

RECEIVED
April 23, 2025

FILED
Clerk of the Superior Court

MAY 23 2025

By: V. Contreras, Deputy

LIDMAN LAW, APC
Scott M. Lidman (SBN 199433)
slidman@lidmanlaw.com
Milan Moore (SBN 308095)
mmoore@lidmanlaw.com
Tiara Gose-Hardy (SBN 323823)
tgose@lidmanlaw.com
2155 Campus Drive, Suite 150
El Segundo, California 90245
Tel: (424) 322-4772
Fax: (424) 322-4775

Attorneys for Plaintiff
ANA RODRIGUEZ TAPIA

HAINES LAW GROUP, APC
Paul K. Haines (SBN 248226)
phaines@haineslawgroup.com
2155 Campus Drive, Suite 180
El Segundo, California 90245
Tel: (424) 292-2350
Fax: (424) 292-2355

Attorneys for Plaintiff
ANA RODRIGUEZ TAPIA

**SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO**

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

Plaintiff,

vs.

FRANCO WHOLE FOODS, LLC, a
California limited liability company; and
DOES 1 through 100, inclusive,
Defendants.

Case No. 37-2023-00046908-CU-OE-CTL

[Assigned for all purposes to the Hon. Gregory
W. Pollack, Dept. C-71]

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

Date: May 23, 2025
Time: 9:30 a.m.
Dept.: C-71

1 The Motion of Plaintiff Ana Rodriguez Tapia (“Plaintiff”) for Preliminary Approval of
2 Class Action Settlement (“Motion”) came on regularly for hearing before this Court on May 23,
3 2025 at 9:30 a.m. in Department C-71. The Court, having considered the proposed Stipulation of
4 Settlement (the “Settlement”), attached as **Exhibit 2** to the Declaration of Scott M. Lidman filed
5 concurrently with the Motion; having considered Plaintiff’s Motion, Memorandum of Points and
6 Authorities in support thereof, and supporting declarations filed therewith; and good cause
7 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 direct-hire and non-direct hire
16 employees of Defendant Franco Whole Foods, LLC who worked in the
17 State of California during the Class Period.

18 2. For purposes of the Settlement, the “Class Period” shall mean the time period of
19 October 27, 2019 through March 11, 2025.

20 3. For purposes of the Settlement, the Court designates named Plaintiff Ana
21 Rodriguez Tapia as Class Representative, and Scott M. Lidman, Milan Moore, and Tiara Gose-
22 Hardy of Lidman Law, APC and Paul K. Haines of Haines Law Group, APC as Class Counsel.

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

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

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 C-71 of this Court,
22 located at 330 West Broadway, San Diego, CA 92101 on 10/10/25, 2025 at 9:30am
23 a.m./ p.m. *J. 1-7b*

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

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

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

8 13. An implementation schedule is below:

9 Event	Date
10 Defendant to provide Class Data to Settlement Administrator	10 business days after the Court enters an order granting preliminary approval.
11 Settlement Administrator to mail Notice Packets to Class Members	10 business days after receiving Class Data from Defendant
12 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
14 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
16 Final Fairness Hearing:	<u>10/10</u> , 2025 @ 9:30 a.m.

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

20 //

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

4 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

5
6 Dated: _____, 2025


Honorable Gregory W. Pollack
Judge of the Superior Court