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**SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
FOR THE COUNTY OF MONTEREY**

AGUILA TOBIAS ACOSTA, individually, and  
on behalf of all others similarly situated,

*Plaintiff,*

v.

LA PLAYA HOTEL GROUP, LLC, a Delaware  
limited liability company; HOTEL CARMEL  
GROUP, LLC, a Delaware limited liability  
company; CASA LOMA BEACH HOTEL, LLC,  
a Delaware limited liability company; NORTH  
COAST GROUP, LLC, a Delaware limited  
liability company; and DOES 1 through 10,  
inclusive,

*Defendants.*

Case No.: 25CV003941

*[Assigned for All Purposes to the Hon. Hon.  
Thomas W. Wills, Dept. 15]*

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

Preliminary Approval Hearing:

Date: February 6, 2026

Time: 8:30 a.m.

Dept: 15

Action Filed: September 30, 2024

1 **[PROPOSED] ORDER**

2 Having reviewed Plaintiff Aguila Tobias Acosta's ("Plaintiff") Motion for Preliminary  
3 Approval of Class Action and PAGA Settlement ("Motion"), the Declaration of John G. Yslas,  
4 the Declaration of Aguila Tobias Acosta, and the Class Action and PAGA Settlement Agreement  
5 ("Settlement Agreement"), and good cause appearing, the Court finds and HEREBY ORDERS  
6 THE FOLLOWING:

7 1. The Court finds on a preliminary basis that the Settlement Agreement appears to  
8 be fair, adequate, and reasonable and therefore meets the requirements for preliminary approval.  
9 The Court grants preliminary approval of the Settlement and the Settlement Class based on the  
10 terms set forth in the Settlement Agreement between Plaintiff and Defendant La Playa Hotel  
11 Group, LLC ("Defendant"), attached to the Declaration of John G. Yslas in Support of  
12 Plaintiff's Motion for Preliminary Approval of Class Action and PAGA Settlement as **Exhibit**  
13 **4**.

14 2. The Settlement falls within the range of reasonableness of a settlement which  
15 could ultimately be given final approval by this Court, and appears to be presumptively valid,  
16 subject only to any objections that may be raised at the Final Approval Hearing and final  
17 approval by this Court. The Court notes that Defendant has agreed to create a common fund of  
18 \$850,000.00 to cover (a) settlement payments to Class Members who do not validly opt out; (b)  
19 a \$42,500.00 allocation toward civil penalties under the Private Attorneys General Act, 65% of  
20 which (\$27,625.00) will be paid to California's Labor & Workforce Development Agency and  
21 35% of which (\$14,875.00) will be paid to Aggrieved Employees; (c) Class Representative  
22 Service Payment of up to \$10,000.00 to Plaintiff; (d) Class Counsel's attorneys' fees, not to  
23 exceed one third (1/3) of the Gross Settlement Amount (currently estimated to be \$283,333.33),  
24 and up to \$30,000.00 in costs for actual litigation expenses incurred by Class Counsel; and (e)  
25 Settlement Administration Costs of up to \$11,000.00.

26 3. The Court preliminarily finds that the terms of the Settlement appear to be within  
27 the range of possible approval, pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure § 382 and  
28 applicable law. The Court finds on a preliminary basis that: (1) the Settlement amount is fair

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

10 4. A final fairness hearing on the question of whether the proposed Settlement,  
11 attorneys' fees and costs to Class Counsel, payment to the California's Labor & Workforce  
12 Development Agency for its share of the settlement of claims for penalties under the Private  
13 Attorneys General Act, and the Class Representative Service Payment should be finally  
14 approved as fair, reasonable and adequate as to the members of the Class is hereby set in  
15 accordance with the Implementation Schedule set forth below.

16 5. The Court provisionally certifies for settlement purposes only the following class  
17 (the "Class"): "all persons who worked for Defendants in California as an hourly-paid or non-  
18 exempt employee at any time during the Class Period."

19 6. "Class Period" means the period from September 30, 2020, through the date of  
20 preliminary approval, except as provided in Paragraph 8 of the Settlement Agreement.

21 7. The Court finds, for settlement purposes only, that the Settlement Class meets the  
22 requirements for certification under California Code of Civil Procedure § 382 in that: (1) the  
23 Settlement Class Members are so numerous that joinder is impractical; (2) there are questions  
24 of law and fact that are common, or of general interest, to all Settlement Class Members, which  
25 predominate over individual issues; (3) Plaintiff's claims are typical of the claims of the  
26 Settlement Class Members; (4) Plaintiff and Class Counsel will fairly and adequately protect  
27 the interests of the Settlement Class Members; and (5) a class action is superior to other  
28 available methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of the controversy.

8. The Court appoints as Class Representative, for settlement purposes only, Plaintiff Aguila Tobias Acosta. The Court further preliminarily approves Plaintiff's ability to request an incentive award up to \$10,000.00.

9. The Court appoints, for settlement purposes only, John G. Yslas, Eugene Zinovyev, John Brown, Gabriella Solé, Emily K. Borman, and Courtney M. Miller 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 \$283,333.33), and litigation costs not to exceed \$30,000.00.

10. The Court appoints Phoenix Settlement Administrators as the Settlement Administrator with reasonable administration costs estimated not to exceed \$11,000.00.

11. The Court approves, as to form and content the Class Notice, attached to the Settlement Agreement. The Court finds on a preliminary basis that plan for distribution of the 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.

12. The Parties are ordered to carry out the Settlement according to the terms of the Settlement Agreement.

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

14. The Court orders the following Implementation Schedule:

| Event                                                                                | Timing                                                                |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Class Data:</b> Last day for Defendant to provide Class Data to the Administrator | 45 days after the Court grants Preliminary Approval of the Settlement |
| <b>Notice:</b> Last day for Administrator to mail the Class Notice to Class Members  | 14 days after receipt of the Class Data                               |

|                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                              |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Response Deadline:</b> Last day for Class Members to submit written objections, challenges to workweeks and/or pay periods, and requests for exclusion        | 45 days after Class Notice is mailed out by the Administrator (with an additional 14 days for Class Members whose Class Notice was remailed) |
| <b>Filing Deadline:</b> Last day to file Motion for Final Approval, Request for Attorneys' Fees and Costs, and Class Representative Service Payment to Plaintiff | 16 court days before the Final Approval Hearing                                                                                              |
| Final Approval Hearing                                                                                                                                           | _____, 2026, at _____<br><br>a.m./p.m. in Dept. 15 of the above-referenced Court.                                                            |

15. 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.**

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
HON. THOMAS W. WILLS  
JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT