



Nazo@Koullaw.com

P (213) 325 - 3032

F (818) 561 - 3938

217 SOUTH KENWOOD ST.

GLENDALE, CA 91205

www.koullaw.com

September 10, 2025

Via E-filing:

California Labor & Workforce
Development Agency
455 Golden Gate Avenue, 9th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94102

Via Certified U.S. Mail:

JJC FOODS, LLC
12006 TALUS PL
BEVERLY HILLS, CA 90210

Re: PAGA Notice Pursuant to California Labor Code §2698 *et seq.*

Claimant(s): Kalani Menzies
Employer(s): JJC Foods, LLC

Dear Sir or Madam:

Kalani Menzies (“Claimant”) has retained Nazo Koulloukian, Esq. of Koul Law Firm, APC, and Sahag Majarian, II and Garen Majarian of Majarian Law Group, APC to represent Claimant, and all other aggrieved employees, for conditions of employment and wage and hour claims against former employer, JJC Foods, LLC (hereafter “Employer”).

Employer is a franchisee of chain restaurants. Claimant worked for Employer from May 24, 2023 until July 7, 2025 as a Taco Bell team member, first at Employer’s Modesto, California location, then at Employer’s Ceres, California location. Claimant worked as an hourly, nonexempt employee earning approximately \$20.00/ hour at the time of separation.

Claimant alleges herein the specific provisions of California law that Employer has violated, requiring this Notice, including but not limited to: California Labor Code sections 201-203, 204, 208, 216, 221-223, 226, 226.2, 226.7, 245-248.6, 432, 432.5, 432.6, 432.7, 510, 512, 558, 558.1, 1024.5, 1174, 1194, 1197, 1197.1, 1198, 1198.5, 1199, 2802, 2810.5, and all applicable Wage Orders.

During Claimant’s employment, Claimant personally experienced the Labor Code violations described below. We request that your agency investigate the claims alleged below or permit Claimant to seek civil penalties under the Private Attorney General Act on behalf of the Labor and Workforce and development Agency and the State of California in a representative

action. This letter will serve as notice of these allegations pursuant to Labor Code § 2699.3.

Failure To Provide Suitable Seating
(Lab. Code section 1198 and Wage Orders)

Labor Code section 1198 states, in pertinent part, “The employment of any employee... under conditions of labor prohibited by the [Wage Order] is unlawful.”

The Wage Orders provide that:

- (A) All working employees shall be provided with suitable seats when the nature of the work reasonably permits the use of seats.
- (B) When employees are not engaged in the active duties of their employment and the nature of the work requires standing, an adequate number of suitable seats shall be placed in reasonable proximity to the work area and employees shall be permitted to use such seats when it does not interfere with the performance of their duties.

Plaintiff and aggrieved employees were able to effectively do their job while seated, though no seating was provided. Employees were responsible for tasks such as working the cash register, which could effectively be done sitting down. Plaintiff’s coworker, at one point, brought a chair for use at work, indicating that many tasks could successfully be completed while seated.

At all relevant times, Employer failed to provide Claimant and aggrieved employees with suitable seating during their employment as required by section 12 of the applicable Wage Order. Claimant and other aggrieved employees were not provided with seating during shifts in which they worked at positions which would reasonably permit the use of seating, nor was seating provided within a 3-4 minute walk from work areas for necessary breaks. Accordingly, Claimant will pursue civil penalties under Labor Code §2698 *et seq.*, and all available remedies to the extent allowed by law for the alleged violations.

Failure to Provide Safe Working Conditions – Excessive Heat
(Cal. Labor Code §1198, Wage Order)

Employer’s workplaces would get unsafely hot. Claimant and aggrieved employees were forced to work in incredibly hot and unventilated rooms reaching temperatures of over 100 degrees.

Wage Order 1 ¶15 requires:

- (A) The temperature maintained in each work area shall provide reasonable comfort consistent with industry-wide standards for the nature of the process and the work performed.
- (B) If excessive heat or humidity is created by the work process, the employer shall take all feasible means to reduce such excessive heat or humidity to a degree providing reasonable comfort.

By violating the wage order, Employer is liable under §1198 for civil penalties pursuant to §2698 *et. seq.*

Platiniff reports that the air conditioning unit would frequently stop working, resulting in extreme temperatures in the work area. Employer failed to consistently maintain a functioning HVAC system capable of maintaining a suitable, lawful temperature in the work environment.

Failure to Pay For All Hours Worked, Including Overtime Hours Worked

(Cal. Labor Code §§200, 204, 206, 206.5, 207, 210, 216, 218, 218.6, 221, 223, 351, 510, 558, 1194, 1197, 1197.1, 1198, 2698 *et seq.*, IWC Wage Orders)

The Wage Orders define “hours worked” as “the time during which an employee is subject to the control of an employer, and including all the time the employee is suffered or permitted to work, whether or not required to do so.” Employer has been engaged in many unlawful employment practices which resulted in underpayment for hours worked each pay period, including overtime hours worked based on the employees regular rate of pay, as more fully set forth below. Employer has also failed to pay the required minimum wage for all hours worked, and has failed to pay all wages owed twice per month.

Claimant and aggrieved employees have been employed under conditions prohibited by the wage order, and thus Employer has also violated §§1198 and 1199. Employer is liable for civil penalties pursuant to Labor Code §§558 and 2698 *et seq.*

Off-the-Clock Hours Worked

Claimant and aggrieved employees frequently worked off the clock and were routinely subjected to periods wherein they were under the Employer’s control but not compensated for their time. For example, Employees were required to don their hair net, shirt, and apron before clocking in for work.

Managers frequently called and texted employees off the clock regarding schedule changes while employees were off the clock.

Claimant and her coworkers had to stay inside on the premises after clocking out while their manager set the security alarm. They were not permitted to leave the premises until the alarm was set, even if they had already clocked out.

Failure to Pay All Wages Owed Twice Per Month

(Cal. Lab. Code §§204, 210, and 2698 *et seq.*)

Employer was required to pay Claimant and aggrieved employees all wages earned twice during each calendar month pursuant to Labor Code §204(a).

Employer failed to pay all wages earned to employees as a result of the unlawful employment policies and practices discussed herein. As a result of these practices, employees were

underpaid for hours worked, including overtime and premium wages, and this underpayment resulted in a failure to pay all wages owed twice per month.

Due to these failures, Employer is liable under Labor Code §204, 210 and 2698 *et seq.* for failure to pay wages as required by law.

Failure to Pay Minimum Wage

(Cal. Labor Code §§ 200, 218.5, 226, 558, 1194, 1194.2, 1197, 1197.2, 1198, 1199, 2698 *et seq.*)

Pursuant to Labor Code sections 1194, 1194.2 and 1197, it is unlawful for an employer to suffer or permit a California employee to work without paying wages at the proper minimum wage for all time worked as required by the applicable IWC Wage Order.

Employer failed to pay Claimant and aggrieved employees for all hours worked as a result of Employer's practices described above. Based on Employer's unlawful conduct described herein, and because Claimant and the aggrieved employees were paid at or near minimum wage, employer's failure to pay for all hours worked, including overtime, resulted in a payment of less than the minimum wage for all hours worked, in violation of Labor Code §1197, 1197.1, 1199 and the Wage Orders. Employer is liable for civil penalties pursuant to Labor Code §§558 and 2698 *et seq.*

Failure to Pay Wages Due Upon Termination

(Cal. Lab. Code §§201, 202, 203, 227.3 and 2698 *et seq.*)

An employee who is discharged must be paid all of his or her wages, including accrued vacation, immediately at the time of termination. (Labor Code Sections 201 and 227.3.) As set forth above, Employer knowingly and willfully failed to pay all compensation due and owing to Claimant at the time employment terminated.

Employer willfully failed to pay employees who are no longer employed by it all compensation due upon termination of employment as required by Cal. Lab. Code §§201 and 202. Claimant and similarly situated individuals are now entitled to recover up to thirty (30) days pay as waiting time under the terms of §203. Moreover, Employer is liable for civil penalties pursuant to Cal. Lab. Code § 2698 *et. seq.*

Failure to Provide Rest Breaks

(Cal. Labor Code §§226, 226.7, 512, 558, 1198, 2698 *et seq.*, Wage Orders)

Employer failed to maintain a compliant rest period policy and practice that provides its employees with off-duty rest periods as required by California law. Claimant reports that employees frequently missed rest periods as a result of Employer's staffing and business practices, and that rest breaks were not scheduled into daily shifts. For example, Claimant recalls specific occasions when she missed a rest break due to understaffing and the press of work. Claimant also attributed missed and delayed rest breaks to ineffective management.

Rest periods were either less than ten minutes, not provided, interrupted or late, “on duty,” or not scheduled before and after a meal period for shifts greater than six hours, as prescribed by California law because Employer: (1) did not account for all hours worked that were unaccounted for on their timecard; (2) did not adequately inform and train employees about their rights to rest breaks and premium payments for non-compliant rest breaks; (3) did not adequately inform and train employees about when, where and how to take timely and uninterrupted ten-minute rest breaks; (4) because Employer did not staff enough people to schedule all timely and uninterrupted ten-minute rest breaks; and/or (5) because management at various levels, affecting all hourly, non-exempt employees, refused to offer, permit, or enforce a lawfully compliant rest break policy.

The rest period requirement obligates employers to permit and authorize employees to take off-duty rest periods, meaning employers must relieve employees of all duties and relinquish control over how employees spend their time. *Augustus v. ABM Security Services, Inc.*, (2016) 5 Cal.5th 257, 269. Employers must pay employees an additional hour of wages at the employee’s regular rate of pay for each missed or improper rest period (e.g., less than 10 minutes, interrupted rest period, rest period(s) at improper time(s) during shift(s). Lab. Code §226.7; applicable IWC Wage Order, §12(B) (“If an employer fails to provide an employee a rest period in accordance with the applicable provisions of this Order, the employer shall pay the employee one (1) hour of pay at the employee’s regular rate of compensation for each work day that the rest period is not provided”). Moreover, under California law rest periods must be a “net” ten minutes in a suitable rest area. (*Id.* at 268) (relying on January 3, 1986 and February 22, 2002 DLSE Letters wherein the DLSE ruled that the net ten-minute language for rest periods means ten minutes of time in a rest area and cannot include time it takes to get to and from the rest area). The employer must show that it clearly articulates the right to a net ten minutes, which means it must clearly communicate what “net” ten minutes means (i.e., regardless of what happens along the way to and from a rest area, employees are entitled to a full ten minutes of rest in the rest area). *Id.*; *see also*, *Bufile v. Dollar Fin. Grp., Inc.*, (2008) 162 Cal. App. 4th 1193, 1199 (the “onus is on the employer to clearly communicate the authorization and permission [to take rest periods] to their employees.”).

Employer did not authorize or permit all of its hourly employees to take at least a ten minute rest period in which they were relieved of all duties, for every 4 hours of work, or major fraction thereof, as required by Cal. Lab. Code §226.7, §512 and the Wage Orders. When breaks were missed Employer failed to pay the 1-hour premium, as required.

Failure to Provide Suitable Resting Facilities/Breakroom

(Cal. Labor Code §§ 226.7, 1198, 2698 *et seq*)

Per section 13 of all applicable IWC Wage Orders, employees shall be provided with suitable resting facilities. Section 13(B) of the Wage Orders provides: “Suitable resting facilities shall be provided in an area separate from the toilet rooms and shall be available to employees during work hours.”

Employer's locations/facilities are generally similar in layout and design, and there was, and continue to be, space that allows for a resting facility that employees may use to cease work and recover during meal or rest periods. Employer could have provided employees with a resting facility within the facilities/locations with reasonable or no modification, but instead denied and continue to deny, employees with suitable areas to rest (e.g. a breakroom). As a result, employees were forced to adjust to areas not conducive to resting, including but not limited to leaning up against the wall, or search for facilities outside of Employer's premises which are not designated or reserved for rest, such as their personal vehicles.

Employer did not provide employees with suitable resting facilities during their hours of work, particularly during meal and/or rest periods. Employer's failure to provide suitable resting facilities to aggrieved employees violated and continues to violate the applicable Wage Order, section 13(B) and the California Labor Code, including but not limited to section 1198.

Employees were forced to take breaks and eat meals in the main dining area amongst the customers due to a lack of breakroom.

Failure to Reimburse for Required Business Expenses

(Cal. Labor Code §§1198, 2802, 2698 *et seq.*)

Labor Code §2802 requires employers to indemnify employees for necessary expenditures or losses incurred by employees in direct consequence of the discharge of duties. Accordingly, Employers are liable for civil penalties under PAGA §2698 *et seq.*

Claimant and aggrieved employees are required to use their personal cell phones for work related communications such as discussing the work schedule and taking photos of the schedule since no copies were provided to employees.

Employees were also required to purchase steel toed, slip resistant shoes and black dress pants as part of their uniform. However, Employer did not reimburse them in any way for the expense of their personal cell phone use or clothing items as required by the Labor Code.

Failure to Produce Personnel Records

(Cal. Labor Code §§ 226, 432, 1109.5, 2698 *et seq.*)

In addition to their right to time and pay records, employees, and their representatives, have the right to inspect and receive a copy of their personnel files pursuant to Labor Code section 1198.5. This statute applies to both former and current employees. Labor Code section 432 further specifies that employers must furnish copies of all employment records bearing the employee's signature.

Labor Code section 1198.5 also requires that the file be made available for inspection or receipt within a "reasonable" amount of time, but "not later than 30 calendar days from the date the employer receives a written request." An employer's failure to comply within this timeframe

likewise entitles a current or former employee to recover a seven hundred fifty-dollar (\$750) penalty from the employer. Lab. Code section 1198.5(k).

Employer failed to timely produce or make available a current or former employee's personnel records and/or payroll records when requested pursuant to Labor Code sections 226, 1198.5, 432, and/or the applicable Wage Order. Moreover, Employer continues to fail to produce Claimant's records, and the records of other aggrieved employees upon request, as required.

These violations subject Employer to penalties under Labor Code sections 226, 1198.5, and 2698.

Failure to Provide Accurate Itemized Wage Statements
(Cal. Labor Code §§ 226, 1174, 2698 *et seq*)

Employer knowingly and intentionally failed to provide timely, accurate, itemized wage statements to Claimant and the aggrieved employees in accordance with Labor Code §§ 226 and keep accurate records as required by §1174(d).

Derivative of the claims above, the statements provided to Claimant and aggrieved employees, and the records maintained by Employer, have not accurately reflected actual gross wages earned, including pay for all hours worked and the accurate rate of pay for all hours worked, and overtime pay, sick pay at the correct rate, and pay for meal and rest period premium wages.

§226 (a) requires:

An employer, semimonthly or at the time of each payment of wages, shall furnish to his or her employee, either as a detachable part of the check, draft, or voucher paying the employee's wages, or separately if wages are paid by personal check or cash, an accurate itemized statement in writing showing (1) gross wages earned, (2) total hours worked by the employee, except as provided in subdivision (j), (3) the number of piece-rate units earned and any applicable piece rate if the employee is paid on a piece-rate basis, (4) all deductions, provided that all deductions made on written orders of the employee may be aggregated and shown as one item, (5) net wages earned, (6) the inclusive dates of the period for which the employee is paid, (7) the name of the employee and only the last four digits of his or her social security number or an employee identification number other than a social security number, (8) the name and address of the legal entity that is the employer and, if the employer is a farm labor contractor, as defined in subdivision (b) of Section 1682, the name and address of the legal entity that secured the services of the employer, and (9) all applicable hourly rates in effect during the pay period and the corresponding number of hours worked at each hourly rate by the employee...

Such failures called injury to Claimant and others, by, among other things, impeding them from knowing the total hours worked, and the amount of wages to which they are and were entitled. Employer knowingly and intentionally failed to accurately itemize the gross wages earned, net wages earned, and total hours worked.

Employer is liable for civil penalties pursuant to Labor Code § 2698 *et seq.*

Finally, Employer has violated Labor Code §432.5 for forcing Claimant and aggrieved employees to sign employment-related contracts and documents that contained unlawful terms of employment, including invalid meal period waivers resulting from a noncompliant meal period policy and/or practice.

Conclusion

Employer has violated a number of California wage and hour laws and is therefore liable for civil penalties pursuant to Cal. Labor Code §2698 *et seq.* Claimant respectfully requests that the agency investigate the above allegations and hereby provides notice of the allegations pursuant to PAGA's provisions. Alternatively, Claimant requests that the agency inform Claimant if it does not intend to investigate these violations so that Claimant may pursue these claims as a representative action in civil court.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nazo Koulloukian', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Nazo Koulloukian, Esq.
Attorney for Claimant