Electronically Received 09/14/2026 02:43 PM

D.LAW, INC.
Roman Shkodnik (SBN 285152)
r.shkodnik@d.law
Mason Doidge (SBN 352604)
m.doidge@d.law
250 N Madison Avenue, 2nd Floor
Pasadena, CA 91101-1639
Telephone: (818) 962-6465
Facsimile: (818) 962-6469

Attorneys for Plaintiff RICARDO FLORES JR., on behalf of himself and others similarly situated

FILED
Superior Court of California
County of Los Angeles
09/14/2026
David W. Slayton, Executive Officer / Clerk of Court
By: S. Drew Deputy

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

FOR THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

RICARDO FLORES JR., on behalf of himself and others similarly situated,

Plaintiff,

vs.

TIDWELL POWER CORP., a California corporation; TIDWELL EXCAVATION, an entity of unknown form; MERUELO ENTERPRISES, INC., a California corporation; and DOES 1 through 50, inclusive,

Defendants.

Case No. 26STCV21570

CLASS ACTION

Assigned for All Purposes To:
Hon. William F. Highberger
Dept.: 10

FIRST AMENDED CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT FOR:

1. Failure to Pay Minimum Wages;
2. Failure to Pay Wages and Overtime Under Labor Code § 510;
3. Meal-Period Liability Under Labor Code § 226.7;
4. Rest-Break Liability Under Labor Code § 226.7;
5. Reimbursement of Necessary Expenditures Under Labor Code § 2802;
6. Violation of Labor Code § 226(a);
7. Failure to Keep Required Payroll Records Under Labor Code §§ 1174 and 1174.5
8. Penalties Pursuant to Labor Code § 203;
9. Violation of Business & Professions Code § 17200 *et seq*.; and
10. Penalties Pursuant to Labor Code § 2699, *et seq*.

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

Plaintiff RICARDO FLORES JR., (hereinafter "Plaintiff") on behalf of himself and all others similarly situated (collectively, "Employees"; individually, "Employee") complains of Defendants, and each of them, as follows:

INTRODUCTION

1. Plaintiff brings this action on behalf of himself and all current and former Employees within the State of California who, at any time four (4) years prior to the filing of this lawsuit, are or were employed as non-exempt, hourly employees by Defendants TIDWELL POWER CORP., a California corporation; TIDWELL EXCAVATION, an entity of unknown form; MERUELO ENTERPRISES, INC., a California corporation; and DOES 1 through 50 (all defendants being collectively referred to herein as "Defendants"). Plaintiff alleges that Defendants, and each of them, violated various provisions of the California Labor Code, relevant orders of the Industrial Welfare Commission (IWC) and California Business & Professions Code, and seeks redress therefore.

2. Plaintiff is a resident of California and during the time period relevant to this Complaint was employed by Defendants as a non-exempt hourly employee within the State of California at Defendants' facilities and offices in California. Plaintiff and the other Class members worked for Defendants in Los Angeles County, and in other nonexempt positions throughout California, and consistently worked at Defendants' behest without being paid all wages due. More specifically, Plaintiff and the other similarly situated Class members were employed by Defendants and worked at Defendants' offices and other facilities where the conduct giving rise to the allegations in this Class Action Complaint occurred. Upon information and belief, Plaintiff was employed by Defendants and (1) shared similar job duties and responsibilities, (2) was subjected to the same policies and practices, and (3) endured similar violations at the hands of Defendants as the other Employee Class members who served in similar and related positions.

3. Defendants required Plaintiff and the Employees in the Class to perform work while remaining under Defendants' control before and after being on the clock for their daily work shift. Defendants thus failed to pay Plaintiff and the Class members for all hours worked and provided them with inaccurate wage statements that prevented Plaintiff and the Class from

learning of these unlawful pay practices. Defendants also failed to provide Plaintiff and the Class with lawful meal and rest periods, as employees were not provided with the opportunity to take timely, uninterrupted, and duty-free meal and rest periods as required by the Labor Code.

THE PARTIES

A. The Plaintiff

4. Plaintiff RICARDO FLORES JR. has resided in California and during the time period relevant to this Complaint was employed by Defendants as a non-exempt hourly employee within the State of California.

B. The Defendants

5. Defendant TIDWELL POWER CORP. is a California corporation with its principle executive offices in Saticoy, California and has been listed as the employer on Plaintiff's wage statements during the relevant time period. TIDWELL POWER CORP. lists a mailing address in Downey, California with the California Secretary of State and employs Plaintiff and the Class members at Defendants' offices and facilities in Pasadena, California, and throughout California and conducts business throughout California.

6. Defendant TIDWELL EXCAVATION is an entity of unknown form with its principle executive offices in Saticoy, California and has been listed as the employer on Plaintiff's employment documents during the relevant time period. TIDWELL EXCAVATION does not list a mailing address with the California Secretary of State but upon information and belief employs Plaintiff and the Class members at Defendants' offices and facilities in Pasadena, California, and throughout California and conducts business throughout California.

7. Defendant MERUELO ENTERPRISES, INC. is a California corporation with its principle executive offices in Downey, California and has been listed as the employer on Plaintiff's employment documents during the relevant time period. MERUELO ENTERPRISES, INC. lists a mailing address in Downey, California with the California Secretary of State and employs Plaintiff and the Class members at Defendants' offices and facilities in Pasadena, California, and throughout California and conducts business throughout California.

8. The true names and capacities, whether individual, corporate, associate, or

whatever else, of the Defendants sued herein as Does 1 through 50, inclusive, are currently unknown to Plaintiff, who therefore sues these Defendants by such fictitious names under Code of Civil Procedure § 474. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that Defendants designated herein as Does 1 through 50, inclusive, and each of them, are legally responsible in some manner for the unlawful acts referred to herein. Plaintiff will seek leave of court to amend this Complaint to reflect the true names and capacities of the Defendants designated herein as Does 1 through 50 when their identities become known.

9. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that each Defendant acted in all respects pertinent to this action as the agent of the other Defendants, that Defendants carried out a joint scheme, business plan, or policy in all respects pertinent hereto, and that the acts of each Defendant are legally attributable to the other Defendants. Furthermore, Defendants acted in all respects as the employers or joint employers of Employees. Defendants, and each of them, exercised control over the wages, hours or working conditions of Employees, or suffered or permitted Employees to work, or engaged, thereby creating a common law employment relationship, with Employees. Therefore, Defendants, and each of them, employed or jointly employed Employees.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

10. This Court has jurisdiction over this Action pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure § 410.10 and California Business & Professions Code § 17203. This Action is brought as a Class Action on behalf of similarly situated Employees of Defendants pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure § 382. Venue as to Defendants is also proper in this judicial district pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure § 395 *et seq*. Upon information and belief, the obligations and liabilities giving rise to this lawsuit occurred at least in part in Los Angeles County and Defendants maintain and operate company offices and facilities in Los Angeles County, and employ Plaintiff and other Class members in Los Angeles County and throughout California.

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

11. The Employees who comprise the Class and Collective, including Plaintiff, are

nonexempt employees pursuant to the applicable Wage Order of the IWC. Defendants hire Employees who work in nonexempt positions at the direction of Defendants in the State of California. Plaintiff and the Class members were either not paid by Defendants for all hours worked or were not paid at the appropriate minimum, regular and overtime rates. Specifically, Plaintiff and Employees were not paid for the time that they completed pre-shift and post-shift work for Defendants, including loading materials into vehicles, unloading materials from vehicles, and transporting materials with vehicles. Moreover, Plaintiff and Employees were required to carry and respond to their cell-phones while off-the-clock for work-related activities, such as texting and calling supervisors. Plaintiff also contends that Defendants failed to pay Plaintiff and the Class members all wages due and owing, failed to provide meal and rest breaks, and failed to furnish accurate wage statements, all in violation of various provisions of the California Labor Code and applicable Wage Orders.

12. Further, Defendants required Plaintiff and Employees to clock in and out using paper timesheets. Plaintiff and Employees could have recorded their start and end times to the real-time minute; however, Defendants had a policy and practice of requiring Plaintiff and Employees to record rounded time entries to reflect scheduled shift start and end times rather than paying Plaintiff and the Employees for all hours and minutes they actually worked. Defendants generally rounded time entries to the detriment of Plaintiff and Employees, and these unlawfully rounded time entries were inputted into Defendants' payroll system from which wage statements and payroll checks were created. Defendants did so with the ostensible intent of paying Plaintiff and the Class members only for the hours they were scheduled to work, rather than the hours they were actually under Defendants' control. Plaintiff contends this policy is not neutral and results, over time, to the detriment of the Class members by systematically undercompensating them.

13. During the course of Plaintiff and the Class members' employment with Defendants, they were not paid all wages they were owed, including for all work performed and for all overtime hours worked and were forced to work during their meal periods. Defendants also failed to maintain timekeeping records for Plaintiff that would permit him to discover the nature and extent of Defendants' unlawful timekeeping practices.

14. As a matter of uniform Company policy, Plaintiff and the Class members were required to work during their meal and rest breaks which were not compensated by Defendants in violation of the California Labor Code. Plaintiff and the Class members were also not paid regular wages and overtime for the time they were required to comply with other requirements imposed upon them, which they had to complete while working through their meal periods and without compensation. As a result, Plaintiff and the Class members worked shifts over eight (8) hours in a day and over forty (40) hours in a work week, but they were not paid at the appropriate overtime rate for all such hours, including by being required to perform work duties and tasks without pay and while off-the-clock. As a result, Plaintiff and the Class members worked substantial overtime hours during their employment with Defendants for which they were not compensated, in violation of the California Labor Code, applicable IWC Wage Orders.

15. As a result of the daily work demands and pressures to work through breaks, and the other wage violations they endured at Defendants' hands, Plaintiff and the Class members were not properly paid for all wages earned and for all wages owed to them by Defendants, including when working more than eight (8) hours in any given day and/or more than forty (40) hours in any given week. As a result of Defendants' unlawful policies and practices, Plaintiff and Class members incurred overtime hours worked for which they were not adequately and completely compensated. To the extent applicable, Defendants also failed to pay Plaintiff and the Class members at an overtime rate of 1.5 times the regular rate for the first eight hours of the seventh consecutive work day in a week and overtime payments at the rate of 2 times the regular rate for hours worked over eight (8) on the seventh consecutive work day, as required under the Labor Code, applicable IWC Wage Orders.

16. Therefore, from at least four (4) years prior to the filing of this lawsuit and continuing to the present, Defendants had a consistent policy or practice of failing to pay Plaintiff and the Class members for all hours worked and failing to pay minimum wage for all time worked as required by California Law.

17. Additionally from at least four (4) years prior to the filing of this lawsuit and continuing to the present, Defendants had a consistent policy or practice of failing to pay Plaintiff

and the Class members overtime compensation at premium overtime rates for all hours worked in excess of eight (8) hours a day and/or forty (40) hours a week, and double-time rates for all hours worked in excess of twelve (12) hours a day, in violation of Labor Code § 510 and the corresponding sections of IWC Wage Orders.

18. Additionally from at least four (4) years prior to the filing of this lawsuit and continuing to the present, Defendants have regularly required Plaintiff and the Class members to work shifts in excess of five (5) hours without providing them with uninterrupted meal periods of not less than thirty (30) minutes and shifts in excess of ten (10) hours without providing them with second meal periods of not less than thirty minutes; nor did Defendants pay Plaintiff and the Class members "premium pay," i.e. one hour of wages at each Employee's effective regular rate of pay, for each meal period that Defendants failed to provide or deficiently provided. Moreover, although Plaintiff and Employees were not allowed to take meal breaks, Defendants instructed Plaintiff and Employees to record the meal breaks in their time records or affirm that they took meal breaks even though they did not.

19. From at least four (4) years prior to the filing of this lawsuit and continuing to the present, Defendants have consistently failed to provide Plaintiff and the Class members with paid rest breaks of not less than ten (10) minutes for every work period of four (4) or more consecutive hours; nor did Defendants pay Plaintiff and the Class members premium pay for each day on which requisite rest breaks were not provided or were deficiently provided at one hour of wages at each Employee's effective regular rate of pay, for each rest period that Defendants failed to provide or deficiently provided.

20. Additionally, from at least four (4) years prior to the filing of this lawsuit, and continuing to the present, Defendants have consistently failed to provide Plaintiff and the Class members with timely, accurate, and itemized wage statements as required by California wage-and-hour laws. Specifically, the wage statements given to Plaintiff and the Class members by Defendants failed to accurately account for wages, overtime, and premium pay for deficient meal periods and rest breaks all of which Defendants knew or reasonably should have known were owed to Plaintiff and the Class members, as alleged hereinabove. Additionally, the wage

statements given to Plaintiff and the Class members, by Defendants, failed to include the total hours worked in violation of Labor Code § 226(a)(2) and failed to accurately set forth all applicable hourly rates in effect during the pay period and the corresponding number of hours worked at each such rate in violation of Labor Code § 226(a)(9). The wage statements provided to Plaintiff and the Class members were confusing and required Plaintiff and the Class members to engage in discovery and refer to outside sources to verify whether their pay was correct, potentially resulting in a miscalculation by Plaintiff and the Class members.

21. From at least four (4) years prior to the filing of this lawsuit and continuing to the present, Defendants have failed to reimburse Plaintiff and the Class members for expenses necessarily incurred in the performance of their job duties for Defendants, including but not limited to the cost protective gear such as gloves, glasses, and hard hats; the cost of tools and equipment, such as shovels, electrical cutting tools, ladders, wrenches, grinders, ropes, magnets, batteries, and levels; and the cost of personal cellphone use. All of these unreimbursed expenses were necessary for Plaintiff and Employees to perform their duties under Defendants' employ in violation of Labor Code § 2802. More specifically, while Defendants provided protective gear such as gloves, glasses, and hard hats to Plaintiff and Employees, the equipment provided was of substandard quality such that it did not meet safety standards, and consequently, Plaintiff and Employees were required to purchase their own protective equipment that met safety standards. Additionally, Defendants did not provide necessary tools, which required Plaintiff and Employees to purchase the tools or bring personal tools from home. Defendants also required Plaintiff and Employees to use their personal cellphones for work purposes, including requiring Plaintiff and Employees to respond to calls and texts from supervisors, coworkers, and clients about scheduling and work tasks.

22. Additionally, from at least three (3) years prior to the filing of this lawsuit, and continuing to the present, Defendants have consistently failed to keep accurate time and wage records as required by California wage-and-hour laws.

23. Additionally, from at least four (4) years prior to filing this lawsuit and continuing to the present, Defendants have had a consistent policy of failing to pay all wages fur and owed to

Employees at the time of their termination or within seventy-two (72) hours of their resignation, as required by California wage-and-hour laws.

24. In light of the foregoing, Employees bring this action pursuant to, inter alia, Labor Code §§ 201, 202, 203, 204, 210, 226, 226.3, 226.7, 510, 512, 558, 558.1, 1174, 1174.5, 1182.12, 1185, 1194, 1194.2 1197, 1199, 2698, 2699, *et seq.*, and 2802.

25. Furthermore, pursuant to Business and Professions Code §§ 17200-17208, Employees seek injunctive relief, restitution, and disgorgement of all benefits Defendants have enjoyed from their violations of Labor Code.

CLASS ALLEGATIONS

26. Plaintiff brings this class action on behalf of himself and all others similarly situated pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure § 382. Plaintiff seeks to represent a class defined as follows: all individuals employed by Defendants within the State of California at any time within four (4) years of the filing of this lawsuit.

27. Further, Plaintiff seeks to represent the following Subclasses composed of and defined as follows:

a. Subclass 1. Minimum Wages Subclass. All Class members who were not compensated for all hours worked for Defendants at the applicable minimum wage.

b. Subclass 2. Wages and Overtime Subclass. All Class members who were not compensated for all hours worked for Defendants at the required rates of pay, including for all hours worked in excess of eight in a day and/or forty in a week.

c. Subclass 3. Meal Period Subclass. All Class members who were subject to Defendants' policy and/or practice of failing to provide unpaid 30-minute uninterrupted and duty-free meal periods or one hour of pay at the Employee's regular rate of pay in lieu thereof.

d. Subclass 4. Rest Break Subclass. All Class members who were subject to Defendants' policy and/or practice of failing to authorize and permit Employees to take uninterrupted, duty-free, 10-minute rest periods for every four hours worked, or major fraction thereof, and failing to pay one hour of pay at the Employee's regular rate of pay in lieu thereof.

e. Subclass 5. Payroll Records Subclass. All Class members who were subject to

Defendants' policy and/or practice of failing to keep accurate time and wage records as required by California wage-and-hour laws.

f. Subclass 6. Wage Statement Subclass. All Class members who, within the applicable limitations period, were not provided with accurate itemized wage statements.

g. Subclass 7. Failure to Reimburse for Necessary Business Expenditures. All Class members who were subject to Defendants' failure to reimburse for expenses necessarily incurred in the performance of Employees job duties for Defendants.

h. Subclass 8. Termination Pay Subclass. All Class members who, within the applicable limitations period, either voluntarily or involuntarily separated from their employment and were subject to Defendants' policy and/or practice of failing to timely pay wages upon termination.

i. Subclass 9. UCL Subclass. All Class members who are owed restitution as a result of Defendants' business acts and practices, to the extent such acts and practices are found to be unlawful, deceptive, and/or unfair.

28. Plaintiff reserves the right under California Rule of Court 3.765 to amend or modify the class description with greater particularity or further division into subclasses or limitation to particular issues.

29. This action has been brought and may properly be maintained as a class action under the provisions of Code of Civil Procedure § 382 because there is a well-defined community of interest in litigation and proposed class is easily ascertainable.

A. Numerosity

30. The potential members of the class as defined are so numerous that joinder of all the member of the class is impracticable. While the precise number of class members has not been determined at this time, Plaintiff is informed and believes that Defendants employ or, during the time period relevant to this lawsuit, employed more than 100 individuals within the State of California.

31. Accounting for employee turnover during the relevant time period increases this number substantially. Plaintiff alleges that Defendants' employment records will provide

information as to the number and location of all class members.

B. Commonality

32. There are questions of law and fact common to the class that predominate over any questions affecting only individual class members. These common questions of law and fact include:

a. Whether Defendants failed to pay Employees minimum wages;

b. Whether Defendants failed to pay Employees wages for all hours worked;

c. Whether Defendants failed to pay Employees overtime as required under Labor Code § 510;

d. Whether Defendants violated Labor Code §§ 226.7 and 512, and the applicable IWC Wage Orders, by failing to provide Employees with requisite meal periods or premium pay in lieu thereof;

e. Whether Defendants violated Labor Code § 226.7, and the applicable IWC Wage Orders, by failing to provide Employees with requisite rest breaks or premium pay in lieu thereof;

f. Whether Defendants violated Labor Code § 226(a);

g. Whether Defendants violated Labor Code §§ 1174 and 1174.5;

h. Whether Defendants failed to reimburse Employees for necessary business expenses;

i. Whether Defendants violated Labor Code §§ 201, 202, and 203 by failing to pay wages and compensation due and owing at the time of termination of employment;

j. Whether Defendants are liable for penalties under Labor Code § 2699, *et seq*.;

k. Whether Defendants violated Business and Professions Code § 17200 *et seq*.; and

l. Whether Employees are entitled to equitable relief pursuant to Business and Professions Code § 17200 *et seq*.

C. Typicality

33. The claims of the named plaintiff are typical of those of the other Employees. Employees, including Plaintiff, all sustained injuries and damages arising out of and caused by

Defendants' common course of conduct in violation of statutes, as well as regulations that have the force and effect of law, as alleged herein.

D. Adequacy of Representation

34. Plaintiff will fairly and adequately represent and protect the interest of Employees. Counsel who represents Employees are experienced and competent in litigating employment class actions.

E. Superiority of Class Action

35. A class action is superior to other available means for the fair and efficient adjudication of this controversy. Individual joinder of all Employees is not practicable, and questions of law and fact common to all Employees predominate over any questions affecting only individual Employees. Each Employee has been damaged and is entitled to recovery by reason of Defendants' illegal policies or practices of failing to compensate Employees properly.

36. Class action treatment will allow those persons similarly situated to litigate their claims in the manner that is most efficient and economical for the parties and the judicial system. Plaintiff is unaware of any difficulties in managing this case that should preclude class action.

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

FAILURE TO PAY MINIMUM WAGES

(Against All Defendants)

37. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates all preceding paragraphs, as though set forth in full herein.

38. Defendants failed to pay Employees minimum wages for all hours worked. Defendants had a consistent policy of misstating Plaintiff's and Employees' time records and failing to pay Plaintiff and Employees for all hours worked. Plaintiff and Employees would work hours and not receive wages, including as alleged above in connection with working during meal breaks, rounding of timekeeping entries, and working "pre-shift" and "post-shift" without compensation by loading and unloading vehicles, transporting materials with vehicles, and being required to respond to work-related calls and texts while off the clock. Defendants thus regularly failed to pay minimum wages to Plaintiff and Class members. Moreover, Defendants did not pay

Plaintiff and Employees at the applicable minimum wage for all hours worked. Defendants' uniform pattern of unlawful wage and hour practices manifested, without limitation, applicable to the Class as a whole, as a result of implementing a uniform policy and practice that denied accurate compensation to Plaintiff and the other members of the Class as to minimum wage pay.

39. California Labor Code § 1197, entitled "Pay of Less Than Minimum Wage" states:

> The minimum wage for employees fixed by the commission is the minimum wage to be paid to employees, and the payment of a less wage than the minimum so fixed is unlawful.

40. The applicable minimum wages fixed by the commission for work during the relevant period is found in the Wage Orders. Pursuant to the Wage Orders, Employees are therefore entitled to double the minimum wage during the relevant period.

41. The minimum wage provisions of California Labor Code are enforceable by private civil action pursuant to California Labor Code § 1194(a) which states:

> Notwithstanding any agreement to work for a lesser wage, any employee receiving less than the legal minimum wage or the legal overtime compensation applicable to the employee is entitled to recover in a civil action the unpaid balance of the full amount of this minimum wage or overtime compensation, including interest thereon, reasonable attorney's fees and costs of suit.

42. As described in California Labor Code §§ 1185 and 1194.2, any action for wages incorporates the applicable Wage Order of the California Industrial Welfare Commission.

43. California Labor Code § 1194.2 also provides for the following remedies:

> In any action under Section 1194 . . . to recover wages because of the payment of a wage less than the minimum wages fixed by an order of the commission, an employee shall be entitled to recover liquidated damages in an amount equal to the wages unlawfully unpaid and interest thereon.

44. Defendants have the ability to pay minimum wages for all time worked and have willfully refused to pay such wages with the intent to secure for Defendants a discount upon this indebtedness with the intent to annoy, harass, oppress, hinder, delay, or defraud Employees.

45. Wherefore, Plaintiff and Employees are entitled to recover the unpaid minimum wages (including double minimum wages), liquidated damages in an amount equal to the

minimum wages unlawfully unpaid, interest thereon and reasonable attorney's fees and costs of suit pursuant to California Labor Code § 1194(a).

SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION

FAILURE TO PAY WAGES AND OVERTIME UNDER LABOR CODE § 510

(Against All Defendants)

46. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates all preceding paragraphs, as though set forth in full herein.

47. By their conduct, as set forth herein, Defendants violated California Labor Code § 510 (and the relevant orders of the Industrial Welfare Commission) by failing to pay Employees: (a) time and one-half their regular hourly rates for hours worked in excess of eight (8) hours in a workday or in excess of forty (40) hours in any workweek or for the first eight (8) hours worked on the seventh day of work in any one workweek; or (b) twice their regular rate of pay for hours worked in excess of twelve (12) hours in any one (1) day or for hours worked in excess of eight (8) hours on any seventh day of work in a workweek. Defendants had a consistent policy of not paying Plaintiff and Class members wages for all hours worked including time off the clock working during meal periods, rounding of timekeeping entries, and working "pre-shift" and "post-shift" without compensation by loading and unloading vehicles, transporting materials with vehicles, as well as being required to respond to work-related calls and texts while off the clock. Plaintiff and Employees regularly worked over 8 hours on a given day or over 40 hours in a given week without receiving overtime compensation.

48. Defendants' failure to pay compensation in a timely fashion also constituted a violation of California Labor Code § 204, which requires that all wages shall be paid semimonthly. From four (4) years prior to the filing of this lawsuit to the present, in direct violation of that provision of the California Labor Code, Defendants have failed to pay all wages and overtime compensation earned by Plaintiff and Employees. Each such failure to make a timely payment of compensation to Plaintiff and Employees constitutes a separate violation of California Labor Code § 204.

49. Plaintiff and Employees have been damaged by these violations of California

Labor Code §§ 204 and 510 (and the relevant orders of the Industrial Welfare Commission).

50. Consequently, pursuant to California Labor Code §§ 204, 510, and 1194 (and the relevant orders of the Industrial Welfare Commission), Defendants are liable to Plaintiff and Employees for the full amount of all their unpaid wages and overtime compensation, with interest, plus their reasonable attorneys' fees and costs.

THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION

MEAL-PERIOD LIABILITY UNDER LABOR CODE § 226.7

(Against All Defendants)

51. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates all preceding paragraphs, as though set forth in full herein.

52. Plaintiff and Class members regularly worked shifts greater than five (5) hours and greater than ten (10) hours. Pursuant to Labor Code § 512 an employer may not employ someone for a shift of more than five (5) hours without providing him or her with a meal period of not less than thirty (30) minutes or for a shift of more than ten (10) hours without providing him or her with a second meal period of not less than thirty (30) minutes.

53. Defendants failed to provide Plaintiff and Class members with meal periods as required under the Labor Code. Plaintiff and Class members were consistently required to work through their meal periods which they were consistently denied. Employees were also required to take meal periods after working well beyond the five (5) hour shifts. What meal periods were provided were also not duty-free due to Defendants' policy and practice of interrupting the meal period with work demands and otherwise requiring Plaintiff and Class members to remain under Defendants' control during their meal periods. Moreover, although Plaintiff and Employees were not allowed to take meal breaks, Defendants instructed Plaintiff and Employees to record the meal breaks in their time records or affirm that they took meal breaks even though they did not. Furthermore, Employees were regularly required to work for more than 10 hours in a given shift without receiving a second uninterrupted thirty (30) minute meal period as required by law.

54. Moreover, Defendants failed to compensate Employees for each meal period not provided or inadequately provided, as required under Labor Code § 226.7 and paragraphs 11 and

20 of the applicable IWC Wage Orders, which provide that, if an employer fails to provide an employee a meal period in accordance with this section, the employer shall pay the employee one hour of pay at the employee's regular rate of compensation for each workday that the meal period is not provided. Defendants failed to compensate the Employees in the Class for each meal period not provided or inadequately provided, as required under Labor Code § 226.7 and paragraphs 11 and 20 of the applicable IWC Wage Order.

55. Therefore, pursuant to Labor Code § 226.7, Employees are entitled to damages in an amount equal to one (1) hour of wages at their effective hourly rates of pay for each meal period not provided or deficiently provided, a sum to be proven at trial.

FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION

REST-BREAK LIABILITY UNDER LABOR CODE § 226.7

(Against All Defendants)

56. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates all preceding paragraphs, as though set forth in full herein.

57. Plaintiff and Class members consistently worked consecutive four (4) hour shifts. Pursuant to the Labor Code and the applicable IWC Wage Order, Plaintiff and Class members were entitled to paid rest breaks of not less than ten (10) minutes for each consecutive four (4) hour shift.

58. Defendants failed to provide Plaintiff and Class members with timely rest breaks of not less than ten (10) minutes for each consecutive four (4) hour shift. What rest breaks were provided were also not duty-free due to Defendants' policy and practice of interrupting rest breaks with work demands and otherwise requiring Plaintiff and Class members to remain under Defendants' control during their rest breaks.

59. Moreover, Defendants failed to compensate Plaintiff and Class members for each rest period not provided or inadequately provided, as required under Labor Code § 226.7 and the applicable IWC Wage Orders, which provide that, if an employer fails to provide an employee a rest period in accordance with this section, the employer shall pay the employee one hour of pay at the employee's regular rate of compensation for each workday that the rest period is not provided.

Defendants failed to compensate the Plaintiff and Class members for each rest period not provided or inadequately provided, as required under Labor Code § 226.7 and the applicable IWC Wage Order.

60. Therefore, pursuant to Labor Code § 226.7, Plaintiff and Class members are entitled to damages in an amount equal to one (1) hour of wages at their effective hourly rates of pay for each day worked without the required rest breaks, a sum to be proven at trial.

FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION

FAILURE TO REIMBURSE FOR NECESSARY BUSINESS EXPENDITURES IN VIOLATION OF LABOR CODE § 2802

(Against All Defendants)

61. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates all preceding paragraphs, as though set forth in full herein.

62. Under Labor Code § 2802(a), an employer must indemnify its employees for all necessary expenditures or losses incurred by the employee in direct consequence of the discharge of his or her duties, or of his or her obedience to the directions of the employer.

63. Plaintiff and Class members incurred necessary expenditures in the performance of their job duties for Defendants, including but not limited to the cost protective gear such as gloves, glasses, and hard hats; the cost of tools and equipment, such as shovels, electrical cutting tools, ladders, wrenches, grinders, ropes, magnets, batteries, and levels; and the cost of personal cellphone use. All of these unreimbursed expenses were necessary for Plaintiff and Employees to perform their duties under Defendants' employ in violation of Labor Code § 2802. More specifically, while Defendants provided protective gear such as gloves, glasses, and hard hats to Plaintiff and Employees, the equipment provided was of substandard quality such that it did not meet safety standards, and consequently, Plaintiff and Employees were required to purchase their own protective equipment that complied with safety standards. Additionally, Defendants did not provide necessary tools, which required Plaintiff and Employees to purchase the tools or bring personal tools from home. Defendants also required Plaintiff and Employees to use their personal cellphones for work purposes, including requiring Plaintiff and Employees to respond to calls and

texts from supervisors, coworkers, and clients about scheduling and work tasks. From four (4) years prior to the original filing of this lawsuit and continuing to the present, Defendants consistently failed to reimburse Plaintiff and Employees for these necessarily incurred business expenses.

64. As a result of the unlawful acts of Defendants, Plaintiff and Employees have been deprived of reimbursement in amounts to be determined at trial; they are entitled to recovery of such amounts, plus interest and penalties thereon, attorneys' fees, and costs.

SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION

VIOLATION OF LABOR CODE § 226(a)

(Against All Defendants)

65. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates all preceding paragraphs, as though set forth in full herein.

66. California Labor Code § 226(a) requires an employer to furnish each of his or her employees with an accurate, itemized statement in writing showing the gross and net earnings, total hours worked, and the corresponding number of hours worked at each hourly rate; these statements must be appended to the detachable part of the check, draft, voucher, or whatever else serves to pay the employee's wages; or, if wages are paid by cash or personal check, these statements may be given to the employee separately from the payment of wages; in either case the employer must give the employee these statements twice a month or each time wages are paid.

67. Defendants failed to provide Plaintiff and Employees with accurate itemized wage statements in writing, as required by the Labor Code. Specifically, the wage statements given to Plaintiff and Employees, by Defendants, failed to accurately account for wages, overtime, and premium pay for deficient meal periods and rest breaks, and reflected incorrect hours worked, all of which Defendants knew or reasonably should have known were owed to Plaintiff and Employees, as alleged hereinabove. The wage statements given to Plaintiff and Employees, by Defendants, failed to include the requirements enumerated above. Plaintiff and Employees' wage statements did not include: the total hours worked in violation of Labor Code § 226(a)(2) and failed to accurately set forth all applicable hourly rates in effect during the pay period and the

corresponding number of hours worked at each such rate in violation of Labor Code § 226(a)(9). The wage statements provided to Plaintiff and Employees were confusing and required Plaintiff and Employees to engage in discovery and refer to outside sources to verify whether their pay was correct, potentially resulting in a miscalculation by Plaintiff and the Employees.

68. As a direct and proximate cause of Defendants' violation of Labor Code § 226(a), Plaintiff and Employees suffered injuries, including among other things confusion over whether they received all wages owed them, the difficulty and expense involved in reconstructing pay records, and forcing them to make mathematical computations to analyze whether the wages paid in fact compensated them correctly for all hours worked.

69. Pursuant to Labor Code §§ 226(a) and 226(e), Plaintiff and Employees are entitled to recover the greater of all actual damages or fifty dollars ($50) for the initial pay period in which a violation occurs and one hundred dollars ($100) for each violation in a subsequent pay period, not exceeding an aggregate penalty of four thousand dollars ($4,000). They are also entitled to an award of costs and reasonable attorneys' fees.

70. With respect to violations of Labor Code § 226, Labor Code § 226.3 imposes a civil penalty of two hundred and fifty dollars ($250) for initial violations for each employee for each pay period, and one thousand dollars ($1000) for each subsequent violation for each employee for each pay period.

71. Plaintiff is seeking penalties against Defendants under Labor Code § 226.3, and any other applicable statute allowing recovery of penalties as alleged herein in an amount to be shown according to proof.

SEVENTH CAUSE OF ACTION

FAILURE TO KEEP REQUIRED PAYROLL RECORDS UNDER LABOR CODE § 1174 AND 1174.5

(Against All Defendants)

72. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates all preceding paragraphs, as though set forth in full herein.

73. California Labor Code § 1174 requires that all employers shall keep accurate time

and wage records for all employees. California Labor Code § 1174.5 further requires that any employee suffering injury due to a willful violation of the aforementioned obligations may seek damages, including civil penalties, from the employer.

74. During the course of Plaintiff's and Employees' employment, Defendants consistently failed to maintain accurate time and wage records for Plaintiff and Employees as required by California Labor Code § 1174 by failing to pay Plaintiff and Employees proper wages, overtime, and premium pay as discussed above.

75. Accordingly, Defendants are liable for civil penalties pursuant to the California Labor Code § 1174.5. for the three (3) years prior to the filing of this Complaint.

EIGHTH CAUSE OF ACTION

VIOLATION OF LABOR CODE § 203

(Against All Defendants)

76. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates all preceding paragraphs, as though set forth in full herein.

77. Numerous Employees, including Plaintiff, are no longer employed by Defendants; they either quit Defendants' employ or were fired therefrom.

78. Defendants failed to pay these Employees all wages due and certain at the time of termination or within seventy-two (72) hours of resignation.

79. The wages withheld from these Employees by Defendants remained due and owing for more than thirty (30) days from the date of separation of employment.

80. Defendants' failure to pay wages, as alleged above, was willful in that Defendants knew wages to be due but failed to pay them; this violation entitles Plaintiff and Employees to penalties under Labor Code § 203, which provides that an employee's wages shall continue until paid for up to thirty (30) days from the date they were due.

NINTH CAUSE OF ACTION

VIOLATION OF BUSINESS & PROFESSIONS CODE § 17200 *ET SEQ.*

(Against All Defendants)

81. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates all preceding paragraphs, as though set forth in

full herein.

82. Plaintiff, on behalf of himself, Employees, and the general public, brings this claim pursuant to Business & Professions Code § 17200 *et seq.* The conduct of Defendants as alleged in this Complaint has been and continues to be unfair, unlawful, and harmful to Employees and the general public. Plaintiff seeks to enforce important rights affecting the public interest within the meaning of Code of Civil Procedure § 1021.5.

83. Plaintiff is a "person" within the meaning of Business & Professions Code § 17204, has suffered injury, and therefore has standing to bring this cause of action for injunctive relief, restitution, and other appropriate equitable relief.

84. Business & Professions Code § 17200 *et seq*. prohibits unlawful and unfair business practices.

85. Wage-and-hour laws express fundamental public policies. Paying employees their wages and overtime, providing them with meal and rest periods, etc., are fundamental public policies of California. Labor Code § 90.5(a) articulates the public policies of this State vigorously to enforce minimum labor standards, to ensure that employees are not required or permitted to work under substandard and unlawful conditions, and to protect law-abiding employers and their employees from competitors who lower costs to themselves by failing to comply with minimum labor standards.

86. Defendants have violated statutes and public policies. Through the conduct alleged in this Complaint, Defendants have acted contrary to these public policies, have violated specific provisions of the Labor Code, and have engaged in other unlawful and unfair business practices in violation of Business & Professions Code § 17200 *et seq*. Defendants' conduct has deprived Plaintiff, and all persons similarly situated, and all interested persons, of the rights, benefits, and privileges guaranteed to all employees under the law.

87. Defendants' conduct, as alleged hereinabove, constitutes unfair competition in violation of the Business & Professions Code § 17200 *et seq*.

88. Defendants, by engaging in the conduct herein alleged, by failing to pay wages and overtime, failing to provide meal and rest periods, etc., either knew or in the exercise of reasonable

care should have known that their conduct was unlawful; therefore their conduct violates the Business & Professions Code § 17200 *et seq*.

89. As a proximate result of the above-mentioned acts of Defendants, Employees have been damaged, in a sum to be proven at trial.

90. Unless restrained by this Court, Defendants will continue to engage in such unlawful conduct as alleged above. Pursuant to the Business & Professions Code, this Court should make such orders or judgments, including the appointment of a receiver, as may be necessary to prevent the use by Defendants or their agents or employees of any unlawful or deceptive practice prohibited by the Business & Professions Code, including but not limited to the disgorgement of such profits as may be necessary to restore Employees to the money Defendants have unlawfully failed to pay.

TENTH CAUSE OF ACTION

PENALTIES PURSUANT TO LABOR CODE § 2699, *ET SEQ.*

(Against All Defendants)

91. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates all preceding paragraphs, as though set forth in full herein.

92. Plaintiff and Employees are aggrieved employees as defined under Labor Code § 2699(c) in that within the period of one (1) year prior to Plaintiff's certified letter to the LWDA and Defendants postmarked July 9, 2026, they suffered the violations alleged in this Complaint and were employed by the alleged violators, Defendants.

93. Plaintiff seeks penalties under Labor Code §§ 2698 and 2699 for Defendants' violation of all Labor Code provisions included under Labor Code § 2699.5 and includes the penalty provisions, without limitation, based on the following California Labor Code sections: 201, 202, 203, 204, 210, 226, 226.3, 226.7, 510, 512, 558, 558.1, 1174, 1174.5, 1182.12, 1185, 1194, 1194.2 1197, 1199, 2698, 2699, *et seq.*, and 2802.

94. The penalties shall be allocated as follows: 65% to the Labor and Workforce Development Agency (LWDA) and 35% to the affected employee.

