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SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
FOR THE COUNTY OF STANISLAUS

Juan Carlos Valencia-Diaz, individually and
on behalf of all similarly situated individuals,

Plaintiff,

vs.

PJ's Lumber, Inc., a California Corporation;
and **Does 1-10**, inclusive;

Defendants.

CASE NO. CV-26-007411

[Assigned for all purposes to the
Hon. Clifford Tong, Dept 23]

**FIRST AMENDED CLASS ACTION
COMPLAINT FOR:**

- 1) Failure to Pay Minimum Wages;
- 2) Failure to Pay Overtime Wages;
- 3) Failure to Provide Meal Periods;
- 4) Failure to Provide Rest Periods;
- 5) Failure to Provide and Maintain Complete
and Accurate Wage Statements;
- 6) Failure to Pay Reporting Time Wages;
- 7) Failure to Provide Wages When Due;
- 8) Failure to Reimburse Necessary Business
Expenses;
- 9) PAGA Penalties; and
- 10) Violation of California Business &
Professions Code §§ 17200, et seq.

Jury Trial Requested

1 Plaintiff hereby brings this action on behalf of himself and all other similarly situated current and
2 former employees, by and through his counsel of record, alleges as follows:

3 **PARTIES**

4 1. At all relevant times for this Complaint, Plaintiff **Juan Carlos Valencia-Diaz**, (“Plaintiff”) is
5 a resident of Stanislaus County, California. Plaintiff was employed as an hourly, non-exempt employee of
6 Defendants from in or around 2018 to on or around January 12, 2026. Plaintiff was subject to the policies and
7 practices described in this complaint at all times during his employment at Defendants.

8 2. Defendant **PJ’s Lumber, Inc.** (“PJ’s”) is a California corporation with a principal place of
9 business of 45055 Fremont Boulevard, Fremont, California 94538. On information and belief, employs at
10 least 100 hourly, non-exempt employees.

11 3. Plaintiff is not currently aware of the names and true identities of defendants Does 1-10
12 (collectively with PJ’s as “Defendants”). Plaintiff reserves the right to amend this complaint to allege their true
13 names and capacities when this information is available. Each Doe defendant is responsible for the damages
14 alleged pursuant to each of the causes of action asserted, either through its own conduct, or vicariously
15 through the conduct of others. All further references in this complaint to any of the named Defendants
16 includes the fictitiously named defendants.

17 4. At all times alleged herein, each Defendant was an agent, servant, joint employer, employee,
18 partner, and/or joint venture of every other Defendant and was acting within the scope of the Defendants’
19 relationship. Moreover, the conduct of every Defendant was ratified by each other Defendant.

20 **VENUE AND JURISDICTION**

21 5. The court has jurisdiction over all causes of action in this complaint pursuant to Article VI,
22 § 10 of the California Constitution. No federal question is at issue; Plaintiff relies solely on California statutes
23 and law, including the Labor Code and the Business & Professions Code. Because putative class members
24 were employed by Defendants, the policies and practices complained of herein were implemented in Stanislaus
25 County, and Defendants transact business within Stanislaus County, Defendant is within the jurisdiction of
26 the court for service of process. Moreover, Business & Professions Code § 17204 provides that any person
27 acting on their own behalf may bring an action in any court of competent jurisdiction.

28 6. Venue as to Defendant is proper in this Superior Court pursuant to California Code of Civil

Procedure § 395. Defendants transact business and/or have offices in this county, employ putative class members in this County, and the acts and omissions alleged herein took place in this county.

CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS

7. As a matter of uniform and systemic policy, Defendants failed to authorize and/or permit non-exempt employees to take bona fide meal and rest breaks pursuant to Labor Code § 226.7.

8. Defendants have consistently denied their non-exempt employees the opportunities to take compliant 30-minute meal periods in accordance with California's Labor Code. Upon information and belief, Class Members, including Plaintiff, were required to interrupt their meal periods to load and/or unload materials, answer phone calls, otherwise interrupt or cut short their meal periods, or remain on duty and under Defendants' control during their meal periods to perform other tasks at Defendants' directions due to Defendants' policies and practices.

9. Furthermore, as a matter of uniform and systemic policy, Defendants authorize nonexempt employees working a shift in excess of ten (10) hours to receive only one (1), thirty (30) minute meal period break rather than the two (2) they are entitled to under law. Accordingly, Defendants failed to authorize and permit compliant second meal periods as required by law.

10. In the same manner, and as a matter of uniform and systemic policy, Defendant requires non-exempt employees to continue working during their rest periods or otherwise interrupting or cut short their rest periods, or remain on duty and under Defendants' control during their rest periods to perform other tasks at Defendants' directions due to Defendants' policies and practices. Accordingly, Defendants failed to authorize and permit compliant rest periods as required by law.

11. In failing to authorize and/or permit meal and rest periods, Defendants have also implemented a uniform policy of denying compensation in lieu of meal and rest periods to its non-exempt employees, notwithstanding their actual knowledge that such employees were uniformly denied compliant meal and rest periods.

13. Defendants also failed to comply with California law regarding reporting time pay. Upon information and belief, employees were required to show up to their regularly scheduled shifts but on multiple occasions were sent home without being allowed to work or were put to work for half of their regularly scheduled shift length. On such occasions, upon information and belief, employees were not paid any amounts

when sent home without any work and/or were not paid at least half their scheduled shift length.

12. As a matter of uniform and systemic policy, Defendants required non-exempt employees to utilize their personal cell phones for work-related purposes, including making outbound calls, answering texts and calls from their supervisors while at work or on a break, being assigned tasks, and general administrative matters. Defendants further failed to compensate their non-exempt employees for reasonable costs associated with utilizing their personal cell phones for work-related purposes.

13. Plaintiff therefore brings this action on behalf of himself and as a class action on behalf of the following defined Class:

Non-Exempt Employee Class:

All persons who worked at least one shift as a non-exempt employee of Defendants in the State of California from the period four years prior to the filing of the Action and the date of trial ("Class").

14. Common methods of proof exist for determining these issues on a class-wide basis, including but not limited to, Defendants' employment records, payroll records, timesheets, policies, and disciplinary records.

15. **Numerosity.** Plaintiff is informed and believes that, during the class period, at least 50 Class Members have been employed as non-exempt employees by Defendants within the state of California. The number of Class Members is sufficiently numerous such that joinder of all members is impossible or impracticable.

16. **Typicality.** Plaintiff's claims are typical of all Class Members. Plaintiff, like all other Class Members, was subjected to the policies and practices set forth above. Plaintiff's job duties were typical of Class Members in all relevant respects.

17. **Adequacy.** There are no material conflicts between the claims of the representative Plaintiff and Class Members that would make class certification inappropriate. Plaintiff understands his obligation to inform the Court of any relationship, conflicts, or differences with any Class Member. Plaintiff will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the Class Members. Plaintiff is invested in redressing Defendants' illegal practices on behalf of all Class Members. Moreover, Plaintiff has retained competent counsel experienced in both class action and employment litigation. Plaintiff's attorneys, the proposed class counsel, are versed in the rules governing class action discovery, certification, and settlement, and will vigorously assert the claims of all

Class Members. Plaintiff has incurred, and will continue to incur, costs and attorneys' fees that have been, are, and will be necessarily expended for the prosecution of this action for the substantial benefit of each Class Member.

18. **Existence and Predominance of Common Issues.** Common questions of law and fact exist as to all Class Members and predominate over issues affecting individual Class Members, including, but not limited to:

- a. Whether Defendants had a common policy and/or practice of depriving Plaintiff and Class Members of required minimum wages;
- b. Whether Defendants unlawfully and/or willfully failed to compensate Plaintiff and Class Members required minimum wages;
- c. Whether Defendants had a common policy and/or practice of depriving Plaintiff and Class Members of required overtime wages;
- d. Whether Defendants unlawfully and/or willfully failed to compensate Plaintiff and Class Members required overtime wages;
- e. Whether Defendants had a common policy and/or practice of depriving Plaintiff and Class Members of compliant, off-duty meal and/or rest periods;
- f. Whether Defendants unlawfully and/or willfully deprived Plaintiff and Class Members of compliant, off-duty meal and/or rest periods;
- g. Whether Defendants required employees to show up to work for their shifts but failed to put them to work for at least one-half their regularly scheduled shift length;
- h. Whether Defendants have a common policy and/or practice of failing to pay Plaintiff and Class Members all required reporting time pay;
- i. Whether Defendants have a common policy and/or practice of failing to maintain accurate payroll records in the State of California;
- j. Whether Defendants unlawfully and/or willfully failed to maintain accurate payroll records in the State of California;
- k. Whether Defendants have a common policy and/or practice of failing to provide accurate wage statements reflecting hours worked and wages earned to Plaintiff and

Class Members;

- l. Whether Defendants unlawfully and/or willfully failed to provide accurate wage statements reflecting hours worked and wages earned to Plaintiff and Class Members;
- m. Whether Defendants have a common policy and/or practice of failing to reimburse Plaintiff and Class Members for reasonable business expenses;
- n. Whether Defendants unlawfully and/or willfully failed to reimburse Plaintiff and Class Members for reasonable business expenses;
- o. Whether Defendants has a policy and/or practice of failing to pay Plaintiff and Class Members final wages owed upon termination;
- p. Whether Defendants unlawfully and/or willfully failed to promptly pay compensation due to Plaintiff and Class Members upon termination of employment in violation of Labor Code §§ 201, 202, and 203;
- q. Whether Plaintiff and Class Members sustained damages as a result of any of the aforementioned violations, and, if so, the proper measure of those damages, including interest, penalties, costs, attorneys' fees, and equitable relief; and
- r. Whether Defendants violated the Unfair Competition Law, Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17200, et seq., by violating the above provisions of law.

19. **Superiority.** A class action is superior to other available means for the fair and efficient adjudication of this dispute. The damages suffered by individual Class Members, while substantial, are small compared to the burden and expense of individual prosecution of the complex and expensive litigation necessary to address Defendants' conduct. Even if Class Members themselves could afford individual litigation, the court system would be overwhelmed by individual lawsuits if all Class Members sought redress. In addition, individualized litigation increases the delay and expense to all parties and to the court system resulting from the complex legal and factual issues of this case. Individualized litigation also presents a potential for inconsistent or contradictory judgments. By contrast, the class action device presents far fewer management difficulties; it allows the hearing of claims which might otherwise go unaddressed because of the relative expense of bringing individual lawsuits, and it provides the benefits of single adjudication, economies of scale, and comprehensive supervision by a single court. Plaintiff contemplates providing individual notice

1 to members of the class defined above as identified through Defendants' records.

2 **CAUSES OF ACTION**

3 **FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION**

4 ***California Labor Code §§ 1182.12, 1194, 1194.2, 1197, 1197.1, and 1198***

5 ***Failure to Pay Minimum Wages for All Hours Worked***

6 **(Plaintiff and Class Against Defendants)**

7 20. Plaintiff repeats and incorporates by reference all allegations contained in the preceding
8 paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.

9 21. California law requires employers to compensate employees for all time that an employee is
10 "suffered or permitted to work," which includes all time "when any employer 'directs, commands or restrains'
11 an employee." *See, e.g., Morillion v. Royal Packing Co.*, 22 Cal. 4th 575, 583 (2000), as modified (May 10, 2000);
12 *see also* Code Regs. tit. 8, § 11070 ("Hours worked' means the time during which an employee is subject to the
13 control of an employer and includes all the time the employee is suffered or permitted to work, whether or
14 not required to do so.').

15 22. Defendants failed to compensate Plaintiff and the Class for all hours worked because
16 Defendants had a policy and/or practice whereby they required and/or pressured Class Members to work
17 under Defendants' control while off-the-clock, including but not limited to forcing or requiring Class
18 Members to work while they were clocked out for their meal periods.

19 23. Defendants further failed to pay Plaintiff and Class Members any wages for time engaged in
20 this off-the-clock work.

21 24. As a result of Defendants' failure and refusal to comply with California law, Plaintiff and Class
22 Members are entitled to recover actual and liquidated damages for the unpaid time, plus injunctive relief and
23 reasonable attorney's fees and costs. Lab. Code §§ 1194, 1197.1.

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1 **SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION**

2 ***California Labor Code §§ 510 and 1198***

3 ***Unpaid Overtime***

4 **(Plaintiff and Class Against Defendants)**

5 25. Plaintiff incorporates by reference every allegation in this complaint as if fully set forth herein.

6 26. California Labor Code §§ 510 and 1198 provide that it is unlawful to employ persons without
7 compensating them at a rate of pay either time-and-one-half or two-times that person's regular rate of pay,
8 depending on the number of hours worked by the person on a daily or weekly basis.

9 27. Plaintiff and Class Members who work more than eight hours in a day or more than forty
10 hours in a workweek are to be paid at the rate of time and one-half (1½) for all hours worked in excess of
11 eight hours in a day or more than forty hours in a workweek. An employee's regular rate of pay includes all
12 remuneration for employment paid to, or on behalf of, the employee, including commissions, non-
13 discretionary bonuses and incentive pay. *Alvarado v. Dart Container Corp. of California*, 4 Cal. 5th 542, 573 (2018),
14 as modified (Apr. 25, 2018).

15 28. Throughout the Class Period, Plaintiff and other Class Members were not paid overtime
16 premiums for all of the hours they worked in excess of eight hours in a day, in excess of twelve hours in a
17 day, in excess of eight hours on the seventh consecutive day of work in a workweek, and in excess of forty
18 hours in a week.

19 29. Additionally, Defendants paid Plaintiff and other Class Members non-discretionary bonuses
20 that were required to be included in the calculation of their regular rate of pay. Despite this, Defendants failed
21 to properly recalculate the regular rate of pay to account for such bonuses when calculating overtime
22 compensation. As a result, Plaintiff and the Class Members were underpaid for overtime hours worked.

23 30. Defendants knew or should have known that Plaintiff and Class Members did not receive
24 overtime compensation. Because Plaintiff and Class Members sometimes worked shifts of more than eight
25 hours a day or forty hours a week, they should have been adequately compensated at their appropriate
26 overtime rate of pay. Accordingly, Defendants' failure to pay overtime compensation resulted in Plaintiff and
27 Class Members being deprived of earned overtime wages.

28 31. Pursuant to Labor Code § 1194, Plaintiff and Class Members are entitled to recover their

unpaid overtime compensation, as well as interest, costs, and attorneys' fees.

THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION

California Labor Code §§ 226.7, 512(a), and 1198

Meal Period Violations

(Plaintiff and Class Against Defendants)

32. Plaintiff incorporates by reference every allegation in this complaint as if fully set forth herein.

33. At all times relevant to this complaint, Defendants knew they were obligated to provide legally-compliant meal breaks to its non-exempt employees pursuant to Labor Code §§ 512 and 226.7. Labor Code § 512(a) states in pertinent part: "[A]n employer may not employ an employee for a work period of more than five hours per day without providing the employee with a meal period of not less than 30 minutes. An employer may not employ an employee for a work period of more than 10 hours per day without providing the employee with a second meal period of not less than 30 minutes."

34. Labor Code section 226.7, 512(a), and 1198 provide that no employer shall require an employee to work during any meal period mandated by an applicable order of the IWC. "An off-duty meal period, therefore, is one in which the employee is relieved of all duty during the 30-minute meal period . . . an employer's obligation is to provide an off-duty meal period: an uninterrupted 30-minute period during which the employee is relieved of all duty." *Brinker Rest. Corp. v. Superior Court*, 53 Cal. 4th 1004, 1035 (2012).

35. Defendants' policies and practices served to deprive the Class of a full 30-minute break period free of employer control or relieved of all duties. Upon information and belief, employees were required to skip breaks, take breaks after the fifth hour of work, or work through them.

36. Accordingly, Plaintiff and Class Members were uniformly denied meal periods as a result of Defendants' formal policies and practices. By failing to consistently provide uninterrupted, off-duty 30-minute meal periods, Defendants violated the Labor Code as to Plaintiff and Class Members.

37. In failing to authorize and/or permit meal periods, Defendants have also implemented a uniform policy of denying compensation in lieu of meal periods to its non-exempt employees, notwithstanding its actual knowledge that such employees were uniformly denied compliant meal periods.

38. Pursuant to Labor Code § 226.7(b), Plaintiff and Class Members are entitled to recover from Defendants an additional hour of pay at their regular rates of pay for each shift in which a required meal

period was not provided.

FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION

Labor Code §§ 226.7 and 1198

Failure to Provide Rest Periods or Premium Pay in Lieu Thereof

(Plaintiff and Class Against Defendants)

39. Plaintiff incorporates by reference every allegation in this complaint as if fully set forth herein.

40. At all times relevant to this complaint, Defendants knew they were obligated to provide compliant rest breaks to its non-exempt employees pursuant to Labor Code § 226.7.

41. Labor Code § 226.7 provides:

(a) No employer shall require any employee to work during any meal or rest period mandated by an applicable order of the Industrial Welfare Commission.

(b) If any employer fails to provide an employee a meal period or rest period in accordance with an applicable order of the Industrial Welfare Commission, the employer shall pay the employee one additional hour of pay at the employee's regular rate of compensation for each work day that the meal or rest period is not provided.

42. Labor Code § 226.7, 512(a), and 1198 provide that no employer shall require an employee to work during any rest or meal period mandated by an applicable order of the IWC, including Wage Order No. 1. Employers must authorize and permit employees to be relieved of all duty during their rest and meal periods: "A rest period, in short, must be a period of rest." *Augustus v. ABM Sec. Servs., Inc.*, 385 P.3d 823, 834 (2016).

43. Employees must also be free to leave the employer's premises during their rest period. *See id.* at 270 ("In the context of a 10-minute break that employers must provide during the work period, a broad and intrusive degree of control exists when an employer requires employees to remain on call and respond during breaks. An employee on call cannot take a brief walk—five minutes out, five minutes back—if at the farthest extent of the walk he or she is not in a position to respond. Employees similarly cannot use their 10 minutes to take care of other personal matters that require truly uninterrupted time."); *see also* Department of Industrial Relations, "Rest Periods," available at https://www.dir.ca.gov/dlse/FAQ_RestPeriods.htm ("Q. Can my employer require that I stay on the work premises during my rest period? A. No, your employer cannot impose any restraints not inherent in the rest period requirement itself.").

44. Defendants failed to authorize or permit all required compliant paid rest periods for shifts between 3.5 and ten hours, or subjected employees to interrupted, on duty, or shortened rest periods because of their scheduling policies and practices.

45. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' willful and unlawful conduct, Plaintiff and Class Members have sustained damages, including lost compensation resulting from missed or non-compliant rest periods, in an amount to be established at trial.

46. In failing to authorize and/or permit rest periods, Defendants have also implemented a uniform policy of denying compensation in lieu of rest periods to its non-exempt employees, notwithstanding its actual knowledge that such employees were uniformly denied compliant rest periods.

47. Pursuant to Labor Code § 226.7(b), Plaintiff and Class Members are entitled to recover from Defendants an additional hour of pay at their regular rates of pay for each shift that a compliant rest period was not provided. Defendants were aware that their actions were a violation of applicable law but consistently refused to pay premium pay as required by law.

FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION

Labor Code §§ 226. 226.3, and 1174

Failure to Provide Complete and Accurate Wage Statements

(Plaintiff and Class Against Defendants)

48. Plaintiff repeats and incorporates by reference all allegations contained in the preceding paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.

49. Labor Code § 226 requires employers to furnish employees with an accurate, itemized statement in writing showing, among other things, (1) gross wages earned; (2) total hours worked by the employee (for hourly-paid, non-exempt employees); (3) all deductions; (4) net wages earned; (5) the inclusive dates of the period for which the employee is paid; (6) the name of the employee and the last four digits of his or her social security number; (7) the name and address of the legal entity that is the employer; and (8) all applicable hourly rates in effect during the pay period and the corresponding number of hours worked at each hourly rate by the employee.

50. At all times relevant to this complaint, Defendants' failure to pay premium wages for missed meal and/or rest periods ensured that Class Members' wage statements inaccurately reflected gross and net

wages earned. Defendants' failure to compensate all hours worked and/or pay all required overtime rates further left the wage statements they provided to employees to be inaccurate.

51. Defendants have also failed to keep accurate payroll records for Plaintiff and Class Members in accordance with Labor Code § 1174. Defendants' failure to keep and maintain accurate payroll records reflecting hours worked and wages earned has impeded Plaintiff and Class Members' ability to calculate unpaid wages earned.

52. Injury. Defendants knowingly and intentionally failed to comply with Labor Code § 226, causing injury and damages to Plaintiff and Class Members. Plaintiff and all those similarly situated were injured by these failures because, among other things, they were confused about whether they were paid properly and/or they were misinformed about how much compensation was owed. These damages include, but are not limited to, costs incurred calculating the correct net wages for each pay period and the amount of employment taxes that were not paid to state and federal tax authorities.

53. Relief. Labor Code § 226(e)(1) provides that an employee suffering injury as a result of not being provided with an accurate itemized wage statement is entitled to recover the greater of all actual damages suffered or fifty (\$50) dollars for the initial violation and one hundred (\$100) dollars for each subsequent violation, up to \$4,000. Pursuant to Labor Code §§ 226(e) and (g), Plaintiff and all others similarly situated are entitled to injunctive relief to ensure Defendant's compliance with Labor Code § 226, as well as attorney's fees and costs of suit.

SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION

California Labor Code § 1198, 1199, and IWC Wage Order 5-2001

Reporting Time Pay

(Plaintiff and Reporting Time Pay Subclass Against Defendants)

54. Plaintiff incorporates by reference all the allegations of this Complaint as though fully set forth herein.

55. Labor Code § 1199 prohibits an employer from causing any employee to work under conditions of labor prohibited by an order of the Industrial Welfare Commission (IWC) or from violating, refusing, or neglecting to comply with any order of the commission's orders regarding wages, hours, and working conditions. Labor Code § 1198 states that the standard conditions of labor fixed by the commission

1 shall be the standard conditions of labor for employees and forbids the employment of any employee under
2 conditions of labor prohibited by the commission's wage orders.

3 56. Wage Order 5-2001 requires that each workday an employee is required to report for work
4 and does report, but is not put to work or is furnished less than half said employee's usual or scheduled day's
5 work, the employee shall be paid for half the usual or scheduled day's work, but in no event for less than two
6 (2) hours nor more than four (4) hours, at the employee's regular rate of pay, which shall not be less than the
7 minimum wage.

8 57. Defendants failed to pay reporting time to employees who were required to report into work
9 via phone or in person but were not put to work or were furnished less than half of their usual or scheduled
10 shift. *See* Wage Order No. 5-2001, Section 5. *Ward v. Tilly's, Inc.*, 31 Cal. App. 5th 1167, 1183 (2019), review
11 denied (May 15, 2019).

12 58. As a result, Plaintiffs and the Reporting Time Pay Subclass are entitled to recover reporting
13 time pay in amounts to be determined at trial.

14 **SEVENTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

15 ***Labor Code §§ 201, 202, 203, and 204***

16 ***Failure to Pay Wages When Due***

17 **(Plaintiff and Class Against Defendants)**

18 59. Plaintiff incorporates by reference all allegations contained in the preceding paragraphs as if
19 fully set forth herein.

20 60. Labor Code § 201 provides, in relevant part, that:

21 If an employee not having a written contract for a definite period quits his or her
22 employment, his or her wages¹ shall become due and payable not later than 72 hours
23 thereafter, unless the employee has given 72 hours previous notice of his or her
24 intention to quit, in which case the employee is entitled to his or her wages at the
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26
27 ¹ Labor Code § 200 defines "wages" as "all amounts for labor performed by employees of every description,
28 whether the amount is fixed or ascertained by the standard of time, task, piece, commission basis, or other
method of calculation." "Labor" is defined as "labor, work, or service . . . if the labor to be paid for is
performed personally by the person demanding payment."

time of quitting. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, an employee who quits without providing a 72-hour notice shall be entitled to receive payment by mail if he or she so requests and designates a mailing address. The date of the mailing shall constitute the date of payment for purposes of the requirement to provide payment within 72 hours of quitting.

61. Defendants do not include definite periods of service in their contracts of employment for Class Members employed at their California facility. Plaintiff's contract of employment did not include a definite term.

62. Labor Code § 203 provides:

If an employer willfully fails to pay, without abatement or reduction, in accordance with § 201, 201.5, 202, and 205.5, any wages of an employee who is discharged or who quits, the wages of the employee shall continue as a penalty from the due date thereof at the same rate until paid or until an action therefor is commenced; but the wages shall not continue for more than 30 days.

63. Labor Code § 204 provides that all wages, other than those mentioned in Section 201 and 202, are due and payable twice during each calendar month, on days designated in advance by the employer as regular paydays.

64. Failure to Timely Pay Wages Due. As set forth above, Defendants failed to timely pay the overtime wages and meal and rest period premiums resulting from its deficient timekeeping and meal and rest period policies.

65. Failure to Pay Upon Termination. Plaintiff and many Class Members have left Defendants' employ during the Class Period. As discussed above, Defendants knowingly failed to pay Plaintiff and Class Members all earned wages upon termination. Instead, Defendants willfully and intentionally refused to pay the earned rest and/or meal period premiums and earned minimum wages as alleged herein to Plaintiff and Class Members in violation of Labor Code §§ 201 and 202.

66. Relief. Defendants' failure to pay Plaintiff and those Class Members who are no longer employed by Defendants their wages earned and unpaid at the time of discharge, or within seventy-two (72) hours of their leaving Defendants' employment, violates Labor Code §§ 201 and 202. Plaintiff and formerly

1 employed Class Members are therefore entitled to recover from Defendants the statutory penalty wages for
2 each day they were not paid, at their regular rate of pay, up to a 30-day maximum penalty under Labor Code
3 § 203.

4 **EIGHTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

5 ***California Labor Code § 2802***

6 ***Failure to Reimburse Necessary Business Expenses***

7 **(Plaintiff and Class Against Defendants)**

8 67. Plaintiff repeats, repleads, and incorporates by reference, as though fully set forth in this
9 paragraph, all the allegations of this Complaint.

10 68. Labor Code section 2802 provides that “[a]n employer shall indemnify his or her employee
11 for all necessary expenditures or losses incurred by the employee in direct consequence of the discharge of
12 his or her duties, or of his or her obedience to the directions of the employer.” Lab. Code § 2802. The purpose
13 of Labor Code section 2802 is to prevent employers from passing off their cost of doing business and
14 operating expenses on to their employees. *Cochran v. Schwan’s Home Service, Inc.*, 228 Cal. App. 4th 1137, 1144
15 (2014).

16 69. Defendants required non-exempt employees to utilize their personal cell phones for work-
17 related purposes, making outbound calls, including answering texts and calls from their supervisors while at
18 work or on a break, being assigned tasks, and general administrative matters. Defendants further failed to
19 compensate their non-exempt employees for reasonable costs associated with utilizing their personal cell
20 phones for work-related purposes.

21 70. Defendants failed to reimburse a reasonable portion of the Class Members’ cellphone related
22 expenses despite requiring the use of the device and/or applications that required a data plan. *See Cochran v.*
23 *Schwan’s Home Serv., Inc.*, 228 Cal. App. 4th 1137, 1144 (“We hold that when employees must use their personal
24 cell phones for work related calls, Labor Code section 2802 requires the employer to reimburse them. Whether
25 the employees have cell phone plans with unlimited minutes or limited minutes, the reimbursement owed is
26 a reasonable percentage of their cell phone bills.”).

27 71. By unlawfully failing to pay Plaintiff and Class Members, Defendants are liable for a reasonable
28 portion of the incurred expenses, to be determined upon trial, plus reasonable attorneys’ fees and costs. Lab.

Code § 2802.

NINTH CAUSE OF ACTION

Labor Code §§ 558, 2698, et seq.

Private Attorneys General Act (“PAGA”) Penalties

(Plaintiffs and Aggrieved Employees Against Defendants)

72. Plaintiff repeats and incorporate by reference every allegation in this complaint as if fully set forth herein.

73. Standing. Under the California Private Attorneys General Act (“PAGA”), Labor Code § 2698, *et seq.*, an aggrieved employee may bring a representative action as a private attorney general, on behalf of himself and other current or former employees to recover penalties for an employer’s violations of the Labor Code and IWC Wage Orders.

74. Plaintiff, by nature of his employment with Defendants, is an aggrieved employee for purposes of this Complaint with standing to bring an action under PAGA.

75. Plaintiff, on behalf of the State of California and all Aggrieved Employees, brings this representative action pursuant to Labor Code § 2699, *et seq.*, seeking civil penalties for Defendants’ violation of the Labor Code provisions mentioned in this Complaint, including but not limited to §§ 201, 202, 203, 204, 206.5 226, 226.3, 226.7, 432.5, 510, 512, 558, 1182.12, 1174, 1194, 1194.2, 1197, 1197.1, 1199, 1401, and 2802 as described herein, plus attorneys’ fees and costs.

76. Entitlement to Penalties. Under the California Private Attorneys General Act (“PAGA”), Labor Code § 2698, *et seq.*, an aggrieved employee may bring a representative action as a private attorney general, on behalf of himself and other current or former employees, against whom a violation of the same provision(s) was committed, as well as the general public, to recover penalties for an employer’s violations of the Labor Code and IWC Wage Orders within one year of filing a notice to the Labor and Workforce Development Agency in the amounts set forth in Labor Code § 2698.

77. These penalties are in addition to any other relief available under the Labor Code and are allocated sixty-five percent to the Labor and Workforce Development Agency and thirty-five percent to the affected employees.

78. These penalties may be “stacked” separately for each of Defendants’ violations of the Labor

Code subject to the exceptions enumerated in Labor Code section 2698(i). *See, e.g., Hernandez v. Towne Park, Ltd.*, No. CV 12-02972, 2012 WL 2373372, at *17 n.77 (C.D. Cal. June 22, 2012); *see also O'Connor v. Uber Techs., Inc.*, No. 13-CV-03826-EMC, 2016 WL 3548370, at *7 (N.D. Cal. June 30, 2016); Labor Code § 2698(i).

79. Procedural Requirements Met. On July 21, 2026, Plaintiff electronically filed a notice of claims with the LWDA and sent a copy to Defendants by certified mail. On September 25, 2026, the sixty-five-day notice period expired as to all defendants. Plaintiff did not receive notice from the LWDA that it would be investigating the complaint nor did Plaintiff receive notice from the LWDA that it was declining to investigate with the 65-day period under Labor Code § 2699.3. Since the LWDA took no steps within the prescribed time to intervene, Plaintiff has exhausted all required administrative remedies required to seek penalties under PAGA. *See* Lab. Code § 2699.3(a)(2). A true and correct copy of Plaintiff's PAGA Notice is attached herein as **Exhibit A**.

TENTH CAUSE OF ACTION

California Business & Professions Code §§ 17200, et seq.

Unlawful Business Practices

(Plaintiff and Class Against Defendants)

80. Plaintiff repeats and incorporate by reference every allegation in this complaint as if fully set forth herein.

81. Defendants are "person(s)" as defined by California Business & Professions Code § 17201, as they are a natural person, corporations, firms, partnerships, joint stock companies, and/or associations.

82. Unlawful Business Practices. Defendants' knowing violations of the Labor Code constitutes an unlawful business practice as set forth in Business & Professions Code § 17200, et seq.

83. Defendants' failure to abide by the laws discussed herein provided Defendants an unfair advantage over their competitors at the expense of their workers. Instead, Defendants cuts corners in the name of higher profits and at the expense of employee well-being. Defendants' actions thereby constitute an unfair, fraudulent, and/or unlawful business practice under Business & Professions Code § 17200, et seq.

84. Relief. Plaintiff brings this cause of action seeking equitable and injunctive relief to stop Defendant's willful and ongoing misconduct, and to seek restitution of the amounts Defendants acquired through the unfair, unlawful, and fraudulent business practices described herein. In addition, Plaintiff seeks

an award of costs and attorneys' fees pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure § 1021.5.

