

1 **JUSTICE FOR WORKERS, P.C.**

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8 **SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

9 **FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO**

10
11 LINDA SALAZAR AYALA, an individual
and on behalf of all others similarly situated;

12 Plaintiff,

13 vs.

14 APPLIED MEMBRANES, INC., a California
15 corporation; and DOES 1 through 50,

16 Defendants.

Case No.: 37-2023-00054420-CU-OE-CTL

[Assigned for All Purposes to:
Hon. Matthew C. Braner, Dept. C-60]

**(PROPOSED) ORDER GRANTING
PRELIMINARY APPROVAL OF CLASS
ACTION SETTLEMENT**

DATE: August 15, 2025

TIME: 9:00 a.m.

DEPT: C-60

Action Filed: November 27, 2023

Trial Date: Not Set

1 The Motion of Plaintiff Linda Salazar Ayala (“Plaintiff”) for Preliminary Approval of Class
2 Action Settlement came on regularly for hearing before this Court on August 15, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.
3 This Court, having considered the proposed Class Action and PAGA Settlement Agreement (the
4 “Agreement”) attached to the Declaration of William C. Sung filed concurrently herein; having
5 considered Plaintiff’s Motion for Preliminary Approval of Class Action Settlement, Memorandum
6 of Points and Authorities in support thereof, and supporting declarations filed therewith; and good
7 cause appearing, HEREBY ORDERS THE FOLLOWING:

8 1. The Court GRANTS preliminary approval of the class action settlement as set forth
9 in the Settlement and finds its terms to be within the range of reasonableness of a settlement that
10 ultimately could be granted approval by the Court at a Final Approval Hearing. For purposes of the
11 Settlement, the Court finds that the proposed Class is ascertainable and that there is a sufficiently
12 well-defined community of interest among the members of the Class in questions of law and fact.
13 Therefore, for settlement purposes only, the Court grants conditional certification of the following
14 Class:

15 All current and former hourly paid or non-exempt employees of Defendant Applied
16 Membranes, Inc. in California during the Class Period of November 27, 2019 to
November 17, 2024.

17 2. For purposes of the Settlement, the Court designates named Plaintiff Linda Salazar
18 Ayala as Class Representative and William C. Sung and Tiffany L. Luu of Justice for Workers, P.C.
19 as Class Counsel.

20 3. The Court designates Apex Class Action, LLC as the third-party Administrator for
21 mailing notices.

22 4. The Court approves, as to form and content, the Class Notice attached as Exhibit A
23 to the Agreement.

24 5. The Court finds that the form of notice to the Class regarding the pendency of the
25 action and of the Settlement, and the methods of giving notice to Class Members, constitute the best
26 notice practicable under the circumstances, and constitute valid, due, and sufficient notice to all of
27 the Class Members. The form and method of giving notice complies fully with the requirements of
28 California Code of Civil Procedure section 382, California Civil Code section 1781, California

1 Rules of Court 3.766 and 3.769, the California and United States Constitutions, and other applicable
2 law.

3 6. The Court further approves the procedures for the Class Members to opt out of or
4 object to the Settlement, as set forth in the Class Notice.

5 7. The procedures and requirements for filing objections in connection with the Final
6 Approval Hearing are intended to ensure the efficient administration of justice and the orderly
7 presentation of any Class Member's objection to the Settlement in accordance with the due process
8 rights of all members of the Class.

9 8. The Court directs the Administrator to mail the Class Notice to Class Members in
10 accordance with the terms of the Settlement.

11 9. The Class Notice shall provide at least forty-five (45) calendar days' notice for Class
12 Members to opt out of, or object to, the Settlement.

13 10. The Final Approval Hearing on the question of whether the Settlement should be
14 finally approved as fair, reasonable, and adequate is scheduled in Department C-60 of this Court,
15 located at 330 W. Broadway, San Diego, CA 92101 on _____, 2026 at ____
16 a.m./p.m.

17 11. At the Final Approval Hearing, the Court will consider: (a) whether the Settlement
18 should be finally approved as fair, reasonable, and adequate for the Class; (b) whether a judgment
19 granting final approval of the Settlement should be entered; and (c) whether Plaintiff's application
20 for reasonable attorneys' fees, reimbursement of litigation expenses, service award to Plaintiff,
21 settlement administration costs, and payment to the Labor & Workforce Development Agency
22 ("LWDA") for penalties under the Labor Code Private Attorneys General Act should be granted.

23 12. Counsel for the parties shall file memoranda, declarations, or other statements and
24 materials in support of their request for final approval of the Settlement, attorneys' fees, litigation
25 expenses, Plaintiff's service award, payment to the LWDA, and settlement administration costs,
26 prior to the Final Approval Hearing according to the time limits set by the Code of Civil Procedure
27 and the California Rules of Court.

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13. An implementation schedule is below:

Event	Date
Defendant to provide Class Data to the Administrator no later than [21 calendar days after Preliminary Approval]:	September 5, 2025
Administrator to mail the Class Notice to Class Members no later than [14 calendar days after receiving Class Data]:	September 19, 2025
Deadline for Class Members to request exclusion from, or object to, the Settlement [45 calendar days after mailing]:	November 3, 2025
Deadline for Administrator to provide declaration of due diligence and compliance [14 calendar days after opt-out/objection deadline]:	November 17, 2025
Deadline for Plaintiff to file Motion for Final Approval of Class Action Settlement:	16 court days before Final Approval Hearing
Final Approval Hearing	_____, 2026 at ____

14. Pending the Final Approval Hearing, all proceedings in this Action, other than proceedings necessary to carry out or enforce the terms and conditions of the Settlement and this Order, are stayed.

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

IT IS SO ORDERED.

DATED: _____, 2025

Hon. Matthew C. Braner
Judge of the Superior Court