95. Employees also seek any and all penalties and remedies set forth in Labor Code §

558, which states:

> (a) Any employer or other person acting on behalf of an employer who violates, or causes to be violated, a section of this chapter or any provision regulating hours and days of work in any order of the Industrial Welfare Commission shall be subject to a civil penalty as follows: (1) For any initial violation, fifty dollars ($50) for each underpaid employee for each pay period for which the employee was underpaid in addition to an amount sufficient to recover underpaid wages. (2) For each subsequent violation, one hundred dollars ($100) for each underpaid employee for each pay period for which the employee was underpaid in addition to an amount sufficient to recover underpaid wages. (3) Wages recovered pursuant to this section shall be paid to the affected employee.
>
> (b) If upon inspection or investigation the Labor Commissioner determines that a person had paid or caused to be paid a wage for overtime work in violation of any provision of this chapter, or any provision regulating hours and days of work in any order of the Industrial Welfare Commission, the Labor Commissioner may issue a citation. The procedures for issuing, contesting, and enforcing judgments for citations or civil penalties issued by the Labor Commissioner for a violation of this chapter shall be the same as those set out in Section 1197.1.
>
> (c) In a jurisdiction where a local entity has the legal authority to issue a citation against an employer for a violation of any applicable local overtime law, the Labor Commissioner, pursuant to a request from the local entity, may issue a citation against an employer for a violation of any applicable local overtime law if the local entity has not cited the employer for the same violation. If the Labor Commissioner issues a citation, the local entity shall not cite the employer for the same violation.
>
> (d) The civil penalties provided for in this section are in addition to any other civil or criminal penalty provided by law.

96. Labor Code § 226.3 provides that "[a]ny employer who violates subdivision (a) of Section 226 shall be subject to a civil penalty in the amount of two hundred fifty dollars ($250) per employee per violation in an initial citation and one thousand dollars ($1,000) per employee for each violation in a subsequent citation, for which the employer fails to provide the employee a wage deduction statement or fails to keep the required in subdivision (a) of Section 226." To the extent that Labor Code § 226.3 applies, Plaintiff and Employees also seek such penalties.

97. Plaintiff has exhausted his administrative remedy by sending a certified letter to the LWDA and Defendants postmarked July 9, 2026. The LWDA has not provided notice of its intent to investigate the alleged violations withing 65 calendar days of the postmark date of the letters.

RELIEF REQUESTED

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays for the following relief:

1. For an order certifying this action as a class action;

2. For compensatory damages in the amount of the unpaid minimum wages for work performed by Employees and unpaid overtime compensation from at least four (4) years prior to the filing of this action, as may be proven;

3. For liquidated damages in the amount equal to the unpaid minimum wage and interest thereon, from at least four (4) years prior to the filing of this action, according to proof;

4. For compensatory damages in the amount of the hourly wage made by Employees for each missed or deficient meal period where no premium pay was paid therefor from four (4) years prior to the filing of this action, as may be proven;

5. For compensatory damages in the amount of the hourly wage made by Employees for each day requisite rest breaks were not provided or were deficiently provided and where no premium pay was paid therefor from at least four (4) years prior to the filing of this action, as may be proven;

6. For penalties pursuant to Labor Code § 226(e) for Employees, as may be proven;

7. For penalties pursuant to Labor Code § 226.3, as may be proven;

8. For penalties pursuant to Labor Code § 203 for all Employees who quit or were fired in an amount equal to their daily wage times thirty (30) days, as may be proven;

9. For penalties pursuant to Labor Code § 1174.5, as may be proven;

10. For restitution for unfair competition pursuant to Business & Professions Code § 17200 *et seq*., including disgorgement or profits, as may be proven;

11. For compensatory damages in the amount of all previously unreimbursed business expenditures necessarily incurred by Employees in the discharge of their job duties for Defendants from four (4) years prior to the original filing of this action, as may be proven;

12. For penalties pursuant to Labor Code § 2699, *et seq*., as may be proven;

13. For an order enjoining Defendants and their agents, servants, and employees, and all persons acting under, in concert with, or for them, from acting in derogation of any rights or

duties adumbrated in this Complaint;

14. For all general, special, and incidental damages as may be proven;

15. For an award of pre-judgment and post-judgment interest;

16. For an award providing for the payment of the costs of this suit;

17. For an award of attorneys' fees; and

18. For such other and further relief as this Court may deem proper and just.

DATED: September 14, 2026

D.LAW, INC.

By _____
Roman Shkodnik
Mason Doidge
Attorneys for Plaintiff
RICARDO FLORES JR.
and the putative class

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

Plaintiff hereby demands trial of his claims by jury to the extent authorized by law.

DATED: September 14, 2026

D.LAW, INC.

By _____

Roman Shkodnik
Mason Doidge
Attorneys for Plaintiff
RICARDO FLORES JR.
and the putative class

PROOF OF SERVICE

STATE OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES:

I am employed in the aforesaid county, State of California; I am over the age of 18 years and not a party to the within action; my business address is 250 N Madison Avenue, 2nd Floor Pasadena, CA 91101.

On the date of execution of hereof, I caused to be served the following attached document/s:

FIRST AMENDED CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT

on the interested parties in this action, addressed as follows:

Attorneys for Defendant MERUELO ENTERPRISES, INC., and TIDWELL POWER CORP

David M. Gruen (SBN 260209)
MERUELO GROUP, LLC
9550 Firestone Blvd., Suite 105
Email: david.gruen@meruelogroup.com

__X__ **VIA MAIL:** I caused the document(s) to be served to be deposited at: 250 N Madison Avenue, 2nd Floor Pasadena, California, which is a mailbox or other like facility regularly maintained by the United States Postal Service, in a sealed envelope, with postage paid, addressed to the person(s) on whom the document(s) is/are to be served, at the office address as last given by that/those person(s), otherwise at that/those person(s)' place(s) of residence. I am aware that on motion of any party served, service is presumed invalid if the postal cancellation date or postage meter date is more than one (1) day after the date of deposit for mailing stated herein.

_____ **VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL:** Service by electronic mail was made either pursuant to a Court Order, pursuant to agreement between the parties permitting the same, or as a professional courtesy in addition to other proper service. The electronic mail was sent to an electronic mail address maintained by the person(s) on whom the document(s) is/are served as last given by that/those person(s). I personally requested a "delivery receipt" for this electronic mail message, and, unless disallowed by the recipient, received the same.

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

Executed on September 14, 2026, at Pasadena, California.

Katheryn Perez