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**SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
 FOR THE COUNTY OF KERN**

SERGIO RODRIGUEZ, as an individual and
 on behalf of all others similarly situated,

Plaintiff,

v.

SUPERIOR TANK CO., INC., a California
 corporation; and DOES 1 through 100,
 inclusive,

Defendants.

FILED
 KERN COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT
 7/15/2024

BY Mata, Vanesa
 DEPUTY

Case No. BCV-23-100144 consolidated with
 Case No. BCV-23-100926

*[Case Assigned to Hon T. Mark Smith
 department T-2]*

**~~[PROPOSED]~~ ORDER GRANTING
 PRELIMINARY APPROVAL OF CLASS
 ACTION SETTLEMENT**

Date: July 15, 2024
 Time: 8:30 a.m.
 Dept.: T-2

1 The Motion of Plaintiff Sergio Rodriguez (“Plaintiff”) for Preliminary Approval of Class
2 Action Settlement (“Motion”) came on regularly for hearing before this Court on July 15, 2024 at
3 8:30 a.m. in Department T-2. The Court, having considered the proposed Stipulation of Class
4 Action and PAGA Settlement (the “Settlement”), attached as **Exhibit 1** to the Declaration of Scott
5 M. Lidman filed concurrently with the Motion; having considered Plaintiff’s Motion,
6 Memorandum of Points and Authorities in support thereof, and supporting declarations filed
7 therewith; and good cause appearing, HEREBY ORDERS THE FOLLOWING:

8 1. The Court GRANTS preliminary approval of the class action settlement as set
9 forth in the Settlement and finds it terms to be within the range of reasonableness of a settlement
10 that ultimately could be granted approval by the Court at a Final Fairness Hearing. For purposes
11 of the Settlement, the Court finds that the proposed Settlement Class is ascertainable and that
12 there is a sufficiently well-defined community of interest among the members of the Settlement
13 Class in questions of law and fact. Therefore, for settlement purposes only, the Court grants
14 conditional certification of the following Settlement Class:

15 All current and former non-exempt employees of Defendant Superior Tank,
16 Inc. who worked at any time in California during the Class Period.

17 2. For purposes of the Settlement, the “Class Period” shall mean the time period
18 between January 17, 2019 and the date the Court preliminarily approves the settlement.

19 3. For purposes of the Settlement, the Court designates named Plaintiff Sergio
20 Rodriguez as Class Representative, and Scott M. Lidman and Milan Moore of Lidman Law,
21 APC and Paul K. Haines of Haines Law Group, APC as Class Counsel.

22 3. The Court designates Phoenix Settlement Administrators (“Phoenix”) as the third-
23 party Settlement Administrator for mailing notices.

24 4. The Court approves, as to form and content, the Notice of Pendency of Class
25 Action and Proposed Settlement and Notice of Individual Settlement Award attached to the
26 Settlement as **Exhibit B**.

1 5. The Court finds that the form of notice to the Settlement Class regarding the
2 pendency of the action and of the Settlement, and the methods of giving notice to Settlement Class
3 members, constitutes the best notice practicable under the circumstances, and constitute valid,
4 due, and sufficient notice to all members of the Settlement Class. The form and method of giving
5 notice complies fully with the requirements of California Code of Civil Procedure section 382,
6 California Civil Code section 1781, California Rules of Court 3.766 and 3.769, the California and
7 United States Constitutions, and other applicable law.

8 6. The Court further approves the procedures for Settlement Class members to opt
9 out of or object to the Settlement, as set forth in the Notice of Pendency of Class Action and
10 Proposed Settlement.

11 7. The procedures and requirements for filing objections in connection with the Final
12 Fairness Hearing are intended to ensure the efficient administration of justice and the orderly
13 presentation of any Settlement Class member's objection to the Settlement, in accordance with
14 the due process rights of all Settlement Class members.

15 8. The Court directs the Settlement Administrator to mail the Notice of Pendency of
16 Class Action and Proposed Settlement and Notice of Individual Settlement Award to all of the
17 Class members in accordance with the terms of the Settlement.

18 9. The Class Notice shall provide at least 60 calendar days' notice for Settlement
19 Class members to dispute, opt out of, or object to, the Settlement.

20 10. The Final Fairness Hearing on the question of whether the Settlement should be
21 finally approved as fair, reasonable, and adequate is scheduled in Department T-2 of this Court,
22 located at 3131 Arrow St, Bakersfield, California 93308 on **November 20**, 2024 at **8:30**
23 a.m./~~p.m.~~

24 11. At the Final Fairness Hearing, the Court will consider: (a) whether the Settlement
25 should be finally approved as fair, reasonable, and adequate for the Settlement Class; (b) whether
26 a judgment granting final approval of the Settlement should be entered; and (c) whether Plaintiff's
27 application for reasonable attorneys' fees, reimbursement of litigation expenses, service award to
28

Plaintiff, and payment to the Labor and Workforce Development Agency (“LWDA”) for penalties under the Labor Code Private Attorneys General Act (“PAGA”) should be granted.

12. Counsel for the parties shall file memoranda, declarations, or other statements and materials in support of their request for final approval of the Settlement, attorneys’ fees, litigation expenses, Plaintiff’s service award, settlement administration costs, and payment to the LWDA for PAGA penalties prior to the Final Fairness Hearing according to the time limits set by the Code of Civil Procedure and the California Rules of Court.

13. An implementation schedule is below:

Event	Date
Defendant to provide Class Data to Settlement Administrator	10 business days after the Court enters an order granting preliminary approval.
Settlement Administrator to mail Notice Packets to Class Members	10 business days after receiving Class Data from Defendant
Deadline for Class Members to request exclusion from, submit disputes, or object to, the Settlement	60 calendar days after mailing of the Notice by the Settlement Administrator
Deadline for Plaintiff to file Motion for Final Approval of Class Action Settlement (and to respond to any objections):	16 Court days before the Final Fairness Hearing
Final Fairness Hearing:	November 20 , 2024

15. Pending the Final Fairness Hearing, all proceedings in this action, other than proceedings necessary to carry out or enforce the terms and conditions of the Settlement and this Order, are stayed.

16. Counsel for the parties are hereby authorized to utilize all reasonable procedures in connection with the administration of the Settlement which are not materially inconsistent with either this Order or the terms of the Settlement.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated: Signed: 7/15/2024 09:49 AM, 2024



Honorable T. Mark Smith
Judge of the Superior Court