

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

FOR THE COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE

GUADALUPE SANCHEZ, as an individual
and on behalf of all others similarly situated,

Plaintiff,

vs.

B & J, LLC, a California Limited Liability
Company; and DOES 1 through 100,

Defendants.

CASE NO. CVRI2400579

*[Case assigned for all purposes to the Hon.
Harold W. Hopp, Dept. 1]*

**~~PROPOSED~~ ORDER GRANTING
PRELIMINARY APPROVAL OF CLASS
AND PAGA ACTION SETTLEMENT**

Date: May 28, 2025
Time: 8:30 AM
Dept.: 1

Action Filed: February 2, 2024
Trial Date: None Set

1 The Motion of Plaintiff Guadalupe Sanchez (“Plaintiff”) for Preliminary Approval of
2 Class Action Settlement came on regularly for hearing before this Court on May 28, 2025 at 8:30
3 a.m. This Court, having considered the proposed Stipulation of Settlement (“Settlement
4 Agreement”) attached as Exhibit A to the Declaration of Andrew J. Rowbotham filed concurrently
5 herein; having considered Plaintiff’s Motion for Preliminary Approval of Class Action and PAGA
6 Action Settlement, Memorandum of Points and Authorities in support thereof, and supporting
7 declarations filed therewith; and good cause appearing, HEREBY ORDERS THE FOLLOWING:

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

15 All current and former non-exempt employees who work or worked
16 for Defendant B & J, LLC in California between February 2, 2020
17 and March 24, 2025, and all current and former non-exempt
18 employees who work or worked for Defendants Bernard Karcher
Investments, Inc. and Star Goals, LLC in California between
February 1, 2021 and March 24, 2025.

19 2. The Settlement Agreement specifies for an attorneys’ fees award not to exceed
20 one-third of the Maximum Settlement Amount (\$375,000.00), an award of litigation expenses
21 incurred not to exceed \$35,000.00, proposed Class Representative Enhancement Payment to
22 Plaintiff in an amount not to exceed \$7,500.00, and PAGA civil penalties in the amount of
23 \$100,000.00 (25% of which, \$25,000.00 will be paid to PAGA Aggrieved Employees). The Court
24 will not approve the amount of attorneys' fees and costs, enhancement payment, or PAGA civil
25 penalties, until the Final Approval Hearing.

26 3. For purposes of the Settlement, the Court designates named Plaintiff Guadalupe
27 Sanchez as Class Representative, and designates Paul K. Haines, Fletcher W. Schmidt, and
28 Andrew J. Rowbotham of Haines Law Group, APC as Class Counsel.

1 4. The Court designates Phoenix Settlement Administrators as the third-party
2 Settlement Administrator for mailing notices.

3 5. The Court approves, as to form and content, the Class Notice, Request for
4 Exclusion Form, Objection Form, and Dispute Form (collectively, the “Notice Packet”), attached
5 as Exhibit 1 to this Proposed Order.

6 6. The Court finds that the form of notice to the Settlement Class regarding the
7 pendency of the action and of the Settlement, and the methods of giving notice to members of the
8 Settlement Class, constitute the best notice practicable under the circumstances, and constitute
9 valid, due, and sufficient notice to all of the Settlement Class members. The form and method of
10 giving notice complies fully with the requirements of California Code of Civil Procedure § 382,
11 California Civil Code § 1781, California Rules of Court 3.766 and 3.769, the California and
12 United States Constitutions, and other applicable law.

13 7. The Court further approves the procedures for the Settlement Class members to
14 opt out of or object to the Settlement, as set forth in the Class Notice.

15 8. The procedures and requirements for filing objections in connection with the Final
16 Approval Hearing are intended to ensure the efficient administration of justice and the orderly
17 presentation of any Settlement Class member’s objection to the Settlement in accordance with the
18 due process rights of all members of the Settlement Class.

19 9. The Court directs the Settlement Administrator to mail the Notice Packet to the
20 members of the Settlement Class in accordance with the terms of the Settlement. The Court directs
21 the Settlement Administrator to carry out all duties as required by the Settlement.

22 10. The Court orders the Settlement Administrator to redact the last four digits of all
23 individuals’ Social Security Numbers (“SSN”) from any forms and/or documents filed in
24 connection with the motion for final approval.

25 11. No claim form is required for Settlement Class Members to receive their
26 settlement payment. The Class Notice shall provide at least sixty (60) calendar days’ notice for
27 members of the Settlement Class to opt out of, or object to the Settlement. The Class Notice shall
28 be accompanied by an exclusion form and objection form that Settlement Class members may

1 use. Any Request for Exclusion or Objection shall be submitted directly to the Settlement
2 Administrator and not filed with the Court. Upon receipt of any Requests for Exclusion or
3 Objections, the Settlement Administrator shall forward copies of all Requests for Exclusion and
4 Objections to counsel for all parties. The Settlement Administrator shall file a declaration
5 concurrently with the filing of the Motion for Final Approval of Class Action Settlement which
6 authenticates a copy of every Request for Exclusion and Objection received by the Settlement
7 Administrator. The Settlement Administrator shall give notice to any objecting Settlement Class
8 member of any continuance of the hearing on Plaintiff's Motion for Final Approval of Class
9 Action Settlement.

10 12. The Final Approval Hearing on the question of whether the Settlement should be
11 finally approved as fair, reasonable, and adequate is scheduled in Department 1 of this Court,
12 located at 4050 Main Street, Riverside, California 92501 on October 29, 2025 at 8:30 a.m.

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

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

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1 15. An implementation schedule is below (assuming preliminary approval is granted
2 on May 28, 2025):

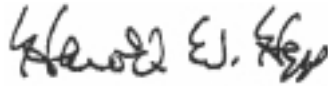
3 Event	4 Date
5 Defendant to provide Class Member information to the 6 Settlement Administrator no later than [14 calendar days 7 after preliminary approval]:	June 11, 2025
8 Settlement Administrator to mail the Notice Packet to 9 Settlement Class members no later than [14 calendar days 10 after receiving Class Member information]:	June 25, 2025
11 Deadline for Settlement Class members to request 12 exclusion from, or object to, the Settlement, or submit a 13 dispute [60 calendar days after mailing]:	August 25, 2025
14 Deadline for Plaintiff to file Motion for Final Approval of 15 Class Action Settlement [16 court days before Final 16 Approval Hearing]:	October 7, 2025
17 Final Approval Hearing:	October 29, 2025 at 8:30 a.m.

18 16. Pending the Final Approval Hearing, all proceedings in this action, other than
19 proceedings necessary to carry out or enforce the terms and conditions of the Settlement and this
20 Order, are stayed.

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

24 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

25 Dated: June 5, 2025

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28 Hon. Harold W. Hopp
Judge of the Superior Court