

CLASS ACTION AND PAGA SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT AND CLASS NOTICE

This Class Action and PAGA Settlement Agreement (“Agreement”) is made by and between Plaintiff QIANGAO LIU (“Plaintiff”), individually and on behalf of all members of the Settlement Class (defined below) on the one hand and Defendant PUBLIC CONSULTING GROUP LLC (“PCG” or “Defendant”) and Defendant PUBLIC PARTNERSHIPS LLC (“PPL” or “Defendant”) (collectively “Defendants”) on the other hand. The Agreement refers to Plaintiff and Defendants collectively as “Parties,” or individually to Plaintiff and each Defendant as “Party.”

1. DEFINITIONS.

- 1.1. “Actions” means the Plaintiff’s lawsuit alleging wage and hour violations against Defendants initiated on October 13, 2023, pending in the Superior Court, County of Los Angeles (Case No. 23STCV25100) (the “Class Action”), and Plaintiff’s lawsuit alleging PAGA violations initiated on December 18, 2023, pending in the Superior Court, County of Los Angeles (Case No. 23STCV30830) (the “PAGA Action”).
- 1.2. “Administrator” means Phoenix Class Action Administration (“Phoenix”), the neutral entity the Parties have agreed to request be appointed to administer the Settlement.
- 1.3. “Administration Expenses Payment” means the amount the Administrator will be paid from the Gross Settlement Amount to reimburse its reasonable fees and expenses in accordance with the Administrator’s “not to exceed” bid submitted to the Court in connection with Preliminary Approval of the Settlement.
- 1.4. “Aggrieved Employee” means all current and former non-exempt employees employed by PPL in California during the PAGA Period.
- 1.5. “Class Members” means all current and former non-exempt employees employed by PPL in California during the Class Period.
- 1.6. “Class Counsel” means Lavi & Ebrahimi, LLP, and all lawyers affiliated with this firm, including but not limited to, Joseph Lavi, Vincent Granberry, Jovahn Wiggins.
- 1.7. “Class Counsel Fees Payment” and “Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment” mean the amounts allocated to Class Counsel for reimbursement of reasonable attorneys’ fees and expenses, respectively, incurred to prosecute the Class and PAGA Actions.
- 1.8. “Class Data” means Class Member identifying information in Defendants’ possession including the Class Members’ name, last-known mailing address, Social Security number, and number of Class Period Workweeks and PAGA Pay Periods.
- 1.9. “Class Member Address Search” means the Administrator’s investigation and search for current Class Member mailing addresses using all reasonably available sources, methods and means including, but not limited to, the National Change of Address database, skip traces, and direct contact by the Administrator with Class Members.
- 1.10. “Class Notice” means the COURT APPROVED NOTICE OF CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT AND HEARING DATE FOR FINAL COURT APPROVAL, to be

mailed to Class Members in English in the form, without material variation, attached as Exhibit A and incorporated by reference into this Agreement.

- 1.11. "Class Period" means the period from October 13, 2019 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.
- 1.12. "Class Representative" means the named Plaintiff in the operative complaint in the Class Action seeking Court approval to serve as a Class Representative.
- 1.13. "Class Representative Service Payment" means the payment to the Class Representative for initiating the Action and providing services in support of the Action.
- 1.14. "Defense Counsel" means Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP and Buchanan, Ingersoll & Rooney LLP.
- 1.15. "Effective Date" means the date by when both of the following have occurred: (1) the Court enters a Judgment on its Order Granting Final Approval of the Settlement; and (2) the Judgment is final. The Judgment is final as of the latest of the following occurrences: (a) if no Participating Class Member objects to the Settlement, the day the Court enters Judgment; (b) if one or more Participating Class Members objects to the Settlement, 61 days after the Court enters Judgment; or (c) if a timely appeal from the Judgment is filed, the day after the appellate court affirms the Judgment and issues a remittitur.
- 1.16. "Final Approval" means the Court's order granting final approval of the Settlement.
- 1.17. "Final Approval Hearing" means the Court's hearing on the Motion for Final Approval of the Settlement.
- 1.18. "Final Judgment" means the Judgment Entered by the Court upon Granting Final Approval of the Settlement.
- 1.19. "Gross Settlement Amount" means \$100,000.00, which is the total amount Defendants agree to pay under the Settlement. The Gross Settlement Amount will be used to pay Individual Class Payments, Individual PAGA Payments, the LWDA PAGA Payment, Class Counsel Fees, Class Counsel Expenses, Class Representative Service Payment, and the Administration Expenses Payment.
- 1.20. "Individual Class Payment" means the Participating Class Member's pro rata share of the Net Settlement Amount calculated according to the number of Workweeks worked during the Class Period.
- 1.21. "Individual PAGA Payment" means the Aggrieved Employee's pro rata share of 25% of the PAGA Penalties calculated according to the number of Workweeks worked during the PAGA Period.
- 1.22. "Judgment" means the judgment entered by the Court based upon the Final Approval.
- 1.23. "LWDA" means the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency.

- 1.24. "LWDA PAGA Payment" means the 75% of the PAGA Penalties paid to the LWDA under Labor Code section 2699, former subd. (i).
- 1.25. "Mediation Date" means January 31, 2025.
- 1.26. "Net Settlement Amount" means the Gross Settlement Amount, less the following payments in the amounts approved by the Court: Individual PAGA Payments, the LWDA PAGA Payment, Class Representative Service Payment, Class Counsel Fees Payment, Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment, and the Administration Expenses Payment. The remainder is to be paid to Participating Class Members as Individual Class Payments.
- 1.27. "Non-Participating Class Member" means any Class Member who opts out of the Settlement by sending the Administrator a valid and timely Request for Exclusion.
- 1.28. "PAGA Pay Period" means any pay period during which an Aggrieved Employee worked for PPL for at least one day during the PAGA Period.
- 1.29. "PAGA Period" means the period from October 13, 2022 through the date of preliminary approval of the Settlement, or through the date of the total number of workweeks reaches Two Thousand Seven Hundred Fifty (2,750), whichever occurs first.
- 1.30. "PAGA" means the Private Attorneys General Act (Labor Code §§ 2698. et seq.).
- 1.31. "PAGA Notice" means Plaintiff's letter to Defendants and the LWDA providing notice pursuant to Labor Code section 2699.3, former subd. (a).
- 1.32. "PAGA Penalties" means the total amount of PAGA civil penalties to be paid from the Gross Settlement Amount, allocated 25% to the Aggrieved Employees (\$1,250.00) and the 75% to the LWDA (\$3,750.00) in settlement of PAGA claims.
- 1.33. "Participating Class Member" means a Class Member who does not submit a valid and timely Request for Exclusion from the Settlement.
- 1.34. "Preliminary Approval Order" means the Court's Order Granting Preliminary Approval of the Settlement.
- 1.35. "Released Class Claims" means the claims being released as described in Paragraph 5.1 below.

- 1.36. “Released PAGA Claims” means the PAGA claims alleged in the PAGA Complaint, or that reasonably could have been based on the facts stated in the Complaint and in the relevant LWDA notice letters, including all PAGA claims seeking civil penalties premised upon: (1) failure to pay minimum wages, (2) failure to pay overtime wages and/or failure to pay overtime at the regular rate of pay, (3) failure to pay wages for accrued paid sick days at the regular rate of pay, (4) failure to timely pay earned wages during employment, (5) failure to provide accurate itemized wage statements, (6) failure to timely pay all earned wage at time of separation, and (7) unfair and unlawful competition, and (8) all other claims for civil penalties recoverable under the Private Attorneys General Act, Labor Code §§ 2698 et seq. based on the facts or claims alleged in the LWDA notice letters and Complaint. The time period governing the PAGA Released Claims shall be the PAGA Period. The PAGA Released Claims do not release any Aggrieved Employees’ claims for wages or statutory penalties outside of PAGA.
- 1.37. “Released Parties” means: Defendants and each of their respective affiliates, related companies, sister companies, and any other predecessor or successor companies, parents or subsidiaries, and each of its or their former and present directors, officers, shareholders, employees, executors, legal representatives, owners, members, attorneys, insurers, predecessors, successors, agents, and assigns.
- 1.38. “Request for Exclusion” means a Class Member’s submission of a valid request to be excluded from the Class Settlement, prior to the Response Deadline.
- 1.39. “Response Deadline” means 45 calendar days after the Administrator mails Notice to Class Members and Aggrieved Employees, and is the last date on which Class Members may (a) fax, email, or mail Requests for Exclusion from the Settlement, or (b) fax, email, or mail Objection(s) to the Settlement. Class Members to whom Notice Packets are resent after having been returned undeliverable to the Administrator will have an additional 14 calendar days beyond the Response Deadline.
- 1.40. “Settlement” means the disposition of the Action effected by this Agreement and the Judgment.
- 1.41. “Workweek” means any week during which a Class Member worked for PPL for at least one day during the Class Period.

2. RECITALS.

- 2.1. On October 13, 2023, Plaintiff commenced the Class Action by filing a complaint alleging causes of action against Defendants for (1) failure to pay minimum wages, (2) failure to pay overtime wages and/or failure to pay overtime at the regular rate of pay, (3) failure to pay wages for accrued paid sick days at the regular rate of pay, (4) failure to provide accurate itemized wage statements, (5) failure to timely pay all earned wage at time of separation, and (6) unfair and unlawful competition (the “Class Complaint”). The First Amended Complaint is the operative complaint in the Action

(the “Operative Complaint”). Defendants deny the allegations in the Operative Complaint, deny any failure to comply with the laws identified in the Operative Complaint, and deny any and all liability for the causes of action alleged.

- 2.2. On December 18, 2023, Plaintiff commenced the PAGA Action by filing a complaint alleging causes of action against Defendants for Civil Penalties pursuant to PAGA (the “PAGA Complaint”).
- 2.3. Pursuant to Labor Code section 2699.3, [former] subd. (a), Plaintiff gave timely written notice to Defendants and the LWDA by sending the PAGA Notice.
- 2.4. On January 31, 2025, Plaintiff and Defendants participated in an all-day mediation presided over by Honorable Lisa Hart Cole, which led to this Agreement to settle the Actions.
- 2.5. Prior to mediation, Plaintiff obtained, through informal discovery, time records, pay records, and information relating to the size and scope of the Class, as well as data permitting Plaintiff to fully understand the nature and scope of the allegations in the Complaint, including a sample of time and wage records which were analyzed by Plaintiff’s counsel. Plaintiff’s investigation was sufficient to satisfy the criteria for court approval set forth in *Dunk v. Foot Locker Retail, Inc.* (1996) 48 Cal.App.4th 1794, 1801 and *Kullar v. Foot Locker Retail, Inc.* (2008) 168 Cal.App.4th 116, 129-130 (“*Dunk/Kullar*”).
- 2.6. The Court has not granted class certification. The Parties agree that to the extent they are deemed to have agreed to certification for purposes of settlement such certification is not an admission that class certification is proper in a non-settlement context. If for any reason this Settlement is not approved or is terminated, this agreement as to class members will be inadmissible and will have no effect in the Class Action or PAGA Action or on any claims brought on the same or similar allegations and the Parties shall revert to the respective positions they held prior to entering into the Settlement.
- 2.7. The Parties represent that they are not aware of any other pending matter or action asserting claims that will be extinguished or affected by the Settlement.

3. MONETARY TERMS.

- 3.1. Gross Settlement Amount. Except as otherwise provided by Paragraph 8 below, Defendants promise to pay \$100,000.00 and no more as the Gross Settlement Amount and PPL to separately pay any and all employer payroll taxes owed on the Wage Portions of the Individual Class Payments. Defendants have no obligation to pay the Gross Settlement Amount (or any payroll taxes) prior to the deadline stated in Paragraph 4.2 of this Agreement. The Administrator will disburse the entire Gross Settlement Amount without asking or requiring Participating Class Members or Aggrieved Employees to submit any claim as a condition of payment. None of the Gross Settlement Amount will revert to Defendants.

3.2. Payments from the Gross Settlement Amount. The Administrator will make and deduct the following payments from the Gross Settlement Amount, in the amounts specified by the Court in the Final Approval:

3.2.1 To Plaintiff: Class Representative Service Payment to the Class Representative of not more than \$8,500.00 (in addition to any Individual Class Payment and any Individual PAGA Payment the Class Representative is entitled to receive as a Participating Class Member). Defendants will not oppose Plaintiff's request for a Class Representative Service Payment that does not exceed this amount. If the Court approves a Class Representative Service Payment less than the amount requested, the Administrator will retain the remainder in the Net Settlement Amount. The Administrator will pay the Class Representative Service Payment using IRS Form 1099.

3.2.2 To Class Counsel: A Class Counsel Fees Payment of not more than 35% of the Gross Settlement Amount, which is currently estimated to be \$35,000.00, and a Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment of not more than \$15,000.00. If the Court approves a Class Counsel Fees Payment and/or a Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment less than the amounts requested, the Administrator will allocate the remainder to the Net Settlement Amount. The Administrator will pay the Class Counsel Fees Payment and Class Counsel Expenses Payment using one or more IRS 1099-MISC Form(s).

3.2.3 To the Administrator: An Administration Expenses Payment not to exceed \$3,500.00 except for a showing of good cause and as approved by the Court. To the extent the Administrator's expenses are less or the Court approves payment less than \$3,500.00, the Administrator will retain the remainder in the Net Settlement Amount.

3.2.4 To Each Participating Class Member: An Individual Class Payment calculated by (a) dividing the Net Settlement Amount by the total number of Workweeks worked by all Participating Class Members during the Class Period and (b) multiplying the result by each Participating Class Member's Workweeks.

3.2.4.1. Tax Allocation of Individual Class Payments. 10% of each Participating Class Member's Individual Class Payment will be allocated to settlement of wage claims (the "Wage Portion"). The Wage Portions are subject to tax withholding and will be reported on an IRS W-2 Form. The other 90% of each Participating Class Member's Individual Class Payment will be allocated to settlement of claims for interest and penalties (the "Non-Wage Portion"). The Non-Wage Portions are not subject to wage withholdings and will be reported on IRS 1099 Forms. Participating Class Members assume full responsibility and

liability for any employee taxes owed on their Individual Class Payment.

3.2.4.2. Effect of Non-Participating Class Members on Calculation of Individual Class Payments. Non-Participating Class Members will not receive any Individual Class Payments. The Administrator will retain amounts equal to their Individual Class Payments in the Net Settlement Amount for distribution to Participating Class Members on a pro rata basis.

3.2.5 To the LWDA and Aggrieved Employees: PAGA Penalties in the amount of \$5,000.00 to be paid from the Gross Settlement Amount, with 75% (\$3,750.00) allocated to the LWDA PAGA Payment and 25% (\$1,250.00) allocated to the Individual PAGA Payments.

3.2.5.1. The Administrator will calculate each Individual PAGA Payment by (a) dividing the amount of the Aggrieved Employees' 25% share of PAGA Penalties \$1,250.00 by the total number of PAGA Pay Periods worked by all Aggrieved Employees during the PAGA Period and (b) multiplying the result by each Aggrieved Employee's PAGA Pay Periods.

3.2.5.2. If the Court approves PAGA Penalties of less than the amount requested, the Administrator will allocate the remainder to the Net Settlement Amount. The Administrator will report the Individual PAGA Payments on IRS 1099 Forms.

3.2.6 In the event that the Court reduces or does not approve the requested Class Counsel Fees Payment and/or Class Litigation Expenses Payment, Class Counsel reserve their right to appeal such order, however, Plaintiff and/or Class Counsel will not request or demand an increase to the Gross Settlement Amount on that basis.

4. SETTLEMENT FUNDING AND PAYMENTS.

4.1. Class Data. Not later than 15 business days after the Court grants Preliminary Approval of the Settlement, PPL will deliver the Class Data to the Administrator, in the form of a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet. To protect Class Members' privacy rights, the Administrator must maintain the Class Data in confidence, use the Class Data only for purposes of this Settlement and for no other purpose, and restrict access to the Class Data to Administrator employees who need access to the Class Data to effect and perform under this Agreement. PPL has a continuing duty to immediately notify Class Counsel if they discover that the Class Data omitted class member identifying information and to provide corrected or updated Class Data as soon as reasonably feasible. Without any extension of the deadline by which PPL must send the Class Data to the Administrator, the Parties and their counsel will expeditiously use best efforts, in good faith, to reconstruct or otherwise resolve any issues related to missing or omitted Class Data.

4.2. Funding of Gross Settlement Amount. Defendants shall fully fund the Gross

Settlement Amount and also fund the amounts necessary to fully pay PPL's share of payroll taxes by transmitting the funds to the Administrator no later than forty-five (45) days after the Effective Date.

- 4.3. Payments from the Gross Settlement Amount. Within 14 days after Defendants fund the Gross Settlement Amount, the Administrator will mail checks for all Individual Class Payments, all Individual PAGA Payments, the LWDA PAGA Payment, the Administration Expenses Payment, the Class Counsel Fees Payment, the Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment, and the Class Representative Service Payment. Disbursement of the Class Counsel Fees Payment, the Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment, and the Class Representative Service Payment shall not precede disbursement of Individual Class Payments and Individual PAGA Payments.

4.3.1 The Administrator will issue checks for the Individual Class Payments and/or Individual PAGA Payments and send them to the Class Members via First Class U.S. Mail, postage prepaid. The face of each check shall prominently state the date (not less than 180 days after the date of mailing) when the check will be voided. The Administrator will cancel all checks not cashed by the void date. The Administrator will send checks for Individual Settlement Payments to all Participating Class Members (including those for whom Class Notice was returned undelivered). The Administrator will send checks for Individual PAGA Payments to all Aggrieved Employees including Non-Participating Class Members who qualify as Aggrieved Employees (including those for whom Class Notice was returned undelivered). The Administrator may send Participating Class Members a single check combining the Individual Class Payment and the Individual PAGA Payment. Before mailing any checks, the Settlement Administrator must update the recipients' mailing addresses using the National Change of Address Database.

