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SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

FOR THE COUNTY OF KERN

BRITTIANY GOLDEN, individually, on behalf of all others similarly situated, and on behalf of the State of California and other aggrieved persons; and KATEY MULLENDORE, individually, and on behalf of all others similarly situated,

Plaintiffs,

v.

INMACK FOODS, INC., a California corporation; and DOES 1 through 10, inclusive,

Defendants.

Case No. BCV25103272

[Assigned for all purposes to: Hon. Bernard C. Barmann, Division. H]

[PROPOSED] ORDER GRANTING PLAINTIFFS' MOTION FOR PRELIMINARY APPROVAL OF CLASS ACTION AND PAGA SETTLEMENT

Preliminary Approval Hearing:
Date: November 12, 2026
Time: 8:30 a.m.
Dept.: H

Action Filed: October 14, 2024

[PROPOSED] ORDER

Having reviewed Plaintiffs Brittiany Golden, Katey Mullendore, and William Davis's ("Plaintiffs") Motion for Preliminary Approval of Class Action and PAGA Settlement ("Motion"), the Declaration of Arrash T. Fattahi, Plaintiffs' Declaration, and the Class Action and PAGA Settlement Agreement and Class Notice ("Settlement Agreement"), and good cause appearing, the Court finds and orders as follows:

1. The Court finds on a preliminary basis that the Settlement Agreement appears to be fair, adequate, and reasonable and therefore meets the requirements for preliminary approval. The Court grants preliminary approval of the Settlement and the Settlement Class based on the terms set forth in the Settlement Agreement between Plaintiffs and Defendant Inmack Foods, Inc. ("Defendant"), attached to the Declaration of Arrash T. Fattahi in Support of Plaintiffs' Motion for Preliminary Approval of Class Action and PAGA Settlement as **Exhibit 2**.

2. The Settlement falls within the range of reasonableness of a settlement which could ultimately be given final approval by this Court, and appears to be presumptively valid, subject only to any objections that may be raised at the Final Approval Hearing and final approval by this Court. The Court notes that Defendant has agreed to create a common fund of $385,000.00 to cover (a) settlement payments to Class Members who do not validly opt out; (b) a $38,500.00 allocation toward civil penalties under the Labor Code Private Attorneys General Act of 2004 ("PAGA"), 65% of which ($25,025.00) will be paid to California's Labor and Workforce Development Agency and 35% of which ($13,475.00) will be paid to Aggrieved Employees; (c) a Class Representative Service Payments of up to $10,000.00 to each Plaintiff ($30,000.00 total); (d) Class Counsel's attorneys' fees, not to exceed one third (1/3) of the Gross Settlement Amount (currently estimated to be $128,333.33), and up to $30,000.00 in costs for actual litigation expenses incurred by Class Counsel; and (e) Settlement Administration Costs of up to $7,990.00.

3. The Court preliminarily finds that the terms of the Settlement appear to be within the range of possible approval, pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure section 382 and applicable law. The Court finds on a preliminary basis that: (1) the Settlement amount is fair and reasonable to the Class Members when balanced against the probable outcome of further litigation relating to class

certification, liability and damages issues, and potential appeals; (2) significant informal discovery, investigation, research, and litigation have been conducted such that counsel for the Parties at this time are able to reasonably evaluate their respective positions; (3) settlement at this time will avoid substantial costs, delay, and risks that would be presented by the further prosecution of the litigation; and (4) the proposed Settlement has been reached as the result of intensive, serious, and non-collusive negotiations between the Parties with the assistance of a well-respected class action mediator. Accordingly, the Court preliminarily finds that the Settlement Agreement was entered into in good faith.

4. A final approval hearing on the question of whether the proposed Settlement, attorneys' fees and costs to Class Counsel, payment to the LWDA and Aggrieved Employees for their share of the settlement of claims for penalties under PAGA, and the Class Representative Service Payments should be finally approved as fair, reasonable and adequate as to the members of the Class is hereby set in accordance with the Implementation Schedule set forth below.

5. The Court provisionally certifies for settlement purposes only the following class (the "Class"): "all persons employed at Taco Bell Store Number 22229 by Defendant in California and classified as an hourly-paid non-exempt employee who worked for Defendant during the Class Period."

6. "Class Period" means the period from October 14, 2020, to March 30, 2026.

7. "Aggrieved Employees" means a person employed at Taco Bell Store Number 22229 (1240 N. China Lake Blvd., Ridgecrest, California 93555) by Defendant in California and classified as an hourly-paid non-exempt employee who worked for Defendant during the PAGA Period.

8. "PAGA Period" means the period from October 17, 2023, to March 30, 2026.

9. The Court finds, for settlement purposes only, that the Class meets the requirements for certification under California Code of Civil Procedure § 382 in that: (1) the Class Members are so numerous that joinder is impractical; (2) there are questions of law and fact that are common, or of general interest, to all Class Members, which predominate over individual issues; (3) Plaintiffs' claims are typical of the claims of the Class Members; (4) Plaintiffs and Class Counsel will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the Class Members; and (5) a class action is superior to other

available methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of the controversy.

10. The Court appoints as Class Representatives, for settlement purposes only, Plaintiffs Brittiany Golden, Katey Mullendore, and William Davis. The Court further preliminarily approves Plaintiffs' ability to request a Class Representative Service Awards up to $10,000.00 each ($30,000.00 total).

11. The Court appoints, for settlement purposes only, Arrash T. Fattahi and Arman A. Salehi, and Giancarlos Recinos of Wilshire Law Firm, PLC, as Class Counsel. The Court further preliminarily approves Class Counsel's ability to request attorneys' fees of up to one third (1/3) of the Gross Settlement Amount (currently estimated to be $128,333.33), and costs not to exceed $30,000.00.

12. The Court appoints Apex Class Action Administration as the Administrator with reasonable administration costs not to exceed $7,990.00.

13. The Court approves, as to form and content the Class Notice ("Class Notice") attached to the Settlement Agreement as **Exhibit A.** The Court finds on a preliminary basis that plan for distribution of the Class Notice to Settlement Class Members satisfies due process, provides the best notice practicable under the circumstances, and shall constitute due and sufficient notice to all persons entitled thereto.

14. The Parties and the Administrator are ordered to carry out the Settlement according to the terms of the Settlement Agreement.

15. Any Class Member who does not timely and validly request exclusion from the Settlement may object to the Settlement Agreement.

16. The Court orders the following Implementation Schedule:

Event	Timing
Class Data: Last day for Defendant to provide Class Data to the Administrator	30 days after the Court grants Preliminary Approval of the Settlement

Class Notice: Last day for Administrator to mail the Class Notice to Class Members	14 days after receipt of the Class Data
Response Deadline: Last day for Class Members to submit Requests for Exclusion, Objections to the Settlement, and challenges to Workweeks and/or Pay Periods	45 days after Class Notice is mailed out by the Administrator (with an additional 14 days for Class Members whose Class Notice was remailed)
Filing Deadline: Last day to file Motion for Final Approval, Request for Attorneys' Fees and Costs, and Class Representative Service Payments to Plaintiffs	16 court days before the Final Approval Hearing
Final Approval Hearing	_____, 2026, at _____ a.m./p.m. in Div. H of the above-referenced Court

17. The Court further ORDERS that, pending further order of this Court, all proceedings in this lawsuit, except those contemplated herein and in the settlement, are stayed.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

DATED: _____

_____
HON. BERNARD C. BARMANN
JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT