

## JOINT STIPULATION OF CLASS AND PAGA SETTLEMENT

This Joint Stipulation of Class and PAGA Settlement (“**Settlement Agreement**”) is reached by and between: (i) Plaintiff Francisca Zenaida Chavez (“**Plaintiff**”), individually and on behalf all Aggrieved Employees, defined below, and members of the Settlement Class, defined below, on the one hand; and (ii) Universal Labor Solutions, Inc. (“**ULS**”), and Christopher Ranch, LLC (“**CR**”) (collectively “**Defendants**”) on the other hand (Plaintiff and Defendants are referred to herein as the “**Parties**”). Plaintiff, Aggrieved Employees, and the Settlement Class are represented by Daniel J. Brown and Kathleen J. Becket of Stansbury Brown Law, PC (“**Class Counsel**”). Defendant ULS is represented by Rissa A. Stuart and Hunter W. Swearingen of Kahn, Soares & Conway, LLP; Defendant CR is represented by Marlene Muraco of Littler Mendelson, PC.

### RECITALS

Plaintiff filed a class action complaint (“**Complaint**”) against Defendants on July 29, 2024, in Tulare County Superior Court, Case No. VCU311659, which alleged causes of action for: (1) minimum wage violations; (2) failure to pay all overtime wages; (3) meal period violations; (4) rest period violations; (5) waiting time penalties; (6) unfair competition; and (7) failure to reimburse for necessary business expenses. Plaintiff filed a First Amended Class and Representative Action Complaint (“**FAC**”) on October 1, 2024, to add an additional cause of action for civil penalties under the Private Attorneys General Act (“**PAGA**”) pursuant to Labor Code section 2698 *et seq.* based on claims asserted in the PAGA letter Plaintiff submitted to the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency (“**LWDA**”) on July, 23, 2024, in Case No. LWDA-CM-1041310-24. The Complaint and FAC are referred to herein as the “**Action**.” The FAC is the Operative Complaint for settlement purposes.

On April 16, 2025, Plaintiff and Defendants, represented by their respective counsel of record, privately mediated the Action before respected mediator Justice Stephen J. Kane (Ret.). The Parties were able to reach a resolution at the mediation, which is now presented to the Court for approval.

Prior to entering into settlement discussions, the Parties conducted significant investigation of the facts and law through informal discovery, which included review and analysis of Defendants’ policies and putative class members’ and Aggrieved Employees’ time records and payroll records. Counsel for the Parties have further investigated the applicable law as applied to the facts discovered regarding Plaintiff’s claims, the defenses thereto, and the damages and penalties claimed by Plaintiff in the Action. As a result of the Parties’ thorough investigation of the allegations and defenses thereto, they were able to reach an agreement for a global settlement after extensive negotiations.

Given the risks and uncertainties of litigation, the Parties have agreed to settle this Action on the terms set forth herein and subject to the approval of Court. Nothing herein shall be construed as an admission of any wrongdoing or of liability as the Settlement Agreement is intended solely to allow the Parties to buy their peace and resolve the disputed claims asserted in this Action.

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### 1. Certification for Settlement Purposes.

For the purposes of this Settlement Agreement only, the Parties stipulate to conditional certification of the following Settlement Class (hereinafter, the “**Settlement Class**” or “**Settlement Class Members**”), which is defined as:

All current and former non-exempt employees of Defendant Universal Labor Solutions, Inc. who harvested garlic in California at any time from July 29, 2020 through May 16, 2025 (the “**Class Period**”) in furtherance of a Farm Labor Contractor Services Agreement Universal Labor Solutions, Inc. had with Defendant Christopher Ranch.

### 2. Aggrieved Employees.

For the purposes of this Settlement Agreement only, the Parties stipulate that the “**Aggrieved Employees**” shall be defined as:

All current and former non-exempt employees of Defendant Universal Labor Solutions, Inc. who harvested garlic in California at any time from July 29, 2023, through May 16, 2025 (the “**PAGA Period**”) in furtherance of a Farm Labor Contractor Services Agreement Universal Labor Solutions, Inc. had with Defendant Christopher Ranch.

### 3. Releases.

- A. **Released Parties.** As referenced herein, **Released Parties** shall collectively mean: (i) Defendant Universal Labor Solutions, Inc.; (ii) Defendant Christopher Ranch; (iii) each of their respective past and present parents, subsidiaries and affiliates including without limitation any corporation, limited liability company, partnership, trust, foundation and non-profit entity which controls, is controlled by, or is under common control with either Defendant; (iv) the past and present shareholders, directors, officers, agents, employees, consultants, benefit plans, successor and assigns of any of the foregoing; and (v) any individual or entity that could be jointly liable with any of the foregoing as to the claims alleged in the Action.
- B. **Releases Effective Upon Full Payment of the GSA.** Effective on the date when Defendants fully fund the entire Gross Settlement Amount (“**GSA**”) and fund all employer payroll taxes owed on the wage portion of the individual Participating Member Payments (defined below), Plaintiff, Settlement Class Members, and Aggrieved Employees will release claims against all Released Parties as described below.
- C. **Released Class Claims.** All Settlement Class Members who do not opt out of the settlement (collectively, “**Participating Settlement Class Members**”) on behalf of themselves and their respective past and present representatives, agents, attorneys, heirs, administrators, successors, and assigns, release Released Parties, from all claims

that were alleged, or could have been alleged, based on the operative facts pled in the Action during the Class Period, including, but not limited to: (a) minimum wage violations; (b) failure to pay all overtime wages; (c) meal period violations; (d) rest period violations; (e) waiting time penalties; (f) failure to reimburse for necessary business expenses; and (g) unfair competition premised on the facts pled in the Action including, but not limited to, alleged violations of CA Labor Code §§ 201 - 205, 210, 218.6, 221 - 223, 226, 226.2, 226.3, 226.7, 245.5, 510, 512, 516, 551, 552, 558, 1174, 1182.12, 1194, 1194.2, 1197, 1197.1, 1198, 2800, 2802, 2804, 2810.3, 2810.5. The release extends to the limits of the Class Period. This Release is expressly limited to shifts in which Settlement Class Members performed work for Defendant ULS in furtherance of a Farm Labor Contractor Services Agreement ULS had with CR.

- D. **Released PAGA Claims.** Aggrieved Employees, regardless of whether they opt out of the Settlement Class, will release and discharge the Released Parties from any and all claims for PAGA civil penalties that were alleged, or which could have been alleged, based on facts pled in the Action or the letter Plaintiff submitted to the Labor Workforce Development Agency (LWDA) on or about July 23, 2024 (“LWDA Letter”), for alleged Labor Code violations that arose during the PAGA Period. The release extends to the limits of the PAGA Period. This Release is expressly limited to shifts in which Aggrieved Employees performed work for Defendant ULS in furtherance of a Farm Labor Contractor Services Agreement ULS had with CR.
- E. **Plaintiff’s Release of Unknown Claims.** In light of her Class Representative Service Award, Plaintiff agrees to release, in addition to the Released Class Claims and Released PAGA Claims described above, all claims, whether known or unknown, under federal law or state law against the Released Parties. The Parties understand and agree that Plaintiff is not, by way of this release, releasing any workers compensation claims or any other claims which cannot be released as a matter of law. Notwithstanding the foregoing, Plaintiff understands that this release includes unknown claims and that she is, as a result, waiving all rights and benefits afforded by Section 1542 of the California Civil Code, which provides:

**A general release does not extend to claims that the creditor or releasing party does not know or suspect to exist in his or her favor at the time of executing the release and that if known by him or her, would have materially affected his or her settlement with the debtor or released party.**

- 4. **Settlement Payment.** In exchange for the releases set forth in this Settlement Agreement, Defendants agree to pay a common fund of Seven Hundred Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents (\$700,000.00) (“**Gross Settlement Amount**” or “**GSA**”) in full and complete settlement of this matter. This settlement shall be paid as follows by the Defendants and each Defendant is solely responsible for the payment of their portion of the Gross Settlement Amount:

- A. \$350,000.00 payable by Defendant, ULS; and
- B. \$350,000.00 payable by Defendant, CR.

Besides the triggering of the escalator clause pursuant to paragraph 4(F) of this Settlement Agreement and Defendants' payment of their share of payroll taxes pursuant to paragraph 4(E) of this Settlement Agreement, in no event shall Defendants be required to pay more than the GSA. The GSA shall be paid as follows:

C. **Funding of the Gross Settlement Amount.** Each Defendant shall deposit its portion of the GSA with the Settlement Administrator within fourteen (14) days after the Effective Date (defined below).

D. **Non-revisionary.** This is a non-reversionary settlement. The Gross Settlement Amount includes:

- i. All payments to the Aggrieved Employees and Settlement Class;
- ii. Settlement Administrator. All fees and expenses of the settlement administrator associated with the administration of the settlement, which are anticipated to be no greater than Thirty-Six Thousand Five Hundred Dollars and Zero Cents (\$36,500.00). The Parties agree to the appointment of Phoenix Settlement Administrators as the settlement administrator ("**Settlement Administrator**") and to Class Counsel seeking Court approval to pay up to Thirty-Six Thousand Five Hundred Dollars and Zero Cents (\$36,500.00). from the Gross Settlement Amount for the Settlement Administrator's services. The Settlement Administrator shall be responsible for sending all required notices in both English and Spanish, establishing a static website for case and settlement documents, providing written reports to Class Counsel and Defense Counsel that, among other things, tally the number of Notices mailed or re-mailed, Notices returned undelivered, Requests for Exclusion, objections and disputes received from Settlement Class Members, calculating the Net Settlement Amount, calculating each Settlement Class Member's and Aggrieved Employees' Participating Member Payment(defined below) amount, preparing all checks and mailings and disbursing all residuals resulting from uncashed settlement checks as set forth in Paragraph 5(C), and providing declarations regarding the Settlement Administrator's background and services for Preliminary Approval, attesting to its due diligence and compliance with all of its obligations under this Agreement for Final Approval, and a final report detailing disbursement of the Gross Settlement Amount in compliance with the Final Approval Order. The Settlement Administrator shall be authorized to pay itself from the Gross Settlement Amount by Class Counsel only after checks have been mailed to all Aggrieved Employees and Participating Settlement Class Members (collectively "**Participating Members**");
- iii. Class Representative Service Award. Up to Seven Thousand Five Hundred Dollars and Zero Cents (\$7,500.00) for a class representative service award to Plaintiff subject to Court approval, in recognition of Plaintiff's general release of claims, contributions to the Action, and service to the Settlement Class. Defendants will not object to a request for a Class Representative Service

Award for Plaintiff in exchange for the general release of her claims and waiver of Civil Code Section 1542, her time and alleged risks in prosecuting this case, and her alleged service to the Settlement Class. This payment will be in addition to Plaintiff's Participating Member Payment (defined below) as a Participating Member and shall be reported on an IRS Form 1099 by the Settlement Administrator. It is the intent of the Parties that the Class Representative Service Award to the Plaintiff is not wages, therefore the Settlement Administrator shall not withhold any taxes from the Class Representative Service Award and shall report it on an IRS Form 1099, which shall be provided to Plaintiff and to the pertinent taxing authorities as required by law. Although it is the contemplation of the Parties that the Class Representative Service Award does not represent wages, the Internal Revenue Service, the California Franchise Tax Board, or some other taxing authority may take the position that some or all of the Class Representative Service Award constitutes wages for income tax and withholding purposes. Plaintiff agrees to assume all responsibility for remitting to the Internal Revenue Service, the California Franchise Tax Board, and any other relevant taxing authority the amounts required by law, if any, to be withheld by Defendants from the Class Representative Service Award paid under this Settlement Agreement, and all liability associated therewith. In the event that the Court reduces or does not approve the requested Class Representative Service Award, the Settlement Agreement remains in full force and effect, Plaintiff shall not have the right to revoke the settlement for that reason, and it shall remain binding;

- iv. Class Counsel Fees and Costs. No more than thirty-five percent (35%) of the Gross Settlement Amount in attorneys' fees, which is currently estimated to be Two Hundred Forty-Five Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents (\$245,000.00), plus up to Ten Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents (\$10,000.00) in verified costs and expenses related to the Action as supported and approved by the Court, by attorney declaration. In the event that the Court reduces or does not approve Class Counsel's requested fees and costs, the Settlement Agreement remains in full force and effect, Plaintiff shall not have the right to revoke the Settlement Agreement for that reason, and it shall remain binding. If the Gross Settlement Amount increases pursuant to Paragraph 4(F), the amount of fees requested by Class Counsel will increase proportionally such that the requested award is thirty-five percent of the GSA. These amounts will cover any and all work performed and any and all costs incurred in connection with this litigation, including without limitation: all work performed and all costs incurred to date; and all work to be performed and costs to be incurred in connection with obtaining the Court's approval of this Settlement Agreement, including any objections raised, responses to any intervenors and any appeals necessitated by those objections or intervenors. Class Counsel will be issued an IRS Form 1099 by the Settlement Administrator when it pays the fee award as approved by the Court; and

- v. **PAGA Penalties.** Fifty Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents (\$50,000.00) of the Gross Settlement Amount has been set aside by the Parties as PAGA civil penalties. Per Labor Code § 2699(i), sixty-five percent (65%) of such penalties, or Thirty-Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars and Zero Cents (\$32,500.00) will be payable to the LWDA (“**LWDA Payment**”), and the remaining twenty-five percent (35%), or Seventeen Thousand Five Hundred Dollars and Zero Cents (\$17,500.00) will be payable to the Aggrieved Employees as the “**PAGA Amount.**” The LWDA Payment and PAGA Amount are collectively referred to herein as the “**PAGA Penalties.**”
- E. **Payroll Tax Payments.** Employer payroll taxes shall be paid separately from, and in addition to, the Gross Settlement Amount. As the Settlement Class Members were W-2 employees of Universal Labor Solutions, ULS shall be solely responsible for paying all payroll taxes due on the Gross Settlement Amount. ULS shall deposit the employer payroll taxes with the Settlement Administrator within fourteen days of the Effective Date.
- F. **Class Escalator Clause.** ULS represented at mediation that there are approximately 5,525 Settlement Class Members and approximately 30,855 Class Workweeks within the Class Period. ULS has run a report which indicates that as of May 16, 2025, there are 5,531 Settlement Class Members and 31,150 Class Workweeks. If the actual number of Class Workweeks falling within the Class Period, as determined by the Class Administrator following Notice to the Class, is increased by more than 10% (i.e., Class Workweeks are greater than 33,940 Class Workweeks), then ULS understands that it will be solely obligated to pay the escalation fee, in addition to its share of the Gross Settlement Amount, as set forth in paragraph 4 herein. The escalation fee shall be calculated by using the following formula:  $\text{Actual Class Workweeks} - 33,940 / 30,855 \times \$700,000.00$ . (Thus for example if the Class Workweeks were 35,000 within the Class Period, ULS would owe an escalation fee of  $35,000 - 33,940 / 30,855 \times \$700,000 = \$24,047.96$ .)
  - i. “**Class Workweek**” shall be any calendar week in which the Settlement Class Member worked at least one shift harvesting garlic for Defendant ULS in furtherance of a Farm Labor Contractor Services Agreement ULS had with CR based on Defendants’ records.
- G. **Effective Date of Settlement.** “Effective Date” means the first day after the latter of: (a) 60 days after the Court grants Final Approval of this settlement if no timely appeal is filed; (b) in the event of a timely appeal filed by a Settlement Class Member, the date of final dismissal of any appeal from the Final Order and Final Judgment or the final dismissal of any proceeding on certiorari to review the Final Order and Final Judgment.
- H. **Disbursement of Gross Settlement Amount.** Within ten (10) calendar days following the funding of the Gross Settlement Amount and related payroll taxes with the Settlement Administrator by Defendants, the Settlement Administrator will calculate Participating Member Payments (defined below) and mail individual Participating

Member Payments to Participating Settlement Class Members and Aggrieved Employees and transfer to Class Counsel its attorney's fees and verified costs.

5. **Participating Member Payment Procedures.** Participating Settlement Class Members and Aggrieved Employees (collectively, "Participating Members") are not required to submit a claim form to receive their share of the Settlement ("**Participating Member Payment**"). Participating Member Payments will be determined and paid as follows:

- A. **Net Settlement Amount:** The Net Settlement Amount is the Gross Settlement Amount after the following deductions are made: (a) all costs of settlement administration; (b) Class Representative Service Award to Plaintiff; (c) the LWDA Payment; and (d) costs and attorneys' fees for Class Counsel. The Net Settlement Amount shall be available for Participating Members. From the Net Settlement Amount, the Settlement Administrator will calculate each Participating Member Payment based on the following formula:

- i. **PAGA Amount.** Each Aggrieved Employee shall receive a portion of the Seventeen Thousand Five Hundred Dollars and Zero Cents (\$17,500.00) that has been designated as the PAGA Amount based on their proportionate share of PAGA Pay Periods by multiplying the PAGA Amount by a fraction, the numerator of which is the Aggrieved Employee's PAGA Pay Periods, and the denominator of which is the total PAGA Pay Periods of all Aggrieved Employees. "**PAGA Pay Period**" shall be any calendar week in which an Aggrieved Employee worked at least one shift in California harvesting garlic for Defendant ULS in furtherance of a Farm Labor Contractor Services Agreement ULS had with CR during the PAGA Period.
- ii. **Remainder.** The remainder of the Net Settlement Amount shall be distributed to each Participating Settlement Class Member based on their proportionate share of Class Workweeks, by multiplying the remaining Net Settlement Amount by a fraction, the numerator of which is the Participating Settlement Class Member's Class Workweeks, and the denominator of which is the total Class Workweeks of all Participating Settlement Class Members.

- B. **Participating Member Payment Tax Treatment.** For purposes of calculating applicable taxes and withholdings for the payment to Participating Members described in Paragraph 5(A)(ii), fifteen percent (15%) of each such payment shall be designated as wages subject to W-2 reporting and normal payroll withholdings; the remaining eighty-five percent (85%) of each such payment shall be designated as penalties and interest subject to IRS Form 1099 reporting with no withholdings. Additionally, 100% of the PAGA Amount paid to Aggrieved Employees shall be designated as penalties and interest subject to IRS Form 1099 reporting with no withholdings. Notwithstanding the treatment of these payments to each Participating Member above, none of the Participating Member Payments called for by this Settlement Agreement, including the wage portion, are to be treated as earnings, wages, pay or compensation for any purpose of any applicable benefit or retirement plan, unless required by such plans.

- C. **Deadline to Negotiate Participating Member Payment.** Each Participating Member who receives a Participating Member Payment must negotiate the settlement check within one hundred eighty (180) days from the date of issuance. The one hundred eighty (180) day expiration of the settlement checks will be pre-printed on the front of the settlement check. Any funds payable to Participating Members whose checks are not negotiated within one hundred eighty (180) days period will be transmitted to the 501(c)(3) non-profit Central Valley Immigration Integration Collaborative (“CVIIC”) to assist in their mission of providing immigration support services, including to Class Members, in the California Central Valley. If the Court does not approve CVIIC as the *cy pres*, then the unclaimed funds will be transmitted to the California Controller’s Unclaimed Property Fund in the name of the Participating Member.
- D. Defendants shall be deemed to have fully discharged their obligations to each Participating Member when the Settlement Administrator mails each Participating Member a settlement check, regardless of whether such checks are actually received and/or negotiated by Participating Members. Neither Plaintiff, Defendants, nor their respective counsel shall bear any liability for lost or stolen checks, forged signatures on checks, or unauthorized negotiation of checks. Unless responsible by his, her, or its own acts of omission or commission, the same is true for the Settlement Administrator.

6. **Preliminary Approval.** Plaintiff shall apply to the Court for the entry of an Order:

- A. Conditionally certifying the Settlement Class for purposes of this Settlement Agreement;
- B. Appointing Daniel J. Brown and Kathleen J. Becket of Stansbury Brown Law, PC as Class Counsel;
- C. Appointing Francisca Zenaida Chavez as the Class Representative for the Settlement Class;
- D. Approving Phoenix Settlement Administrators as Settlement Administrator;
- E. Preliminarily approving this Settlement Agreement and its terms as fair, reasonable, and adequate;
- F. Approving the form and content of the Class Notice Packet and directing the mailing of same in English and Spanish;
- G. Scheduling a Final Approval hearing;
- H. Plaintiff shall submit the proposed settlement to the Labor Workforce Development Agency (“LWDA”) pursuant to Labor Code § 2699(1)(2). Proof of this submission will be provided to the Court and to Defendants’ counsel; and

- I. If Final Approval is granted, Plaintiff shall submit a copy of the Superior Court's judgment to the LWDA after entry of the judgment or order, pursuant to Labor Code § 2699(l)(3).
7. **Notice Procedures.** Following preliminary approval, Settlement Class Members and Aggrieved Employees shall be notified as follows:
- A. Within fourteen (14) days after entry of an order preliminarily approving this Settlement Agreement, Defendant ULS will provide the Settlement Administrator with a class list (in electronic format) including the full names, last known addresses, social security numbers, dates of employment, Class Workweeks and PAGA Pay Periods for each Aggrieved Employee and Settlement Class Member.
  - B. Within seven (7) days from receipt of the class list information, the Settlement Administrator shall: (i) run the names of all Settlement Class Members and Aggrieved Employees through the National Change of Address ("NCOA") database to determine any updated addresses for Settlement Class Members and Aggrieved Employees; (ii) update the addresses of any Settlement Class Member or Aggrieved Employee for whom an updated address was found through the NCOA search; and (iii) mail the Notice Packet to each Settlement Class Member or Aggrieved Employee in English and Spanish at their last known address or at the updated address found through the NCOA search, and retain proof of mailing.
  - C. Any Notice Packets returned to the Settlement Administrator as non-delivered on or before the Response Deadline (defined below) shall be re-mailed to the forwarding address affixed thereto. If no forwarding address is provided, the Settlement Administrator shall make reasonable efforts, including utilizing a "skip trace," to obtain an updated mailing address within five (5) business days of receiving the returned Notice Packet. If an updated mailing address is identified, the Settlement Administrator shall resend the Notice Packet to the Settlement Class Member or Aggrieved Employee immediately, and in any event within three (3) business days of obtaining the updated address.
  - D. **Opt-Out/Request for Exclusion Procedures.** Any Settlement Class Member who wishes to opt-out of the Settlement must complete and mail or fax a Request for Exclusion (defined below) to the Settlement Administrator within sixty (60) days of the date of the initial mailing of the Notice Packets (the "Response Deadline").
    - i. The Request for Exclusion must: (1) contain the name, address, telephone number of the Settlement Class Member; (2) contain a statement that the Settlement Class Member wishes to be excluded from the class settlement; (3) be signed by the Settlement Class Member; and (4) be faxed or postmarked by the Response Deadline and mailed to the Settlement Administrator at the address specified in the Class Notice. If the Request for Exclusion fails to comply with items (1) through (4), it will not be deemed a valid Request for Exclusion from this settlement, except a Request for Exclusion not containing

a Settlement Class Member's telephone number will be deemed valid. The date of the postmark on the Request for Exclusion, shall be the exclusive means used to determine whether a Request for Exclusion has been timely submitted. Any Settlement Class Member who requests to be excluded from the Settlement Class will not be entitled to any recovery under this Settlement Agreement and will not be bound by the terms of the settlement (although the PAGA settlement and release provisions will apply to each such individual, and such individual shall be entitled to their share of the PAGA Amount) or have any right to object, intervene, appeal, or comment thereon. Any Settlement Class Member who does not submit a Request for Exclusion is automatically deemed a Participating Settlement Class Member.

- E. **Objections.** Members of the Settlement Class who do not request exclusion may object to this Settlement Agreement as explained in the Class Notice by filing a written objection with the Settlement Administrator (who shall serve all objections as received on Class Counsel and Defendants' counsel as well as filing them with the Court). Defendants' counsel and Class Counsel shall file any responses to objections no later than the deadline to file the Motion for Final Approval, unless filed within ten (10) days of the Motion for Final Approval filing deadline, in which case Defendants' counsel and Class Counsel shall have ten (10) days to respond. To be valid, any objection must: (1) contain the objecting Settlement Class Member's full name and current address; (2) include all objections and the factual and legal bases for same; (3) include any and all supporting papers, briefs, written evidence, declarations, and/or other evidence; and (4) objections must be postmarked on or before the Response Deadline.
  
- F. **Challenges to Participating Member Payment Calculations.** Each Notice Packet mailed to a Settlement Class Member or Aggrieved Employee shall disclose the amount of the Settlement Class Member's or Aggrieved Employee's estimated Participating Member Payment as well as the number of Class Workweeks and the number of PAGA Pay Periods being credited to that individual. Settlement Class Members and Aggrieved Employees will have the opportunity, should they disagree with Defendants' records regarding the number of Class Workweeks and PAGA Pay Periods stated in their Notice Packet, to challenge the data provided. In order to challenge Defendants' data, the Settlement Class Member or Aggrieved Employee must provide documentation and/or an explanation demonstrating that Defendants' data is incorrect and evidencing the correct number of Class Workweeks and/or PAGA Pay Periods that the Settlement Class Member or Aggrieved Employee believes they should have been credited with. Any such dispute, including any supporting documentation, must be mailed to the Settlement Administrator and postmarked by the Response Deadline. The Settlement Administrator shall provide a copy of the challenge and any supporting documentation to counsel for the Parties within five (5) days of receipt.
  
- G. **Dispute Resolution.** The Settlement Administrator shall have the responsibility of resolving disputes (if any) that arise during the settlement administration process regarding the calculation of Settlement Class Member's or Aggrieved Employee's Participating Member Payment and the number of an individual's Class Workweeks

and PAGA Pay Periods. Where the information submitted by Defendants from their records differ from the information submitted by the Settlement Class Member or Aggrieved Employee, the Settlement Administrator shall request a conference call between the Settlement Administrator, Class Counsel, and Defendants' counsel to discuss and resolve the dispute. In advance of the conference call, the Settlement Administrator shall email copies of relevant information to all counsel. After consulting with the Parties to determine whether an adjustment is warranted, the Settlement Administrator will finally determine the eligibility for an amount of any Participating Member Payment. Such determination shall be binding upon the Settlement Class Member, Aggrieved Employee, and the Parties.

8. **Final Approval Process.** Following preliminary approval and the close of the Response Deadline under this Settlement Agreement, Plaintiff shall apply to the Court for entry of an Order:
  - A. Granting final approval to the Settlement Agreement and adjudging its terms to be fair, reasonable, and adequate;
  - B. Approving Plaintiff's application for Settlement Administrator's fees and expenses, Plaintiff's Class Representative Service Award, Class Counsel's attorneys' fees, Class Counsel's costs and expenses, and the PAGA Penalties; and
  - C. Entering judgment pursuant to California Rule of Court 3.769.
9. **Non-Admission.** Defendants deny that they have engaged in any unlawful activity, that they have failed to comply with the law in any respect, that they have any liability to anyone under the claims asserted in the Action, and that but for this settlement a class should not be certified in this Action. Nothing in this Settlement Agreement is intended or shall be construed as an admission of liability or wrongdoing by Defendants. Nothing in this Settlement Agreement shall operate or be construed as an admission of any liability or that class certification is appropriate in any context other than this settlement. The Parties have entered into this Settlement Agreement to avoid the burden and expense of further litigation. Pursuant to California Evidence Code Section 1152, this Settlement Agreement is inadmissible in any proceeding, except a proceeding to approve, interpret, or enforce this Settlement Agreement. If Final Approval does not occur, the Parties agree that this Settlement Agreement is void, but remains protected by California Evidence Code section 1152.
10. **No Public Comment:** The Parties and their counsel agree that they will not issue any press releases, initiate any contact with the press, respond to any press inquiry, or have any communication with the press about the fact, amount or terms of the Settlement.
11. **Amendments or Modifications.** The Parties may not waive, amend, or modify any provision of this Settlement Agreement except by a written agreement signed by the Parties or their representatives, and subject to any necessary Court approval. A waiver or amendment of any provision of this Settlement Agreement will not constitute a waiver of any other provision.

12. **Notices.** All notices, demands, and other communications to be provided concerning this Settlement Agreement shall be in writing and delivered by receipted delivery or by e-mail at the addresses of the Parties' representatives set forth below, or such other addresses as the Parties may designate in writing from time to time:

If to Defendant ULS:

Rissa A. Stuart  
Hunter W. Swearingen  
KAHN, SOARES & CONWAY, LLP  
219 North Douty Street  
Hanford, California 93230  
rstuart@kschanford.com  
hswearingen@kschanford.com

If to Defendant CR:

Marlene S. Muraco  
LITTLER MENDELSON, P.C.  
50 W. San Fernando, 7th Floor  
San Jose, California 95113  
mmuraco@littler.com

If to Plaintiff:

Daniel J. Brown, Esq.  
STANSBURY BROWN LAW, PC  
2610 ½ Abbot Kinney Blvd.  
Venice, California 9029  
dbrown@stansburybrownlaw.com

13. **Entire Agreement.** This Settlement Agreement contains the entire agreement between the Parties with respect to the transactions contemplated hereby, and supersedes all negotiations, presentations, warranties, commitments, offers, contracts, and writings prior to the date hereof relating to the subject matters hereof.
14. **Counterparts.** This Settlement Agreement may be executed by one or more of the Parties on any number of separate counterparts and delivered electronically, and all of said counterparts taken together shall be deemed to constitute one and the same instrument.
15. **Failure to Obtain Final Approval.** If the court fails to grant either preliminary or final approval, the Parties shall be restored to their positions at the time of the execution of this memorandum, which shall include but not be limited to, all funds paid by Defendants shall be returned to Defendants, with the exception that if any settlement administration costs are due and payable, Plaintiff and Defendants agree to split those costs.
16. **Payment Obligations;** Each Defendant shall be obligated to pay only those amounts specifically allocated to it under this Agreement. Under no circumstances shall one Defendant be required to remit funds that are the responsibility of the other Defendant. In other words, Defendants' funding obligations are not joint and several.

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[SIGNATURES ON FOLLOWING PAGE]

**EXECUTION BY PARTIES AND COUNSEL**

Date: 7/23/2025

Signed by:

F. C. Z

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Plaintiff Francisca Zenaida Chavez

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_, on behalf of  
Defendant Universal Labor Systems, Inc.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_, on behalf of  
Defendant Christopher Ranch, LLC

**Approved as to Form:**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

KAHN, SOARES & CONWAY, LLP

\_\_\_\_\_  
Rissa A. Stuart

Counsel for Universal Labor Solutions, Inc.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

LITTLER MENDELSON, PC

\_\_\_\_\_  
Marlene Muraco  
Counsel for Defendant Christopher Ranch, LLC

Date: 7/23/25

STANSBURY BROWN LAW, PC

[Signature]  
Daniel J. Brown  
Counsel for Plaintiff and Class

**EXECUTION BY PARTIES AND COUNSEL**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Plaintiff Francisca Zenaida Chavez

Date: 7/31/2025

  
Gil Rivas, on behalf of  
Defendant Universal Labor Solutions, Inc.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_, on behalf of  
Defendant Christopher Ranch, LLC

**Approved as to Form:**

Date: 7/31/2025

KAHN, SOARES & CONWAY, LLP  
  
Rissa A. Stuart

Counsel for Universal Labor Solutions, Inc.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

LITTLER MENDELSON, PC

\_\_\_\_\_  
Marlene Muraco  
Counsel for Defendant Christopher Ranch, LLC

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

STANSBURY BROWN LAW, PC

\_\_\_\_\_  
Daniel J. Brown  
Counsel for Plaintiff and Class

**EXECUTION BY PARTIES AND COUNSEL**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Plaintiff Francisca Zenaida Chavez

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_, on behalf of  
Defendant Universal Labor Systems, Inc.

Date: July 25, 2025

Robert A. Christopher  
Robert A. Christopher  
General Counsel), on behalf of  
Defendant Christopher Ranch, LLC

**Approved as to Form:**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

KAHN, SOARES & CONWAY, LLP

\_\_\_\_\_  
Rissa A. Stuart

Counsel for Universal Labor Solutions, Inc.

Date: July 25, 2025

LITTLER MENDELSON, PC

Marlene Muraco

\_\_\_\_\_  
Marlene Muraco  
Counsel for Defendant Christopher Ranch, LLC

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

STANSBURY BROWN LAW, PC

\_\_\_\_\_  
Daniel J. Brown  
Counsel for Plaintiff and Class