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

Pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure § 631, Plaintiff demands a trial by jury on all issues so triable.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff respectfully prays judgment as follows:

- A. For an Order:
 - a. Certifying the Class;
 - b. Appointing Plaintiff as representative of the Class;
 - c. Appointing Plaintiff's counsel as Class Counsel;
- B. For actual and liquidated damages according to proof at trial;
- C. For statutory and civil penalties and special damages, according to proof at trial;
- D. For pre- and post-judgment interest on monetary damages;
- E. For preliminary and permanent injunctive relief;
- F. For reasonable attorney's fees and costs and expert fees and costs as allowed by law; and
- G. For such other relief as this Court deems just and proper.

Dated: September 25, 2026

Respectfully submitted,

BARAHMAND LAW GROUP

By: 
Navid Barahmand, Esq.
Attorneys for Plaintiff and the Putative Class

EXHIBIT A

BARAHMAND LAW GROUP

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Calabasas, California 91302

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July 21, 2026

Original filed online via the LWDA's PAGA Claim Notice Portal

LABOR & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

1515 Clay Street, Suite 801

Oakland, California 94612

Sent via U.S. Certified Mail:

Charles Sharp – Agent for Service of Process

P.J.'S LUMBER, INC.

45055 Fremont Boulevard

Fremont, California 94538

Re: Private Attorneys General Act ("PAGA") Notice Letter of Juan Carlos Valencia-Diaz on Behalf of Himself and Aggrieved Employees Under California Labor Code Section 2699.3

Dear Sir/Madam:

We represent Juan Carlos Valencia-Diaz against Defendants P.J.'S Lumber, Inc. and Shane McMillan (collectively, "Defendant") in a lawsuit soon to be filed against Defendants in Stanislaus County Superior Court (the "Action"). A copy of the proposed Complaint to be filed in the Action is enclosed as **Exhibit A**.

Together with this correspondence, the enclosed Complaint serves as notice pursuant to Labor Code § 2699.3, *et seq.* that we intend to prosecute representative claims for civil penalties under the Private Attorney's General Act ("PAGA") on behalf of those of Defendant's employees employed from one year prior to filing of this Notice through trial (the "Aggrieved Employees") for the Labor Code violations asserted in the Complaint. *See* Cal. Lab. Code §§ 2699, *et seq.*

As set forth in greater detail in the Complaint, Defendant violated their obligations under the California Labor Code by (1) failing to pay minimum wage for all hours worked; (2) failing to provide overtime hours; (3-4) failing to provide meal and rest breaks pursuant to Lab. Code § 226.7(b); (5) failing to provide and maintain records under Lab. Code §§ 226, 432, and 1198.5, (6) failing to pay reporting time wages; and (7) failing to reimburse necessary business expenditures.

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California Labor and Workforce Development Agency
July 21, 2026

Please feel free to contact us with any questions.

Very truly yours,

BARAHMAND LAW GROUP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Navid Barahmand', written in a cursive style.

NAVID BARAHMAND, ESQ.
Navid@barahmandlaw.com

Enclosure: Exhibit A – Draft Complaint

**PROOF OF SERVICE
(CCP § 1013(a) and 2015.5)**

I, the undersigned, am at least 18 years old and not a party to this action. I am employed in the County Los Angeles with the law offices of Barahmand Law Group and its business address is 23801 Calabasas Road, Suite 2034; Calabasas, California 91203.

On **September 25, 2026**, I served the foregoing document(s):

1. FIRST AMENDED CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT

on the person(s) listed below as follows:

COOK BROWN, LLP
2407 J Street, Second Floor
Sacramento, California 95816

Attorneys for Defendants Pj's Lumber, Inc.:
smccutcheon@cookbrown.com
rdouglas@cookbrown.com
rpyle@cookbrown.com

☐ [by MAIL] - I enclosed the document(s) in a sealed envelope or package addressed to the person(s) whose address(es) are listed above and placed the envelope for collection and mailing, collecting and processing correspondence for mailing. On the same day that correspondence is placed for collection and mailing, it is deposited in the ordinary course of business with the United States Postal Service in Calabasas, California, in a sealed envelope with postage fully prepaid.

☐ [by PERSONAL SERVICE] – I delivered the document(s) to the person(s) at the address(es) listed above by (1)(a) personal delivery, or (b) by leaving the documents in an envelope/package with an individual in charge of the office, or (c) by leaving them in a conspicuous place in the office between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. or (2) by messenger

☐ [by OVERNIGHT DELIVERY] - I enclosed the document(s) in an envelope or package provided by an overnight delivery carrier and addressed to the person(s) at the address(es) listed above. I placed the envelope or package for collection and overnight delivery at an office or a regularly utilized drop box of the overnight carrier.

☒ [by ELECTRONIC SERVICE] - Based on a court order or an agreement of the parties to accept service by electronic transmission, I electronically served the document(s) to the person(s) at the electronic service address(es) listed above.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on September 25, 2026, at Los Angeles, California.

By: 
Navid Barahmand