

September 24, 2024

**VIA ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION;
VIA CERTIFIED MAIL TO EMPLOYER**

California Labor and Workforce Development Agency
Attn: PAGA Administrator
455 Golden Gate Avenue, 9th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94102

JTE Electrical, Inc.
3665 Lakeside Drive Suite B
Reno, NV 89509

Re: Notice of Claim Under Private Attorneys General Act (“PAGA”)

Dear LWDA:

My firm represents Tarik Parkman (“Plaintiff”) and all other aggrieved employees who intend to file an action against JTE Electrical, Inc. (“Defendant” or “JTE Electrical”) in connection with Defendant’s violations of the California Labor Code. This letter shall serve as notice, and a request, pursuant to Labor Code section 2699.3, *et seq.* (“PAGA”), that the Labor and Workforce Development Agency (“LWDA”) investigate the violations by Defendant described herein against Plaintiff and other current and/or former employees. If LWDA does not intend to investigate the violations described herein, we respectfully request that the agency specifically notify our office of the same at your earliest possible opportunity.

Statement of Specific Provisions of the Labor Code Violated

Plaintiffs intend to prosecute a civil action against Defendant for violations of Labor Code sections 510, 558, 1194, 1198, and 2802.

Facts and Theories in Support of Violations

Defendant provides electrical contracting services and is registered to do business in the State of California. Plaintiff began working for Defendant from on or about April 1, 2022. Plaintiff remains employed by Defendant and works as a Solar Installer.

Failure to Reimburse Necessary Business Expenses

Pursuant to Labor Code section 2802, an employee is entitled to be reimbursed by an employer for “all necessary expenditures or losses incurred by the employee in direct consequence of discharge of his or her duties.” Defendant failed to reimburse Plaintiff for necessary business expenses, including mileage. Plaintiff is often required to drive his own

vehicle between three to eight hours, and is only paid a per diem of between \$30 and \$60, but is not reimbursed for mileage.

Defendant failed to reimburse Plaintiff for reasonable expenses necessarily incurred in the performance of his job duties, such as mileage. As a result of these Labor Code violations, Defendant is liable for civil penalties. (Lab. Code § 2698, *et seq.*)

Penalties for Unpaid Wages

Pursuant to Labor Code section 558, subdivision (a), and employer who violates “any provision regulating hours and days of work in any order of the Industrial Welfare Commission shall be subject to a civil penalty.” (Lab. Code § 558, subd. (a).)

An employer’s initial violation is subject to a “fifty dollar penalty (\$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.” (*Ibid.*) Thereafter, each subsequent violation is subject to a penalty of “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.” (*Ibid.*)

Here, Defendant’s personnel were often required to work more than eight hours per day to complete work within the timeframes dictated by Defendant, but Defendant does not pay Plaintiff overtime pay. Additionally, Plaintiff is not allowed to “clock in” while traveling to his jobsite, and is not paid for the hours he spends driving to and from the jobsite. Instead, he is only given \$30 to \$60 *per diem*, depending on how far he is required to travel. Defendant is therefore liable for civil penalties under section 558, subdivision (a).

Unlawful Failure to Provide Uninterrupted Off-Duty Meal and Rest Periods

Plaintiff and similarly situated employees regularly worked in excess of five hours per day without being provided at least one half-hour meal period in which they were relieved of all duties. (Lab. Code §§ 226.7, 512; *see also* Industrial Welfare Commission Order No. 4-2001.) Plaintiff and similarly situated employees also regularly worked in excess of four hours without being provided at least a ten-minute rest period in which they were relieved of all their duties. (Lab. Code §§ 226.7, 512; *see also* Industrial Welfare Commission Order No. 4-2001.)

Throughout Plaintiff’s employment, he was not able to take uninterrupted off-duty meal and rest periods in accordance with Labor Code. Defendant did not maintain a policy that ensured Plaintiff received requisite meal and rest periods. Furthermore, Defendant caused Plaintiff to miss meal and rest periods and failed to pay him the premium compensation mandated by Labor Code section 226.7, subdivisions (b)-(c). As a result of these Labor Code violations, Defendant is liable for civil penalties. (Lab. Code § 2698, *et seq.*)

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Conclusion

As described above, Defendant has violated numerous wage and hour provisions of the Labor Code. As a result, Defendant is liable to Plaintiff and other current and former employees for civil penalties, attorney's fees, and costs, pursuant to Labor Code sections 510, 558, 1194, 1198, and 2802.

This letter shall serve as Plaintiff's notice pursuant to Labor Code section 2699.3 and we ask that LWDA conduct an investigation concerning the violations described herein. Alternatively, if LWDA does not intend to investigate these violations, we ask that it issue a notification letter to our office confirming the same so that we may proceed with our civil action asserting the PAGA claims described herein.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or if you would like to discuss this matter further. Nothing in this letter is intended to be, or should be construed as, an admission against the interests of Plaintiff or other current or former employees of Defendant and shall not be construed as a waiver of their rights, remedies, claims, or defenses, all of which are expressly reserved.

Sincerely,



Arash Sadat

cc: Tammy Borja <tborja@jte-electrical.com>