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ELECTRONICALLY FILED BY
Superior Court of California,
County of Monterey
On 03/28/2025
By Deputy: Conder, Perla

8 Attorneys for Plaintiff, the Putative Class, and the Aggrieved Employees

9
10 **SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**
FOR THE COUNTY OF MONTEREY

11 JESUS DIAZ ESPINOZA, an individual, on
12 behalf of himself, the State of California, as a
13 private attorney general, and all others similarly
14 situated,

15 Plaintiff,

16 v.

17 ROSALIO RINCON DBA RINCON FARMS, a
18 business of unknown formation; ROSALIO
19 RINCON, an individual, and DOES 1 TO 50,

20 Defendants.
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Case Number: 23CV003099

~~[Proposed]~~ Order

*[Plaintiff's Notice of Motion and Motion for
Preliminary Approval of Class Action
Settlement, Declaration of Jonathan Melmed,
Esq., and Declaration of Plaintiff Jesus Diaz
Espinoza filed concurrently herewith]*

Date: March 28, 2025
Time: 8:30 a.m.
Dept.: 15
Judge: Thomas W. Wills

Complaint Filed: September 25, 2023
FAC Filed: November 28, 2023
SAC Filed: February 15, 2024
Trial Date: None Set

~~[PROPOSED]~~ ORDER

Plaintiff's unopposed Motion for Preliminary Approval of a Class Action Settlement came before this Court on March 28, 2025, at 8:30 am in Department 15, the Honorable Thomas W. Wills, presiding. The Court having considered the papers submitted in support of the application of the parties, **HEREBY ORDERS THE FOLLOWING:**

1. The Court grants preliminary approval of the Settlement and the Settlement Class based upon the terms set forth in the Settlement Agreement and Release of Class Action (the "Settlement Agreement") attached as **Exhibit A** to the Declaration of Jonathan Melmed in support of Plaintiff's Motion for Order Granting Preliminary Approval of Class Action Settlement. All terms used herein shall have the same meaning as defined in the Settlement Agreement. The settlement set forth in the Settlement Agreement appears to be fair, adequate and reasonable to the Class, and the Court preliminarily approves the terms of the Settlement Agreement, including, without limitation:

- a. A non-reversionary Gross Settlement Amount of **\$87,500.00**;
- b. The Class Representative enhancement payment to the named Plaintiff of **\$5,000.00**
~~**\$7,500.00**~~;
- c. Court approved attorneys' fees to Class Counsel of up to **\$29,166.67**, representing one-third of the Gross Settlement Amount;
- d. Court approved litigation costs to Class Counsel of up to **\$15,000.00**;
- e. Fees and Costs of the Settlement Administrator of up to **\$10,000.00**; and
- f. A PAGA allocation of \$10,000.00, with **\$7,500.00** (i.e., 75%) payable to the California Labor & Workforce Development Agency for its portion of the PAGA penalties.

2. This Court has considered the papers in support of the Motion and the Settlement Agreement and finds that, pursuant to C.R.C. Rule 3.769(d), the proposed Class should be certified for settlement purposes only. Specifically, the Court finds for settlement purposes only that the proposed Class: (a) is ascertainable; (b) is sufficiently numerous; (c) meets the commonality requirements; (d) the claims of the Class Representative is typical of the claims of the proposed Class Members; (e) Class

1 Representative's counsel has and is able to adequately represent the proposed Class; (f) the Class
2 Representative is adequate to represent the Class; and (g) class-wide treatment of this dispute is
3 superior to individual litigation because common issues predominate over individual issues for
4 settlement purposes.

5 3. The Settlement falls within the range of reasonableness and appears to be presumptively
6 valid, subject only to any objections that may be raised at the final fairness hearing and final approval
7 by this Court.

8 4. A final fairness hearing on the question of whether the proposed Settlement, attorneys'
9 fees and costs to Class Counsel, and the Class Representative's enhancement award should be finally
10 approved as fair, reasonable and adequate as to the members of the Class is scheduled on the date and
11 time set forth in the Implementation Schedule.

12 5. This Court approves, as to form and content, the Notice of Proposed Class Action
13 Settlement ("Class Notice"), in substantially the form attached herein as **Exhibit 1**. The Court approves
14 the procedure for Class Members to participate in, to opt out of, and to object to, the Settlement as set
15 forth in the Settlement Agreement.

16 6. The Court directs the mailing of the Class Notice by first class mail to the Class
17 Members in accordance with the Implementation Schedule set forth below. The Court finds the dates
18 selected for the mailing and distribution of the Notice, as set forth in the Implementation Schedule,
19 meet the requirements of due process and provide the best notice practicable under the circumstances
20 and shall constitute due and sufficient notice to all persons entitled thereto.

21 7. It is ordered that the Settlement Class is preliminarily certified for settlement purposes
22 only.

23 8. The Court preliminary certifies for settlement purposes only the Settlement Class
24 defined as follows: *all individuals who are or were employed by Defendants as non-exempt employees*
25 *in California during the Class Period. See Settlement Agreement, at § 1.39. The Class Period is defined*
26 *as the period of time from September 25, 2019, through and including October 30, 2024. See Settlement*
27 *Agreement, at § 1.10.*

28 9. All Settlement Class members who do not timely opt out will release those claims

1 arising out of or related to the allegations set forth in the operative complaint and PAGA notice to the
2 California Labor and Workforce Development Agency that arose during the Class Period and/or PAGA
3 Period, including claims for: **(1)** failure to pay minimum wage for all hours worked in violation of
4 Labor Code sections 1194 and 1194.2, and the applicable IWC Wage Order(s); **(2)** failure to pay proper
5 overtime wages in violation of Labor Code sections 510, 1197, and 1198, and the applicable IWC Wage
6 Order(s); **(3)** failure to provide compliant rest periods and pay missed rest break premiums in violation
7 of Labor Code section 226.7 and the applicable IWC Wage Order(s); **(4)** failure to provide compliant
8 meal periods and pay missed meal period premiums in violation of Labor Code sections 226.7 and 512,
9 and the applicable IWC Wage Order(s); **(5)** failure to maintain accurate employment records in
10 violation of Labor Code section 1174; **(6)** failure to pay timely wages during employment in violation
11 of Labor Code sections 204, 210; **(7)** failure to pay all wages due and owing at separation in violation
12 of Labor Code sections 201, 202, and 203; **(8)** failure to reimburse business expenses in violation of
13 Labor Code sections 2802 and 2804; **(9)** failure to provide complete and accurate wage statements in
14 violation of Labor Code sections 226, 226.2 and 226.3; **(10)** deceptive, fraudulent, or otherwise
15 unlawful business practices based on the foregoing in violation of California's Unfair Competition Law
16 (Bus. & Prof. Code, §§ 17200–17210); **(11)** statutory penalties based on the foregoing pursuant to
17 PAGA (Lab. Code, §§ 2698-2699.6); and **(12)** all claims for liquidated damages, penalties, interest,
18 fees, costs based on the foregoing.

19 10. The Court confirms Plaintiff Jesus Diaz Espinoza as Class Representative, and Jonathan
20 Melmed, Laura Supanich, and Trishta Dordi of Melmed Law Group P.C. as Class Counsel.

21 11. The Court appoints Phoenix Settlement Administrators as the Settlement Administrator.

22 12. To facilitate administration of the Settlement pending final approval, the Court hereby
23 enjoins Plaintiff and all Class Members from filing or prosecuting any claims, suits or administrative
24 proceedings (including filing claims with the Division of Labor Standards Enforcement of the
25 California Department of Industrial Relations) regarding claims released by the Settlement, unless and
26 until such Class Members have filed valid Requests for Exclusion with the Settlement Administrator
27 and the time for filing claims with the Settlement Administrator has elapsed.

28 13. The Court orders the following **Implementation Schedule** for further proceedings:

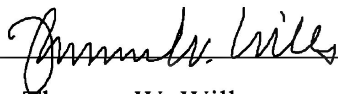
a.	Deadline for Defendant to Submit Class Member Information to Settlement Administrator	[within 14 days after the Preliminary Approval Date]
b.	Deadline for Settlement Administrator to Mail Notice to Class Members	[within 28 days after preliminary approval]
c.	Deadline for Class Members to Postmark Requests for Exclusion	[60 days after mailing of the Class Notice]
d.	Deadline for Class Members to submit any Objections to Settlement	[60 days after mailing of the Class Notice]
e.	Deadline for Settlement Administrator to file Declaration of Due Diligence and Proof of Mailing	[21 days prior to Final Approval and Fairness Hearing]
f.	Deadline for Class Counsel to file Motion for Final Approval of Settlement, including Request for Attorneys' Fees, Costs, and Enhancement Award	[16 Court days prior to Final Approval and Fairness Hearing]
g.	Final Approval and Fairness Hearing (the Court's first available date after _____, 2025)	September 5, 2025, 2025 at 8:30 a.m./p.m.

14. If any of the dates in this Implementation Schedule falls on a weekend, bank or court holiday, the time to act shall be extended to the next business day.

15. The Court shall retain jurisdiction over the Action for all purposes pursuant to California Rule of Court 3.769 and California Rule of Civil Procedure § 664.6 to enforce the terms of the Settlement.

1 **IT IS SO ORDERED. IN 23CV003099**

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4 Dated: March 28, 2025

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Hon. Thomas W. Wills

Judge of the Superior Court, County of Monterey