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Attorneys for Plaintiff QIANGAO LIU,
on behalf of himself and others similarly situated.

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

QIANGAO LIU, on behalf of himself and
others similarly situated,

Plaintiff,

vs.

PUBLIC CONSULTING GROUP, LLC;
PUBLIC PARTNERSHIPS LLC; and DOES 1
to 100, inclusive,

Defendants.

Case No.: 23STCV25100

CLASS AND PAGA ACTION

*[Assigned for All purposes to the
Hon. Laura A. Seigle, Dept. 17]*

**~~PROPOSED~~ ORDER GRANTING
PLAINTIFF'S MOTION FOR
PRELIMINARY APPROVAL OF CLASS
ACTION SETTLEMENT**

*[Filed concurrently with Notice of Motion and
Motion for Preliminary Approval of Class
Action Settlement; Declaration of Paolo
Policastro in Support Thereof]*

Hearing Information:

Date: August 14, 2025

Time: 8:30 a.m.

Dept.: 17

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2 The Motion for Preliminary Approval of a Settlement came before this Court on July 15,
3 2025, at 5:00 p.m., in Department 17 of the Los Angeles County Superior Court located at 312 North
4 Spring Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012. The Court, having considered the proposed Class Action and
5 PAGA Settlement Agreement and Class Notice entered into by and between Plaintiff Qiangao Liu
6 (“Plaintiff”) and Defendants Public Consulting Group and Public Partnerships LLC (collectively
7 “Defendants”) attached as **Exhibit 1** to the Declaration of Paolo Policastro in Support of Plaintiff’s
8 Motion for Preliminary Approval of Class Action Settlement, and the Exhibits attached thereto
9 (hereafter collectively, the “Settlement” or “Settlement Agreement”); having considered the Motion
10 for Preliminary Approval of Class Action Settlement filed by the parties; having considered the
11 memorandum of points and authorities and declarations submitted by the parties in support thereof;
12 and good cause appearing, **HEREBY ORDERS THE FOLLOWING:**

13 1. The Court grants preliminary approval of the settlement as set forth in the Settlement
14 Agreement and finds the terms to be within the range of reasonableness of a settlement that ultimately
15 could be granted approval by the Court at the Final Fairness Hearing. For purposes of the Settlement
16 only, the Court finds that the proposed Settlement Class is ascertainable and that there is a sufficiently
17 well-defined community of interest among the Class as to questions of law and fact. Therefore, for
18 settlement purposes only, the Court grants conditional certification of the following “Class” defined
19 as follows:

20 All current and former hourly-paid, non-exempt employees employed by Defendants in the
21 State of California during the Class Period. The “Class Period” is the period from October 13, 2019,
22 August 18, 2025.
~~through the date of preliminary approval of the Settlement, or the date the total number of workweeks~~
~~reaches Two Thousand Seven Hundred Fifty (2,750), whichever occurs first.~~
The PAGA period goes through August 18, 2025.

24 2. For purposes of the Settlement only, the Court further designates named Plaintiff
25 Qiangao Liu as Class Representative, and Joseph Lavi, Esq. and Vincent C. Granberry, Esq., Jovahn
26 Wiggins, Esq., and Paolo Policastro, Esq., of Lavi & Ebrahimian, LLP as Class Counsel.

27 3. The Court appoints Phoenix Class Action Administration Solutions, Inc., as the
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1 Settlement Administrator.

2 4. A final fairness hearing on the question of whether the proposed Settlement should be
3 finally approved as fair, reasonable, and adequate as to the members of the Class is scheduled in
4 Department 17 of this Court, located at 312 North Spring Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012 on
5 January 19, 2026, ~~2025~~, at 9:00 a.m./~~p.m.~~.

6 5. At the final fairness hearing, the Court will consider: (a) whether the Settlement should
7 be approved as fair, reasonable, and adequate for the Class; (b) whether a judgment granting approval
8 of the Settlement should be entered; and (c) whether Plaintiff's application for an award of Class
9 Counsel Fees Payment, Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment, and Class Representative
10 Service Payment should be granted.

11 6. Counsel for the Parties shall file memoranda, declarations, or other statements and
12 materials in support of their request for final approval by no later than 16 court days prior to the final
13 fairness hearing.

14 7. Class Counsel shall file a motion for an award of Class Counsel Fees Payment, Class
15 Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment, and Class Representative Service Payment no later than 16
16 court days prior to the final fairness hearing.

17 8. The Court approves, as to form and content, the Class Notice which is appended to
18 the Settlement Agreement.

19 9. No later than fifteen (15) days following the date the Court enters this order,
20 Defendants shall provide the following information to the Settlement Administrator: Class Member
21 identifying information in Defendants' possession including the Class Member's name, last-known
22 mailing address, Social Security number, number of Class Period Workweeks and PAGA Pay
23 Periods. ("Class Data").

24 10. Within fourteen (14) calendar days after receiving the Class Data, the Settlement
25 Administrator shall disseminate the Class Notice to all the Class Members identified in the Class Data
26 by first-class U.S. Mail.

1 11. Class Members shall have forty-five (45) calendar days from the date the Settlement
2 Administrator mails Notice to the Class Members to fax, email, or mail Requests for Exclusion
3 from the Settlement or fax, email, or mail an Objection to the Settlement (“Response Deadline”).
4 Class Members to whom Notice Packets are resent after having been returned undeliverable to the
5 Administrator shall have an additional fourteen (14) calendar days after the Response Deadline has
6 expired.

7 12. The Court finds that the forms of Class Notice to the Class regarding the pendency
8 of the action and of this Settlement, and the methods of giving notice to members of the Settlement
9 Class constitute the best notice practicable under the circumstances and constitute valid, due, and
10 sufficient notice to all members of the Class. They comply fully with the requirements of California
11 Code of Civil Procedure section 382, California Civil Code section 1781, California Rules of Court
12 3.766 and 3.769, the California and United States Constitutions, and other applicable law.

13 13. The Court further approves the procedures for Class Members to participate in, opt
14 out of, or object to the Settlement, as set forth in the Settlement Agreement and Class Notice.

15 14. Class Members who wish to exclude themselves from (opt-out of) the Class
16 Settlement must send the Administrator, by fax, email, or mail, a signed written Request for
17 Exclusion not later than 45 days after the Administrator mails the Class Notice (plus an additional
18 14 days for Class Members whose Class Notice is re-mailed). A Request for Exclusion is a letter
19 from a Class Member or the Class Member’s representative that reasonably communicates the Class
20 Member’s election to be excluded from the Settlement and includes the Class Member’s name,
21 address and email address or telephone number. To be valid, a Request for Exclusion must be timely
22 faxed, emailed, or postmarked by the Response Deadline.

23 15. Participating Class Members may send written objections to the Administrator, by
24 fax, email, or mail. In the alternative, Participating Class Members may appear in Court (or hire an
25 attorney to appear in Court on their behalf) to present verbal objections at the Final Approval
26 Hearing. A Participating Class Member who elects to send a written objection to the Administrator
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must do so not later than 45 days after the Administrator's mailing of the Class Notice (plus an additional 14 days for Class Members whose Class Notice was re-mailed).

16. Pending the Fairness Hearing, all proceedings in this action, other than proceedings necessary to carry out or enforce the terms and conditions of the Settlement Agreement and this Order, are stayed.

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

18. The Court orders the following Implementation Schedule for further proceedings:

Event	Timing
Class Data: Last day for Defendant to provide the Settlement Administrator the Class Database	15 days after the Court's entry of this Order
Notice Date: last day for Administrator to mail Class Notice to Class Members.	14 days after receipt of the Class Data
Response Deadline: (i) last day for Settlement Class Members to submit Requests for Exclusion; (ii) last day for class members to submit Objections	45 calendar days after the date of mailing of the Class Notice
Last day for class counsel to file motion for award of attorneys' fees, reimbursement of litigation expenses and class representative enhancement.	16 Court days prior to the final fairness hearing
Last day for parties to file motion and supporting documents for final approval of class action settlement.	16 Court days prior to the final fairness hearing
Last day for the Parties to respond to Objections	5 court days prior to the final fairness hearing
Hearing on final approval of class action settlement.	Approximately 150 days after the Court grants preliminary approval of the Settlement January 20, 2026 at 9 a.m.

19. The Fairness Hearing and related prior deadlines set forth above may, from time to time and without further notice to the Class (except to those who have filed timely and valid objections), be continued or adjourned by Order of the Court. The Settlement Administrator will provide notice to any objecting Class Member if there is a change in the date and/or time of the Final Approval Hearing.

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IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated: 08/18/2025



Laura Seigle

Hon. Laura A. Seigle
Judge of the Superior Court
Laura A. Seigle / Judge