4.3.2 The Administrator must conduct a Class Member Address Search for all other Class Members whose checks are returned undelivered without USPS forwarding address. Within 7 days of receiving a returned check, the Administrator must re-mail checks to the USPS forwarding address provided or to an address ascertained through the Class Member Address Search. The Administrator need not take further steps to deliver checks to Class Members whose re-mailed checks are returned as undelivered. The Administrator shall promptly send a replacement check to any Class Member whose original check was lost or misplaced, requested by the Class Member prior to the void date.

4.3.3 For any Class Member whose Individual Class Payment check or Individual PAGA Payment check is uncashed and cancelled after the

void date, the Administrator shall transmit the funds represented by such checks to the California Controller's Unclaimed Property Fund in the name of the Class Member thereby leaving no "unpaid residue" subject to the requirements of California Code of Civil Procedure Section 384, subd. (b).

4.3.4 The payment of Individual Class Payments and Individual PAGA Payments shall not obligate Defendants to confer any additional benefits or make any additional payments to Class Members (such as 401(k) contributions or bonuses) beyond those specified in this Agreement.

4.4. Failure to Fund Taxes. If PPL fails to timely fund the employer side payroll taxes by the deadline stated in Paragraph 4.2, then PCG shall have the right to cure within 20 days. If PCG fails to cure, then Plaintiff may elect to make this Agreement null and void and return the matter to litigation with the Parties in the same status as of the mediation date.

5. **RELEASES OF CLAIMS.** Effective on the date when Defendants fully fund the entire Gross Settlement Amount and PPL funds all employer payroll taxes owed on the Wage Portion of the Individual Class Payments, Plaintiff, and Class Members will release claims against all Released Parties as follows:

5.1. Release by Participating Class Members: All Participating Class Members release Released Parties from all claims that were alleged, or reasonably could have been alleged, based on the Class Period facts stated in the Operative Complaint, including (1) failure to pay minimum wages, (2) failure to pay overtime wages and/or failure to pay overtime at the regular rate of pay, (3) failure to pay wages for accrued paid sick days at the regular rate of pay, (4) failure to provide accurate itemized wage statements, (5) failure to timely pay all earned wage at time of separation, and (6) unfair and unlawful competition. Except as set forth in Section 5.2 of this Agreement, Participating Class Members do not release any other claims, including claims for vested benefits, wrongful termination, violation of the Fair Employment and Housing Act, unemployment insurance, disability, social security, workers' compensation, or claims based on facts occurring outside the Class Period.

5.2. Release by Aggrieved Employees: All Aggrieved Employees are deemed to release the Released Parties from all claims for PAGA penalties that were alleged, or reasonably could have been alleged, based on the PAGA Period facts stated in the Operative Complaint and PAGA Notice.

- 5.3. Plaintiff's Release. Plaintiff as the named Class Representative, for themselves and on behalf of their respective former and present spouses, representatives, agents, heirs, administrators, successors, and assigns generally, agrees to further release each Released Party from any and all claims, transactions, or occurrences that occurred during the Class Period, including, but not limited to: (a) all claims that were, or reasonably could have been, alleged, based on the facts contained, in the Operative Complaint and (b) all PAGA claims that were, or reasonably could have been, alleged based on facts contained in the Operative Complaint or Plaintiff's PAGA Notice, and (c) demands, rights, liabilities, and/or causes of action, of any form whatsoever arising at any time prior to the date that Plaintiff signs this Agreement ("Plaintiff's Release"). Plaintiff's Release does not extend to any claims or actions to enforce this Agreement, or to any claims for vested benefits, unemployment benefits, disability benefits, social security benefits, workers' compensation benefits that arose at any time, or based on occurrences outside the Class Period. Plaintiff acknowledges that Plaintiff may discover facts or law different from, or in addition to, the facts or law that Plaintiff now knows or believes to be true but agrees, nonetheless, that Plaintiff's Release shall be and remain effective in all respects, notwithstanding such different or additional facts or Plaintiff's discovery of them.

- 5.3.1 Plaintiff's Waiver of Rights Under California Civil Code Section 1542. For purposes of Plaintiff's Release, Plaintiff expressly waives and relinquishes the provisions, rights, and benefits, if any, of section 1542 of the California Civil Code, which reads:

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

6. **MOTION FOR PRELIMINARY APPROVAL.** The Parties agree to work diligently and cooperatively to have this Settlement presented to the Court for preliminary approval.

- 6.1. Plaintiff's Responsibilities. Plaintiff will move the Court to grant preliminary approval of this Settlement.
- 6.2. At least seven (7) calendar days before filing, to allow Defense Counsel time to review and comment, Plaintiff will prepare and deliver to Defense Counsel all documents necessary for obtaining Preliminary Approval, including: (i) a draft of the notice, and memorandum in support, of the Motion for Preliminary Approval that includes an analysis of the Settlement under *Dunk/Kullar* and a request for approval of the PAGA Settlement under Labor Code Section 2699, subd. (f)(2)); (ii) a draft proposed Order Granting Preliminary Approval and Approval of PAGA Settlement;

(iii) a draft proposed Class Notice; (iv) a signed declaration from the Administrator attaching its “not to exceed” bid for administering the Settlement and attesting to its willingness to serve; competency; operative procedures for protecting the security of Class Data; amounts of insurance coverage for any data breach, defalcation of funds or other misfeasance; all facts relevant to any actual or potential conflicts of interest with Class Members; and the nature and extent of any financial relationship with Plaintiff, Class Counsel or Defense Counsels; (v) a signed declaration from Plaintiff confirming willingness and competency to serve and disclosing all facts relevant to any actual or potential conflicts of interest with Class Members, and/or the Administrator; (v) a signed declaration from each Class Counsel firm attesting to its competency to represent the Class Members; its timely transmission to the LWDA of all necessary PAGA documents (initial notice of violations (Labor Code section 2699.3, subd. (a)), Operative Complaint (Labor Code section 2699, subd. (1)(1)), this Agreement (Labor Code section 2699, subd. (1)(2)); (vi) a redlined version of the parties’ Agreement showing all modifications made to the Model Agreement ready for filing with the Court; and (vii) all facts relevant to any actual or potential conflict of interest with Class Members and/or the Administrator. Plaintiff further agrees to reasonably consider incorporating the comments from Defense Counsel.

6.3. Plaintiff shall obtain a hearing on a date agreed upon by all counsel, before the Court to request the preliminary approval of the Settlement, and entry of a Preliminary Approval Order: (a) conditionally certifying of the Class for settlement purposes only; (b) preliminarily approving a proposed Settlement; and (c) setting a date for Final Approval.

6.4. Duty to Cooperate. If the Parties disagree on any aspect of the proposed Motion for Preliminary Approval and/or the supporting declarations and documents, the Parties will expeditiously work together, by and through their respective Counsel, by meeting in person or by telephone, and in good faith, to resolve the disagreement. If the Court does not grant Preliminary Approval or conditions Preliminary Approval on any material change to this Agreement, the Parties, by and through their respective Counsel, will expeditiously work together by meeting in person or by telephone, and in good faith, to modify the Agreement and otherwise satisfy the Court’s concerns.

7. SETTLEMENT ADMINISTRATION.

7.1. Selection of Administrator. The Parties have selected Phoenix to serve as the Administrator and verified that, as a condition of appointment, Phoenix agrees to be bound by this Agreement and to perform, as a fiduciary, all duties specified in this Agreement in exchange for the Administration Expenses Payment. The Parties and their Counsel represent that they have no interest or relationship, financial or otherwise, with the Administrator other than a professional relationship arising out of prior experiences administering settlements.

7.2. Employer Identification Number. The Administrator shall have and use its own

Employer Identification Number for purposes of calculating payroll tax withholdings and providing reports state and federal tax authorities.

7.3. Qualified Settlement Fund. The Administrator shall establish a settlement fund that meets the requirements of a Qualified Settlement Fund (“QSF”) under US Treasury Regulation section 468B-1.

7.4. Notice to Class Members.

7.4.1 No later than three (3) business days after receipt of the Class Data, the Administrator shall notify Class Counsel that the list has been received and state the number of Class Members, PAGA Members, Workweeks, and PAGA Pay Periods in the Class Data.

7.4.2 Using best efforts to perform as soon as possible, and in no event later than 14 days after receiving the Class Data, the Administrator will send to all Class Members identified in the Class Data, via first-class United States Postal Service (“USPS”) mail, the Class Notice, if applicable, substantially in the form attached to this Agreement as Exhibit A. The Class Notice shall clearly estimate the dollar amounts of any Individual Class Payment and/or Individual PAGA Payment payable to the Class Member, and the number of Workweeks and PAGA Pay Periods (if applicable) used to calculate these amounts. Before mailing Class Notices, the Administrator shall update Class Member addresses using the National Change of Address database.

7.4.3 Not later than 3 business days after the Administrator’s receipt of any Class Notice returned by the USPS as undelivered, the Administrator shall re-mail the Class Notice using any forwarding address provided by the USPS. If the USPS does not provide a forwarding address, the Administrator shall conduct a Class Member Address Search, and re-mail the Class Notice to the most current address obtained. The Administrator has no obligation to make further attempts to locate or send Class Notice to Class Members whose Class Notice is returned by the USPS a second time.

7.4.4 The deadlines for Class Members’ written objections, Challenges to Workweeks and/or PAGA Pay Periods, and Requests for Exclusion will be extended an additional 14 days beyond the 45 days otherwise provided in the Class Notice for all Class Members whose notice is re-mailed. The Administrator will inform the Class Member of the extended deadline with the re-mailed Class Notice.

7.4.5 If the Administrator, Defense Counsel or Class Counsel is contacted by or otherwise discovers any persons who believe they should have been included in the Class Data and should have received Class Notice, the

Parties will expeditiously meet and confer in person or by telephone, and in good faith, in an effort to agree on whether to include them as Class Members. If the Parties agree, such persons will be Class Members entitled to the same rights as other Class Members, and the Administrator will send, via email or overnight delivery, a Class Notice requiring them to exercise options under this Agreement not later than 14 days after receipt of Class Notice, or the deadline dates in the Class Notice, which ever are later.

7.5. Requests for Exclusion (Opt-Outs).

- 7.5.1 Class Members who wish to exclude themselves (opt-out of) the Class Settlement must send the Administrator, by fax, email, or mail, a signed written Request for Exclusion not later than the Response Deadline (plus an additional 14 days for Class Members whose Class Notice is re-mailed). A Request for Exclusion is a letter from a Class Member or his/her representative that reasonably communicates the Class Member's election to be excluded from the Settlement and includes the Class Member's name, address and email address or telephone number. To be valid, a Request for Exclusion must be timely faxed, emailed, or postmarked by the Response Deadline.
- 7.5.2 The Administrator cannot reject a Request for Exclusion as invalid because it fails to contain all the information specified in the Class Notice. The Administrator will accept any Request for Exclusion as valid if the Administrator can reasonably ascertain the identity of the person as a Class Member and the Class Member's desire to be excluded. If the Administrator has reason to question the authenticity of a Request for Exclusion, the Administrator may demand additional proof of the Class Member's identity. The Administrator's determination of validity and/or authenticity will be final and not appealable or otherwise susceptible to challenge.
- 7.5.3 Each Class Member who does not submit a timely and valid Request for Exclusion is deemed to be a Participating Class Member under this Agreement, entitled to all benefits and bound by all terms and conditions of the Settlement, including the releases under Paragraphs 5.1 and 5.2 of this Agreement, regardless of whether the Participating Class Member actually receives the Class Notice or objects to the Settlement.
- 7.5.4 Each Class Member who submits a valid and timely Request for Exclusion is a Non-Participating Class Member and shall not receive an Individual Class Payment or have the right to object to the class action components of the Settlement. Because future PAGA claims are subject to claim preclusion upon entry of the Judgment, Non-Participating Class

Members who are Aggrieved Employees are deemed to release the claims identified in Paragraph 5.2 of this Agreement and are eligible for an Individual PAGA Payment.

- 7.6. Challenges to Calculation of Workweeks. Each Class Member will have until the Response Deadline (plus an additional 14 days for Class Members whose Class Notice is re-mailed) to challenge the number of Class Workweeks and PAGA Pay Periods (if any) allocated to the Class Member in the Class Notice. The Class Member may challenge the allocation by communicating with the Administrator via fax, email or mail. The Administrator must encourage the challenging Class Member to submit supporting documentation. In the absence of any contrary documentation, the Administrator is entitled to presume that the Workweeks contained in the Class Notice are correct so long as they are consistent with the Class Data. The Administrator's determination of each Class Member's allocation of Workweeks and/or PAGA Pay Periods shall be final and not appealable or otherwise susceptible to challenge. The Administrator shall promptly provide copies of all challenges to calculation of Workweeks and/or PAGA Pay Periods to Defense Counsel and Class Counsel and the Administrator's determination the challenges.

7.7. Objections to Settlement.

7.7.1 Only Participating Class Members may object to the class action components of the Settlement and/or this Agreement (e.g., contesting the fairness of the Settlement, and/or amounts requested for the Class Counsel Fees Payment, Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment and/or Class Representative Service Payment).

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

7.7.3 Non-Participating Class Members have no right to object to the Settlement.

- 7.8. Administrator Duties. The Administrator has a duty to perform or observe all tasks to be performed or observed by the Administrator contained in this Agreement or otherwise.

7.8.1 Website, Email Address and Toll-Free Number. The Administrator will establish and maintain and use an internet website to post information of interest to Class Members including the date, time and location for the

Final Approval Hearing and copies of the Settlement Agreement, the Preliminary Approval Order, the Class Notice, the Motion for Final Approval, the Final Approval and the Judgment. The Administrator will also maintain and monitor an email address and a toll-free telephone number to receive Class Member calls, faxes, and emails.

- 7.8.2 Requests for Exclusion (Opt-outs) and Exclusion List. The Administrator will promptly review on a rolling basis Requests for Exclusion to ascertain their validity. Not later than 5 days after the expiration of the deadline for submitting Requests for Exclusion, the Administrator shall email a list to Class Counsel and Defense Counsel containing (a) the names and other identifying information of Class Members who have timely submitted valid Requests for Exclusion (“Exclusion List”); (b) the names and other identifying information of Class Members who have submitted invalid Requests for Exclusion; (c) copies of all Requests for Exclusion from Settlement submitted (whether valid or invalid).
- 7.8.3 Weekly Reports. The Administrator must, on a weekly basis, provide written reports to Class Counsel and Defense Counsel that, among other things, tally the number of: Class Notices mailed or re-mailed, Class Notices returned undelivered, Requests for Exclusion (whether valid or invalid) received, objections received, challenges to Workweeks and/or PAGA Pay Periods received and/or resolved, and checks mailed for Individual Class Payments and Individual PAGA Payments (“Weekly Report”). The Weekly Reports must include the Administrator’s assessment of the validity of Requests for Exclusion and attach copies of all Requests for Exclusion and objections received.
- 7.8.4 Workweek and/or PAGA Pay Period Challenges. The Administrator has the authority to address and make final decisions consistent with the terms of this Agreement on all Class Member challenges over the calculation of Workweeks and/or PAGA Pay Periods. The Administrator’s decision shall be final and not appealable or otherwise susceptible to challenge.
- 7.8.5 Administrator’s Declaration. Not later than 14 days before the date by which Plaintiff is required to file the Motion for Final Approval of the Settlement, the Administrator will provide to Class Counsel and Defense Counsel, a signed declaration suitable for filing in Court attesting to its due diligence and compliance with all of its obligations under this Agreement, including, but not limited to, its mailing of Class Notice, the Class Notices returned as undelivered, the re-mailing of Class Notices, attempts to locate Class Members, the total number of Requests for Exclusion from Settlement it received (both valid or invalid), the number

of written objections and attach the Exclusion List. The Administrator will supplement its declaration as needed or requested by the Parties and/or the Court. Plaintiff is responsible for filing the Administrator's declaration(s) in Court.

7.8.6 Final Report by Settlement Administrator. Within 10 days after the Administrator disburses all funds in the Gross Settlement Amount, the Administrator will provide Class Counsel and Defense Counsel with a final report detailing its disbursements by employee identification number only of all payments made under this Agreement. At least 15 days before any deadline set by the Court, the Administrator will prepare, and submit to Class Counsel and Defense Counsel, a signed declaration suitable for filing in Court attesting to its disbursement of all payments required under this Agreement. Plaintiff is responsible for filing the Administrator's declaration in Court.

8. **MOTION FOR FINAL APPROVAL.** Plaintiff will file in Court, a motion for final approval of the Settlement that includes a request for approval of the PAGA settlement under Labor Code section 2699, former subd. (l), a Proposed Final Approval Order and a proposed Judgment (collectively "Motion for Final Approval"). Plaintiff shall provide drafts of these documents to Defense Counsel not later than seven (7) calendar days prior to filing the Motion for Final Approval. The Parties, by and through their respective Counsel, will expeditiously meet and confer in person or by telephone, and in good faith, to resolve any disagreements concerning the Motion for Final Approval.

8.1. Response to Objections. Each Party retains the right to respond to any objection raised by a Participating Class Member, including the right to file responsive documents in Court no later than five (5) court days prior to the Final Approval Hearing, or as otherwise ordered or accepted by the Court.

8.2. Duty to Cooperate. If the Court does not grant Final Approval or conditions Final Approval on any material change to the Settlement (including, but not limited to, the scope of release to be granted by Class Members), the Parties will expeditiously work together in good faith to address the Court's concerns by revising the Agreement as necessary to obtain Final Approval. The Court's decision to award less than the amounts requested for the Class Representative Service Payment, Class Counsel Fees Payment, Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment, and/or Administration Expenses Payment shall not constitute a material modification to the Agreement within the meaning of this paragraph.

8.3. Continuing Jurisdiction of the Court. The Parties agree that, after entry of Judgment, the Court will retain jurisdiction over the Parties, Action, and the Settlement solely for purposes of (i) enforcing this Agreement and/or Judgment, (ii) addressing settlement administration matters, and (iii) addressing such post-Judgment matters as are permitted by law.

- 8.4. Waiver of Right to Appeal. Provided the Judgment is consistent with the terms and conditions of this Agreement, specifically including the Class Counsel Fees Payment and Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment reflected set forth in this Settlement, the Parties, their respective counsel, and all Participating Class Members who did not object to the Settlement as provided in this Agreement, waive all rights to appeal from the Judgment, including all rights to post-judgment and appellate proceedings, the right to file motions to vacate judgment, motions for new trial, extraordinary writs, and appeals. The waiver of appeal does not include any waiver of the right to oppose such motions, writs, or appeals. If an objector appeals the Judgment, the Parties' obligations to perform under this Agreement will be suspended until such time as the appeal is finally resolved and the Judgment becomes final, except as to matters that do not affect the amount of the Net Settlement Amount.
- 8.5. Appellate Court Orders to Vacate, Reverse, or Materially Modify Judgment. If the reviewing Court vacates, reverses, or modifies the Judgment in a manner that requires a material modification of this Agreement (including, but not limited to, the scope of release to be granted by Class Members), this Agreement shall be null and void. The Parties shall nevertheless expeditiously work together in good faith to address the appellate court's concerns and to obtain Final Approval and entry of Judgment. An appellate decision to vacate, reverse, or modify the Court's award of the Class Representative Service Payment or any payments to Class Counsel shall not constitute a material modification of the Judgment within the meaning of this paragraph, as long as the Gross Settlement Amount remains unchanged.
9. **AMENDED JUDGMENT.** If any amended judgment is required under Code of Civil Procedure section 384, the Parties will work together in good faith to jointly submit a proposed amended judgment.
10. **ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS.**
- 10.1. No Admission of Liability, Class Certification or Representative Manageability for Other Purposes. This Agreement represents a compromise and settlement of highly disputed claims. Nothing in this Agreement is intended or should be construed as an admission by Defendants that any of the allegations in the Operative Complaint have merit or that Defendants have any liability for any claims asserted; nor should it be intended or construed as an admission by Plaintiff that Defendants' defenses in the Actions have merit. The Parties agree that class certification and representative treatment is for purposes of this Settlement only. If, for any reason the Court does grant Preliminary Approval, Final Approval or enter Judgment, Defendants reserve the right to contest certification of any class for any reasons, and Defendants reserve all available defenses to the claims in the Actions, and Plaintiff reserves the right to move for class certification on any grounds available and to contest Defendants' defenses. The Settlement, this Agreement, and Parties' willingness to settle the Action will have no bearing on, and will not be admissible in connection with, any litigation

- (except for proceedings to enforce or effectuate the Settlement and this Agreement).
- 10.2. Confidentiality Prior to Preliminary Approval. The Parties separately agree that, until the Motion for Preliminary Approval of Settlement is filed, they and each of them will not disclose, disseminate and/or publicize, or cause or permit another person to disclose, disseminate or publicize, any of the terms of the Agreement directly or indirectly, specifically or generally, to any person, corporation, association, government agency, or other entity except: (1) to the Parties' attorneys, accountants, or spouses, all of whom will be instructed to keep this Agreement confidential; (2) counsel in a related matter; (3) to the extent necessary to report income to appropriate taxing authorities; (4) in response to a court order or subpoena; or (5) in response to an inquiry or subpoena issued by a state or federal government agency. Each Party agrees to immediately notify each other Party of any judicial or agency order, inquiry, or subpoena seeking such information. The Parties separately agree not to, directly or indirectly, initiate any conversation or other communication, before the filing of the Motion for Preliminary Approval, any with third party regarding this Agreement or the matters giving rise to this Agreement except to respond only that "the matter was resolved," or words to that effect. This paragraph does not restrict Class Counsel's communications with Class Members in accordance with Class Counsel's ethical obligations owed to Class Members.
- 10.3. No Solicitation. The Parties separately agree that they and their respective counsel and employees will not solicit any Class Member to opt out of or object to the Settlement, or appeal from the Judgment. Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to restrict Class Counsel's ability to communicate with Class Members in accordance with Class Counsel's ethical obligations owed to Class Members.
- 10.4. Integrated Agreement. Upon execution by all Parties and their counsel, this Agreement together with its attached exhibits shall constitute the entire agreement between the Parties relating to the Settlement, superseding any and all oral representations, warranties, covenants, or inducements made to or by any Party.
- 10.5. Attorney Authorization. The Parties separately warrant and represent that they have authorized their respective Counsel to take all appropriate action required or permitted to be taken pursuant to this Agreement to effectuate its terms, and to execute any other documents reasonably required to effectuate the terms of this Agreement including any amendments to this Agreement.
- 10.6. Cooperation. The Parties and their counsel will cooperate with each other and use their best efforts, in good faith, to implement the Settlement by, among other things, modifying the Settlement Agreement, submitting supplemental evidence and supplementing points and authorities as requested by the Court. In the event the Parties are unable to agree upon the form or content of any document necessary to implement the Settlement, or on any modification of the Agreement that may become necessary to implement the Settlement, the Parties will seek the assistance of a

mediator and/or the Court for resolution.

- 10.7. No Prior Assignments. The Parties separately represent and warrant that they have not directly or indirectly assigned, transferred, encumbered, or purported to assign, transfer, or encumber to any person or entity and portion of any liability, claim, demand, action, cause of action, or right released and discharged by the Party in this Settlement.
- 10.8. No Tax Advice. The Parties are not providing any advice regarding taxes or taxability, nor shall anything in this Settlement be relied upon as such within the meaning of United States Treasury Department Circular 230 (31 CFR Part 10, as amended) or otherwise.
- 10.9. Modification of Agreement. This Agreement, and all parts of it, may be amended, modified, changed, or waived only by an express written instrument signed by all Parties or their representatives. After the Preliminary Approval Order is entered, such amendment, modification, change, or waiver also requires Court approval.
- 10.10. Agreement Binding on Successors. This Agreement will be binding upon, and inure to the benefit of, the successors of each of the Parties.
- 10.11. Applicable Law. The laws of the State of California govern all terms and conditions of this Agreement and its exhibits, without regard to any conflict of law or choice of law principles.
- 10.12. Cooperation in Drafting. The Parties have cooperated in the drafting and preparation of this Agreement. This Agreement will not be construed against any Party on the basis that the Party was the drafter or participated in the drafting.
- 10.13. Confidentiality. To the extent permitted by law, all agreements made, and orders entered during Action and in this Agreement relating to the confidentiality of information shall survive the execution of this Agreement.
- 10.14. Use and Return of Class Data. Information provided to Class Counsel pursuant to Cal. Evid. Code §1152, and all copies and summaries of the Class Data provided to Class Counsel by Defendants in connection with the mediation, other settlement negotiations, or in connection with the Settlement, may be used only with respect to this Settlement, and no other purpose, and may not be used in any way that violates any existing contractual agreement, statute, or rule of court. Not later than 90 days after the date when the Court discharges the Administrator's obligation to provide a Declaration confirming the final pay out of all Settlement funds, Plaintiff shall destroy, all paper and electronic versions of Class Data received from Defendants unless, prior to the Court's discharge of the Administrator's obligation, Defendants makes a written request to Class Counsel for the return, rather than the destructions, of Class Data.
- 10.15. Headings. The descriptive heading of any section or paragraph of this Agreement is inserted for convenience of reference only and does not constitute a part of this

Agreement.

- 10.16. Calendar Days. Unless otherwise noted, all reference to “days” in this Agreement shall be to calendar days. In the event any date or deadline set forth in this Agreement falls on a weekend or federal legal holiday, such date or deadline shall be on the first business day thereafter.
- 10.17. Notice. All notices, demands or other communications between the Parties in connection with this Agreement will be in writing and deemed to have been duly given as of the third business day after mailing by United States mail, or the day sent by email or messenger, to the other Party’s respective counsel of record.
- 10.18. Execution in Counterparts. This Agreement may be executed in one or more counterparts by facsimile, electronically (e.g., DocuSign), or email which for purposes of this Agreement shall be accepted as an original. All executed counterparts and each of them will be deemed to be one and the same instrument if counsel for the Parties will exchange between themselves signed counterparts. Any executed counterpart will be admissible in evidence to prove the existence and contents of this Agreement.
- 10.19. Stay of Litigation. The Parties agree that upon the execution of this Agreement the litigation shall be stayed, except to effectuate the terms of this Agreement. The Parties further agree that upon the signing of this Agreement that pursuant to CCP section 583.330 to extend the date to bring a case to trial under CCP section 583.310 for the entire period of this settlement process.
- 10.20. Bankruptcy. In the event that any Defendant files for bankruptcy prior to the final disbursement of the Gross Settlement Amount, Plaintiff shall be permitted to file the claims asserted in the Action in the bankruptcy proceedings, and such claims are not limited by the amount of the Gross Settlement Amount as set forth in this Settlement Agreement. If any settlement funds have been disbursed as provided in this agreement as of the date Defendant files for bankruptcy, Defendant shall not be entitled to a return of such funds from the recipients. However, Defendant will be entitled to claim a credit for any previously disbursed funds in the bankruptcy proceedings.
- 10.21. Enforcement Action. In the event that one or more of the Parties institutes any legal action or other proceeding against any other Party or Parties to enforce the provisions of this Settlement or to declare rights and/or obligations under this Settlement, the successful Party or Parties will be entitled to recover from the unsuccessful Party or Parties reasonable attorney’s fees and costs, including expert witness fees in connection with any enforcement actions.

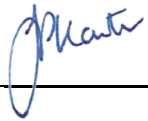
[Signature form is below.]

Dated: _____

QIANGAO LIU

Dated: July 14, 2025

PUBLIC CONSULTING GROUP LLC

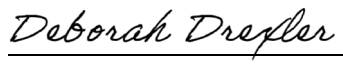


Name: Jon Kanter

Title: Treasurer and CFO

Dated: July 8, 2025

PUBLIC PARTNERSHIPS LLC



Name: Deborah Drexler

Title: General Counsel

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Dated: QIANGAO LIU
Dated: July 14, 2025

Dated: _____

QIANGAO LIU
QIANGAO LIU

PUBLIC CONSULTING GROUP LLC

Name: _____

Title: _____

Dated: July 8, 2025

PUBLIC PARTNERSHIPS LLC

Deborah Drexler

Name: Deborah Drexler

Title: General Counsel

[Remainder of page intentionally left blank.]

APPROVED AS TO FORM ONLY:

Dated: _____

LAVI & EBRAHIMIAN, LLP

Joseph Lavi, Esq.
Vincent Granberry, Esq.

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

Dated: July 14, 2025

MORGAN, LEWIS, & BOCKIUS LLP



Carrie A. Gonell
Attorneys for Defendant Public Consulting
Group LLC

Dated: _____

**BUCHANAN, INGERSOLL & ROONEY
LLP**

Attorneys for Defendant Public Partnerships,
LLC

APPROVED AS TO FORM ONLY:

Dated: 07/14/2025

LAVI & EBRAHIMIAN, LLP

Joseph Lavi

Joseph Lavi, Esq.
Vincent Granberry, Esq.

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

Dated: _____

MORGAN, LEWIS, & BOCKIUS LLP

Attorneys for Defendant Public Consulting
Group LLC

Dated: _____

**BUCHANAN, INGERSOLL & ROONEY
LLP**

Attorneys for Defendant Public Partnerships,
LLC

APPROVED AS TO FORM ONLY:

Dated: _____

LAVI & EBRAHIMIAN, LLP

Joseph Lavi, Esq.
Vincent Granberry, Esq.

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

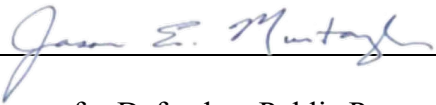
Dated: _____

MORGAN, LEWIS, & BOCKIUS LLP

Attorneys for Defendant Public Consulting
Group LLC

Dated: July 14, 2025

**BUCHANAN, INGERSOLL & ROONEY
LLP**



Attorneys for Defendant Public Partnerships,
LLC

**COURT APPROVED NOTICE OF CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT AND HEARING
DATE FOR FINAL COURT APPROVAL**

LIU v. PUBLIC CONSULTING GROUP, LLC, et al. | Case Nos. 23STCV25100 and
23STCV30830

***The Superior Court for the State of California authorized this Notice. Read it carefully!
It's not junk mail, spam, an advertisement, or solicitation by a lawyer. You are not being sued.
Your legal rights may be affected whether you act or not.***

You may be eligible to receive money from an employee class action lawsuit and a lawsuit seeking penalties under the California Private Attorneys General Act (“PAGA”), both filed against Defendants Public Partnerships LLC (“PPL”) and Public Consulting Group LLC (“PCG”) (together, “Defendants”), for alleged wage and hour violations (“Actions”). The Actions were filed by PPL’s former employee Quiangao Liu (“Plaintiff”) and seek (1) payment of back wages and other relief for a class of non-exempt hourly employees who worked for PPL in California during the Class Period (October 13, 2019 through the date of preliminary approval of Settlement, or through the date the total number of workweeks reaches Two Thousand Seven Hundred Fifty (2,750), whichever occurs first) and (2) penalties under PAGA for all non-exempt hourly employees who worked for PPL in California during the PAGA Period (October 13, 2022 through the date of preliminary approval of Settlement, or through the date the total number of workweeks reaches Two Thousand Seven Hundred Fifty (2,750), whichever occurs first). For the purposes of this Notice, the Plaintiff and Defendants together shall be referred to as the “Parties.”

The proposed Settlement has two main parts: (1) a Class Settlement requiring Defendants to fund Individual Class Payments, and (2) a PAGA Settlement requiring Defendants to fund Individual PAGA Payments and pay penalties to the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency (“LWDA”).

Based on PPL’s records, and the Parties’ current assumptions, **your Individual Class Payment is estimated to be \$ [REDACTED] (less withholding) and your Individual PAGA Payment is estimated to be \$ [REDACTED]**. The actual amount you may receive likely will be different and will depend on a number of factors described below. (If no amount is stated for your Individual PAGA Payment, then according to PPL’s records you are not eligible for an Individual PAGA Payment under the Settlement because you didn’t work during the PAGA Period.)

The above estimates are based on PPL’s records showing that **you worked [REDACTED] workweeks** during the Class Period and **you worked [REDACTED] pay periods** during the PAGA Period. If you believe that you worked more workweeks or pay periods during either period, you can submit a challenge by the deadline date. See Section 4 of this Notice.

The Court has already preliminarily approved the proposed Settlement and approved this Notice. The Court has not yet decided whether to grant final approval. Your legal rights are affected whether you act or do not act. Read this Notice carefully. You will be deemed to have carefully read and understood it. At the Final Approval Hearing, the Court will decide whether to finally

approve the Settlement and how much of the Settlement will be paid to Plaintiff and Plaintiff's attorneys ("Class Counsel"). The Court will also decide whether to enter a judgment that requires Defendants to make payments under the Settlement and requires Class Members and Aggrieved Employees to give up their rights to assert certain claims against Defendants.

If you worked for PPL during the Class Period and/or the PAGA Period, you have two basic options under the Settlement:

- (1) **Do Nothing.** You don't have to do anything to participate in the proposed Settlement and be eligible for an Individual Class Payment and/or an Individual PAGA Payment. As a Participating Class Member, though, you will give up your right to assert Class Period wage claims and PAGA Period penalty claims against Defendants.
- (2) **Opt-Out of the Class Settlement.** You can exclude yourself from the Class Settlement (opt-out) by submitting the written Request for Exclusion or otherwise notifying the Administrator in writing. If you opt-out of the Settlement, you will not receive an Individual Class Payment. You will, however, preserve your right to personally pursue Class Period wage claims against either Defendant, and, if you are an Aggrieved Employee, remain eligible for an Individual PAGA Payment. You cannot opt-out of the PAGA portion of the proposed Settlement.

Neither Defendant will not retaliate against you for any actions you take with respect to the proposed Settlement.

SUMMARY OF YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS AND OPTIONS IN THIS SETTLEMENT

You Don't Have to Do Anything to Participate in the Settlement	If you do nothing, you will be a Participating Class Member, eligible for an Individual Class Payment and an Individual PAGA Payment (if any). In exchange, you will give up your right to assert the wage claims against Defendants that are covered by this Settlement (Released Claims).
You Can Opt-out of the Class Settlement but not the PAGA Settlement The Opt-out Deadline is [REDACTED]	If you don't want to fully participate in the proposed Settlement, you can opt-out of the Class Settlement by sending the Administrator a written Request for Exclusion. Once excluded, you will be a Non-Participating Class Member and no longer eligible for an Individual Class Payment. Non-Participating Class Members cannot object to any portion of the proposed Settlement. See Section 6 of this Notice. You cannot opt-out of the PAGA portion of the proposed Settlement. Defendants must pay Individual PAGA Payments to all Aggrieved Employees and the Aggrieved Employees must give up their rights to pursue Released Claims (defined below).

Participating Class Members Can Object to the Class Settlement but not the PAGA Settlement Written Objections Must be Submitted by [REDACTED]	All Class Members who do not opt-out (“Participating Class Members”) can object to any aspect of the proposed Settlement. The Court’s decision whether to finally approve the Settlement will include a determination of how much will be paid to Class Counsel and Plaintiff who pursued the Action on behalf of the Class. You are not personally responsible for any payments to Class Counsel or Plaintiff, but every dollar paid to Class Counsel and Plaintiff reduces the overall amount paid to Participating Class Members. You can object to the amounts requested by Class Counsel or Plaintiff if you think they are unreasonable. See Section 7 of this Notice.
You Can Participate in the [REDACTED] Final Approval Hearing	The Court’s Final Approval Hearing is scheduled to take place on [REDACTED]. You don’t have to attend but you do have the right to appear (or hire an attorney to appear on your behalf at your own cost), in person, by telephone or by using the Court’s virtual appearance platform. Participating Class Members can verbally object to the Settlement at the Final Approval Hearing. See Section 8 of this Notice.
You Can Challenge the Calculation of Your Workweeks/Pay Periods Written Challenges Must be Submitted by [REDACTED]	The amount of your Individual Class Payment and PAGA Payment (if any) depend on how many workweeks you worked at least one day during the Class Period and how many Pay Periods you worked at least one day during the PAGA Period, respectively. The number Class Period Workweeks and number of PAGA Period Pay Periods you worked according to PPL’s records is stated on the first page of this Notice. If you disagree with either of these numbers, you must challenge it by [REDACTED]. See Section 4 of this Notice.

1. WHAT IS THE ACTION ABOUT?

Plaintiff is a former employee of PPL. The Action accuses PPL (and PCG) of violating California labor laws by failing to pay minimum wages, overtime wages, wages for accrued paid sick days, timely pay wages during employment, wages due upon termination, and reimbursable expenses and failing to provide accurate itemized wage statements. Based on the same claims, Plaintiff has also asserted a claim for civil penalties under the California Private Attorneys General Act (Labor Code §§ 2698, et seq.) (“PAGA”). A PAGA action is a form of representative action that allows employee plaintiffs to act on behalf of the government as agents of the state’s labor law enforcement agencies. By acting as a private attorney general, an “aggrieved employee” who has been affected by at least one Labor Code violation committed by their employer can use a PAGA action as a means to collect civil penalties for those violations. 75% of any collected penalties go to the state’s Labor and Workforce Development Agency (“LWDA”), and the remaining 25% of penalties are distributed evenly among all aggrieved employees.

2. WHAT DOES IT MEAN THAT THE ACTION HAS SETTLED?

So far, the Court has made no determination whether Defendants or Plaintiff is correct on the merits. In the meantime, Plaintiff and Defendants hired an experienced, neutral mediator in an effort to resolve the Action by negotiating to end the case by agreement (settle the case) rather than continuing the expensive and time-consuming process of litigation. The negotiations were successful. By signing a lengthy written settlement agreement (“Agreement”) and agreeing to jointly ask the Court to enter a judgment ending the Action and enforcing the Agreement, Plaintiff and Defendants have negotiated a proposed Settlement that is subject to the Court’s Final Approval. Each Defendant denies that it has done anything wrong and also denies that it owes any wages, restitution, penalties, or other damages. Both sides agree the proposed Settlement is a compromise of disputed claims and should not be construed as an admission of liability on the part of Defendants which expressly denies all liability and does not admit any violations or concede the merit of any claims.

Plaintiff and Class Counsel strongly believe the Settlement is a good deal for you because they believe that: (1) Defendants have agreed to pay a fair, reasonable and adequate amount considering the strength of the claims and the risks and uncertainties of continued litigation; and (2) Settlement is in the best interests of the Class Members and Aggrieved Employees. The Court preliminarily approved the proposed Settlement as fair, reasonable, and adequate, authorized this Notice, and scheduled a hearing to determine Final Approval.

3. WHAT ARE THE IMPORTANT TERMS OF THE PROPOSED SETTLEMENT?

- a. Defendants Will Pay \$100,000.00 as the Gross Settlement Amount (Gross Settlement). Defendants have agreed to deposit the Gross Settlement into an account controlled by the Administrator of the Settlement. The Administrator will use the Gross Settlement to pay the Individual Class Payments, Individual PAGA Payments, Class Representative Service Payment, Class Counsel’s attorney’s fees and expenses, the Administrator’s expenses, and penalties to be paid to the LWDA. Assuming the Court grants Final Approval, Defendants will fund the Gross Settlement not more than 14 days after the Judgment entered by the Court becomes final. The Judgment will be final on the date the Court enters Judgment, or a later date if Participating Class Members object to the proposed Settlement or the Judgment is appealed.
- b. Court Approved Deductions from Gross Settlement. At the Final Approval Hearing, Plaintiff and/or Class Counsel will ask the Court to approve the following deductions from the Gross Settlement, the amounts of which will be decided by the Court at the Final Approval Hearing:

- i. Up to \$35,000.00 (35% of the Gross Settlement) to Class Counsel for attorneys' fees and up to \$15,000.00 for their litigation expenses. To date, Class Counsel have worked and incurred expenses on the Action without payment.
- ii. Up to \$8,500.00 as a Class Representative Award for filing the Action, working with Class Counsel and representing the Class. A Class Representative Award will be the only monies Plaintiff will receive other than Plaintiff's Individual Class Payment and any Individual PAGA Payment.
- iii. Up to \$3,500.00 to the Administrator for services administering the Settlement.
- iv. Up to \$5,000.00 for PAGA Penalties, allocated 75% to the LWDA PAGA Payment and 25% in Individual PAGA Payments to the Aggrieved Employees based on their PAGA Period Pay Periods.

Participating Class Members have the right to object to any of these deductions. The Court will consider all objections.

- c. Net Settlement Distributed to Class Members. After making the above deductions in amounts approved by the Court, the Administrator will distribute the rest of the Gross Settlement (the "Net Settlement") by making Individual Class Payments to Participating Class Members based on their Class Period Workweeks.
- d. Taxes Owed on Payments to Class Members. The Settlement shall be broken down as follows: 10% ("Wage Portion") of each Individual Class Payment to taxable wages and 90% ("Non-Wage Portion") to penalties and interest. The Wage Portion is subject to withholding and will be reported on IRS W-2 Forms. PPL will separately pay employer payroll taxes it owes on the Wage Portion. The Individual PAGA Payments are counted as penalties rather than wages for tax purposes. The Administrator will report the Individual PAGA Payments and the Non-Wage Portions of the Individual Class Payments on IRS 1099 Forms.

Although Plaintiff and Defendants have agreed to these allocations, neither side is giving you any advice on whether your Payments are taxable or how much you might owe in taxes. You are responsible for paying all taxes (including penalties and interest on back taxes) on any Payments received from the proposed Settlement. You should consult a tax advisor if you have any questions about the tax consequences of the proposed Settlement.

- e. Need to Promptly Cash Payment Checks. The front of every check issued for Individual Class Payments and Individual PAGA Payments will show the date when the check expires (the void date). If you don't cash it by the void date, your check will be automatically cancelled, and the monies will be deposited with the

California Controller's Unclaimed Property Fund in your name. If the monies represented by your check are sent to the Controller's Unclaimed Property, you should consult the rules of the Fund for instructions on how to retrieve your money.

- f. Requests for Exclusion from the Class Settlement (Opt-Outs). You will be treated as a Participating Class Member, participating fully in the Class Settlement, unless you notify the Administrator in writing, not later than 45 calendar days after the Administrator mails Notice ("Response Deadline"), that you wish to opt-out. The easiest way to notify the Administrator is to send a written and signed Request for Exclusion by the Response Deadline. The Request for Exclusion should be a letter from a Class Member or his/her representative setting forth a Class Member's name, present address, telephone number, and a simple statement electing to be excluded from the Settlement. Excluded Class Members (i.e., Non-Participating Class Members) will not receive Individual Class Payments but will preserve their rights to personally pursue wage and hour claims against either Defendant.
- g. You cannot opt-out of the PAGA portion of the Settlement. Class Members who exclude themselves from the Class Settlement (Non-Participating Class Members) remain eligible for Individual PAGA Payments and are required to give up their right to assert PAGA claims against Defendants based on the PAGA Period facts alleged in the Action.
- h. The Proposed Settlement Will be Void if the Court Denies Final Approval. It is possible the Court will decline to grant Final Approval of the Settlement or decline enter a Judgment. It is also possible the Court will enter a Judgment that is reversed on appeal. Plaintiff and Defendants have agreed that, in either case, the Settlement will be void: Defendants will not pay any money and Class Members will not release any claims against Defendants.
- i. Administrator. The Court has appointed a neutral company, Phoenix Class Action Administration Solutions (the "Administrator") to send this Notice, calculate and make payments, and process Class Members' Requests for Exclusion. The Administrator will also decide Class Member Challenges over Workweeks, mail and re-mail settlement checks and tax forms, and perform other tasks necessary to administer the Settlement. The Administrator's contact information is contained in Section 9 of this Notice.
- j. Participating Class Members' Release. After the Judgment is final and Defendants have fully funded the Gross Settlement and PPL has separately paid all employer payroll taxes, Participating Class Members will be legally barred from asserting any of the claims released under the Settlement. This means that unless you opted out by validly excluding yourself from the Class Settlement, you cannot sue, continue to sue, or be part of any other lawsuit against either Defendant or related entities for wages based on the Class Period facts and PAGA penalties based on PAGA Period facts, as alleged in the Action and resolved by this Settlement.

The Participating Class Members will be bound by the following release:

All Participating Class Members, on behalf of themselves and their respective former and present representatives, agents, attorneys, heirs, administrators, successors, and assigns, release Released Parties from (i) all claims that were alleged, or reasonably could have been alleged, based on the Class Period facts stated in the Operative Complaint. Except as set forth in Section 5.2 of the Settlement Agreement, Participating Class Members do not release any other claims, including claims for vested benefits, wrongful termination, violation of the Fair Employment and Housing Act, unemployment insurance, disability, social security, workers' compensation, or claims based on facts occurring outside the Class Period.

