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and on behalf of other similarly situated employees and
aggrieved employees pursuant to the California Private
Attorneys General Act

**SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
FOR THE COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ**

TRAVIS SANFORD, individually, and on
behalf of other similarly situated employees
and aggrieved employees pursuant to the
California Private Attorneys General Act,

Plaintiff,

vs.

SANTA CRUZ SEASIDE COMPANY, a
California corporation; and DOES 1 through
25, inclusive,

Defendants.

Case No.: 23CV01762

*Assigned for all purposes to the Honorable
Syda K. Cogliati, Dept. 5*

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

Date: September 12, 2024
Time: 8:30 a.m.
Dept.: 5

Complaint Filed: July 25, 2023
FAC Filed: August 5, 2024
Trial Date: Not Set

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[PROPOSED] ORDER

On September 12, 2024, at 8:30 a.m. in Department 5 of the above-captioned Court located at 701 Ocean Street, Santa Cruz, California 95060, Plaintiff Travis Sanford's ("Plaintiff") Motion for Preliminary Approval of Class Action and PAGA Settlement came on for hearing before the Honorable Syda K. Cogliati. Blackstone Law, APC appeared on behalf of Plaintiff and Folger Levin LLP appeared on behalf of Defendant Santa Cruz Seaside Company ("Defendant").

The Court, having carefully considered the papers, argument of counsel, and all matters presented to the Court, and good cause appearing, hereby **GRANTS** Plaintiff's Motion for Preliminary Approval of Class Action and PAGA Settlement.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

1. The Court preliminarily approves the Joint Stipulation of Class Action and PAGA Settlement ("Settlement" or "Settlement Agreement") attached as Exhibit 2 to the Declaration of Karen I. Gold in Support of Plaintiff's Motion for Preliminary Approval of Class Action and PAGA Settlement. Upon review, this Court has determined that the Settlement falls within the range of possible approval as fair, adequate, and reasonable.

2. This Order incorporates by reference the definitions in the Settlement Agreement, and all capitalized terms defined therein shall have the same meaning in this Order as set forth in the Settlement Agreement.

3. It appears to the Court on a preliminary basis that the Settlement is fair, adequate, and reasonable. It appears to the Court that extensive investigation and research have been conducted such that counsel for the parties at this time are able to reasonably evaluate their respective positions. It further appears to the Court that the Settlement, at this time, will avoid substantial additional costs by all parties, as well as avoid the delay and risks that would be presented by the further prosecution of the case. It further appears that the Settlement has been reached as the result of intensive, serious, and non-collusive, arms-length negotiations, and was entered into in good faith.

4. The Court preliminarily finds that the Settlement, including the allocations for the Attorneys' Fees and Costs, Enhancement Payment, LWDA Payment, Settlement Administration Costs, and payments to the Settlement Class Members and PAGA Employees provided for in the Settlement Agreement, appear to be within the range of reasonableness of a settlement that could

ultimately be given final approval by this Court. Indeed, the Court has reviewed the monetary recovery that is being granted as part of the Settlement and preliminarily finds that the monetary settlement awards made available to the Class Members and PAGA Employees are fair, adequate, and reasonable when balanced against the probable outcome of further litigation relating to certification, liability, and damages issues and are consistent with the requirements of California Labor Code § 2699(1).

5. The Court concludes that, for settlement purposes only, the proposed Class meets the requirements for certification under section 382 of the California Code of Civil Procedure in that: (a) the Class is ascertainable and so numerous that joinder of all members of the Class is impracticable; (b) common questions of law and fact predominate, and there is a well-defined community of interest amongst the members of the Class with respect to the subject matter of the litigation; (c) Plaintiff's claims are typical of the claims of the members of the Class; (d) Plaintiff will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the members of the Class; (e) a class action is superior to other available methods for the efficient adjudication of the controversy; and (f) Class Counsel is qualified to act as counsel for Plaintiff in his individual capacity and as the representative of the Class.

6. The Court conditionally certifies, for settlement purposes only, the Class, defined as follows:

All current and former hourly-paid and/or non-exempt employees (including adults and minors under the age of 18) who worked for Defendant in the State of California at any time during the Class Period.

(The Class Period is defined as the period from July 25, 2019 through August 11, 2024.)

7. The Court provisionally appoints Jonathan M. Genish, Karen I. Gold, Ashley H. Cruz, and Marissa A. Mayhood of Blackstone Law, APC as counsel for the Class ("Class Counsel").

8. The Court provisionally appoints Plaintiff Travis Sanford as the representative of the Class ("Class Representative").

9. The Court provisionally appoints ILYM Group, Inc. to handle the administration of the Settlement ("Settlement Administrator").

10. Within twenty-one (21) calendar days after entry of this Order, Defendant will provide the Settlement Administrator with the following information about each Class Member: full name, last known mailing address, Social Security number, dates worked for Defendant during the Class Period,

1 and such information as is necessary for the Settlement Administrator to calculate Workweeks and
2 PAGA Workweeks (if applicable) (collectively referred to as the “Class List”) in conformity with the
3 Settlement Agreement.

4 11. The Court approves, both as to form and content, the Notice of Class Action Settlement
5 (“Class Notice”) attached hereto as **Exhibit 1**. The Class Notice shall be provided to Class Members
6 in the manner set forth in the Settlement Agreement. The Court finds that the Class Notice appears to
7 fully and accurately inform the Class Members of all material elements of the Settlement, of Class
8 Members’ right to be excluded from the Class Settlement by submitting a Request for Exclusion, of
9 Class Members’ right to dispute the Workweeks and/or PAGA Workweeks credited to each of them
10 by submitting a Workweeks Dispute, and of each Settlement Class Member’s right and opportunity to
11 object to the Class Settlement by submitting a Notice of Objection to the Settlement Administrator.
12 The Court further finds that the Class Notice will be addressed to the name of each Class Member
13 “and/or their Parent/Guardian” and that the Class Notice advises that a parent or guardian may, on
14 behalf of a Class Member under the age of 18, request exclusion from the Class Settlement, dispute
15 the Class Member’s Workweeks and/or PAGA Workweeks, and/or object to Class Settlement. The
16 Court further finds that distribution of the Class Notice substantially in the manner and form set forth
17 in the Settlement Agreement and this Order, and that all other dates set forth in the Settlement
18 Agreement and this Order, meet the requirements of due process and shall constitute due and sufficient
19 notice to all persons entitled thereto. The Court further orders the Settlement Administrator to mail
20 the Class Notice by First-Class U.S. Mail in English and Spanish to all Class Members within seven
21 (7) calendar days of receipt of the Class List, pursuant to the terms set forth in the Settlement
22 Agreement.

23 12. The Court hereby preliminarily approves the proposed procedure, set forth in the
24 Settlement Agreement, for seeking exclusion from the Class Settlement. Any Class Member (and/or
25 the parent or guardian of any Class Member under the age of 18) may choose to be excluded from the
26 Class Settlement by submitting Request for Exclusion in conformity with the requirements set forth
27 in the Class Notice, to the Settlement Administrator, postmarked on or before the date that is forty-
28 five (45) calendar days from the initial mailing of the Class Notice by the Settlement Administrator to

1 Class Members (“Response Deadline”), or, in the case of a re-mailed Class Notice, the Response
2 Deadline shall be extended fifteen (15) calendar days from the original Response Deadline. Any such
3 person who timely and validly chooses to opt out of, and be excluded from, the Class Settlement will
4 not be entitled to any recovery under the Class Settlement and will not be bound by the Class
5 Settlement or have any right to object, appeal, or comment thereon. Nevertheless, all PAGA
6 Employees will be issued their Individual PAGA Payment, irrespective of whether they submit a
7 Request for Exclusion. To the extent a Class Member (and/or the parent or guardian of a Class
8 Member who is under the age of 18) does not submit a timely and valid Request for Exclusion (i.e.,
9 Settlement Class Members), such Class Member shall be bound by the Settlement Agreement and any
10 final judgment based thereon.

11 13. A Final Approval Hearing shall be held before this Court on _____ at _____
12 a.m./p.m. in Department 5 of the Santa Cruz County Superior Court, located at 701 Ocean Street,
13 Santa Cruz 95060, to determine all necessary matters concerning the Settlement, including: whether
14 the proposed settlement of the action on the terms and conditions provided for in the Settlement is fair,
15 adequate, and reasonable and should be finally approved by the Court; whether a judgment, as
16 provided in the Settlement, should be entered herein; whether the plan of allocation contained in the
17 Settlement should be approved as fair, adequate, and reasonable to the Class Members and PAGA
18 Employees; and determine whether to approve the requests for the Attorneys’ Fees and Costs,
19 Enhancement Payment, Settlement Administration Costs, and allocation for the PAGA Amount.

20 14. Class Counsel shall file a motion for final approval of the Settlement and for Attorneys’
21 Fees and Costs, Enhancement Payment, and Settlement Administration Costs, along with the
22 appropriate declarations and supporting evidence, including the Settlement Administrator’s
23 declaration, by sixteen (16) court days prior to the Final Approval Hearing, to be heard at the Final
24 Approval Hearing.

25 15. To object to the Class Settlement, a Settlement Class Member (and/or the parent or
26 guardian of a Settlement Class Member who is under the age of 18) must submit their Notice of
27 Objection to the Settlement Administrator on or before the Response Deadline. The Notice of
28 Objection must be signed and must contain the information that is required, as set forth in the Class

1 Notice, including and not limited to the grounds for the objection. Settlement Class Members (and/or
2 the parent or guardian of a Settlement Class Member under the age of 18), individually or through
3 counsel, may also present their objection orally at the Final Approval Hearing, regardless of whether
4 they have submitted a Notice of Objection.

5 16. In the event the Settlement does not become effective in accordance with the terms of
6 the Settlement Agreement, or the Settlement is not finally approved, or is terminated, canceled, or fails
7 to become effective for any reason, this Order shall be rendered null and void, shall be vacated, and
8 the parties shall revert back to their respective positions as of before entering into the Settlement
9 Agreement. The fact that the Court certified the Class for settlement purposes shall not be admissible
10 or have any bearing on the issue of whether any class should be certified in a non-settlement context.

11 17. The Court reserves the right to adjourn or continue the date of the Final Approval
12 Hearing and any dates provided for in the Settlement Agreement without further notice to the Class
13 Members and retains jurisdiction to consider all further applications arising out of or connected with
14 the Settlement.

15 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

16
17 Dated: _____

The Honorable Syda K. Cogliati
Judge of the Superior Court