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SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

FOR THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

RONALD EVANS; individually, and on behalf of other members of the general public similarly situated,

Plaintiff,

vs.

SWEETENER PRODUCTS CO., an unknown business entity; SWEETENER PRODUCTS, INC., a California corporation; VERNON WAREHOUSE CO., an unknown business entity; VERNON CENTRAL WAREHOUSE, INC., a California corporation; and DOES 1 through 100, inclusive,

Defendants.

RONALD EVANS; individually, and on behalf of other aggrieved employees pursuant to the California Private Attorneys General Act,

Plaintiff,

vs.

SWEETENER PRODUCTS CO., an unknown business entity; SWEETENER PRODUCTS, INC., a California corporation; VERNON WAREHOUSE CO., an unknown business entity; VERNON CENTRAL WAREHOUSE, INC., a California corporation; and DOES 1 through 100, inclusive,

Defendants.

Case No. 22STCV38329 (LEAD)
[*Consolidated with Case No. 22NWCV01544*]

[PROPOSED] FINAL ORDER AND JUDGMENT

Hearing Information:

Date:	December 10, 2026
Time:	10:00 a.m.
Dept.:	9
Judge:	Hon. Elaine Lu

[Filed concurrently with: (1) Declaration of Devin Rauchwerger; (2) Declaration of Ryan Slinger; (3) Declaration of Plaintiff Ronald Evans; (4) Declaration of Taylor Mitzner; and (5) [Proposed] Order]

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This matter came before the Honorable Elaine Lu in Department 9 of the above-entitled Court, located at the Spring Street Courthouse, 312 North Spring Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012, on Plaintiff Ronald Evans's ("Plaintiff") Motion for Final Approval of Class Action and PAGA Settlement, Attorneys' Fees, Costs, and Class Representative Service Payment ("Motion for Final Approval"). Domb & Rauchwerger LLP and Lawyers for Justice, PC appeared on behalf of Plaintiff; counsel of record appeared on behalf of Defendants Vernon Central Warehouse, Inc., Vernon Warehouse Co., Sweetener Products, Inc., and Sweetener Products Co.

On July 23, 2026, the Court entered the Order Granting Preliminary Approval of Class Action and PAGA Settlement ("Preliminary Approval Order"), thereby preliminarily approving the settlement of the above-entitled Actions in accordance with the Class Action and PAGA Settlement Agreement, as amended ("Settlement," "Agreement," or "Settlement Agreement"), which, together with the exhibits annexed thereto, sets forth the terms and conditions for settlement of the Actions.

Having reviewed the Settlement Agreement and duly considered the parties' papers and oral argument, and good cause appearing,

THE COURT HEREBY ORDERS, ADJUDGES, AND DECREES AS FOLLOWS:

1. All terms used herein shall have the same meaning as defined in the Settlement Agreement and the Preliminary Approval Order.

2. This Court has jurisdiction over the claims of the Class Members asserted in this proceeding and over all parties to the Action.

3. The Court finds that the applicable requirements of California Code of Civil Procedure section 382 and California Rule of Court 3.769, *et seq.* have been satisfied with respect to the Class and the Settlement. The Court hereby makes final its earlier provisional certification of the Class for settlement purposes, as set forth in the Preliminary Approval Order. The Class is hereby defined to include:

> "All current or former hourly-paid or non-exempt employees who worked for Defendants during the Class Period, who did not sign an individual settlement or severance agreement releasing their claims."

The Class Period is December 8, 2018 through December 8, 2025.

4. The Notice of Class Action Settlement ("Class Notice") that was provided to the Class Members, fully and accurately informed the Class Members of all material elements of the Settlement and of their opportunity to participate in the Settlement, object to or comment on the Class Settlement, or to seek exclusion from the Class Settlement; was the best notice practicable under the circumstances; was valid and provided sufficient notice to all Class Members; and complied fully with the laws of the State of California, the United States Constitution, due process and other applicable law. The Class Notice fairly and adequately described the Settlement and provided the Class Members with adequate instructions and a variety of means to obtain additional information.

5. Pursuant to California law, the Court hereby grants final approval of the Settlement and finds that it is reasonable and adequate, and in the best interests of the Class as a whole. More specifically, the Court finds that the Settlement was reached following meaningful investigation conducted by Domb & Rauchwerger LLP and Lawyers *for* Justice, PC ("Class Counsel"); that the Settlement is the result of serious, informed, adversarial, and arms-length negotiations between the parties; and that the terms of the Settlement are in all respects fair, adequate, and reasonable. In so finding, the Court has considered all of the evidence presented, including evidence regarding the strength of Plaintiffs' claims; the risk, expense, and complexity of the claims presented; the likely duration of further litigation; the amount offered in the Settlement; the extent of investigation and discovery completed; and the experience and views of Class Counsel. The Court has further considered the absence of objections to the Class Settlement submitted by Class Members. Accordingly, the Court hereby directs that the Settlement be affected in accordance with the Settlement Agreement and the following terms and conditions. The Court finds that no objections were submitted and no valid requests for exclusion were received.

6. A full opportunity has been afforded to the Class Members to participate in the Final Approval Hearing, and all persons wishing to be heard have been heard. The Class Members also had a full and fair opportunity to seek exclusion from the Class Settlement. Accordingly, all Class Members who did not submit a timely and valid Request for Exclusion are Participating

Class Members bound by the Settlement and this Final Approval Order and Judgment. The PAGA Settlement and this Final Approval Order and Judgment bind the Aggrieved Employees with respect to the Released PAGA Claims, as set forth in the Settlement Agreement.

7. The Court finds that the settlement of the Released PAGA Claims for $50,000.00 is fair, reasonable, and appropriate, and approves the PAGA Payment. The Administrator shall distribute $37,500.00 to the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency and $12,500.00 to the Aggrieved Employees, in accordance with the Settlement Agreement.

8. The Court finds that payment of Administration Expenses in the amount of $8,000.00 is appropriate for the services performed and costs incurred and to be incurred in administering the Settlement. The Administrator, Phoenix Class Action Administration Solutions, shall issue payment to itself in that amount in accordance with the Settlement Agreement.

9. The Court finds that the requested Class Representative Service Payment is fair and reasonable for Plaintiff's work on behalf of the Class and the Aggrieved Employees. The Administrator shall issue $7,500.00 to Plaintiff Ronald Evans as the Class Representative Service Payment, in accordance with the Settlement Agreement.

10. The Court finds that the request for attorneys' fees of $240,263.10 to Class Counsel falls within the range of reasonableness and is justified by the results achieved. The request is approved. The Administrator shall issue payment to Class Counsel in that amount in accordance with the Settlement Agreement.

11. The Court finds that reimbursement of litigation costs and expenses in the amount of $24,426.41 to Class Counsel is reasonable and approves the request. The Administrator shall issue payment to Class Counsel in that amount in accordance with the Settlement Agreement.

12. Upon the Settlement becoming effective as provided in the Settlement Agreement, Participating Class Members shall provide the following release: "All Participating Class Members, on behalf of themselves and their respective and present representatives, agents, attorneys, administrators, successors and assigns, release Released Parties from all claims that were alleged, or reasonably could have been alleged, based on the facts and allegations in the Operative Complaint that are alleged to have occurred during the Class Period." Released Parties

is defined as "Defendants and each of their former and present directors, officers, shareholders, owners, members, attorney, insurers, predecessors, successors, assigns, parents, subsidiaries, affiliates, and related entities."

13. Upon the Settlement becoming effective as provided in the Settlement Agreement, all Aggrieved Employees will be deemed to have provided the following release: "All Aggrieved Employees are deemed to release, on behalf of themselves and their respective former and present representatives, agents, attorneys, administrators, successors and assigns, the Released Parties from all claims for PAGA Penalties that were alleged, or reasonably could have been alleged, based on the facts and allegations in the Operative Complaint or the PAGA Notice that are alleged to have occurred during the PAGA Period."

14. Defendants shall fully fund the $686,466.00 Gross Settlement Amount, together with the amounts necessary to pay their share of payroll taxes on the wage portion of Individual Class Payments, no later than fourteen (14) calendar days after the Effective Date, in accordance with the Settlement Agreement.

15. Within fourteen (14) calendar days after Defendants fund the Gross Settlement Amount, the Administrator shall distribute the Individual Class Payments, Individual PAGA Payments, LWDA PAGA Payment, Administration Expenses Payment, Class Counsel Fees Payment, Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment, and Class Representative Service Payment in accordance with the Settlement Agreement.

16. Individual Class Payment and Individual PAGA Payment checks shall remain valid and negotiable for at least one hundred eighty (180) calendar days after issuance, after which the Administrator shall cancel them. For any uncashed and cancelled Individual Class Payment check, the Administrator shall transmit the funds to the California Controller's Unclaimed Property Fund in the name of the Class Member, as provided in the Settlement Agreement.

17. After entry of this Final Approval Order and Judgment, pursuant to California Rules of Court, Rule 3.769(h), the Court shall retain jurisdiction to construe, interpret, implement, and enforce the Settlement Agreement and this Final Approval Order and Judgment, to hear and resolve any contested challenge to a claim for settlement benefits, and to supervise and adjudicate

any dispute arising from or in connection with the distribution of settlement benefits.

18. Notice of entry of this Final Approval Order and Judgment shall be given to the Participating Class Members and Aggrieved Employees by posting a copy of the Final Approval Order and Judgment on the Administrator's website for a period of at least sixty (60) calendar days after the date of entry of this Final Approval Order and Judgment. Individualized notice is not required.

19. The Court sets a Case Review Hearing Regarding Final Accounting and Distribution of Settlement Funds on _____, at _____ in Department 9. The Parties shall file a Final Status Report no later than _____ days before the hearing.

Dated: _____

_____
HON. ELAINE LU
JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT