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**SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
FOR THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES**

LEONEL RAMIREZ, individually, and on
behalf of other members of the general public
similarly situated,

Plaintiffs,

vs.

SO CAL SANITATION LLC, a California
limited liability company; and DOES 1 through
10, inclusive,

Defendants.

FILED
Superior Court of California
County of Los Angeles
02/05/2026

David W. Slayton, Executive Officer / Clerk of Court

By: A. Morales Deputy

Case No. 23STCV08845

Assigned to the Hon. Samantha Jessner

**~~PROPOSED~~ ORDER AND JUDGMENT
GRANTING MOTION FOR FINAL
APPROVAL OF CLASS ACTION
SETTLEMENT AND MOTION FOR
ATTORNEYS' FEES, COSTS, AND A CLASS
REPRESENTATIVE ENHANCEMENT
PAYMENT AND GENERAL RELEASE
PAYMENT**

Date: February 4, 2026
Time: 11:00 a.m.
Place: Department 7

Complaint Filed: April 20, 2023
Trial Date: None Set

ORDER AND JUDGMENT

This matter came before the Court for a hearing on the Motion for Final Approval of the Class Action and PAGA Settlement and Motion for Attorneys' Fees, Costs, and a Class Representative Enhancement Payment and General Release Payment (collectively, the "Motions"). Due and adequate notice having been given to Class Members as required by the Court's Preliminary Approval Order, and the Court having reviewed the Motions, and determining that the settlement is fair, adequate and reasonable, and otherwise being fully informed and **GOOD CAUSE** appearing therefore, it is hereby **ORDERED AS FOLLOWS:**

1. For the reasons set forth in the Preliminary Approval Order, which are adopted and incorporated herein by reference, this Court finds that the requirements of California Code of Civil Procedure section 382 and rule 3.769 of the California Rules of Court have been satisfied.

2. This Order hereby adopts and incorporates by reference the terms and conditions of the Joint Stipulation of Class Action and PAGA Settlement and Release ("Settlement Agreement" or "Settlement"), together with the definitions and terms used and contained therein.

3. The Court finds that it has jurisdiction over the subject matter of the action and over all parties to the action, including all members of the Settlement Class.

4. The Class Notice fully and accurately informed Class Members of all material elements of the proposed settlement and of their opportunity to opt out or object; was the best notice practicable under the circumstances; was valid, due, and sufficient notice to all Class Members; and complied fully with the laws of the State of California and due process. The Class Notice fairly and adequately described the settlement and provided Class Members with adequate instructions and a variety of means to obtain additional information. Class Members were given a full opportunity to participate in the Final Approval hearing, and all Class Members and other persons wishing to be heard have been heard. Accordingly, the Court determines that all Class Members who did not timely and properly opt out of the settlement are bound by this Order.

5. The Court has considered all relevant factors for determining the fairness of the settlement and has concluded that all such factors weigh in favor of granting final approval. In particular, the Court finds that the settlement was reached following meaningful discovery and investigation conducted by

1 Plaintiff's Counsel; that the settlement is the result of serious, informed, adversarial, and arm's-length
2 negotiations between the Parties; and that the terms of the settlement are in all respects fair, adequate, and
3 reasonable.

4 6. In so finding, the Court has considered all evidence presented, including evidence
5 regarding the strength of Plaintiff's case; the risk, expense, and complexity of the claims presented; the
6 likely duration of further litigation; the amount offered in settlement; the extent of investigation and
7 discovery completed; and the experience and views of counsel. The Parties have provided the Court with
8 sufficient information about the nature and magnitude of the claims being settled, as well as the
9 impediments to recovery, to make an independent assessment of the reasonableness of the terms to which
10 the Parties have agreed.

11 7. Accordingly, the Court hereby approves the settlement as set forth in the Settlement
12 Agreement and expressly finds that the settlement is, in all respects, fair, reasonable, adequate, and in the
13 best interests of the entire Settlement Class and hereby directs implementation of all remaining terms,
14 conditions, and provisions of the Settlement Agreement. The Court also finds that settlement now will
15 avoid additional and potentially substantial litigation costs, as well as delay and risks if the Parties were to
16 continue to litigate the case. Additionally, after considering the monetary recovery provided by the
17 settlement in light of the challenges posed by continued litigation, the Court concludes that the settlement
18 provides Class Members with fair and adequate relief.

19 8. The Settlement Agreement is not an admission by Defendant or by any other Released
20 Party, nor is this Order a finding of the validity of any allegations or of any wrongdoing by Defendant or
21 any other Released Party. Neither this Order, the Settlement Agreement, nor any document referred to
22 herein, nor any action taken to carry out the Settlement Agreement, may be construed as, or may be used
23 as, an admission of any fault, wrongdoing, omission, concession, waiver of defenses, or liability
24 whatsoever by or against Defendant or any of the other Released Parties.

25 9. Final approval shall be with respect to: All persons who were employed by Defendant as
26 non-exempt, hourly paid employees in the State of California at any time during the period from April 20,
27 2019 through February 16, 2025.

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1 10. Plaintiff Leonel Ramirez is an adequate and suitable representative and is hereby
2 appointed the Class Representative for the Settlement Class. The Court finds that Plaintiff's investment
3 and commitment to the litigation and its outcome ensured adequate and zealous advocacy for the
4 Settlement Class, and that his interests are aligned with those of the Settlement Class.

5 11. The Court hereby awards Plaintiff a Class Representative Enhancement Payment of
6 \$5,000 for his service on behalf of the Settlement Class, and a General Release Payment of \$5,000 for a
7 general release of all claims arising out of his employment with Defendant.

8 12. The Court finds that the attorneys at Capstone Law APC have the requisite qualifications,
9 experience, and skill to protect and advance the interests of the Settlement Class. The Court therefore finds
10 that counsel satisfy the professional and ethical obligations attendant to the position of Class Counsel, and
11 hereby appoints Capstone Law APC as counsel for the Settlement Class.

12 13. The settlement of civil penalties under PAGA in the amount of \$100,000 is hereby
13 approved. Seventy-Five Percent (75%), or \$75,000, shall be paid to the California Labor and Workforce
14 Development Agency. The remaining Twenty-Five Percent (25%), or \$25,000, will be paid to PAGA
15 Members.

16 14. The Court hereby awards \$350,000 in attorneys' fees and \$6,090.77 in costs and expenses
17 to Capstone Law APC. The Court finds that the requested award of attorneys' fees is reasonable for a
18 contingency fee in a class action such as this; i.e., one-third of the common fund created by the settlement.

19 15. The Court approves settlement administration costs and expenses in the amount of \$8,250
20 to CPT Group, Inc.

21 16. All Class Members were given a full and fair opportunity to participate in the Approval
22 Hearing, and all members of the Settlement Class wishing to be heard have been heard. Members of the
23 Settlement Class also have had a full and fair opportunity to exclude themselves from the proposed
24 settlement and the class. Accordingly, the terms of the Settlement Agreement and of the Court's Order and
25 Judgment shall be forever binding on all Participating Class Members. These Participating Class Members
26 have released and forever discharged the Released Parties for any and all Released Class Claims during
27 the Class Period:

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1 All claims, rights, demands, liabilities, and causes of action that are asserted in the
2 operative Complaint, or that could have been asserted based on the facts alleged in
3 the operative Complaint, including claims for violation of: (1) Labor Code sections
4 510 and 1198 (unpaid overtime); (2) Labor Code sections 1182.12, 1194, 1197,
5 1197.1, and 1198 (unpaid minimum wages); (3) Labor Code sections 226.7,
6 512(a), 516, and 1198 (failure to provide meal periods); (4) Labor Code sections
7 226.7, 516, and 1198 (failure to authorize and permit rest periods); (5) Labor Code
8 sections 226.7, 516, and 1198 (failure to provide recovery periods); (6) Labor Code
9 sections 226(a), 1174(d), and 1198 (non-compliant wage statements and failure to
10 maintain accurate payroll records); (7) Labor Code sections 201 and 202 (wages
11 not timely paid upon termination); (8) Section 204 (failure to timely pay wages
12 during employment); (9) Labor Code section 2802 (unreimbursed business
13 expenses); (10) California Business & Professions Code sections 17200, *et seq.*
14 (unlawful business practices); and (11) California Business & Professions Code
15 sections 17200, *et seq.* (unfair business practices).

16
17 17. Additionally, all PAGA Members and the LWDA have released and forever discharged
18 the Released Parties for any and all Released PAGA Claims during the PAGA Period: All claims for civil
19 penalties under California Labor Code §§ 2698, *et seq.*, that were brought or could reasonably have been
20 brought based on the same facts alleged in Plaintiff's LWDA letter during the PAGA Period.

21 18. Judgment in this matter is entered in accordance with the above findings. Without
22 affecting the finality of the Judgment, the Court shall retain exclusive and continuing jurisdiction over the
23 above-captioned action and the parties under Cal. Civ. Proc. Code § 664.6, including all Participating
24 Settlement Members and PAGA Members, for purposes of enforcing the terms of the Judgment entered
25 herein.

26 19. This document shall constitute a judgment (and separate document constituting said
27 judgment) for purposes of California Rules of Court, Rule 3.769(h). Plaintiff shall give notice of this Order
28 and Judgment to Class Members, pursuant to rule 3.771 of the California Rules of Court, by posting an
electronic copy of this Order and Judgment on the Settlement Administrator's website.

20. Plaintiff shall file a declaration from the Settlement Administrator regarding the
completion of settlement administration activities no later than October 15, 2026.

IT IS SO ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED.

Dated: 02/05/2026




Samantha Jessner / Judge

HON. SAMANTHA JESSNER
Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge