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on behalf of himself and current and former aggrieved employees

**SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
FOR THE COUNTY OF KERN**

MARCOS MONTIEL, on behalf of himself and
current and former aggrieved employees

Plaintiff,

vs.

TINAJERO AG, INC.; DELANO FARMS, LLC;
and DOES 1 to 100, inclusive,

Defendants.

Case No.: 26CUB02670

PAGA ACTION

**PLAINTIFF MARCOS MONTIEL'S
COMPLAINT FOR:**

- CIVIL PENALTIES PURSUANT
TO THE PRIVATE ATTORNEYS
GENERAL ACT OF 2004
("PAGA"), LABOR CODE
SECTIONS 2698, ET SEQ.**

COMES NOW Plaintiff MARCOS MONTIEL ("Plaintiff"), who alleges and complains
against Defendants TINAJERO AG, INC.; DELANO FARMS, LLC; and DOES 1 to 100, inclusive
(collectively "Defendants") as follows:

I. INTRODUCTION

1. This is a Private Attorneys General Act of 2004, Labor Code §§ 2698, *et seq.*
("PAGA") representative action brought by Plaintiff on behalf of the State of California, himself
and other current and former aggrieved employees of Defendants who worked as hourly non-exempt
employees in California during the relevant time period seeking civil penalties associated with
Defendants' violation of the Labor Code based on Defendants' failure to pay wages for all hours

1 worked at minimum wage and all overtime hours worked at the overtime rate of pay; failure to
2 authorize or permit all legally required and/or compliant meal periods or pay meal period premium
3 wages; failure to authorize or permit all legally required and/or compliant rest periods or pay rest
4 period premium wages; indemnification for all necessary expenditures or losses incurred by
5 employees in direct consequence of discharging their duties; statutory penalties for failure to timely
6 pay earned wages during employment; statutory penalties for failure to provide accurate wage
7 statements; statutory waiting time penalties in the form of continuation wages for failure to timely
8 pay employees all wages due upon separation of employment. Plaintiff experienced these violations
9 personally, as well as is informed and believes other aggrieved employees did as well. Plaintiff
10 seeks on a representative basis, following notice to the Labor and Workforce Development Agency,
11 civil penalties, reasonable attorneys' fees pursuant to Labor Code section 2699(g)(1) and costs
12 brought on behalf of Plaintiff, the State of California, and others aggrieved.

13 **II. JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

14 2. This Court has jurisdiction over the claims of Plaintiff and all other current and
15 former aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees because Plaintiff's lawsuit seeks
16 civil penalties on behalf of herself, all other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly
17 non-exempt employees, and the State of California in excess of thirty-five thousand dollars
18 (\$35,000); Defendants employed Plaintiff and all other current and former aggrieved California-
19 based hourly non-exempt employees; and the injuries to Plaintiff and all other current and former
20 aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees occurred in locations throughout
21 California, including but not limited to Kern County, at 10025 Reed Rd. Delano, CA 93215.

22 **III. PARTIES**

23 3. Plaintiff brings this action as a representative of the Labor and Workforce
24 Development Agency on behalf of himself and other current and former employees subject to
25 violations of the Labor Code. The named Plaintiff and the persons on whose behalf this action is
26 filed include current, former and/or future employees of Defendants who work, worked, or will work
27 for Defendants as direct employees as well as temporary employees employed through temp
28 agencies as hourly non-exempt employees in California. At all times mentioned herein, the currently

1 named Plaintiff is and was domiciled and a resident and citizen of California and was employed by
2 Defendants in an hourly position at Defendants' location in Kern from in or around November 6,
3 2025, until on or about November 9, 2025.

4 4. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that Defendant TINAJERO
5 AG, INC. is authorized to do business within the State of California and is doing business in the
6 State of California and/or that Defendants DOES 1-33 are, and at all times relevant hereto were
7 persons acting on behalf of Defendant TINAJERO AG, INC. in the establishment of, or ratification
8 of, the aforementioned illegal wage and hour practices or policies. Defendant TINAJERO AG, INC.
9 operates in Kern County and employed Plaintiff and aggrieved employees in Kern County, including
10 but not limited to, at 10025 Reed Rd. Delano, CA 93215.

11 5. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that Defendant DELANO
12 FARMS, LLC is authorized to do business within the State of California and is doing business in
13 the State of California and/or that Defendants DOES 34-66 are, and at all times relevant hereto were
14 persons acting on behalf of Defendant DELANO FARMS, LLC in the establishment of, or
15 ratification of, the aforementioned illegal wage and hour practices or policies. Defendant DELANO
16 FARMS, LLC operates in Kern County and employed Plaintiff and aggrieved employees in Kern
17 County, including but not limited to, at 10025 Reed Rd. Delano, CA 93215.

18 6. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that Defendants DOES 1
19 through 50 are corporations, or are other business entities or organizations of a nature unknown to
20 Plaintiff that employed Plaintiff and aggrieved California non-exempt employees, permitted
21 Plaintiff and aggrieved employees to work, and exercised control over the wages, hours and working
22 conditions of employment of Plaintiff and aggrieved employees.

23 7. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that Defendants DOES 51
24 through 100 are individuals unknown to Plaintiff. Each of the individual defendants is sued
25 individually and in his or her capacity as an agent, shareholder, owner, representative, manager,
26 supervisor, independent contractor and/or employee of each defendant who violated or caused to be
27 violated the minimum wage and overtime provisions of the Labor Code and/or any provision of the
28 Industrial Welfare Commission's wage orders regulating hours and days of work.

8. Plaintiff is unaware of the true names of Defendants DOES 1 through 100. Plaintiff sues said defendants by said fictitious names, and will amend this complaint when the true names and capacities are ascertained or when such facts pertaining to liability are ascertained, or as permitted by law or by the Court. Plaintiff is informed and believes that each of the fictitiously named defendants is in some manner responsible for the events and allegations set forth in this complaint.

9. Plaintiff makes the allegations in this complaint without any admission that, as to any particular allegation, Plaintiff bears the burden of pleading, proving, or persuading and Plaintiff reserves all of Plaintiff's right to plead in the alternative.

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

**CIVIL PENALTIES PURSUANT TO THE PRIVATE ATTORNEYS GENERAL ACT OF
2004, LABOR CODE SECTIONS 2698, ET SEQ.**

**(Against all Defendants by Plaintiff on behalf of Themselves, the State of California, and
Other Current and Former Aggrieved Employees)**

10. Plaintiff incorporates all paragraphs above as though fully set forth herein.

11. During Plaintiff's employment and continuing through the present, Plaintiff alleges Defendants violated Labor Code sections 201, 202, 203, 204, 223, 226, 226.7, 510, 512, 1194, 1197, 2802, 6401.7, 6401.9 and the applicable Wage Orders.

12. Specifically, Defendants have committed the following violations of California Labor Code:

13. **Failure to pay wages for all hours worked at the legal minimum wage:** Defendants employed many of their employees, including Plaintiff, as hourly non-exempt employees. In California, an employer is required to pay hourly employees for all “hours worked,” which includes all time that an employee is under control of the employer and all time the employee is suffered and permitted to work. This includes the time an employee spends, either directly or indirectly, performing services which inure to the benefit of the employer.

14. Labor Code sections 1194 and 1197 require an employer to compensate employees for all “hours worked” at least at a minimum wage rate of pay as established by the IWC and the

1 Wage Orders.

2 15. In this case, Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly
3 non-exempt employees worked more minutes per shift than Defendants credited them with having
4 worked. Specifically, Defendants failed to pay Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved
5 California-based hourly non-exempt employees all wages at the applicable minimum wage for all
6 hours worked due to Defendants' policies, practices, and/or procedures including, but not limited
7 to:

8 (a) Requiring Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly
9 non-exempt employees to line up to wait to clock in for the start of their shifts, without being paid
10 for this time.

11 (b) Requiring Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly
12 non-exempt employees to line up to wait to clock out for the end of their shifts, without being paid
13 for this time.

14 (c) Requiring Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly
15 non-exempt employees to line up to wait to clock in and out for their off-the-clock meal periods,
16 without being paid for this time.

17 16. Therefore, Defendants suffered, permitted, and required Plaintiff and other current
18 and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees to be subject to Defendants'
19 control without paying wages for that time. This resulted in Plaintiff and other current and former
20 aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees working time for which they were not
21 compensated any wages, in violation of Labor Code sections 1194 and 1197 and the applicable
22 Wage Order.

23 17. Employee is further informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that
24 Employer's conduct above that gave rise to such violations was malicious, fraudulent, or oppressive.
25 Employer would further be liable for civil penalties pursuant to Labor Code section
26 2699(f)(2)(B)(ii).

27 18. **Failure to pay wages for overtime hours worked at the overtime rate of pay**
28 **and/or failure to pay overtime wages at the proper rate of pay:** Defendants employed many of

1 their employees, including Plaintiff, as hourly non-exempt employees. In California, an employer
2 is required to pay hourly employees for all “hours worked,” which includes all time that an employee
3 is under control of the employer and all time the employee is suffered and permitted to work. This
4 includes the time an employee spends, either directly or indirectly, performing services that inure to
5 the benefit of the employer.’

6 19. Labor Code sections 510 and 1194 require an employer to compensate employees a
7 higher rate of pay for hours worked in excess of eight (8) hours in a workday, in excess of forty (40)
8 hours in a workweek, and on any seventh consecutive day of work in a workweek:

9 Any work in excess of eight (8) hours in one workday, any work in excess of forty (40) hours
10 in any one (1) workweek, and the first eight (8) hours worked on the seventh day of work in
11 any one (1) workweek, shall be compensated at the rate of no less than one-and-one-half
12 (1.5) times the regular rate of pay for an employee. Any work in excess of twelve (12) hours
13 in one (1) day shall be compensated at the rate of no less than twice the regular rate of pay
14 for an employee. In addition, any work in excess of eight (8) hours on any seventh day of a
15 workweek shall be compensated at the rate of no less than twice the regular rate of pay of an
16 employee.

17 Labor Code section 510.

18 20. In this case, Defendants failed to pay Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved
19 California-based hourly non-exempt employees overtime wages for all overtime hours worked due
20 to Defendants’ policies, practices, and/or procedures including, but not limited to:

21 (a) Requiring Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly
22 non-exempt employees to line up to wait to clock in for the start of their shifts, without being paid
23 for this time.

24 (b) Requiring Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly
25 non-exempt employees to line up to wait to clock out for the end of their shifts, without being paid
26 for this time.

27 (c) Requiring Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly
28 non-exempt employees to line up to wait to clock in and out for their off-the-clock meal periods,
without being paid for this time

29 21. Employee is further informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that
Employer’s conduct above that gave rise to such violations was malicious, fraudulent, or oppressive.

1 Employer would further be liable for civil penalties pursuant to Labor Code section
2 2699(f)(2)(B)(ii).

3 22. The foregoing policies, practices, and/or procedures resulted in time during each
4 workday that Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt
5 employees were under the control of Defendants but were not compensated. To the extent that the
6 foregoing uncompensated time occurred when Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved
7 California-based hourly non-exempt employees worked more than eight (8) hours in a workday,
8 more than forty (40) hours in a workweek, and/or seven (7) days in a workweek, Defendants failed
9 to pay them at their overtime rate of pay for overtime hours worked, in violation of Labor Code
10 sections 510, 1194 and 1198, and the applicable Wage Order.

11 23. **Failure to pay wages to hourly non-exempt employees for workdays that**
12 **Defendants failed to provide legally required and compliant meal periods and/or failure to**
13 **pay period premium wages:** Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved California-based
14 hourly non-exempt employees regularly worked shifts of more than five (5) hours in length and
15 shifts of more than ten (10) hours in length.

16 24. California law requires an employer to authorize or permit an employee an
17 uninterrupted meal period of no less than thirty (30) minutes in which the employee is relieved of
18 all duties and the employer relinquishes control over the employee's activities prior to the
19 employee's sixth hour of work. Labor Code sections 226.7, 512, and 1198; Wage Order 14 at §11;
20 *Brinker Rest. Corp. v. Super Ct. (Hohnbaum)* (2012) 53 Cal.4th 1004. An employer may not employ
21 an employee for a work period of more than ten (10) hours per day without providing the employee
22 with a second such meal period of not less than thirty (30) minutes prior to the start of the eleventh
23 hour of work. *Id.* If the employee is not relieved of all duty during a meal period, the meal period
24 shall be considered an "on duty" meal period and counted as time worked. A paid "on duty" meal
25 period is only permitted when: (1) the nature of the work prevents an employee from being relieved
26 of all duty; and (2) the parties have a written agreement agreeing to on-duty meal periods.

27 25. If an employer fails to provide an employee a meal period in accordance with the
28 law, the employer must pay the employee one (1) hour of pay at the employee's regular rate of pay

1 for each workday that a legally required and compliant meal period was not provided. Labor Code
2 sections 226.7 and 1198; Wage Order 14 at §11.

3 26. In this case, Defendants failed to authorize or permit legally required and compliant
4 meal periods to Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-
5 exempt employees due to Defendants' policies, practices, and/or procedures, including but not
6 limited to:

7 (a) Requiring Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly
8 non-exempt employees to line up to wait to clock in and out for their off-the-clock meal periods,
9 resulting in meal periods that were either less than 30 minutes, on-duty, or both.

10 27. Additionally, Plaintiff alleges that Defendants maintained a policy, practice, and/or
11 procedure of failing to compensate Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved California-based
12 hourly non-exempt employees one (1) hour of pay at their regular rate of pay for each workday that
13 Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees did
14 not receive legally required and compliant meal periods, in violation of Labor Code section 226.7.

15 28. Defendants' foregoing policies, practices, and/or procedures resulted in Plaintiff and
16 other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees not receiving
17 wages to compensate them for workdays during which Defendants did not provide them with meal
18 periods in compliance with California law.

19 29. Employee is further informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that
20 Employer's conduct above that gave rise to such violations was malicious, fraudulent, or oppressive.
21 Employer would further be liable for civil penalties pursuant to Labor Code section
22 2699(f)(2)(B)(ii).

23 30. **Failure to pay wages to hourly non-exempt employees for workdays that**
24 **Defendants failed to provide legally required and compliant rest periods and/or failure to pay**
25 **rest period premium:** Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly
26 non-exempt employees regularly worked shifts of more than three-and-a-half (3.5) hours.

27 31. California law requires every employer to authorize and permit an employee a rest
28 period of ten (10) net minutes for every four (4) hours worked or major fraction thereof. Labor Code

1 section 226.7; Wage Order 14 at §12. Under California law, “[e]mployees are entitled to 10 minutes’
2 rest for shifts from three and one-half to six hours in length, 20 minutes for shifts of more than six
3 hours up to 10 hours, 30 minutes for shifts of more than 10 hours up to 14 hours, and so on.” *Brinker*
4 *Restaurant Corp. v. Sup. Ct. (Hohnbaum)* (2012) 53 Cal.4th 1004, 1029; Labor Code section 226.7;
5 Wage Order 14 at §12. Rest periods, insofar as practicable, shall be in the middle of each work
6 period. Wage Order 14 at §12. Additionally, the rest period requirement ““obligates employers to
7 permit – and authorizes employees to take – off-duty rest periods.” *Augustus v. ABM Security*
8 *Services, Inc.* (2016) 2 Cal.5th 257, 269. That is, during rest periods employers must relieve
9 employees of all duties and relinquish control over how employees spend their time. *Id.*

10 32. If the employer fails to authorize or permit a required rest period, the employer must
11 pay the employee one (1) hour of pay at the employee’s regular rate of pay for each workday the
12 employer did not authorize or permit a legally required rest period. Labor Code section 226.7; Wage
13 Order 14 at § 12.

14 33. In this case, Defendants failed to authorize or permit all legally required and
15 compliant rest periods to Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly
16 non-exempt employees due to Defendants’ policies, practices, and/or procedures including, but not
17 limited to:

18 (a) Failing to provide Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved California-based
19 hourly non-exempt employees with a rest period of ten (10) net minutes for every four (4) hours
20 worked or major fraction thereof as a result of short rest periods due to workload and understaffing.

21 34. Additionally, Plaintiff alleges that Defendants maintained a policy, practice, and/or
22 procedure of failing to compensate Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved California-based
23 hourly non-exempt employees with one (1) hour of pay at their regular rate of pay for each workday
24 they did not receive legally required and compliant rest periods, in violation of Labor Code section
25 226.7.

26 35. Defendants’ foregoing policies, practices, and/or procedures resulted in Plaintiff and
27 other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees not receiving
28 wages to compensate them for workdays in which Defendants did not provide them with rest periods

1 in compliance with California law.

2 36. Employee is further informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that
3 Employer's conduct above that gave rise to such violations was malicious, fraudulent, or oppressive.
4 Employer would further be liable for civil penalties pursuant to Labor Code section
5 2699(f)(2)(B)(ii).

6 37. **Failure to Indemnify for Losses and Expenditures Incurred as Part of**
7 **Employment:** California law requires that every employer must indemnify its employees for all
8 necessary expenditures or losses incurred by the employee in discharge of his or her duties or at the
9 obedience of the directions of the employer. Moreover, an employer is prohibited from passing the
10 ordinary business expenses and losses of the employer onto the employee. (Lab. Code, § 2802.)

11 38. Defendants have violated Labor Code Section 2802 by failing to indemnify Plaintiff
12 and other current and former aggrieved California-based non-exempt hourly employees' necessary
13 expenditures they incurred in the discharge of their duties. Specifically, Defendants employed
14 policies, practices, and/or procedures included, but not limited to:

15 (a) Cell phone usage for work-related purposes - without reimbursing Plaintiff and other
16 current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees for such use.

17 39. Moreover, Defendants employed policies and procedures which ensured Plaintiff and
18 aggrieved employees would not receive indemnification for their employment related expenses.
19 This practice resulted in Plaintiff and aggrieved employees not receiving such indemnification in
20 compliance with California law.

21 40. Therefore, Defendants are liable to Plaintiff and aggrieved employees for their
22 employment related expenses, including but not limited to costs related to use of their personal cell
23 phones and costs associated with their uniforms pursuant to Labor Code section 2802.

24 41. Employee is further informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that
25 Employer's conduct above that gave rise to such violations was malicious, fraudulent, or oppressive.
26 Employer would further be liable for civil penalties pursuant to Labor Code section
27 2699(f)(2)(B)(ii).

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1 42. **Failure to timely pay earned wages during employment:** In California, wages
2 must be paid at least twice during each calendar month on days designated in advance by the
3 employer as regular paydays, subject to some exceptions. Labor Code section 204(a). Wages earned
4 between the 1st and 15th days, inclusive, of any calendar month must be paid between the 16th and
5 the 26th day of that month and wages earned between the 16th and the last day, inclusive, of any
6 calendar month must be paid between the 1st and 10th day of the following month. *Id.* Other payroll
7 periods such as those that are weekly, biweekly, or semimonthly, must be paid within seven (7)
8 calendar days following the close of the payroll period in which wages were earned. Labor Code
9 section 204(d).

10 43. As a derivative of Plaintiff's claims above, Plaintiff alleges that Defendants failed to
11 timely pay Plaintiff's and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt
12 employees' earned wages (including minimum wages, overtime wages, meal period premium wages
13 and/or rest period premium wages), in violation of Labor Code section 204. Defendants'
14 aforementioned policies, practices, and/or procedures resulted in their failure to pay Plaintiff's and
15 other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees' their earned
16 wages within the applicable time frames outlined in Labor Code section 204.

17 44. Plaintiff also believes these failures were malicious, fraudulent, or oppressive.
18 Employer would further be liable for civil penalties pursuant to Labor Code section
19 2699(f)(2)(B)(ii).

20 45. **Secret payment of lower wages than designated by statute:** Labor Code section
21 223 provides that, where any statute or contract requires an employer to maintain the designated
22 wage scale, it shall be unlawful to secretly pay a lower wage while purporting to pay the wage
23 designated by statute or contract. By engaging in the unlawful conduct alleged herein, including by
24 failing to: pay overtime wages at the applicable legal overtime rate, meal break premiums and lawful
25 sick pay at the employees' regular rate of pay, as established by Labor Code sections 226.7, 246,
26 510, 1194 and sections 11 and 12 of the applicable IWC Wage Orders, as incorporated by Labor
27 Code section 1198, the Defendant secretly paid a lower wage than designated by statute while
28 purporting to pay the wages designated by statute, in violation of Labor Code section 223.

1 46. Plaintiff also believes these failures were malicious, fraudulent, or oppressive.
2 Employer would further be liable for civil penalties pursuant to Labor Code section
3 2699(f)(2)(B)(ii).

4 47. **Failure to Establish, Implement, and Maintain a Workplace Violence and**
5 **Injury Prevention Program in Compliance with Labor Code Sections 6401.7 and 6401.9:**
6 California Labor Code Section 6401.7 requires every employer to establish, implement, and
7 maintain an effective injury prevention program. California Labor Code Section 6401.9 requires
8 California employers to adopt a comprehensive Workplace Violence Prevention Plan (WVPP), train
9 employees on workplace violence, log safety incidents, and conduct periodic inspections to evaluate
10 workplace violence hazards.

11 Plaintiff alleges that Defendant did not comply with Defendant's responsibilities and duties
12 under Labor Code sections 6401.7 and 6401.9. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges
13 that Defendant (1) failed to establish, implement, and maintain an effective injury prevention
14 program; (2) failed to adopt a compliant Workplace Violence Prevention Plan; (3); failed to train
15 Employee and other aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees in workplace
16 violence and injury prevention; (4) failed to log safety incidents; and (5) failed to conduct compliant
17 periodic inspections. Plaintiff believes these failures were willful and intentional. Plaintiff also
18 believes these failures were malicious, fraudulent, or oppressive. Defendant would further be liable
19 for civil penalties pursuant to Labor Code section 2699(f)(2)(B)(ii).

20 48. **Failure to provide complete and accurate wage statements:** Labor Code section
21 226, subdivision (a). Labor Code section 226(a) provides, *inter alia*, that, upon paying an employee
22 his or her wages, the employer must "furnish each of his or her employees ... an itemized statement
23 in writing showing (1) gross wages earned, (2) total hours worked by the employee, except for any
24 employee whose compensation is solely based on a salary and who is exempt from payment of
25 overtime under subdivision (a) of Section 515 or any applicable order of the Industrial Welfare
26 Commission, (3) the number of piece-rate units earned and any applicable piece rate if the employee
27 is paid on a piece-rate basis, (4) all deductions, provided, that all deductions made on written orders
28 of the employee may be aggregated and shown as one item, (5) net wages earned, (6) the inclusive

1 dates of the pay period for which the employee is paid, (7) the name of the employee and his or her
2 social security number, (8) the name and address of the legal entity that is the employer, and (9) all
3 applicable hourly rates in effect during the pay period and the corresponding number of hours
4 worked at each hourly rate by the employee.”

5 49. As a derivative of Plaintiff’s allegations above, Defendants’ failure to pay Plaintiff
6 and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees all wages
7 earned (including minimum wages, overtime wages, meal period premium wages, and/or rest period
8 premium wages) rendered Plaintiff’s and other current and former aggrieved California-based
9 hourly non-exempt employees’ wage statements inaccurate, in violation of Labor Code section
10 226(a)(1, 2, 5 & 9).

11 50. Plaintiff believes these failures were willful and intentional.

12 51. Plaintiff also believes these failures were malicious, fraudulent, or oppressive.
13 Employer would further be liable for civil penalties pursuant to Labor Code section
14 2699(f)(2)(B)(ii).

15 52. **Failure to pay employees all wages due at time of termination/resignation:** An
16 employer is required to pay all unpaid wages timely after an employee’s employment ends. The
17 wages are due immediately upon termination (Labor Code section 201) or within seventy-two (72)
18 hours of resignation (Labor Code section 202).

19 53. As a derivative of Plaintiff’s allegations above, because Defendants failed to pay
20 Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees all
21 their earned wages (including minimum wages, overtime wages, meal period premium wages,
22 and/or rest period premium wages), Defendants failed to pay those employees timely after each
23 employee’s termination and/or resignation, in violation of Labor Code sections 201, 202, and 203.

24 54. Plaintiff believes these failures were willful and intentional.

25 55. Plaintiff also believes these failures were malicious, fraudulent, or oppressive.
26 Employer would further be liable for civil penalties pursuant to Labor Code section
27 2699(f)(2)(B)(ii).

28 56. Labor Code sections 2699, subdivisions (a) and (g) authorize an aggrieved employee,

1 on behalf of himself or herself and other current or former employees, to bring a civil action to
2 recover civil penalties against all Defendants pursuant to the procedures specified in Labor Code
3 section 2699.3.

4 57. Plaintiff has complied with the procedures for bringing suit specified in Labor Code
5 section 2699.3. On May 8, 2026, Plaintiff filed a PAGA Claim Notice with the LWDA and provided
6 notice to Defendants by certified mail which provided notice of the specific provisions of the Labor
7 Code alleged to have been violated, including the facts and theories to support the violations alleged.

8 58. Pursuant to Labor Code section 2699.3, the LWDA must give written notice by
9 certified mail to the parties that it intends to investigate the alleged violations of the Labor Code
10 within 60 days of the date of the complainant's written notice. The LWDA failed to provide the
11 parties notice within 60 days of the date of Plaintiff's PAGA Claim Notice that the LWDA intends
12 to investigate Plaintiff's claims.

13 59. Pursuant to Labor Code sections 2699(a) and (f), Plaintiff is entitled to recover civil
14 penalties for Defendants' violations of Labor Code sections 201, 202, 203, 204, 223, 226(a), 226.7,
15 510, 512, 1194, 6401.7 and 6401.9: During Plaintiff's employment and continuing through the
16 present, preceding Plaintiff sending the initial PAGA Claim Notice to the LWDA to the present, in
17 the following amounts:

18 a. For violations of Labor Code sections 201, 202, 203, 226(a), 226.7, and 2802;
19 one hundred dollars (\$100) for each aggrieved employee per pay period for the initial violation and
20 two hundred dollars (\$200) for each aggrieved employee per pay period for each subsequent
21 violation [penalty amounts established by Labor Code section 2699(f)(2)].

22 b. For violations of Labor Code section 226(a), alternatively, two hundred fifty
23 dollars (\$250) for each employee for each pay period for the initial violation, and for each
24 subsequent violation, one thousand dollars (\$1000) for each underpaid employee for each pay period
25 [penalty amounts established by Labor Code section 226.3].

26 c. For violations of Labor Code section 510 and 512, fifty dollars (\$50) for each
27 employee for each pay period for the initial violation, and for each subsequent violation, one
28 hundred dollars (\$100) for each underpaid employee for each pay period [penalty amounts

1 established by Labor Code section 558].

2 d. For violations of Labor Code section 204, one hundred dollars (\$100) for
3 each failure to pay each employee in any initial violation, and for each subsequent violation, or any
4 willful or intentional violation, two hundred dollars (\$200) for each failure to pay each employee,
5 plus 25 percent of the amount unlawfully withheld [penalty amounts established by Labor Code
6 section 210].

7 e. For violations of Labor Code section 223, one hundred dollars (\$100) for
8 each failure to pay each employee in any initial violation, and for each subsequent violation, or any
9 willful or intentional violation, two hundred dollars (\$200) for each failure to pay each employee,
10 plus 25 percent of the amount unlawfully withheld [penalty amounts established by Labor Code
11 section 225.5].

12 60. Pursuant to Labor Code section 2699(g), Plaintiff is entitled to an award of
13 reasonable attorneys' fees and costs in connection with his claims for civil penalties.

14 **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

15 **WHEREFORE, PLAINTIFF, ON BEHALF OF HIMSELF AND ON OTHER AGGRIEVED**
16 **EMPLOYEES, PRAYS AS FOLLOWS:**

17 **ON THE FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION:**

18 1. That Defendants be found to have violated the provisions of the Labor Code and the
19 IWC Wages Orders as to the Plaintiff and aggrieved employees;

20 2. For any and all legally applicable penalties during the relevant statute of limitations
21 subject to any permissible tolling, including but not limited to those recoverable under the California
22 Labor Code, including but not limited to sections 210, 225.5, 226.3, 558, 2699(f);

23 3. For attorneys' fees and costs of suit, including but not limited to those recoverable
24 under California Labor Code section 2699(g); and

25 4. For such and other further relief, in law and/or equity, as the Court deems just or
26 appropriate.

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1 Dated: July 13, 2026

Respectfully submitted,
LAVI & EBRAHIMIAN, LLP

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3 By:



4 Joseph Lavi, Esq.
5 Vincent C. Granberry, Esq.
6 Jeffrey D. Klein, Esq.
7 Anna E. Stern, Esq.
8 Attorneys for Plaintiff
9 MARCOS MONTIEL, on behalf of himself and
10 current and former aggrieved employees
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