Gross Settlement Amount and that Defendant may distribute funds to the Settlement Class Members, Class Counsel, and the Plaintiff as provided by this Settlement Agreement.

4. **Service or Written Notice.** Whenever, under this Settlement, a person must provide service or written notice to Defendant, Defense Counsel, or Class Counsel, such service or notice shall be directed to the individuals and addresses specified below, unless those individuals or their successors give notice to the other Parties in writing. As to Class Counsel: Jonathan Melmed, Megan E. Ross, or Hannah Becker, **MELMED LAW GROUP P.C.** at 1808 Century Park East, Suite 850, Los Angeles, CA 90067 (e-mail: jm@melmedlaw.com, megan@melmedlaw.com, hb@melmedlaw.com). As to Counsel for Defendant: Barbara Blackburn, Nicholas W. McKinney, or Hovannes Nalbandyan, **LITTLER MENDELSON P.C.**, 633 W. Fifth Street, 63rd Floor, Los Angeles, CA 90071 (e-mail: bblackburn@littler.com, Hnalbandyan@littler.com, nmckinney@littler.com).

5. **Severability.** If any portion of this Settlement is held legally invalid or unenforceable, such event will not render invalid or unenforceable any other portion of this Settlement, and the remainder of this Settlement will be read as though the invalid or unenforceable portion were omitted; provided, however, that such reading will not materially frustrate the intent of the Parties as evidenced in this Settlement. The Parties to this Settlement agree, covenant, and represent that each and every provision of this Agreement shall be deemed to be contractual, and that they shall not be treated as mere recitals at any time or for any purpose. Therefore, the Parties further agree, covenant, and represent that each and every provision of this Settlement shall be

considered severable, except any of the “Released Class Claims,” “Released PAGA Claims,” or “Plaintiff’s Released Claims” definitions and/or the release provisions of Definitions 37, 40, 41, and 42, and Paragraphs B(1)-(8) of this Agreement. If a court of competent jurisdiction finds any provision, other than the “Released Class Claims,” “Released PAGA Claims,” or “Plaintiff’s Released Claims” definitions and/or the release provisions of Definitions 37, 40, 41, and 42, and Paragraphs B(1)-(8) of this Agreement, or part thereof to be invalid or unenforceable for any reason, that provision, or part thereof, shall be severed from the Settlement, and all of the remaining provisions of this Agreement shall remain in full force and effect. If a court of competent jurisdiction finds the release definitions and provisions of this Agreement to be unenforceable or invalid as against a specific Settlement Class Member, then this Settlement shall become voidable as to that specific Settlement Class Member and the payments to be made pursuant to this Settlement to that Settlement Class Member shall be added back to the Net Settlement Amount to be distributed *pro rata* to the remaining Settlement Class Members.

6. **Continuing Jurisdiction.** The Court that approves the Agreement shall retain continuing and exclusive jurisdiction over the Parties to this Agreement, and all Settlement Class Members, for the administration and enforcement of this Agreement.

7. **Governing Law.** The enforcement of this Agreement shall be governed and interpreted by and under the laws of California, without regard to otherwise applicable principles of conflicts of laws, whether or not any Party is or may hereafter be a citizen or resident of, or may have been employed by Defendant in, another state.

8. **Entire Agreement.** This Agreement (including Exhibits hereto) sets forth the entire agreement of the Parties with respect to its subject matter and supersedes any and all other prior agreements, understandings, and all negotiations leading up to the execution of this Settlement Agreement, whether oral or written, including the MOU that was fully executed by the Parties on January 8, 2024, regarding the subjects covered herein. There are no restrictions, promises, representations, warranties, covenants, or undertakings governing the subject matter of this Agreement other than those expressly set forth or referred to herein. The Parties acknowledge that no representations, inducements, warranties, promises, or statements relating to the subjects covered herein, oral, or otherwise, have been made by any of the Parties that are not embodied or incorporated by reference herein. Except as otherwise set forth in this Agreement, any notice, order, judgment, or other exhibit that requires approval of the Court must be approved without material alteration that substantially changes or increases the cost of compliance with this Agreement in order for this Settlement to become effective.

9. **Amendments/Modifications/Extensions of Time.** This Agreement (including Exhibits hereto) constitutes the entire agreement of the Parties concerning the subjects contained herein. This Agreement may not be changed or altered except in writing signed by or on behalf of all Parties and upon approval by the Court, except that the Parties, acting through counsel, may agree upon a reasonable extension of time for deadlines and dates reflected in this Agreement. No waiver, modification or amendment of this Agreement shall be valid or binding unless in writing, signed by or on behalf of all Parties and then only to the extent in such written waiver, modification or amendment, subject to any required Court approval. To the extent any non-substantive amendments or modifications are needed to enforce the Agreement, and the Parties’ counsel agree that the amendments are non-substantive, this Agreement may be amended or modified only by a written instrument signed by both Defense Counsel and Class Counsel or their successors-in-

interest.

10. **Waiver of Compliance.** Any failure by any Party to insist upon the strict performance by the other party of any of the provisions of this Agreement shall not be deemed or operate as a waiver of, or estoppel with respect to, any subsequent or other failure of any of the other provisions of this Agreement, and such Party, notwithstanding such failure, shall have the right thereafter to insist upon the specific performance of any of the provisions of this Agreement. The Parties may not waive, amend, or modify any provision of this Settlement Agreement except by a written agreement signed by all Parties, and subject to any necessary Court approval. A waiver or amendment of any provision of this Settlement Agreement will not constitute a waiver of any other provision.

11. **Binding Agreement / Successors.** This Agreement shall be binding upon, and inure to the benefit of, the Parties and their affiliates, agents, employees, beneficiaries, heirs, executors, administrators, successors, predecessors and assigns, and upon any corporation, partnership or other entity into or with which any Party hereto may merge, combine, or consolidate.

12. **Construction.** The Parties have had a full opportunity to negotiate the terms and condition of this Agreement, have both contributed to the preparation of this Agreement, and have engaged in arms-length negotiations with each other. Accordingly, this Agreement shall not be construed against any Party on the basis that the Party, or the Party's counsel, was the drafter or participated in the drafting of this Agreement. This Agreement shall be interpreted in accordance with the plain meaning of its terms and not strictly for or against any of the Parties. The Parties explicitly recognize and adopt California Civil Code Section 1625 and California Code of Civil Procedure Section 1856(a), and/or applicable federal law counterpart, which provide that a written agreement is to be construed according to its terms and may not be varied or contradicted by extrinsic evidence and agree that no such extrinsic oral or written representations or terms shall modify, vary, or contradict the terms of this Agreement.

13. **Fair Settlement.** Plaintiff, Defendant, Class Counsel, and Defense Counsel believe that this Agreement reflects a fair, reasonable, and adequate settlement of the Action and have arrived at this Agreement through arms' length negotiation, taking into account all relevant factors, current and potential, and is consistent with public policy, and fully complies with applicable provisions of law.

14. **Captions, Headings, and Exhibits.** The captions and section numbers in this Agreement are inserted for the reader's convenience or reference, and in no way define, limit, construe, or describe the scope or intent of the provisions of this Agreement. The captions or headings shall not affect the construction or interpretation of any part of this Agreement. The terms of this Agreement include the terms set forth in the **Exhibit A** attached, which are incorporated by this reference as though fully set forth herein. The Class Notice to this Agreement is an integral part of the Settlement.

15. **No Reliance on Representations.** The Parties have made such investigation of the facts and the law pertaining to the matters described herein and to this Agreement as they deem necessary, and have not relied, and do not rely, on any statement, promise, or representation of fact or law, made by any of the other Parties, or any of their agents, employees, attorneys, or representatives, or other third parties with regard to the subject matter or effect of this Agreement.

or otherwise, other than those specifically stated in this written Agreement, or any of their rights or asserted rights, or with regard to the advisability of making and executing this Agreement, or with respect to any such matters. Other than the contents of this Agreement, no representations, warranties, or inducements have been made to any Party concerning this Agreement. This Agreement sets forth the entire agreement between the Parties and fully supersedes any and all prior agreements and understandings, written or oral, between the Parties pertaining to the subject matter hereof, including the MOU that was fully executed by the Parties on January 8, 2024.

16. Destruction and/or Return of Evidence. Upon distribution of the Gross Settlement Amount to the Settlement Administrator and within the requirements under the California Rules of Professional Conduct, the Parties and their counsel shall destroy all documents produced during formal or informal discovery, which necessarily include all confidential documents related to the Action, the litigation, and this Settlement.

17. Acknowledgement of Future Legislation. Each Party recognizes that legislation, could affect the outcome of the Action. The Parties, nevertheless, enter into this Settlement to avoid risk of loss and to avoid uncertainty with the interpretation, nature, and applicability of future legislation, and agree that any further legislation will not affect the terms or conditions of this Settlement.

18. Signatures/Authority to Execute and Sign. The person or persons signing this Agreement on behalf of Defendant represents and warrants that he/she/they are authorized to sign this Agreement on behalf of Defendant. Plaintiff represents and warrants that he is authorized to sign this Agreement and that he has not assigned any claim covered by this Agreement to a third-party. Plaintiff, by signing this Agreement, is bound by the terms herein and further agrees not to submit any Request for Exclusion from or Notice of Objection to the Settlement. Any such Request for Exclusion or Notice of Objection shall therefore be void and of no force or effect. The Parties further represent and warrant that they are competent to enter into this Agreement and have the full right, power, and authority to enter into and perform the obligations herein.

19. Handwritten Signature/Electronic Signature. The Parties shall execute and sign this Agreement with a handwritten signature. The Parties are required to acquire a “wet signature” for purposes of executing the Agreement. If Plaintiff is unable to provide a handwritten or “wet signature,” then the following conditions apply for any electronic signatures:

- i. The electronic signature system and processes Class Counsel used to obtain the Plaintiff’s signature must comply with the federal ESIGN Act and any state laws regarding the use or adoption of electronic signatures;
- ii. Plaintiff consents, and hereby acknowledges such consent, to using electronic signatures for this purpose (a requirement under both the federal and state laws);
- iii. Class Counsel has selected and implemented a method in their electronic signature system to authenticate Plaintiff’s identity and to ensure that his submitted electronic signature is in fact the Plaintiff’s signature;
- iv. Class Counsel has and will maintain records of the system and the process used to present the Agreement to the Plaintiff and obtain and record Plaintiff’s signature, and they will maintain and provide such records to Defense counsel

- and Defendant if needed to allow them to lay the foundation for the admission of the Agreement into evidence;
- v. Plaintiff waives any objections to the admission of the Agreement in any later action to enforce the terms of the agreement based on the electronic signature process; and
- vi. Plaintiff and Class Counsel agree to indemnify and hold Defendant and Defense Counsel harmless from any loss, cost, damage, or expense (including attorneys' fees) resulting from Defendant's inability to enforce the Agreement and the release included herein based on fraudulent signatures of Plaintiff, or any other issues that result from Plaintiff's providing an electronic signature.

20. Execution of Agreement/Counterparts. This Agreement shall become effective immediately upon its execution subject to subsequent Court approval. The Parties or authorized signatories may execute this Agreement in counterparts, and execution in counterparts shall have the same force and effect as if Class Counsel, Defense Counsel, Plaintiff, and Defendant had signed the same instrument. Any signature made and transmitted by facsimile, or other electronic means, for the purpose of executing this Agreement shall be deemed an original signature for purposes of this Agreement and will be binding upon the Party whose counsel transmits the signature page by facsimile, or other electronic means. Each counsel or other person executing this Agreement or any of its exhibits on behalf of any Party warrants and promises that such person has the authority to do so. Any person executing this Agreement or any such related documents on behalf of a corporate signatory warrants and promises for the benefit of all Parties hereto that such person has been duly authorized by such corporation to execute this Agreement and related documents.

21. Signature of all Settlement Class Members Unnecessary to be Binding. The Parties agree that because the Class Members are so numerous, it is impossible or impractical to have each Settlement Class Member execute this Agreement. More, it is not practical to have each Settlement Class Member sign this Agreement. The Class Notice will advise all Class Members of the binding nature of the release provided herein as to the Settlement Class Members and shall have the same force and effect as if each Settlement Class Member executed this Agreement. The only Class Members who will not be bound by the terms of this Agreement are those who submit a timely and valid Request for Exclusion.

22. Action to Enforce Agreement. In the event that one more of the Parties institutes any legal action or other proceeding against any other Party or Parties to enforce the provisions of this Settlement Agreement or to declare rights and/or obligations under this Settlement Agreement, the successful Party or Parties is/are entitled to recover from the unsuccessful Party or Parties reasonable attorneys' fees and costs, including expert witness fees incurred in connection with any enforcement actions.

23. Representation by Counsel. The Parties to this Settlement are represented by competent counsel, and they have had an opportunity to consult with counsel and agree that the Agreement reflects their good faith compromise of the claims raised in the Action, based upon their assessment of the mutual risks and costs of further litigation and the assessments of their respective counsel. The Parties acknowledge that they have been represented by counsel throughout all negotiations that preceded the execution of this Agreement, and that this Agreement has been executed with the consent and advice of counsel. Further, Plaintiff and Class Counsel warrant and represent that there are no liens on the Agreement, and that Defendant may distribute

funds to the Settlement Administrator, who in turn will distribute funds to the Settlement Class Members, PAGA Releasees, Class Counsel, and the Plaintiff as provided by this Agreement.

24. **Interim Stay of Proceedings.** The Parties agree to stay all proceedings in the Action, except such proceedings necessary to implement and complete the Settlement, pending the Final Approval Hearing to be conducted by the Court.

25. **Avoidance of Undue Publicity.** Except as required to obtain preliminary or final approval in this case, Plaintiff and Class Counsel agree not to publicize the amount or other terms of this Settlement to any person. Nothing herein will restrict Class Counsel from including publicly available information regarding this Settlement in future judicial submissions regarding Class Counsel's qualifications and experience.

IT IS SO AGREED. IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties hereto knowingly and voluntarily executed this Settlement Agreement as of the date(s) set forth below.

APPROVED AND ACCEPTED:

Dated: _____, 2024

**DESERT PARKS LANDSCAPING, INC. DBA
PACIFIC SITE MANAGEMENT**

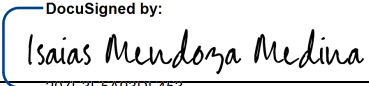
By: _____

Name: Chris Greenhalgh

Title: President

Dated: 4/17/2024, 2024

ISAIAS MENDOZA MEDINA

By:  _____
207E3E5A93DF453...
Plaintiff and Class Representative

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

MELMED LAW GROUP P.C.

Dated: April 8, 2024



Jonathan Melmed
Megan E. Ross
Hannah Becker

Counsel for Plaintiff
Isaias Mendoza Medina

[Signatures Continued Onto Next Page]

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APPROVED AND ACCEPTED:

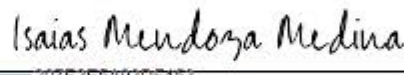
Dated: 19/04/24, 2024

**DESERT PARKS LANDSCAPING, INC. DBA
PACIFIC SITE MANAGEMENT**

By: 
Name: Chris Greenhalgh
Title: President

Dated: 4/17/2024, 2024

ISAIAS MENDOZA MEDINA

By: 
DocuSigned by:
207E3E6A930F453
Plaintiff and Class Representative

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

MELMED LAW GROUP P.C.

Dated: April 8, 2024


Jonathan Melmed
Megan E. Ross
Hannah Becker

Counsel for Plaintiff
Isaias Mendoza Medina

[Signatures Continued Onto Next Page]

LITTLER MENDELSON P.C.

Dated: April 19, 2024

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Barbara Blackburn', is written over a horizontal line.

Barbara Blackburn
Hovannes Nalbandyan
Nicholas W. McKinney

Counsel for Defendant
Desert Parks Landscaping, Inc. Dba Pacific Site
Management

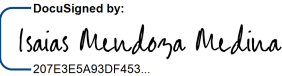
Certificate Of Completion

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Source Envelope:		
Document Pages: 41	Signatures: 1	Envelope Originator:
Certificate Pages: 1	Initials: 0	MLG Admin Staff
AutoNav: Enabled		1801 Century Park East, Suite 850
Envelopeld Stamping: Enabled		Los Angeles, CA 90067
Time Zone: (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada)		admin@melmedlaw.com
		IP Address: 38.142.45.50

Record Tracking

Status: Original	Holder: MLG Admin Staff	Location: DocuSign
4/16/2024 9:01:35 AM	admin@melmedlaw.com	

Signer Events	Signature	Timestamp
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	Signed using mobile	

Electronic Record and Signature Disclosure:
Not Offered via DocuSign

In Person Signer Events	Signature	Timestamp
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Editor Delivery Events	Status	Timestamp
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Agent Delivery Events	Status	Timestamp
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Intermediary Delivery Events	Status	Timestamp
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Certified Delivery Events	Status	Timestamp
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Carbon Copy Events	Status	Timestamp
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Celso Basurto	COPIED	Sent: 4/16/2024 9:04:08 AM
celso@melmedlaw.com		Viewed: 4/17/2024 3:24:47 PM
Security Level: Email, Account Authentication (None)		
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Witness Events	Signature	Timestamp
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Notary Events	Signature	Timestamp
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Envelope Summary Events	Status	Timestamps
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Signing Complete	Security Checked	4/17/2024 3:24:14 PM
Completed	Security Checked	4/17/2024 3:24:14 PM

Payment Events	Status	Timestamps
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2024.04.17 - Gonzalez_Medina - Long Form Settlement Agreement [Signed by Pltf]

Final Audit Report

2024-04-19

Created:	2024-04-19
By:	Nicole W (REDEACTION)
Status:	Signed
Transaction ID:	CBJCHBCAABAAvjw0zMckRcqs6qptCD_usSirk7SIGrN7

"2024.04.17 - Gonzalez_Medina - Long Form Settlement Agreement [Signed by Pltf]" History

-  Document created by Nicole W (REDEACTION)
2024-04-19 - 3:00:56 PM GMT
-  Document emailed to Chris Greenhalgh (REDEACTION) for signature
2024-04-19 - 3:01:02 PM GMT
-  Email viewed by Chris Greenhalgh (REDEACTION)
2024-04-19 - 3:31:34 PM GMT
-  Document e-signed by Chris Greenhalgh (REDEACTION)
Signature Date: 2024-04-19 - 3:32:13 PM GMT - Time Source: server
-  Agreement completed.
2024-04-19 - 3:32:13 PM GMT