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Attorneys for Plaintiff JESUS GUZMAN

**SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
FOR THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES**

JESUS GUZMAN, as an individual and on
behalf of all employees similarly situated,

Plaintiff,

v.

CORE ENVIRONMENTAL SOLUTIONS, a
California Corporation; and DOES 1 through
50, inclusive,

Defendants.

Case No.: 24STCV03593

[Assigned for all purposes to Hon. Stuart M. Rice]

**CLASS AND PAGA REPRESENTATIVE
ACTION**

**DECLARATION OF PLAINTIFF JESUS
GUZMAN IN SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFF'S
MOTION FOR APPROVAL OF CLASS AND
PAGA REPRESENTATIVE ACTION
SETTLEMENT**

Date: April 22, 2025
Time: 10:30 a.m.
Courtroom: Dept. 1
Judge: Hon. Stuart M. Rice

Action Filed: February 13, 2024
Trial: Not Set

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DECLARATION OF JESUS GUZMAN

I, JESUS GUZMAN, declare as follows:

1. I am a named Plaintiff in this case as an employee of the named defendant CORE ENVIRONMENTAL SOLUTIONS (“Defendant”). As such, I have personal knowledge of, or am informed and believe, the following facts herein stated. If called as a witness, I could and would testify competently to the following:

JOB DUTIES AND EXPERIENCES

2. I worked for Defendant during the Class Period as an hourly-paid non-exempt employee from June 12, 2023 to January 16, 2024. I was paid on hourly basis and classified as non-exempt from overtime. Throughout my employment, I typically worked 5 days per workweek, and typically in excess of 8 hours in a workday.

3. While working for Defendant, I did not receive all meal and rest periods and/or my meal and rest periods were cut short. I was also required to work off-the-clock without compensation. While working for Defendant, I was also not reimbursed for work related expenses such as personal vehicle usage and purchase of tools necessary to perform work.

DUTIES OF A CLASS REPRESENTATIVE

4. This lawsuit is not an individual lawsuit. It is a proposed class action. I understand that, if approved as a class representative in this matter, I have an obligation to do my best to look out for the interests of other class members, the current and former employees of Defendant who I am seeking to represent. I understand that my obligations to the class exist even when the class is certified solely as part of a class action settlement. It is my understanding that, as one part of this duty to the class, I cannot agree to a settlement to benefit myself to the exclusion of the rest of the class members. I have never asked my attorneys to simply settle this matter at any cost. Rather, I have asked them to obtain the best settlement they could within reason, and I believe that they have attempted to do so.

5. I have been actively involved in this case since I first retained Tunyan Law, APC. I have never asked to be relieved from my role as a proposed class representative. To the contrary, I have made myself available whenever my attorneys wanted to discuss aspects of my employment at

Defendant, and I remain committed to seeing this matter through to the end.

6. I have conferred with my attorneys about the settlement proposed in this case. I am not an accountant, but I understand the factors and risks that need to be considered when evaluating a settlement. I believe that the Class Action Settlement obtained on behalf of the Class Members is fair and reasonable in view of the issues and risks involved with the case.

7. I am asking to be stand-in for other employees of Defendant. Because of that, I cannot quit on the Class, and I cannot put myself and my interests before the Class. I accept these duties and request that I be approved as the class representative for purposes of this Settlement.

COMMUNITY OF INTEREST: TYPICALITY AND ADEQUACY

8. I was an hourly non-exempt employee of Defendant and was subject to the same pay structure and rules as all the other hourly non-exempt employees of Defendant.

9. I am not aware of anything special about me that would raise unique defenses to my claims, as opposed to the claims of the class. I am also not suing for anything unique to me. Rather, my claims are based upon the same facts that relate to the rest of the Class.

10. I do not believe that I have any conflicts with Class Members included in this proposed Settlement. I do not have any intention to take any action that would place me in a position that is hostile to other Class Members.

SERVICE AS A CLASS REPRESENTATIVE

11. I believe if not for my stepping forward and taking on the duties of protecting the interests all aggrieved former and current employees of Defendant, it is likely that the interests of the Class would neither have been prosecuted, nor benefited. To my knowledge, other than the litigation encompassed by this proposed Settlement, there is no other litigation concerning the claims in this lawsuit. Nor has Defendant pointed to any.

12. I have assumed some long-lasting risk in prosecuting this case. Because it is so easy to search for information online these days, I will face an increased risk that future employers will discover information about this lawsuit online and have a negative reaction to learning that I sued an employer. This may make it harder for me to obtain future employment or change jobs for a better opportunity.

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3 accountant, but I understand the factors and risks that need to be considered when evaluating a
4 settlement. I believe that the Class Action Settlement obtained on behalf of the Class Members is fair and
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22 encompassed by this proposed Settlement, there is no other litigation concerning the claims in this
23 lawsuit. Nor has Defendant pointed to any.

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25 search for information online these days, I will face an increased risk that future employers will
26 discover information about this lawsuit online and have a negative reaction to learning that I sued an
27 employer. This may make it harder for me to obtain future employment or change jobs for a better
28 opportunity.

1 13. I have devoted a substantial amount of my time, both before this lawsuit was filed and
2 also during its litigation, to ensure a fair result for the employee Class. This involved ongoing
3 communication and participation with my Counsel during the course of this case. My participation
4 began with bringing certain issues that are involved in this matter to my Counsel's attention and
5 explaining the factual background that was used to prosecute the claims in this case. For example, I
6 reviewed documents which I already had, I provided relevant documents to my Counsel, and I
7 explained those documents and related facts to my Counsel to assist them in their review during
8 multiple meetings with my attorneys.

9 14. My efforts continued after the suit was filed. For example, I have had many discussions
10 with the attorneys at Tunyan Law, APC regarding Defendant's wage and hour policies, my claims in
11 this case, litigation strategy, potential witnesses, discovery, updates on how the case was proceeding,
12 and how I could help the case. I also discussed strategy with my Counsel. I remained in regular
13 communication with my attorneys regarding discovery and settlement discussions that the parties had
14 during the course of litigation and mediation. I continued to identify employees and other witnesses to
15 counsel, along with other information as to how they could be of potential use in this matter. I also
16 provided substantial information and documents to my attorneys to assist them in preparing the case.

17 15. After the mediation, a long-form settlement agreement was negotiated, and I reviewed it
18 with my Counsel to ensure that its terms are likewise fair and adequate.

19 16. I believe that the Class Representative Service Payment of \$6,000 for me is fair and
20 reasonable. This enhancement takes into consideration the time, effort, risks, stress, and sacrifice of
21 signing a general release of all claims over just wage and hour claims, as well as the benefit provided to
22 all class members as a result of my involvement in this litigation. In sum, in addition to assuming the
23 risks that go along with being a class representative and named plaintiff in litigation, I believe I have
24 also provided well over 20 hours of my time during the course of this litigation to ensure a good
25 outcome for the best interests of the Class. I believe I have been diligent and acted above and beyond
26 that which is expected of a Class Representative throughout all stages of the litigation. I will continue to
27 diligently act as the Class Representative up to and including final approval of the Class Action
28 Settlement.

1 17. Furthermore, it is my opinion that the enhancement is fair and reasonable because in
2 addition to the many hours spent participating in this case, I accepted the potential risk of being liable
3 for the opposing parties' costs if we were unsuccessful in this lawsuit. My attorneys told me these costs
4 could be tens of thousands of dollars or more based on the extent of formal litigation. I believed in this
5 case and was willing to be a Class Representative Plaintiff knowing the risks involved.

6 18. I signed a general release, so I am not only giving up my wage and hour claims, but I
7 am also giving up all claims beyond wage and hour claims I had against my former employer. Since I
8 have signed a general release for any and all claims related to my employment with Defendant, I cannot
9 pursue any other claims against Defendant while Class Members can still pursue other claims not
10 released in this Class Action.

11 19. This litigation has also resulted in a valuable benefit to the Class Members who will
12 participate in the monetary payout of this Settlement because of my involvement. As a result of this
13 Settlement, Class Members are receiving thousands of dollars in Settlement checks.

14 20. Likewise, I risk the potential stigma of being a Class Representative in a Class Action
15 labor dispute, which may affect my future employment in this industry. A Google search with my name
16 and Defendant show that I am a Plaintiff in this Class Action case.

17 22. Based on the time, risk, stress, sacrifice of signing of a general release, and the great outcome
18 of this case, I believe that the requested enhancement for me is fair and reasonable.

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

21 Executed 12/18/2024 | 4:03 PM PST

at Santa Paula, California.

DocuSigned by:



JESUS GUZMAN, "Declarant"

1 **PROOF OF SERVICE**

2 STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
3) ss
4 COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES)

5 I am employed in the county of Los Angeles, State of California. I am over the age of 18
6 and not a party to the within action; my business address is 355 S. Grand Ave., Suite 1450
Los Angeles, California 90071.

7 On the date indicated below, I served the document described as: **DECLARATION OF PLAINTIFF**
8 **JESUS GUZMAN IN SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFF'S MOTION FOR APPROVAL OF CLASS**
9 **AND PAGA REPRESENTATIVE ACTION SETTLEMENT** on the interested parties in this
action by sending a true copy thereof to interested parties as follows and as stated on the attached
service list:

10 Seth Weisburst
11 sweisburst@grsm.com
12 Christopher Keller
13 ckeller@grsm.com
Vanessa Santellan
14 vsantellan@grsm.com

15 **GORDON REES SCULLY MANSUKHANI, LLP**
275 Battery Street, Suite 2000 San Francisco, California 94111
Telephone: (415) 986-5900
Facsimile: (415) 986-8054

16 **Attorneys for Defendant CORE ENVIRONMENTAL SOLUTIONS**

17 [✓] **BY ELECTRONIC SERVICE:** Based on a court order or an agreement of the parties
18 to accept electronic service, I caused the documents to be sent to the persons at the
19 electronic service addresses listed above via third-party cloud service
CASEANYWHERE. I did not receive an error message.

20
21 I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the
above is true and correct. Executed on January 16, 2025 at Glendale, California.

22 KAREN ARELLANO
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