- k. Aggrieved Employees' PAGA Release. After the Court's judgment is final, and Defendants have fully funded the Gross Settlement and PPL has separately paid all employer payroll taxes, all Aggrieved Employees will be barred from asserting PAGA claims against either Defendant, whether or not they exclude themselves from the Settlement. This means that all Aggrieved Employees, including those who are Participating Class Members and those who opt-out of the Class Settlement, cannot sue, continue to sue, or participate in any other PAGA claim against Defendants or their related entities based on the PAGA Period facts alleged in the Action and resolved by this Settlement.

The Aggrieved Employees' Releases for Participating and Non-Participating Class Members are as follows:

All Participating and Non-Participating Class Members who are Aggrieved Employees are deemed to release, on behalf of themselves and their respective former and present representatives, agents, attorneys, heirs, administrators, successors, and assigns, the Released Parties, from all claims for PAGA penalties that were alleged, or reasonably could have been alleged, based on the PAGA Period facts stated in the Operative Complaint, and the PAGA Notice.

4. HOW WILL THE ADMINISTRATOR CALCULATE MY PAYMENT?

- a. Individual Class Payments. The Administrator will calculate Individual Class Payments by (a) dividing the Net Settlement Amount by the total number of Workweeks worked by all Participating Class Members, and (b) multiplying the result by the number of Workweeks worked by each individual Participating Class Member.
- b. Individual PAGA Payments. The Administrator will calculate Individual PAGA Payments by (a) dividing \$1,250.00 by the total number of PAGA Period Pay Periods worked by all Aggrieved Employees and (b) multiplying the result by the number of PAGA Period Pay Periods worked by each individual Aggrieved

Employee.

- c. Workweek/Pay Period Challenges. The number of Class Workweeks you worked during the Class Period and the number of Pay Periods you worked during the PAGA Period, as recorded in PPL's records, are stated on the first page of this Notice. You have until [REDACTED] to challenge the number of Workweeks and/or Pay Periods credited to you. You can submit your challenge by signing and sending a letter to the Administrator via mail, email, or fax. Section 9 of this Notice has the Administrator's contact information.

You need to support your challenge by sending copies of pay stubs or other records. The Administrator will accept PPL's calculation of Workweeks and/or Pay Periods based on PPL's records as accurate unless you send copies of records containing contrary information. You should send copies rather than originals because the documents will not be returned to you. The Administrator will resolve Workweek and/or Pay Period challenges based on your submission and on input from Class Counsel (who will advocate on behalf of Participating Class Members) and PPL's Counsel. The Administrator's decision is final. You can't appeal or otherwise challenge its final decision.

5. HOW WILL I GET PAID?

- a. Participating Class Members. The Administrator will send, by U.S. mail, a single check to every Participating Class Member (i.e., every Class Member who doesn't opt-out) including those who also qualify as Aggrieved Employees. The single check will combine the Individual Class Payment and the Individual PAGA Payment.
- b. Non-Participating Class Members. The Administrator will send, by U.S. mail, a single Individual PAGA Payment check to every Aggrieved Employee who opts out of the Class Settlement (i.e., every Non-Participating Class Member).

Your check will be sent to the same address as in this Notice. If you change your address, be sure to notify the Administrator as soon as possible. Section 9 of this Notice has the Administrator's contact information.

6. HOW DO I OPT-OUT OF THE CLASS SETTLEMENT?

Submit a written and signed letter with your name, present address, telephone number, and a simple statement that you do not want to participate in the Settlement. The Administrator will exclude you based on any writing communicating your request to be excluded. Be sure to personally sign your request, identify the Action as QIANGAO LIU vs PUBLIC CONSULTING GROUP, LLC, et al., and include your identifying information (full name, address, telephone number, approximate dates of employment, and social security number for verification purposes). You must make the request yourself. If someone else makes the request for you, it will not be valid. The Administrator must be sent your request to be excluded by [REDACTED], or it will be invalid. Section 9 of the Notice

has the Administrator's contact information.

7. HOW DO I OBJECT TO THE SETTLEMENT?

Only Participating Class Members have the right to object to the Settlement. Before deciding whether to object, you may wish to see what Plaintiff and Defendants are asking the Court to approve. At least **16 court** days before the [redacted] Final Approval Hearing, Class Counsel and/or Plaintiff will file in Court (1) a Motion for Final Approval that includes, among other things, the reasons why the proposed Settlement is fair, and (2) a Motion for Fees, Litigation Expenses and Service Award stating (i) the amount Class Counsel is requesting for attorneys' fees and litigation expenses; and (ii) the amount Plaintiff is requesting as a Class Representative Service Award. Upon reasonable request, Class Counsel (whose contact information is in Section 9 of this Notice) will send you copies of these documents at no cost to you. You can also view them on the Administrator's Website [redacted] or the Court's website [redacted].

A Participating Class Member who disagrees with any aspect of the Agreement, the Motion for Final Approval and/or Motion for Fees, Litigation Expenses and Service Award may wish to object, for example, that the proposed Settlement is unfair, or that the amounts requested by Class Counsel or Plaintiff are too high or too low. The deadline for sending written objections to the Administrator is [redacted]. Be sure to tell the Administrator what you object to, why you object, and any facts that support your objection. Make sure you identify the Action QIANGAO LIU vs PUBLIC CONSULTING GROUP, LLC, et al. and include your name, current address, telephone number, and approximate dates of employment for PPL and sign the objection. Section 9 of this Notice has the Administrator's contact information.

Alternatively, a Participating Class Member can object (or personally retain a lawyer to object at your own cost) by attending the Final Approval Hearing. You (or your attorney) should be ready to tell the Court what you object to, why you object, and any facts that support your objection. See Section 8 of this Notice (immediately below) for specifics regarding the Final Approval Hearing.

8. CAN I ATTEND THE FINAL APPROVAL HEARING?

You can, but don't have to, attend the Final Approval Hearing on [redacted] at [redacted] in Department [redacted] of the **Los Angeles Superior Court**, located at **312 North Spring Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012**. At the Hearing, the judge will decide whether to grant Final Approval of the Settlement and how much of the Gross Settlement will be paid to Class Counsel, Plaintiff, and the Administrator. The Court will invite comments from objectors, Class Counsel and Defense Counsel before making a decision. You can attend (or hire a lawyer to attend) either personally or virtually via **LACourtConnect (<https://www.lacourt.org/lacc/>)**. Check the Court's website for the most current information.

It's possible the Court will reschedule the Final Approval Hearing. You should check the Administrator's website ([redacted]) beforehand or contact Class Counsel to verify the date and time of the Final Approval Hearing.

9. HOW CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION?

The Agreement sets forth everything the Parties have promised to do under the proposed Settlement. The easiest way to read the Agreement, the Judgment or any other Settlement documents is to go to the Administrator's website at [REDACTED]. You can also telephone or send an email to Class Counsel or the Administrator using the contact information listed below or consult the Superior Court website by going to <http://www.lacourt.org/casesummary/ui/index.aspx>) and entering the Case Number for the Action, Case No. [REDACTED]. You can also make an appointment to personally review court documents in the Clerk's Office at the Stanley Mosk Courthouse by calling (213) 830-0800.

DO NOT TELEPHONE THE SUPERIOR COURT TO OBTAIN INFORMATION ABOUT THE SETTLEMENT.

The Contact information for the Settlement Administrator is as follows:

Email Address:

Mailing Address:

Telephone:

Fax Number:

The addresses for the Parties' counsel are as follows:

Class Counsel	Counsel for PCG	Counsel for PPL
Joseph Lavi Vincent Granberry Lavi & Ebrahimi, LLP 8889 W. Olympic Blvd., Suite 200 Beverly Hills, CA 90211 Tel.: (310) 432-0000 Fax: (310) 432-0001 E-Mail: jlavi@lelawfirm.com vgranberry@lelawfirm.com	Carrie A. Gonell MORGAN, LEWIS & BOCKIUS 600 Anton Boulevard, Suite 1800 Tel.: (714) 830-0600 Fax: (714) 830-0700 E-Mail: carrie.gonell@morganlewis.com Kayla K. Cox MORGAN, LEWIS & BOCKIUS One Market, Spear Street Tower Tel.: (415) 442-1000 Fax: (415) 442-1001 E-Mail: kayla.cox@morganlewis.com	Jason Murtagh BUCHANAN, INGERSOLL & ROONEY LLP 600 West Broadway San Diego, California 92101 Tel.: (619) 239-8700 Fax: (619) 702-3898 E-Mail: jason.murtagh@bipc.com

10. WHAT IF I LOSE MY SETTLEMENT CHECK?

If you lose or misplace your settlement check before cashing it, the Administrator will replace it as long as you request a replacement before the void date on the face of the original check. If your check is already void you should consult the Unclaimed Property Fund for instructions on how to retrieve the funds.

11. WHAT IF I CHANGE MY ADDRESS?

To receive your check, you should immediately notify the Administrator if you move or otherwise change your mailing address.