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5 Attorneys for Plaintiff,  
JOSE CRUZ ESTRADA, on behalf of himself and all  
6 others similarly situated

7  
8 **SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**  
9 **FOR THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES – SPRING STREET COURTHOUSE**  
10

11 JOSE CRUZ ESTRADA, on behalf of himself  
and all other similarly situated,

12 **Plaintiffs,**

13 **v.**

14 **SOLID SURFACE CARE, INC., a North**  
15 **Carolina corporation; and DOES 1 through**  
16 **100, Inclusive**

17 **Defendants.**

CASE NO.: 23STCV12344

[Assigned for all purposes to the Hon.  
Carolyn B. Kuhl - Dept. 12]

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**JOINT STIPULATION FOR CLASS**  
**ACTION SETTLEMENT**

1 TO THE COURT:

2 This Joint Stipulation for Class Action Settlement ("Settlement Agreement") is made  
3 and entered into by and between JOSE CRUZ ESTRADA ("Plaintiff"), individually and on  
4 behalf of all others similarly situated, and SOLID SURFACE CARE, INC. ("Defendant")  
5 (collectively, the "Parties"), and is subject to the terms and conditions below, and to the Court's  
6 approval. The Parties expressly acknowledge that this Settlement Agreement is entered into  
7 solely for the purpose of compromising significantly disputed claims and that nothing in this  
8 Settlement Agreement is an admission of liability or wrongdoing by Defendant. If for any  
9 reason the Settlement Agreement is not approved, it will be of no force or effect, and the Parties  
10 will be returned to their respective positions immediately prior to and as if they had never  
11 executed this Settlement Agreement as more fully set forth below.

12 DEFINITIONS

13 The following definitions are applicable to this Settlement Agreement. Definitions  
14 contained elsewhere in this Settlement Agreement will also be effective:

15 1. "Action" means *Jose Cruz Estrada v. Solid Surface Care, Inc.*, Los Angeles  
16 County Superior Court Case No. 23STCV12344.

17 2. "Claims Administrator" means Phoenix Class Action Administration Solutions  
18 ("Phoenix") or any other third-party class action settlement claims administrator agreed to by  
19 the Parties and approved by the Court for the purposes of administering this Settlement. The  
20 Parties each represent that they do not have any financial interest in the Claims Administrator  
21 or otherwise have a relationship with the Claims Administrator that could create a conflict of  
22 interest.

23 3. "Claims Administration Expenses" means the costs payable to the Claims  
24 Administrator for administering this Settlement, including, but not limited to, printing,  
25 translating into Spanish, conducting a National Change of Address ("NCOA") search,  
26 distributing (including with appropriate postage), and tracking documents for this Settlement in  
27 English and Spanish, any searches to locate any Class Members, tax reporting, distributing the  
28 Individual Settlement Payments, Class Representative Enhancement Payment, Class Counsel

1 Fees and Costs, and providing necessary certification of completion of notice, reports and  
2 declarations, establishing and administering a qualified settlement fund account and other  
3 responsibilities set forth in this Settlement Agreement and as requested by the Parties. The  
4 Claims Administration Expenses are currently estimated to be not more than \$8,250.

5 4. "Class Counsel" means Michael Nourmand and James A. De Sario of The  
6 Nourmand Law Firm, APC.

7 5. "Class Counsel Fees and Costs" means attorneys' fees, costs, and expenses  
8 approved by the Court for Class Counsel's litigation and resolution of the Action, and all costs  
9 incurred and to be incurred by Class Counsel in the Action, including, but not limited to, costs  
10 associated with documenting the Settlement, providing any notices required as part of the  
11 Settlement or Court order, securing the Court's approval of the Settlement, administering the  
12 Settlement, and obtaining entry of the Judgment terminating the Action. Class Counsel will  
13 request attorneys' fees of not to exceed one-third of the Gross Settlement Amount or  
14 \$176,666.64 and litigation costs and expenses not to exceed \$25,000. Defendant has agreed not  
15 to oppose Class Counsel's request for Class Counsel Fees and Costs.

16 6. "Class List" means a complete list of all Class Members that Defendant will  
17 diligently and in good faith compile from their records and provide on a confidential basis to  
18 the Claims Administrator within fourteen (14) calendar days after the Court's entry of an order  
19 granting preliminary approval of this Settlement. The Class List will be formatted in Microsoft  
20 Office Excel and Defendant will use its best efforts to include each Class Member's full name;  
21 most recent mailing address; last known telephone number if readily available; dates of  
22 employment or number of workweeks worked during the Class Period; and Social Security  
23 number.

24 7. "Class Member(s)" or "Settlement Class" means Plaintiff and all current and  
25 former hourly non-exempt employees of Defendant within California at any time during the  
26 Class Period.

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1           8.     “Class Period” means the period from June 1, 2019 through June 21, 2024.

2           9.     “Class Representative Enhancement Payment” means the amount to be paid from  
3 the Gross Settlement Amount to the named Plaintiff in exchange for executing a general release  
4 and in recognition of his efforts in prosecuting the Action on behalf of Class Members.  
5 Plaintiff will request and Defendant will not oppose Plaintiff’s application to the court for a  
6 payment of \$10,000 for his willingness to serve as Class Representative.

7           10.    “Court” means the Los Angeles County Superior Court, or any other court taking  
8 jurisdiction of the Action.

9           11.    “Effective Date” means the date when the Final Approval Order becomes final  
10 and Defendant fully funds the Gross Settlement Amount and employer’s share of payroll taxes.  
11 For purposes of this Paragraph, the Final Approval Order “becomes final” upon the last to occur  
12 of the following: (a) if there are no objections to the Settlement, the date the Court enters an  
13 order granting final approval of the Settlement; or (b) if there are objections to the Settlement,  
14 and if an appeal, review, or writ is not sought from the Final Approval Order, the day after the  
15 time period to appeal the Settlement has expired, i.e., 60 days from the date the Court enters an  
16 order granting final approval of the Settlement.

17           12.    “Gross Settlement Amount” means the maximum settlement amount of \$530,000  
18 (“Gross Settlement Amount”), which has been and/or will be paid by Defendant in full  
19 satisfaction of all claims arising from the Action. The Gross Settlement Amount includes all  
20 Individual Settlement Payments to Participating Class Members, the Class Representative  
21 Enhancement Payment, Claims Administration Expenses, Class Counsel Fees and Cost, and  
22 PAGA penalties in the amount of \$10,000 of which 75% or \$7,500 will be paid to the Labor  
23 Workforce Development Agency (“LWDA”) and 25% or \$2,500 to PAGA Group Members.  
24 Defendant will pay the employer’s share of payroll taxes, as applicable, in addition to the Gross  
25 Settlement Amount.

26           13.    “Individual Settlement Payment” means each Participating Class Member’s  
27 share of the Net Settlement Amount, to be distributed to Plaintiff and Class Members who do  
28 not request exclusion from the settlement.

1           14.    “Net Settlement Amount” means the maximum amount available for distribution  
2 to the Class Members, after deduction of Class Counsel Fees and Costs, Class Representative  
3 Enhancement Payment, Claims Administration Expenses, and \$7,500 as PAGA penalties from  
4 the Gross Settlement Amount.

5           15.    “Notice of Objection” means a Class Member’s valid and timely written  
6 objection to the Settlement Agreement. For the Notice of Objection to be valid, it must include:  
7 (i) the objector’s full name, signature, address, and telephone number; (ii) a written statement of  
8 all grounds for the objection accompanied by any legal support for such objection; (iii) copies  
9 of any papers, briefs, or other documents upon which the objection is based; and (iv) a list of all  
10 persons who will be called to testify in support of the objection. Further, an objector may  
11 appear at the Final Approval hearing, either in person or through counsel, at his or her expense.  
12 The Parties will be permitted to respond in writing to such objections at least seven calendar  
13 days prior to the Final Approval hearing or within the time period set by the Court. A PAGA  
14 Group Member may not object to the PAGA portion of the settlement.

15           16.    “Notice” means the Notice of Class Action Settlement, substantially in the form  
16 attached as Exhibit A.

17           17.    “PAGA” means the California Private Attorneys General Act of 2004, which is  
18 codified in California Labor Code §2698, et seq.

19           18.    “PAGA Group Member(s)” means Plaintiff and all current and former hourly  
20 non-exempt employees of Defendant within California at any time during the PAGA Period.

21           19.    “PAGA Period” means the period from June 17, 2022 through June 21, 2024.

22           20.    “PAGA Settlement Amount” means the portion of the Gross Settlement Amount  
23 allocated to the resolution of PAGA Group Members’ claims arising under PAGA. The Parties  
24 have agreed that the PAGA Settlement Amount is \$10,000, subject to Court approval. Of the  
25 PAGA Settlement Amount, 75% or \$7,500 will be paid to the LWDA (“LWDA Payment”), and  
26 the remaining 25% or \$2,500 will be distributed to PAGA Group Members.

27           21.    “Participating Class Members” means all Class Members who do not submit  
28 valid Requests for Exclusion.

1           22.     “Preliminary Approval” means the Court order granting preliminary approval of  
2 the Settlement Agreement.

3           23.     “Released PAGA Claims” means any and all claims for civil penalties under  
4 PAGA based on the labor code violations alleged in the operative Complaint and Plaintiff’s  
5 notice sent to the LWDA, including all claims for allegedly failing to pay minimum and  
6 overtime wages, failing to provide compliant meal breaks, failing to provide compliant rest  
7 breaks, failing to issue accurate wage statements, failing to pay all wages owed upon  
8 termination, and attorneys’ fees and costs related thereto. PAGA Group Members are  
9 prohibited from opting out of the PAGA portion of the settlement.

10          24.     “Released Claims” means all *California* wage and hour claims, penalties,  
11 interest, and causes of action, arising from or related to the claims pled in Plaintiff’s operative  
12 complaint (“Complaint”) or that could have been pled in the Complaint based on the factual  
13 allegations pled in the Complaint, including all claims for allegedly failing to pay minimum and  
14 overtime wages, failing to provide compliant meal breaks, failing to provide compliant rest  
15 breaks, failing to issue accurate wage statements, failing to pay all wages owed upon  
16 termination, engaging in unfair competition under California Business & Professions Code  
17 §17200, et seq. based on the Labor Code violations alleged, and any penalties, restitution,  
18 disgorgement, interest or attorneys’ fees. This release will cover all Class Members who do not  
19 opt out.

20          25.     “Released Parties” means Defendant and Defendant’s former and present  
21 parents, subsidiaries and affiliated companies and entities, franchisors and franchisees, and its  
22 current, former, and future owners, officers, shareholders, directors, members, managers,  
23 operators, employees, consultants, vendors, partners, affiliates, subsidiaries, shareholders,  
24 attorneys, insurers, payroll providers, joint venturers and agents, and any successors, assigns, or  
25 legal representatives.

26          26.     “Request for Exclusion” means a timely letter submitted by a Class Member  
27 indicating a request to be excluded from the Settlement. The Request for Exclusion must: (a)  
28 set forth the name, address, telephone number and last four digits of the Social Security

1 Number of the Class Member requesting exclusion; (b) be signed by the Class Member; (c) be  
2 returned by mail or fax to the Claims Administrator at the specified address or fax number  
3 indicated in the Notice; (d) clearly state that the Class Member does not wish to be included in  
4 the Settlement; and (e) be faxed or postmarked on or before the Response Deadline. A PAGA  
5 Group Member cannot submit a Request for Exclusion as to the PAGA portion of the  
6 settlement.

7 27. "Response Deadline" means the deadline by which Class Members must fax or  
8 postmark to the Claims Administrator a valid Request for Exclusion, submit objections to the  
9 Settlement or dispute workweeks. The Response Deadline will be 45 calendar days from the  
10 initial mailing of the Notice by the Claims Administrator. The Response Deadline for Request  
11 for Exclusion, objection or dispute workweeks will be extended 15 calendar days for any Class  
12 Member who is re-mailed a Notice by the Claims Administrator in accordance with the notice  
13 procedure described herein. The Response Deadline may also be extended by express  
14 agreement between Class Counsel and Defendant's counsel.

#### 15 TERMS OF AGREEMENT

16 Plaintiff, on behalf of himself and the Settlement Class, and Defendant agree as follows:

17 28. Impact of Any Court Determination Not to Enter Final Approval Order. In the  
18 event that the Court does not enter a Final Approval Order and this Settlement Agreement does  
19 not become effective, the following will occur:

- 20 a. on the date final approval is denied, the status of the Action will be  
21 deemed to return to its status at the time immediately prior to and as if the  
22 Parties had never executed this Settlement Agreement; and  
23 b. Defendant will pay the Claims Administrator for any costs incurred by the  
24 Claims Administrator.

25 29. Settlement Funding. Within 65 calendar days of the Effective Date, Defendant  
26 will deposit the Gross Settlement Amount and employer's share of payroll taxes with the  
27 Claims Administrator who will deposit the funds into an interest-bearing trust account referred  
28 to as the Qualified Settlement Fund account from which the Claims Administrator will have

1 authority to distribute money in accordance with the terms of this Settlement Agreement. The  
2 employer's share of the payroll taxes, which shall be paid in addition to the Gross Settlement  
3 Amount, with the assistance of the Claims Administrator to calculate the appropriate amount of  
4 the employer's share of the payroll taxes to funded by Defendant.

5 30. Class Counsel Fees and Costs. Defendant agrees not to oppose or impede any  
6 application or motion by Class Counsel for Class Counsel Fees in the amount of up to  
7 \$176,666.64, plus the reimbursement of the actual costs and expenses associated with Class  
8 Counsel's litigation and settlement of the Action, not to exceed \$25,000. In consideration of  
9 their awarded attorneys' fees and costs and expenses, Plaintiff and Class Counsel waive any  
10 and all claims to any further attorneys' fees and expenses in connection with the Action.

11 31. Class Representative Enhancement Payment. In exchange for named Plaintiff's  
12 executing a general release, and in recognition of his efforts in prosecuting the Action on behalf  
13 of Class Members, Defendant agrees not to oppose or impede any application or motion for a  
14 Class Representative Enhancement Payment of up to \$10,000. The Class Representative  
15 Enhancement Payment, which will be paid from the Gross Settlement Amount, will be in  
16 addition to Plaintiff's Individual Settlement Payment paid pursuant to the Settlement. Plaintiff  
17 will be solely and legally responsible to pay any and all applicable taxes, penalties and interest  
18 on the payment made pursuant to this paragraph and will hold Defendant harmless from any  
19 claim or liability for taxes, penalties, or interest arising as a result of the payment.

20 32. Claims Administration Expenses. The Claims Administrator, Phoenix, will be  
21 paid for the reasonable fees and costs of administration of the Settlement, which are estimated  
22 no to exceed \$8,250. These will include, *inter alia*, fees and costs payable to the Claims  
23 Administrator for printing, translating into Spanish, distributing (including with appropriate  
24 postage), and tracking documents for this Settlement in English and Spanish, any searches to  
25 locate any Class Members, calculating estimated amounts per Class Member, tax reporting,  
26 distributing the Individual Settlement Payments, Class Representative Enhancement Payment,  
27 Class Counsel Fees and Costs, payment to LWDA for PAGA penalties, and providing  
28 necessary certification of completion of notice, reports and declarations, establishing and

1 administering a Qualified Settlement Fund account, required tax reporting on the Individual  
2 Settlement Payments, the issuing of 1099 and W-2 IRS forms, calculating the employer's share  
3 of payroll taxes on the wage portion of the Individual Settlement Payments and coordinating  
4 related reporting, and other responsibilities as requested by the Parties. The Claims  
5 Administration Expenses will be paid from the Gross Settlement Amount.

6 33. Net Settlement Amount. The Net Settlement Amount will be used to satisfy  
7 Individual Settlement Payments to Participating Class Members from the Settlement Class and  
8 PAGA Group Members in accordance with the terms of this Agreement.

9 34. Individual Settlement Payment Calculations. Defendant will provide the Claims  
10 Administrator with the total number of workweeks for each Class Member during the Class  
11 Period and total number of pay periods for each PAGA Group Member during the PAGA  
12 Period. The Claims Administrator will divide the Net Settlement Amount, less \$2,500 (or the  
13 Court approved amount from the PAGA Settlement Amount allocated for PAGA penalties to  
14 PAGA Group Members), by the total number of workweeks ("Work Week Rate Amount") and  
15 then multiply this amount by each Class Member's total number of workweeks to yield that  
16 employee's Net Settlement Payment. In the event a Class Member submits a timely Request for  
17 Exclusion from the settlement, his/her share of the settlement will be added to the Net  
18 Settlement Amount.

19 NET  
20 SETTLEMENT  
21 AMOUNT X

Participating  
Class Member's  
Workweeks

22 Total number of  
23 Workweeks for  
24 all Class  
25 Members

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1 In additional, each Class Member who is a PAGA Group Member will be paid a pro-rata  
2 share of the \$2,500 allocated for PAGA penalties to PAGA Group Members, as calculated by  
3 the Claims Administrator, with a formula similar to payments to Participating Class Members.

$$\frac{\begin{array}{l} \$2,500 \text{ for PAGA} \\ \text{Penalties to PAGA} \\ \text{Group Members} \end{array}}{\begin{array}{l} \text{Total number of Pay} \\ \text{Periods for all PAGA} \\ \text{Group Members during} \\ \text{PAGA Period} \end{array}} \times \begin{array}{l} \text{Individual PAGA} \\ \text{Group Member's Pay} \\ \text{Periods during PAGA} \\ \text{Period} \end{array}$$

9 The Individual Settlement Payment for any Participating Class Member who is also a  
10 PAGA Group Member shall include the Participating Class Member's share of the PAGA  
11 Settlement Amount allocated for PAGA penalties to PAGA Group Members.

12 Class Members who are PAGA Group Members will not be permitted to exclude  
13 themselves from the PAGA claim portion of the Settlement. PAGA penalty settlement  
14 payments in the appropriate amounts will be distributed by the Claims Administrator by mail to  
15 the PAGA Group Members including to those Class Members who are PAGA Group Members  
16 who submitted a request for exclusion.

17 35. No Credit Toward Benefit Plans. All Settlement Awards to Class Members shall  
18 be deemed to be income to such Class Members solely in the year in which such awards  
19 actually are received by the Class Members. It is expressly understood and agreed that the  
20 receipt of such Settlement Awards will not entitle any Class Member to additional  
21 compensation or benefits under any company bonus, paid time off (including vacation and sick  
22 leave), or other compensation or benefit plan or agreement in place during the period covered  
23 by the Settlement, nor will it entitle any Class Member to any increased retirement, 401(k)  
24 benefits or matching benefits, or deferred compensation benefits. It is the intent of this  
25 Settlement that the Settlement Awards provided for in this Agreement are the sole payments to  
26 be made by Defendant to the Class Members in connection with this Settlement, and that the  
27 Class Members are not entitled to any new or additional compensation or benefits as a result of  
28 having received the Settlement Awards (notwithstanding any contrary language or agreement in

1 any benefit or compensation plan document that might have been in effect during the period  
2 covered by this Settlement).

3 36. Claims Administration Process. The Parties agree to cooperate in the  
4 administration of the settlement and to make all reasonable efforts to control and minimize the  
5 costs and expenses incurred in administration of the Settlement.

6 37. Delivery of the Class List. Within 14 calendar days of Preliminary Approval,  
7 Defendant will provide the Class List to the Claims Administrator.

8 38. Notice by First-Class U.S. Mail. Within 5 calendar days after receiving the Class  
9 List from Defendant, the Claims Administrator will mail the Notice to all Class Members via  
10 regular First-Class U.S. Mail.

11 39. Confirmation of Contact Information in the Class Lists. Prior to mailing, the  
12 Claims Administrator will perform a search based on the National Change of Address Database  
13 for information to update and correct for any known or identifiable address changes. Any  
14 Notice returned to the Claims Administrator as non-deliverable on or before the Response  
15 Deadline will be sent promptly via regular First-Class U.S. Mail to the forwarding address, and  
16 the Claims Administrator will indicate the date of such re-mailing on the Notice. If no  
17 forwarding address is provided, the Claims Administrator will promptly attempt to determine  
18 the correct address using a skip-trace, or other search using the name, address and/or Social  
19 Security number of the Class Member involved, and will then perform a single re-mailing.  
20 Those Class Members who receive a re-mailed Notice will have between the latter of (i) an  
21 additional 15 days or (ii) the Response Deadline to fax or postmark a Request for Exclusion,  
22 submit an objection to the Settlement or dispute workweeks.

23 40. Notice. All Class Members will be mailed the Notice. The Notice will provide:  
24 (1) information regarding the nature of the Action, (2) a summary of the Settlement's principal  
25 terms, (3) the Settlement Class definition, (4) each Class Member's number of workweeks  
26 worked during the Class Period, (5) each Class Member's estimated Individual Settlement  
27 Payment; (6) the dates which comprise the Class Period, (7) instructions on how to submit valid  
28 Requests for Exclusion, objections or dispute workweeks, (8) the deadlines by which the Class

1 Member must fax or postmark Request for Exclusions, submit objections to the Settlement or  
2 dispute workweeks, and (9) the claims to be released, as set forth in this Settlement Agreement.

3 41. Request for Exclusion Procedures. Any Class Member wishing to opt out from  
4 the Settlement Agreement must sign and fax or postmark a written Request for Exclusion to the  
5 Claims Administrator within the Response Deadline. The date of the fax or postmark on the  
6 return mailing envelope will be the exclusive means to determine whether a Request for  
7 Exclusion has been timely submitted. The Parties to this Agreement and their counsel agree that  
8 they will not solicit or encourage Class Members to opt-out or object to this Settlement  
9 Agreement. If the Court approves the compromise of the PAGA claim, all PAGA Group  
10 Members are bound by the Court's resolution of that claim. Class Members who are also  
11 PAGA Group Members submitting a request for exclusion will nevertheless receive their pro-  
12 rata share of the 25% of the PAGA Settlement Amount allocated for PAGA penalties to PAGA  
13 Group Members.

14 42. Defective Submissions. If a Class Member's Request for Exclusion is defective  
15 as to the requirements listed in this Settlement Agreement, that Class Member will be given an  
16 opportunity to cure the defect(s). The Claims Administrator will mail the Class Member a cure  
17 letter within three (3) calendar days of receiving the defective submission to advise the Class  
18 Member that his or her submission is defective and that the defect must be cured to render the  
19 Request for Exclusion valid. The Class Member will have until the later of (i) Response  
20 Deadline or (ii) 15 calendar days from the date of the cure letter to fax or postmark a revised  
21 Request for Exclusion.

22 43. Settlement Terms Bind All Class Members Who Do Not Opt-Out. Any Class  
23 Member who does not affirmatively opt out of the Settlement Agreement by submitting a  
24 timely and valid Request for Exclusion will be bound by all of its terms, including those  
25 pertaining to the Released Claims as well as any Judgment that may be entered by the Court if it  
26 grants final approval to the Settlement. If the Court approves the compromise of the PAGA  
27 claim, Class Members who are also PAGA Group Members submitting a request for exclusion  
28

1 will nevertheless be bound by the Court's resolution of that claim and receive their pro-rata  
2 share of the 25% of the PAGA Payment allocated to the PAGA Group Members.

3 44. Objection Procedures. To object to the Settlement Agreement, a Class Member  
4 may not submit a Request for Exclusion and must mail a valid Notice of Objection to the  
5 Claims Administrator by the Response Deadline. The Claims Administrator will notify counsel  
6 for the Parties forthwith via email. Class Counsel will lodge the objection with the Court. The  
7 Notice of Objection must be signed by the Class Member and contain all information required  
8 by this Settlement Agreement. The postmark date of the mailing will be deemed the exclusive  
9 means for determining that the Notice of Objection is timely. Class Members who wish to  
10 object will also have a right to appear at the Final Approval Hearing, with or without counsel at  
11 his/her own expense, in order to have their objections heard by the Court. At no time will any  
12 of the Parties or their counsel seek to solicit or otherwise encourage Class Members to submit  
13 written objections to the Settlement Agreement or appeal from the Final Approval Order and  
14 Judgment.

15 45. Certification Reports Regarding Individual Settlement Payment Calculations.  
16 The Claims Administrator will provide Defendant's counsel and Class Counsel a weekly report  
17 which certifies: (i) the number of Class Members who have submitted valid Request for  
18 Exclusion and objections; and (ii) the number of any deficient Request for Exclusion.  
19 Additionally, the Claims Administrator will provide to counsel for both Parties any updated  
20 reports regarding the administration of the Settlement Agreement as needed or requested.

21 46. Timing of Distribution of Individual Settlement Payments. Within three (3)  
22 calendar days of Defendant depositing the Gross Settlement Amount, as set forth above, the  
23 Claims Administrator will issue payments to (1) Participating Class Members and PAGA  
24 Group Members; (2) Plaintiff; (3) Class Counsel; and payment to LWDA. The Claims  
25 Administrator will also issue a payment to itself for Court-approved services performed in  
26 connection with the settlement.

27 47. Uncashed or Undeliverable Settlement Checks. Individual settlement checks  
28 paid to participating Class Members will be valid for 180 days. Participating Class Members

1 will have one hundred eighty (180) calendar days from the date of issuance of the check to cash  
2 their check. For any check not cashed after 180 calendar days, the Claims Administrator will  
3 send the amount represented by the check to the California State Controller Unclaimed  
4 Property, with the identity of the Participating Class Member to whom the funds belong, to be  
5 held for the participating Class Member per California Unclaimed Property Law, in the interest  
6 of justice. The money paid to the California State Controller Unclaimed Property will remain  
7 the Participating Class Member's property. This will allow Participating Class Members who  
8 did not cash their checks to collect their Individual Settlement Amounts at any time in the  
9 future. Therefore, there will be no unpaid residue or unclaimed or abandoned class member  
10 funds, and the California Code of Civil Procedure section 384 shall not apply. The funds will  
11 be held by the State until claimed by the employee and the uncashed check never ceases to be  
12 the employee's property.

13 48. Escalation Clause. Defendant represents that the settlement contemplates 12,474  
14 workweeks during the Class Period. In the event the total workweeks increase by more than ten  
15 percent (10%), i.e., more than 13,721 workweeks by the end of the Class Period, Defendant shall  
16 have the option to either (i) increase the Net Settlement Amount by determining the workweek  
17 value, calculated off of the 12,474 total work weeks and multiplying it by the additional  
18 workweeks; or (ii) change the end date of the Class Period to a date that results in no more than  
19 13,721 total workweeks. If Defendant elects to change the end date of the Class Period, then  
20 Defendant must make the election at least 10 calendar days prior to Plaintiff filing the motion for  
21 preliminary approval.

22 49. Certification of Completion. Upon completion of administration of the  
23 Settlement, the Claims Administrator will provide a written declaration under oath to certify  
24 such completion to the Court and counsel for all Parties.

25 50. Treatment of Individual Settlement Payments. All Individual Settlement  
26 Payments will be allocated as follows: 100% of each PAGA Groups Members pro-rate share of  
27 the \$2,500 allocated for PAGA penalties shall be allocated as penalties; 20% of each Individual  
28 Settlement Payment will be allocated for the settlement of wage claims; and the remaining 80%

1 will be allocated to the settlement of claims for interest and statutory penalties. The portion  
2 allocated to wages in each Individual Settlement Payment will be reported on an IRS Form W-2  
3 and the portion allocated to interest and penalties will be reported on an IRS Form-1099 by the  
4 Claims Administrator.

5 51. Administration of Taxes by the Claims Administrator. The Claims  
6 Administrator will be responsible for issuing to Plaintiff, Participating Class Members, PAGA  
7 Group Members, Class Counsel, and Defendant any W-2, 1099, or other tax forms as may be  
8 required by law for all amounts paid pursuant to this Settlement Agreement. The Claims  
9 Administrator will also be responsible for forwarding all payroll taxes and other legally  
10 required withholdings, and related reporting, to the appropriate government authorities.

11 52. Defendant's Responsibility for Employer Taxes: For any portion of the Class  
12 Members' Individual Settlement Payments that are designated as "wages" for purposes of tax  
13 reporting, the employer's taxes, employer contributions of all federal, state, and local taxes  
14 (including, but not limited to, FICA, FUTA, and SDI), will be paid in addition to the Gross  
15 Settlement Amount, via and with the Claims Administrator's assistance.

16 53. Circular 230 Disclaimer. EACH PARTY TO THIS AGREEMENT (FOR  
17 PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION, THE "ACKNOWLEDGING PARTY" AND EACH PARTY  
18 TO THIS AGREEMENT OTHER THAN THE ACKNOWLEDGING PARTY, AN "OTHER  
19 PARTY") ACKNOWLEDGES AND AGREES THAT (1) NO PROVISION OF THIS  
20 AGREEMENT, AND NO WRITTEN COMMUNICATION OR DISCLOSURE BETWEEN  
21 OR AMONG THE PARTIES OR THEIR ATTORNEYS AND OTHER ADVISERS, IS OR  
22 WAS INTENDED TO BE, NOR SHALL ANY SUCH COMMUNICATION OR  
23 DISCLOSURE CONSTITUTE OR BE CONSTRUED OR BE RELIED UPON AS, TAX  
24 ADVICE WITHIN THE MEANING OF UNITED STATES TREASURY DEPARTMENT  
25 CIRCULAR 230 (31 CFR PART 10, AS AMENDED); (2) THE ACKNOWLEDGING PARTY  
26 (A) HAS RELIED EXCLUSIVELY UPON HIS, HER OR ITS OWN, INDEPENDENT  
27 LEGAL AND TAX COUNSEL FOR ADVICE (INCLUDING TAX ADVICE) IN  
28 CONNECTION WITH THIS AGREEMENT, (B) HAS NOT ENTERED INTO THIS

1 AGREEMENT BASED UPON THE RECOMMENDATION OF ANY OTHER PARTY OR  
2 ANY ATTORNEY OR ADVISOR TO ANY OTHER PARTY, AND (C) IS NOT ENTITLED  
3 TO RELY UPON ANY COMMUNICATION OR DISCLOSURE BY ANY ATTORNEY OR  
4 ADVISER TO ANY OTHER PARTY TO AVOID ANY TAX PENALTY THAT MAY BE  
5 IMPOSED ON THE ACKNOWLEDGING PARTY; AND (3) NO ATTORNEY OR ADVISER  
6 TO ANY OTHER PARTY HAS IMPOSED ANY LIMITATION THAT PROTECTS THE  
7 CONFIDENTIALITY OF ANY SUCH ATTORNEY'S OR ADVISER'S TAX STRATEGIES  
8 (REGARDLESS OF WHETHER SUCH LIMITATION IS LEGALLY BINDING) UPON  
9 DISCLOSURE BY THE ACKNOWLEDGING PARTY OF THE TAX TREATMENT OR  
10 TAX STRUCTURE OF ANY TRANSACTION, INCLUDING ANY TRANSACTION  
11 CONTEMPLATED BY THIS AGREEMENT.

12 54. No Prior Assignments. The Parties and their counsel represent, covenant, and  
13 warrant that they have not directly or indirectly assigned, transferred, encumbered, or purported  
14 to assign, transfer, or encumber to any person or entity any portion of any liability, claim,  
15 demand, action, cause of action or right released and discharged in this Settlement Agreement.

16 55. Release by Plaintiff. Upon the date the Court enters an order granting final  
17 approval of the settlement and Defendant fully funds the Gross Settlement Amount and the  
18 employer's share of payroll taxes, in addition to the claims being released by all Class  
19 Members, Plaintiff will provide the following additional general release ("General Release") :  
20 Plaintiff, on his own behalf and on behalf of his heirs, spouses, executors, administrators,  
21 attorneys, agents and assigns, fully and finally releases the Released Parties from all claims,  
22 demands, rights, liabilities and causes of action of every nature and description whatsoever,  
23 known or unknown, asserted or that might have been asserted, whether in tort, contract, or for  
24 violation of any state or federal statute, rule or regulation arising out of, relating to, or in  
25 connection with any act or omission by or on the part of any of the Released Parties committed  
26 or omitted prior to the execution of this Agreement. This General Release includes any  
27 unknown claims Plaintiff does not know or suspect to exist in his favor at the time of this  
28 General Release, which, if known by them, might have affected his settlement with, and release

1 of, the Released Parties or might have affected his decision not to object to this Settlement or  
2 this Release. To the extent the foregoing releases are releases to which Section 1542 of the  
3 California Civil Code or similar provisions of other applicable law may apply, Plaintiff  
4 expressly waives any and all rights and benefits conferred upon them by the provisions of  
5 Section 1542 of the California Civil Code or similar provisions of applicable law which are as  
6 follows:

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

13 However, specifically excluded from this general release of claims by Plaintiff are any  
14 claims for or relating to workers' compensation, unemployment insurance, or any other claims  
15 that cannot be waived by law. The significance of this release and waiver of Civil Code Section  
16 1542 has been explained to Plaintiff by his counsel.

17 56. Neutral Reference. Defendant agrees that it will only provide a neutral reference  
18 for Plaintiff should any prospective employers or anyone contact them regarding Plaintiff's  
19 employment. Defendant shall only provide the dates of employment and Plaintiff's last job title  
20 held with Defendant.

21 57. Nullification of Settlement Agreement. In the event that: (i) the Court does not  
22 finally approve the Settlement as provided in this Settlement Agreement; or (ii) the Settlement  
23 does not become final for any other reason, then this Settlement Agreement and any documents  
24 generated to bring it into effect will be null and void. Any order or judgment entered by the  
25 Court in furtherance of this Settlement Agreement will likewise be treated as void from the  
26 beginning. In such case, the Settlement shall not be used or be admissible in any subsequent  
27 proceedings, either in this Action, this Court, or any other Court or forum.

1           58.   Preliminary Approval Hearing. Plaintiff will obtain a hearing before the Court to  
2 request the Preliminary Approval of the Settlement Agreement, and the entry of a Preliminary  
3 Approval Order for: (i) conditional certification of the Settlement Class for settlement purposes  
4 only, (ii) preliminary approval of the proposed Settlement Agreement, and (iii) setting a date  
5 for a Final Approval/Settlement Fairness Hearing. The Preliminary Approval Order will  
6 provide for the Notice to be sent to all Class Members as specified in this Settlement  
7 Agreement. In conjunction with the Preliminary Approval motion, Plaintiff will submit this  
8 Settlement Agreement, which sets forth the terms of this Settlement and will include the  
9 proposed Notice.

10           59.   Final Settlement Approval Hearing and Entry of Judgment. Upon expiration of  
11 the deadlines to fax or postmark Request for Exclusion or submit objections to the Settlement  
12 Agreement, and with the Court's permission, a Final Approval/Settlement Fairness Hearing will  
13 be conducted to determine the Final Approval of the Settlement Agreement along with the  
14 amounts properly payable for (i) Individual Settlement Payments; (ii) the Class Counsel Fees  
15 and Costs; (iii) the Class Representative Enhancement Payment; (iv) payment to LWDA for  
16 PAGA penalties; and (v) all Claims Administration Expenses. Class Counsel will be  
17 responsible for drafting all documents necessary to obtain final approval. Class Counsel will  
18 also be responsible for drafting the attorneys' fees and costs application to be heard at the Final  
19 Approval/Settlement Fairness Hearing.

20           60.   Judgment and Continued Jurisdiction. Upon final approval of the Settlement by  
21 the Court or after the Final Approval/Settlement Fairness Hearing, the Parties will present a  
22 proposed Judgment to the Court for its approval. Pursuant to California Rules of Court, Rule  
23 3.771(b), the Claims Administrator shall post on its website a copy of the Judgment for a period  
24 of thirty days from the date the Court signs the Judgment. After entry of the Judgment, the  
25 Court will have continuing jurisdiction solely for purposes of addressing: (i) the interpretation  
26 and enforcement of the terms of the Settlement Agreement, (ii) settlement administration  
27 matters, and (iii) such post- Judgment matters as may be appropriate under court rules or as set  
28 forth in this Settlement Agreement.

1           61.   Exhibits Incorporated by Reference. The terms of this Settlement Agreement  
2 include the terms set forth in any attached Exhibits, which are incorporated by this reference as  
3 though fully set forth in this Settlement Agreement. Any Exhibits to this Agreement are an  
4 integral part of the Settlement.

5           62.   Entire Agreement. This Settlement Agreement and any attached Exhibits  
6 constitute the entirety of the Parties' settlement terms. No other prior or contemporaneous  
7 written or oral agreements may be deemed binding on the Parties. The Parties expressly  
8 recognize California Civil Code Section 1625 and California Code of Civil Procedure Section  
9 1856(a), which provide that a written agreement is to be construed according to its terms and  
10 may not be varied or contradicted by extrinsic evidence, and the Parties agree that no such  
11 extrinsic oral or written representations or terms will modify, vary or contradict the terms of  
12 this Agreement.

13           63.   Amendment or Modification. This Settlement Agreement may be amended or  
14 modified only by a written instrument signed by counsel for all Parties or their successors-in-  
15 interest.

16           64.   Authorization to Enter Into Settlement Agreement. Counsel for all Parties  
17 warrant and represent they are expressly authorized by the Parties whom they represent to  
18 negotiate this Settlement Agreement and to take all appropriate action required or permitted to  
19 be taken by such Parties pursuant to this Settlement Agreement to effectuate its terms and to  
20 execute any other documents required to effectuate the terms of this Settlement Agreement.  
21 The Parties and their counsel will cooperate with each other and use their best efforts to effect  
22 the implementation of the Settlement. If the Parties are unable to reach agreement on the form  
23 or content of any document needed to implement the Settlement Agreement, or on any  
24 supplemental provisions that may become necessary to effectuate the terms of this Settlement  
25 Agreement, the Parties may seek the assistance of the Court to resolve such disagreement.

26           65.   Binding on Successors and Assigns. This Settlement Agreement will be binding  
27 upon, and inure to the benefit of, the successors or assigns of the Parties to this Settlement  
28 Agreement, as previously defined.

1           66.   Execution and Counterparts. This Settlement Agreement is subject only to the  
2 execution of all Parties. However, the Settlement Agreement may be executed in one or more  
3 counterparts. All executed counterparts and each of them, including facsimile, scanned copies  
4 of the signature page, and electronic signature will be deemed to be one and the same  
5 instrument provided that counsel for the Parties will exchange among themselves original  
6 signed counterparts.

7           67.   Acknowledgement that the Settlement is Fair and Reasonable. The Parties  
8 believe this Settlement Agreement is a fair, adequate and reasonable settlement of the Action  
9 and have arrived at this Settlement Agreement after arm's-length negotiations and in the  
10 context of adversarial litigation, taking into account all relevant factors, present and potential.  
11 The Parties further acknowledge that they are each represented by competent counsel and that  
12 they have had an opportunity to consult with their counsel regarding the fairness and  
13 reasonableness of this Settlement Agreement.

14           68.   Invalidity of Any Provision. Before declaring any provision of this Settlement  
15 Agreement invalid, the Court will first attempt to construe the provision as valid to the fullest  
16 extent possible consistent with applicable precedents so as to define all provisions of this  
17 Settlement Agreement valid and enforceable.

18           69.   Captions. The captions and section numbers in this Agreement are inserted for  
19 the reader's convenience, and in no way define, limit, construe or describe the scope or intent of  
20 the provisions of this Agreement.

21           70.   Waiver. No waiver of any condition or covenant contained in this Agreement or  
22 failure to exercise a right or remedy by any of the Parties hereto will be considered to imply or  
23 constitute a further waiver by such party of the same or any other condition, covenant, right or  
24 remedy.

25           71.   Enforcement Actions. In the event that one or more of the Parties institutes any  
26 legal action or other proceeding against any other Party to enforce the provisions of this  
27 Settlement Agreement or to declare rights and/or obligations under this Settlement Agreement,  
28 the successful Party will be entitled to recover from the unsuccessful Party reasonable

1 attorneys' fees and costs, including expert witness fees incurred in connection with any  
2 enforcement actions.

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

9 73. Representation By Counsel. The Parties acknowledge that they have been  
10 represented by counsel throughout all negotiations that preceded the execution of this  
11 Settlement Agreement, and that this Settlement Agreement has been executed with the consent  
12 and advice of counsel.

13 74. All Terms Subject to Final Court Approval. All amounts and procedures  
14 described in this Settlement Agreement will be subject to final Court approval.

15 75. Cooperation and Execution of Necessary Documents. All Parties will cooperate  
16 in good faith and execute all documents to the extent reasonably necessary to effectuate the  
17 terms of this Settlement Agreement.

18 76. Binding Agreement. The Parties warrant that they understand and have full  
19 authority to enter into this Agreement, and further intend that this Agreement will be fully  
20 enforceable and binding on all Parties and agree that it will be admissible and subject to  
21 disclosure in any proceeding to enforce its terms, notwithstanding any mediation confidentiality  
22 provisions that otherwise might apply under federal or state law.

23 77. No Admission of Liability. Nothing contained in this Settlement Agreement shall  
24 be construed or deemed an admission of liability, culpability, negligence, or wrongdoing on the  
25 part of Defendant. Each of the Parties has entered into this Settlement Agreement with the  
26 intention to avoid further disputes and litigation, and the attendant inconvenience and expense,  
27 and to fully and forever buy their respective peace. This Settlement Agreement shall be  
28 inadmissible in evidence in any action or proceeding, by any party, except an action or

proceeding by one of the Parties to approve, interpret, or enforce the Settlement Agreement's terms.

78. Disputes. Any dispute between the Parties concerning the interpretation or implementation of this Settlement Agreement will be resolved by the Court. Prior to any such resort to the Court, counsel for the Parties will confer in good faith to resolve the dispute.

79. Applicable Law. All terms and conditions of this Stipulation and its exhibits will be governed by and interpreted according to the laws of the State of California, without giving effect to any conflict of law or choice of law principles.

SIGNATURES

READ CAREFULLY BEFORE SIGNING

PLAINTIFF

Dated: 7-24-24

Jose Cruz Estrada

Jose Cruz Estrada

DEFENDANT

Dated: 8-5-24

[Signature]

Solid Surface Care, Inc.

Michael S. Crispin

By:

Its: CEO

APPROVED AS TO FORM

Dated: 8-6, 2024

THE NOURMAND LAW FIRM, APC

By:

[Signature]  
Michael Nourmand  
James A. De Sario

*Attorneys for Plaintiff*

Jose Cruz Estrada, on behalf of himself and all others similarly situated

1 Dated: August 6, 2024

JACKSON LEWIS P.C.

2  
3 By: 

4 Adam Siegel, Esq.  
Payam Malakouti, Esq.

5 *Attorneys for Defendant*  
Solid Surface Care, Inc.

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