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SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
FOR THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

JUAN CANELA, individually, and on behalf of
other members of the general public similarly
situated,

Plaintiff,

vs.

HELIX ELECTRIC, INC., a California
corporation; and DOES 1 through 10, inclusive,

Defendants.

Case No.: BC721327

**AMENDED JOINT STIPULATION OF
CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT AND
RELEASE**

1 Member worked during the Class Period and PAGA Period; and any other relevant information needed
2 to calculate settlement payments.

3 5. "Class Member(s)" or "Settlement Class" means all persons who were employed by
4 Defendant in the State of California at any time from September 17, 2014 though June 30, 2022.

5 6. "Class Period" means the period from September 17, 2014 though June 30, 2022.

6 7. "Class Representative Enhancement Payment" means the amount to be paid to Plaintiff
7 in recognition of his effort and work in prosecuting the Action on behalf of Class Members, and for his
8 general release of claims. Subject to the Court granting final approval of this Settlement Agreement and
9 subject to the exhaustion of any and all appeals, Plaintiff will request Court approval of a Class
10 Representative Enhancement Payment of up to Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000).

11 8. "Court" means the Los Angeles County Superior Court.

12 9. "Defendant" means Defendant Helix Electric, Inc.

13 10. "Effective Date" means the date on which the following events have occurred: (i) this
14 Settlement Agreement has been executed by all Parties and their counsel; (ii) the Court has entered an
15 order granting Preliminary Approval of the Settlement; (iii) the Class Notice has been mailed to the Class
16 Members, and the Response Deadline has passed; (iv) the Court has entered a Judgment approving the
17 Settlement; (v) the period for filing any appeal, writ or other appellate proceeding opposing the
18 Settlement has elapsed without any appeal, writ or other appellate proceeding having been filed; i.e.,
19 within 60 calendar days after entry of the Judgment; or (vi) when any appeal, writ or other appellate
20 proceeding opposing the Settlement has been dismissed finally and conclusively with no right to pursue
21 further remedies or relief; or (vii) when any appeal, writ or other appellate proceeding has upheld the
22 Court's Judgment with no right to pursue further remedies or relief.

23 11. "Final Approval" means the date on which the Court enters an order granting final
24 approval of the Settlement Agreement.

25 12. "Gross Settlement Amount" means the Gross Settlement Amount of Six Million Five
26 Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$6,500,000), to be paid by Defendant in full satisfaction of all Released
27 Class Claims and Released PAGA Claims, which includes all Individual Settlement Payments,
28 Attorneys' Fees and Costs, the Class Representative Enhancement Payment, the PAGA Settlement

1 Amount, and Settlement Administration Costs. This Gross Settlement Amount has been agreed to by
2 Plaintiff and Defendant based on the aggregation of the agreed-upon settlement value of individual
3 claims. In no event will Defendant be liable for more than the Gross Settlement Amount except as
4 otherwise explicitly set forth herein. There will be no reversion of the Gross Settlement Amount to
5 Defendant. Defendant will be separately responsible for any employer payroll taxes required by law,
6 including the employer FICA, FUTA, and SDI contributions, which shall not be paid from the Gross
7 Settlement Amount.

8 13. "Individual Settlement Payment" means each Participating Class Member's and PAGA
9 Member's respective shares of the Net Settlement Fund and PAGA Fund.

10 14. "Net Settlement Fund" means the portion of the Gross Settlement Amount remaining
11 after deducting the Attorneys' Fees and Costs, the Class Representative Enhancement Payment, the
12 PAGA Settlement Amount, and Settlement Administration Costs. The Net Settlement Fund will be
13 distributed to Participating Class Members. There will be no reversion of the Net Settlement Fund to
14 Defendant.

15 15. "Notice of Objection" means a Class Member's valid and timely written objection to the
16 Settlement Agreement. For the Notice of Objection to be valid, it must include: (i) the objector's full
17 name, signature, address, and telephone number, (ii) a written statement of all grounds for the objection
18 accompanied by any legal support for such objection; (iii) copies of any papers, briefs, or other
19 documents upon which the objection is based; and (iv) a statement whether the objector intends to appear
20 at the final fairness hearing.

21 16. "Notice Packet" means the Notice of Class Action Settlement, substantially in the form
22 attached as Exhibit A.

23 17. "PAGA Members" means all persons who were employed by Defendant in the State of
24 California at any time from September 17, 2017 though June 30, 2022.

25 18. "PAGA Period" means the period from September 17, 2017 though June 30, 2022.

26 19. "PAGA Settlement Amount" means the amount that the Parties have agreed to pay to
27 the Labor and Workforce Development Agency ("LWDA") and PAGA Members in connection with
28 Plaintiff's claim under the Labor Code Private Attorneys General Act of 2004 (Cal. Lab. Code §§ 2698,

1 *et seq.*, “PAGA”) (“PAGA Settlement”). The Parties have agreed that Two Hundred Thousand Dollars
2 (\$200,000) of the Gross Settlement Amount will be allocated to the PAGA Settlement. Pursuant to
3 PAGA, Seventy-Five Percent (75%), or One Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$150,000), of the PAGA
4 Settlement Amount will be paid to the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency (“Labor
5 and Workforce Development Agency Payment”), and Twenty-Five Percent (25%), or Fifty Thousand
6 Dollars (\$50,000) (“PAGA Fund”), of the PAGA Settlement will be disbursed to PAGA Members,
7 regardless whether they request to be excluded from the Settlement Class.

8 20. “Parties” means Plaintiff and Defendant collectively.

9 21. “Participating Class Members” means all Class Members who do not submit timely and
10 valid Requests for Exclusion.

11 22. “Plaintiff” means Plaintiff Juan Canela.

12 23. “Preliminary Approval” means the date on which the Court enters an order granting
13 preliminary approval of the Settlement Agreement.

14 24. “Released Class Claims” means all state and federal claims, rights, demands, liabilities,
15 and causes of action, reasonably arising from, or related to, the facts alleged in the First Amended
16 Complaint during the Class Period, including: (i) all claims for unpaid overtime; (ii) all claims for meal
17 and rest break violations; (iii) all claims for unpaid minimum wages; (iv) all claims for the failure to
18 timely pay wages upon termination; (v) all claims for the failure to timely pay wages during
19 employment; (vi) all claims for wage statement violations; (vii) all claims for failure to provide reporting
20 time pay; (viii) all claims for the failure to reimburse for necessary business expenses; and (ix) all claims
21 asserted through California Business & Professions Code §§ 17200, *et seq.* Any and all federal claims
22 predicated on the foregoing claims, including but not limited to claims under the Fair Labor Standards
23 Act (“FLSA”), shall likewise be released, and shall be barred by the settlement by virtue of *res judicata*,
24 in accordance with *Rangel v. PLS Check Cashers of Cal., Inc.* 889 F.3d 1106 (9th Cir. 2018).

25 25. “Released PAGA Claims” means all claims for civil penalties under California Labor
26 Code §§ 2698, *et seq.*, that were brought or could reasonably have been brought based on the facts
27 and/or allegations alleged in Plaintiff’s LWDA letter during the PAGA Period.

28 26. “Released Parties” means Defendant, its past or present officers, directors, shareholders,

1 agents, principals, employees, heirs, representatives, accountants, auditors, consultants, insurers and
2 reinsurers, and their respective successors and predecessors in interest, subsidiaries, affiliates, parents and
3 attorneys, if any.

4 27. "Request for Exclusion" means a timely letter submitted by a Class Member indicating a
5 request to be excluded from the Settlement Class. The Request for Exclusion must: (i) set forth the name,
6 address, telephone number and last four digits of the Social Security Number of the Class Member
7 requesting exclusion; (ii) be signed by the Class Member; (iii) be returned to the Settlement
8 Administrator; (iv) clearly state that the Class Member does not wish to be included in the Settlement;
9 and (v) be faxed or postmarked on or before the Response Deadline.

10 28. "Response Deadline" means the deadline by which Class Members must postmark or
11 fax to the Settlement Administrator Requests for Exclusion, postmark or fax disputes concerning the
12 calculation of Individual Settlement Payments, or postmark Notices of Objection to the Settlement
13 Administrator. The Response Deadline will be forty-five (45) calendar days from the initial mailing of
14 the Notice Packet by the Settlement Administrator, unless the forty-fifth (45th) calendar day falls on a
15 Sunday or State holiday, in which case the Response Deadline will be extended to the next day on which
16 the U.S. Postal Service is open.

17 29. "Settlement Administration Costs" means the costs payable from the Gross Settlement
18 Amount to the Settlement Administrator for administering this Settlement, including, but not limited to,
19 printing, distributing, and tracking documents for this Settlement, tax reporting, distributing the Gross
20 Settlement Amount, and providing necessary reports and declarations, as requested by the Parties. The
21 Settlement Administration Costs will be paid from the Gross Settlement Amount, including, if necessary,
22 any such costs in excess of the amount represented by the Settlement Administrator as being the
23 maximum costs necessary to administer the Settlement. Based on an estimated Settlement Class of
24 approximately Three Thousand Seven Hundred Ninety-Eight (3,798) Class Members, the Settlement
25 Administration Costs are currently estimated to be Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$30,000).

26 30. "Settlement Administrator" means CPT Group, Inc., or any other third-party class action
27 settlement administrator agreed to by the Parties and approved by the Court for the purposes of
28 administering this Settlement. The Parties each represent that they do not have any financial interest in

1 the Settlement Administrator or otherwise have a relationship with the Settlement Administrator that
2 could create a conflict of interest.

3 31. "Workweeks" means the number workweeks worked by each Class Member during the
4 Class Period. All Class Members will be credited with at least one Workweek during the Class Period,
5 and all PAGA Members will be credited with at least one Workweek during the PAGA Period.

6 **TERMS OF AGREEMENT**

7 The Plaintiff, on behalf of himself and the Settlement Class, and Defendant agree as follows:

8 32. Funding of the Gross Settlement Amount. Defendant will make a one-time deposit of
9 the Gross Settlement Amount of Six Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$6,500,000) into a
10 Qualified Settlement Account to be established by the Settlement Administrator. Defendant will pay the
11 employer's share of payroll taxes separately. After the Effective Date, the Gross Settlement Amount will
12 be used for: (i) Individual Settlement Payments; (ii) the Labor and Workforce Development Agency
13 Payment; (iii) the Class Representative Enhancement Payment; (iv) Attorneys' Fees and Costs; and (v)
14 Settlement Administration Costs. Defendant will deposit the Gross Settlement Amount and the
15 employer's share of payroll taxes within thirty (30) calendar days of the Effective Date ("Funding
16 Date").

17 33. Attorneys' Fees and Costs. Defendant agrees not to oppose or impede any application or
18 motion by Class Counsel for Attorneys' Fees and Costs of not more than Two Million One Hundred
19 Sixty-Six Thousand Six Hundred Sixty-Seven Dollars (\$2,166,667), plus the reimbursement of all out-
20 of-pocket costs and expenses associated with Class Counsel's litigation and settlement of the Action
21 (including expert/consultant fees, investigations costs, etc.), not to exceed Thirty-Five Thousand Dollars
22 (\$35,000), both of which will be paid from the Gross Settlement Amount.

23 34. Class Representative Enhancement Payment. In exchange for a general release, and in
24 recognition of his effort and work in prosecuting the Action on behalf of Class Members, Defendant
25 agrees not to oppose or impede any application or motion for a Class Representative Enhancement
26 Payment of up to Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000), to Plaintiff. The Class Representative Enhancement
27 Payment will be paid from the Gross Settlement Amount and will be in addition to Plaintiff's Individual
28 Settlement Payment paid pursuant to the Settlement. Plaintiff will be solely and legally responsible to

1 pay any and all applicable taxes on the Class Representative Enhancement Payment. Plaintiff
2 understands and agrees that this Settlement Agreement shall remain in full force and effect even if the
3 full amount of Class Representative Enhancement Payment sought by Plaintiff is not ultimately awarded
4 by the Court.

5 35. Settlement Administration Costs. The Settlement Administrator will be paid for the
6 reasonable costs of administration of the Settlement and distribution of payments from the Gross
7 Settlement Amount, which is currently estimated to be Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$30,000). These costs,
8 which will be paid from the Gross Settlement Amount, will include, *inter alia*, the required tax reporting
9 on the Individual Settlement Payments, the issuing of 1099 and W-2 IRS Forms, distributing Notice
10 Packets, calculating and distributing the Gross Settlement Amount, and providing necessary reports and
11 declarations.

12 36. PAGA Settlement Amount. Subject to Court approval, the Parties agree that the amount
13 of Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000) from the Gross Settlement Amount will be designated for
14 satisfaction of Plaintiff's PAGA claim. Pursuant to PAGA, Seventy-Five Percent (75%), or One
15 Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$150,000), of this sum will be paid to the LWDA and Twenty-Five
16 Percent (25%), or Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000), will be paid to PAGA Members in proportion to
17 the number of Workweeks worked during the PAGA Period.

18 37. No Right to Exclusion or Objections to the PAGA Settlement. Because this settlement
19 resolves claims and actions brought pursuant to PAGA by Plaintiff acting as a proxy and as a Private
20 Attorney General of, and for, the State of California and the LWDA, the Parties agree that no PAGA
21 Member has the right to exclude himself or herself from the release of the Released PAGA Claims, and
22 all PAGA Members will receive their shares of the PAGA Fund. The Parties also agree that no PAGA
23 Member has the right to object to the PAGA Settlement Amount.

24 38. Net Settlement Fund. The entire Net Settlement Fund will be distributed to Participating
25 Class Members. No portion of the Net Settlement Fund will revert to or be retained by Defendant.

26 39. PAGA Fund. The entire PAGA Fund will be distributed to all PAGA Members. No
27 portion of the PAGA Fund will revert to or be retained by Defendant.

28 40. Individual Settlement Payment Calculations. Individual Settlement Payments will be

1 calculated and apportioned from the Net Settlement Fund and PAGA Fund based on the number of
2 Workweeks a Class Member worked during the Class Period and PAGA Period. Specific calculations of
3 Individual Settlement Payments will be made as follows:

4 40(a) Payments from the Net Settlement Fund. Defendant will calculate the total
5 number of Workweeks worked by each Class Member during the Class
6 Period and the aggregate total number of Workweeks worked by all Class
7 Members during the Class Period. To determine each Class Member's
8 estimated "Individual Settlement Payment" from the Net Settlement Fund,
9 the Settlement Administrator will use the following formula: The Net
10 Settlement Fund will be divided by the aggregate total number of
11 Workweeks, resulting in the "Workweek Value." Each Class Member's
12 "Individual Settlement Payment" will be calculated by multiplying each
13 individual Class Member's total number of Workweeks by the Workweek
14 Value. The Individual Settlement Payment will be reduced by any required
15 deductions for each Participating Class Member as specifically set forth
16 herein, including employee-side tax withholdings or deductions. The entire
17 Net Settlement Fund will be disbursed to all Class Members who do not
18 submit timely and valid Requests for Exclusion. If there are any valid and
19 timely Requests for Exclusion, the Settlement Administrator shall
20 proportionately increase the Individual Settlement Payment for each
21 Participating Class Member according to the number of Workweeks
22 worked, so that the amount actually distributed to the Settlement Class
23 equals 100% of the Net Settlement Fund.

24 40(b) Payments from the PAGA Fund. Defendant will calculate the total number
25 of Workweeks worked by each PAGA Member during the PAGA Period
26 and the aggregate total number of Workweeks worked by all PAGA
27 Members during the PAGA Period. To determine each PAGA Member's
28 estimated "Individual Settlement Payment," the Settlement Administrator

1 will use the following formula: The PAGA Fund will be divided by the
2 aggregate total number of Workweeks, resulting in the “PAGA Workweek
3 Value.” Each PAGA Member’s “Individual Settlement Payment” will be
4 calculated by multiplying each individual PAGA Member’s total number of
5 Workweeks by the PAGA Workweek Value. The entire PAGA Fund will
6 be disbursed to all PAGA Members.

7 41. No Credit Toward Benefit Plans. The Individual Settlement Payments made to
8 Participating Class Members under this Settlement, as well as any other payments made pursuant to this
9 Settlement, will not be utilized to calculate any additional benefits under any benefit plans to which any
10 Class Members may be eligible, including, but not limited to profit-sharing plans, bonus plans, 401(k)
11 plans, stock purchase plans, vacation plans, sick leave plans, PTO plans, and any other benefit plan.
12 Rather, it is the Parties’ intention that this Settlement Agreement will not affect any rights, contributions,
13 or amounts to which any Class Members may be entitled under any benefit plans.

14 42. Administration Process. The Parties agree to cooperate in the administration of the
15 settlement and to make all reasonable efforts to control and minimize the costs and expenses incurred in
16 administration of the Settlement.

17 43. Delivery of the Class List. Within twenty (20) calendar days of Preliminary Approval,
18 Defendant will provide the Class List to the Settlement Administrator.

19 44. Notice by First-Class U.S. Mail. Within ten (10) calendar days after receiving the Class
20 List from Defendant, the Settlement Administrator will mail a Notice Packet to all Class Members via
21 regular First-Class U.S. Mail, using the most current, known mailing addresses identified in the Class
22 List. A Spanish translation of the Notice Packet will be made available by request.

23 45. Confirmation of Contact Information in the Class Lists. Prior to mailing, the Settlement
24 Administrator will perform a search based on the National Change of Address Database for information
25 to update and correct for any known or identifiable address changes. Any Notice Packets returned to the
26 Settlement Administrator as non-deliverable on or before the Response Deadline will be sent promptly
27 via regular First-Class U.S. Mail to the forwarding address affixed thereto and the Settlement
28 Administrator will indicate the date of such re-mailing on the Notice Packet. If no forwarding address is

1 provided, the Settlement Administrator will promptly attempt to determine the correct address using a
2 skip-trace, or other search using the name, address and/or Social Security number of the Class Member
3 involved, and will then perform a single re-mailing. Those Class Members who receive a re-mailed
4 Notice Packet, whether by skip-trace or by request, will have either (i) an additional fifteen (15) calendar
5 days or (ii) until the Response Deadline, whichever is later, to dispute the information provided in their
6 Notice Packets or submit a Request for Exclusion or an objection to the Settlement.

7 46. Notice Packets. All Class Members will be mailed a Notice Packet. Each Notice Packet
8 will provide: (i) information regarding the nature of the Action; (ii) a summary of the Settlement's
9 principal terms; (iii) the Settlement Class and PAGA Member definitions; (iv) the total number of
10 Workweeks each respective Class Member and PAGA Member worked for Defendant during the Class
11 Period and PAGA Period; (v) each Class Member's and PAGA Member's estimated Individual
12 Settlement Payment and the formula for calculating Individual Settlement Payments; (vi) the dates which
13 comprise the Class Period and PAGA Period; (vii) instructions on how to submit Requests for Exclusion
14 or Notices of Objection; (viii) the deadlines by which the Class Member must postmark or fax Request
15 for Exclusions, or postmark Notices of Objection to the Settlement; and (ix) the claims to be released.

16 47. Disputed Information on Notice Packets. Class Members will have an opportunity to
17 dispute the information provided in their Notice Packets. To the extent Class Members dispute their
18 employment dates or the number of Workweeks on record, Class Members may produce evidence to the
19 Settlement Administrator showing that such information is inaccurate. Defendant's records will be
20 presumed correct, but the Settlement Administrator shall contact the Parties regarding the dispute and the
21 Parties will work in good faith to resolve it. All disputes must be submitted by the Response Deadline,
22 and will be decided within ten (10) business days after the Response Deadline.

23 48. Defective Submissions. If a Class Member's Request for Exclusion is defective as to the
24 requirements listed herein, that Class Member will be given an opportunity to cure the defect(s). The
25 Settlement Administrator will mail the Class Member a cure letter within three (3) business days of
26 receiving the defective submission to advise the Class Member that his or her submission is defective
27 and that the defect must be cured to render the Request for Exclusion valid. The Class Member will have
28 until (i) the Response Deadline or (ii) fifteen (15) calendar days from the date of the cure letter,

1 whichever date is later, to postmark or fax a revised Request for Exclusion. If the revised Request for
2 Exclusion is not postmarked or received by fax within that period, it will be deemed untimely.

3 49. Request for Exclusion Procedures. Any Class Member wishing to opt-out from the
4 Settlement Agreement must sign and fax or postmark a written Request for Exclusion to the Settlement
5 Administrator within the Response Deadline. In the case of Requests for Exclusion that are mailed to the
6 Settlement Administrator, the postmark date will be the exclusive means to determine whether a Request
7 for Exclusion has been timely submitted.

8 50. Escalator. The Gross Settlement Amount was calculated with, and is premised on, the
9 understanding that there are approximately Three Thousand Seven Hundred Ninety-Eight (3,798) Class
10 Members eligible to participate in the Settlement. If the actual number of Class Members eligible to
11 participate in the Settlement is greater than Ten Percent (10%) of this estimate, then the Gross Settlement
12 Amount will be increased by the same proportion above Ten Percent (10%) (e.g., if the number of
13 employees is Eleven Percent (11%) greater than Three Thousand Seven Hundred Ninety-Eight (3,798)
14 Class Members, Defendant will increase the Gross Settlement Amount by One Percent (1%).

15 51. Settlement Terms Bind All Class Members Who Do Not Opt-Out. Any Class Member
16 who does not affirmatively opt-out of the Settlement Agreement by submitting a timely and valid
17 Request for Exclusion will be bound by all of its terms, including those pertaining to the Released Class
18 Claims, as well as any Judgment that may be entered by the Court if it grants final approval to the
19 Settlement.

20 52. Releases by Participating Class Members. Upon the Funding Date, and except as to such
21 rights or claims as may be created by this Settlement Agreement, each Participating Class Member,
22 together and individually, on their behalf and on behalf of their respective heirs, executors,
23 administrators, agents, and attorneys, shall fully and forever release and discharge all of the Released
24 Parties, or any of them, from each of the Released Class Claims arising during the Class Period.

25 53. Releases by PAGA Members. Upon the Funding Date, and except as to such rights or
26 claims as may be created by this Settlement Agreement, each PAGA Member, together and individually,
27 on their behalf and on behalf of their respective heirs, executors, administrators, agents, and attorneys,
28 shall fully and forever release and discharge all of the Released Parties, or any of them, from each of the

1 Released PAGA Claims during the PAGA Period.

2 54. Defendant's Right to Rescind. Defendant will have, in its sole discretion, the right to
3 void and withdraw from the Settlement if, at any time prior to Final Approval, Seven-and-a-Half Percent
4 (7.5%) or more of Class Members opt out of the settlement. Defendant must exercise this right of
5 rescission in writing to Class Counsel within fourteen (14) calendar days after the Response Deadline. If
6 the option to rescind is exercised, then Defendant will be solely responsible for all Settlement
7 Administration Costs incurred to the date of rescission.

8 55. Objection Procedures. To object to the Settlement Agreement, a Class Member may
9 either postmark a valid Notice of Objection to the Settlement Administrator on or before the Response
10 Deadline, or appear in person at the Final Approval Hearing. Class Members who fail to object either by
11 submitting a valid Notice of Objection or appearing in person at the Final Approval Hearing will be
12 deemed to have waived all objections to the Settlement and will be foreclosed from making any
13 objections, whether by appeal or otherwise, to the Settlement Agreement. At no time will any of the
14 Parties or their counsel seek to solicit or otherwise encourage Class Members to submit written
15 objections to the Settlement Agreement or appeal from the final approval order and judgment. Class
16 Counsel will not represent any Class Members with respect to any such objections to this Settlement. If a
17 Class Member timely submits both a Notice of Objection and a Request for Exclusion, the Request for
18 Exclusion will be given effect and considered valid, the Notice of Objection shall be rejected, and the
19 Class Member shall not participate in or be bound by the Settlement.

20 56. Certification Reports Regarding Individual Settlement Payment Calculations. The
21 Settlement Administrator will provide Defendant's counsel and Class Counsel a weekly report that
22 certifies the number of Class Members who have submitted valid Requests for Exclusion or objections to
23 the Settlement, and whether any Class Member has submitted a challenge to any information contained
24 in their Notice Packet. Additionally, the Settlement Administrator will provide to counsel for both Parties
25 any updated reports regarding the administration of the Settlement Agreement as needed or requested.

26 57. Distribution Timing of Individual Settlement Payments. Within ten (10) calendar days
27 of the Funding Date, the Settlement Administrator will issue payments to: (i) Participating Class
28 Members and PAGA Members; (ii) the Labor and Workforce Development Agency; (iii) Plaintiff; and

1 (iv) Class Counsel. The Settlement Administrator will also issue a payment to itself for Court-approved
2 services performed in connection with the Settlement.

3 58. Un-cashed Settlement Checks. Funds represented by Individual Settlement Payment
4 checks returned as undeliverable and Individual Settlement Payment checks remaining un-cashed for
5 more than one hundred and eighty (180) calendar days after issuance will be tendered to the State of
6 California, Unclaimed Property Division.

7 59. Certification of Completion. Upon completion of administration of the Settlement, the
8 Settlement Administrator will provide a written declaration under oath to certify such completion to the
9 Court and counsel for all Parties.

10 60. Treatment of Individual Settlement Payments. All Individual Settlement Payments will
11 be allocated as follows: (i) Twenty-Five Percent (25%) of each Individual Settlement Payment will be
12 allocated as wages for which IRS Forms W-2 will be issued; and (ii) Seventy-Five (75%) will be
13 allocated as non-wages for which IRS Forms 1099-MISC will be issued.

14 61. Administration of Taxes by the Settlement Administrator. The Settlement Administrator
15 will be responsible for issuing to Plaintiff, Participating Class Members, PAGA Members, and Class
16 Counsel any W-2, 1099, or other tax forms as may be required by law for all amounts paid pursuant to
17 this Settlement. The Settlement Administrator will also be responsible for forwarding all payroll taxes
18 and penalties to the appropriate government authorities.

19 62. Tax Liability. Defendant makes no representation as to the tax treatment or legal effect
20 of the payments called for hereunder, and Plaintiff and Participating Class Members are not relying on
21 any statement, representation, or calculation by Defendant or by the Settlement Administrator in this
22 regard.

23 63. Circular 230 Disclaimer. EACH PARTY TO THIS AGREEMENT (FOR PURPOSES
24 OF THIS SECTION, THE “ACKNOWLEDGING PARTY” AND EACH PARTY TO THIS
25 AGREEMENT OTHER THAN THE ACKNOWLEDGING PARTY, AN “OTHER PARTY”)
26 ACKNOWLEDGES AND AGREES THAT (1) NO PROVISION OF THIS AGREEMENT, AND
27 NO WRITTEN COMMUNICATION OR DISCLOSURE BETWEEN OR AMONG THE PARTIES
28 OR THEIR ATTORNEYS AND OTHER ADVISERS, IS OR WAS INTENDED TO BE, NOR

1 WILL ANY SUCH COMMUNICATION OR DISCLOSURE CONSTITUTE OR BE CONSTRUED
2 OR BE RELIED UPON AS, TAX ADVICE WITHIN THE MEANING OF UNITED STATES
3 TREASURY DEPARTMENT CIRCULAR 230 (31 CFR PART 10, AS AMENDED); (2) THE
4 ACKNOWLEDGING PARTY (A) HAS RELIED EXCLUSIVELY UPON HIS, HER, OR ITS
5 OWN, INDEPENDENT LEGAL AND TAX COUNSEL FOR ADVICE (INCLUDING TAX
6 ADVICE) IN CONNECTION WITH THIS AGREEMENT, (B) HAS NOT ENTERED INTO THIS
7 AGREEMENT BASED UPON THE RECOMMENDATION OF ANY OTHER PARTY OR ANY
8 ATTORNEY OR ADVISOR TO ANY OTHER PARTY, AND (C) IS NOT ENTITLED TO RELY
9 UPON ANY COMMUNICATION OR DISCLOSURE BY ANY ATTORNEY OR ADVISER TO
10 ANY OTHER PARTY TO AVOID ANY TAX PENALTY THAT MAY BE IMPOSED ON THE
11 ACKNOWLEDGING PARTY; AND (3) NO ATTORNEY OR ADVISER TO ANY OTHER
12 PARTY HAS IMPOSED ANY LIMITATION THAT PROTECTS THE CONFIDENTIALITY OF
13 ANY SUCH ATTORNEY'S OR ADVISER'S TAX STRATEGIES (REGARDLESS OF WHETHER
14 SUCH LIMITATION IS LEGALLY BINDING) UPON DISCLOSURE BY THE
15 ACKNOWLEDGING PARTY OF THE TAX TREATMENT OR TAX STRUCTURE OF ANY
16 TRANSACTION, INCLUDING ANY TRANSACTION CONTEMPLATED BY THIS
17 AGREEMENT.

18 64. No Prior Assignments. The Parties and their counsel represent, covenant, and warrant
19 that they have not directly or indirectly assigned, transferred, encumbered, or purported to assign,
20 transfer, or encumber to any person or entity any portion of any liability, claim, demand, action, cause of
21 action or right herein released and discharged.

22 65. Nullification of Settlement Agreement. In the event that: (i) the Court does not finally
23 approve the Settlement as provided herein; or (ii) the Settlement does not become final for any other
24 reason, then this Settlement Agreement, and any documents generated to bring it into effect, will be null
25 and void. Any order or judgment entered by the Court in furtherance of this Settlement Agreement will
26 likewise be treated as void from the beginning.

27 66. Preliminary Approval Hearing. Plaintiff will obtain a hearing before the Court to request
28 the Preliminary Approval of the Settlement Agreement, and the entry of a Preliminary Approval Order

1 for: (i) conditional certification of the Settlement Class for settlement purposes only, (ii) preliminary
2 approval of the proposed Settlement Agreement, (iii) setting a date for a final fairness hearing. The
3 Preliminary Approval Order will provide for the Notice Packet to be sent to all Class Members as
4 specified herein. In conjunction with the Preliminary Approval hearing, Plaintiff will submit this
5 Settlement Agreement, which sets forth the terms of this Settlement, and will include the proposed
6 Notice of Class Action Settlement, attached as Exhibit A. Class Counsel will be responsible for drafting
7 all documents necessary to obtain preliminary approval.

8 67. Final Settlement Approval Hearing and Entry of Judgment. Upon expiration of the
9 deadlines to postmark Requests for Exclusion or objections to the Settlement Agreement, and with the
10 Court's permission, a final fairness hearing will be conducted to determine the Final Approval of the
11 Settlement Agreement along with the amounts properly payable for: (i) Attorneys' Fees and Costs; (ii)
12 the Class Representative Enhancement Payment; (iii) Individual Settlement Payments; (iv) the Labor
13 and Workforce Development Agency Payment; (v) all Settlement Administration Costs. The final
14 fairness hearing will not be held earlier than thirty (30) calendar days after the Response Deadline. Class
15 Counsel will be responsible for drafting all documents necessary to obtain final approval. Class Counsel
16 will also be responsible for drafting the attorneys' fees and costs application to be heard at the final
17 approval hearing.

18 68. Judgment and Continued Jurisdiction. Upon final approval of the Settlement by the
19 Court or after the final fairness hearing, the Parties will present the Judgment to the Court for its
20 approval. After entry of the Judgment, the Court will have continuing jurisdiction solely for purposes of
21 addressing: (i) the interpretation and enforcement of the terms of the Settlement, (ii) Settlement
22 administration matters, and (iii) such post-Judgment matters as may be appropriate under court rules or
23 as set forth in this Settlement Agreement. A copy of the Judgment will be posted to the Settlement
24 Administrator's website.

25 69. Release by Plaintiff. Upon the Funding Date, in addition to the claims being released by
26 all Participating Class Members, Plaintiff will release and forever discharge the Released Parties, to the
27 fullest extent permitted by law, of and from any and all claims, known and unknown, asserted and not
28 asserted, which Plaintiff has or may have against the Released Parties as of the date of execution of this

1 Settlement Agreement. To the extent the foregoing release is a release to which Section 1542 of the
2 California Civil Code or similar provisions of other applicable law may apply, Plaintiff expressly waives
3 any and all rights and benefits conferred upon him by the provisions of Section 1542 of the California
4 Civil Code or similar provisions of applicable law which are as follows:

5 A GENERAL RELEASE DOES NOT EXTEND TO CLAIMS THAT THE
6 CREDITOR OR RELEASING PARTY DOES NOT KNOW OR SUSPECT TO
7 EXIST IN HIS OR HER FAVOR AT THE TIME OF EXECUTING THE RELEASE
8 AND THAT, IF KNOWN BY HIM OR HER, WOULD HAVE MATERIALLY
9 AFFECTED HIS OR HER SETTLEMENT WITH THE DEBTOR OR RELEASED
10 PARTY.

11 70. Exhibits Incorporated by Reference. The terms of this Settlement Agreement include the
12 terms set forth in any attached Exhibits, which are incorporated by this reference as though fully set forth
13 herein. Any Exhibits to this Settlement Agreement are an integral part of the Settlement.

14 71. Entire Agreement. This Settlement Agreement and any attached Exhibits constitute the
15 entirety of the Parties' settlement terms. No other prior or contemporaneous written or oral agreements
16 may be deemed binding on the Parties. The Parties expressly recognize California Civil Code Section
17 1625 and California Code of Civil Procedure Section 1856(a), which provide that a written agreement is
18 to be construed according to its terms and may not be varied or contradicted by extrinsic evidence, and
19 the Parties agree that no such extrinsic oral or written representations or terms will modify, vary or
20 contradict the terms of this Settlement Agreement.

21 72. Amendment or Modification. No amendment, change, or modification to this Settlement
22 Agreement will be valid unless in writing and signed, either by the Parties or their counsel.

23 73. Authorization to Enter Into Settlement Agreement. Counsel for all Parties warrant and
24 represent they are expressly authorized by the Parties whom they represent to negotiate this Settlement
25 Agreement and to take all appropriate action required or permitted to be taken by such Parties pursuant
26 to this Settlement Agreement to effectuate its terms and to execute any other documents required to
27 effectuate the terms of this Settlement Agreement. The Parties and their counsel will cooperate with each
28 other and use their best efforts to effect the implementation of the Settlement. If the Parties are unable to

1 reach agreement on the form or content of any document needed to implement the Settlement, or on any
2 supplemental provisions that may become necessary to effectuate the terms of this Settlement, the Parties
3 may seek the assistance of the Court to resolve such disagreement.

4 74. Binding on Successors and Assigns. This Settlement Agreement will be binding upon,
5 and inure to the benefit of, the successors or assigns of the Parties hereto, as previously defined.

6 75. California Law Governs. All terms of this Settlement Agreement and Exhibits hereto
7 will be governed by and interpreted according to the laws of the State of California.

8 76. Execution and Counterparts. This Settlement Agreement is subject only to the execution
9 of all Parties. However, the Settlement Agreement may be executed in one or more counterparts. All
10 executed counterparts and each of them, including electronic (e.g., DocuSign), facsimile, and scanned
11 copies of the signature page, will be deemed to be one and the same instrument.

12 77. Acknowledgement that the Settlement is Fair and Reasonable. The Parties believe this
13 Settlement Agreement is a fair, adequate and reasonable settlement of the Action and have arrived at this
14 Settlement after arm's-length negotiations and in the context of adversarial litigation, taking into account
15 all relevant factors, present and potential. The Parties further acknowledge that they are each represented
16 by competent counsel and that they have had an opportunity to consult with their counsel regarding the
17 fairness and reasonableness of this Settlement.

18 78. Invalidity of Any Provision. Before declaring any provision of this Settlement
19 Agreement invalid, the Court will first attempt to construe the provision as valid to the fullest extent
20 possible consistent with applicable precedents so as to define all provisions of this Settlement Agreement
21 valid and enforceable.

22 79. Waiver of Certain Appeals. The Parties agree to waive appeals and to stipulate to class
23 certification for purposes of this Settlement only; except, however, that Plaintiff or Class Counsel may
24 appeal any reduction to the Attorneys' Fees and Costs below the amount they request from the Court,
25 and either party may appeal any court order that materially alters the Settlement Agreement's terms.

26 80. Class Action Certification for Settlement Purposes Only. The Parties agree to stipulate to
27 class action certification for purposes of the Settlement only. If, for any reason, the Settlement is not
28 approved, the stipulation to certification will be void. The Parties further agree that certification for

1 purposes of the Settlement is not an admission that class action certification is proper under the standards
2 applied to contested certification motions and that this Settlement Agreement will not be admissible in
3 this or any other proceeding as evidence that either (i) a class action should be certified or (ii) Defendant
4 is liable to Plaintiff or any Class Member, other than according to the Settlement's terms.

5 81. Non-Admission of Liability. The Parties enter into this Settlement to resolve the dispute
6 that has arisen between them and to avoid the burden, expense and risk of continued litigation. In
7 entering into this Settlement, Defendant does not admit, and specifically denies, that it violated any
8 federal, state, or local law; violated any regulations or guidelines promulgated pursuant to any statute or
9 any other applicable laws, regulations or legal requirements; breached any contract; violated or breached
10 any duty; engaged in any misrepresentation or deception; or engaged in any other unlawful conduct with
11 respect to its employees. Neither this Settlement Agreement, nor any of its terms or provisions, nor any
12 of the negotiations connected with it, will be construed as an admission or concession by Defendant of
13 any such violations or failures to comply with any applicable law. Except as necessary in a proceeding to
14 enforce the terms of this Settlement, this Settlement Agreement and its terms and provisions will not be
15 offered or received as evidence in any action or proceeding to establish any liability or admission on the
16 part of Defendant or to establish the existence of any condition constituting a violation of, or a non-
17 compliance with, federal, state, local or other applicable law.

18 82. No Public Comment: The Parties and their counsel agree that they will not issue any
19 press releases, initiate any contact with the press, respond to any press inquiry, or have any
20 communication with the press about the fact, amount or terms of the Settlement.

21 83. Waiver. No waiver of any condition or covenant contained in this Settlement Agreement
22 or failure to exercise a right or remedy by any of the Parties hereto will be considered to imply or
23 constitute a further waiver by such party of the same or any other condition, covenant, right or remedy.

24 84. Enforcement Actions. In the event that one or more of the Parties institutes any legal
25 action or other proceeding against any other Party or Parties to enforce the provisions of this Settlement
26 or to declare rights and/or obligations under this Settlement, the successful Party or Parties will be
27 entitled to recover from the unsuccessful Party or Parties reasonable attorneys' fees and costs, including
28 expert witness fees incurred in connection with any enforcement actions.

1 85. Mutual Preparation. The Parties have had a full opportunity to negotiate the terms and
2 conditions of this Settlement Agreement. Accordingly, this Settlement Agreement will not be construed
3 more strictly against one party than another merely by virtue of the fact that it may have been prepared
4 by counsel for one of the Parties, it being recognized that, because of the arms-length negotiations
5 between the Parties, all Parties have contributed to the preparation of this Settlement Agreement.

6 86. Representation By Counsel. The Parties acknowledge that they have been represented
7 by counsel throughout all negotiations that preceded the execution of this Settlement Agreement, and
8 that this Settlement Agreement has been executed with the consent and advice of counsel. Further,
9 Plaintiff and Class Counsel warrant and represent that there are no liens on the Settlement Agreement.

10 87. All Terms Subject to Final Court Approval. All amounts and procedures described in
11 this Settlement Agreement herein will be subject to final Court approval.

12 88. Cooperation and Execution of Necessary Documents. All Parties will cooperate in good
13 faith and execute all documents to the extent reasonably necessary to effectuate the terms of this
14 Settlement Agreement.

15 89. Binding Agreement. The Parties warrant that they understand and have full authority to
16 enter into this Settlement Agreement, and further intend that this Settlement Agreement will be fully
17 enforceable and binding on all parties, and agree that it will be admissible and subject to disclosure in
18 any proceeding to enforce its terms, notwithstanding any mediation confidentiality provisions that
19 otherwise might apply under federal or state law.

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READ CAREFULLY BEFORE SIGNING

PLAINTIFF

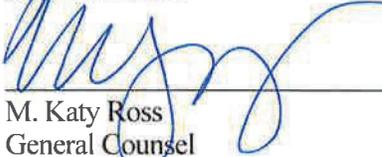
Dated: 12/2/2022

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DEFENDANT

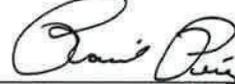
Dated: _____


M. Katy Ross
General Counsel
Helix Electric, Inc.

APPROVED AS TO FORM

CAPSTONE LAW APC

Dated: December 2, 2022

By: 
Raul Perez
Attorneys for Plaintiff Juan Canela

LITTLER MENDELSON, P.C.

Dated: December 15, 2022

By: 
Jon Yonemitsu
Noah J. Woods
Attorneys for Defendant Helix Electric, Inc.

Exhibit A

Canela v. Helix Electric, Inc., No. BC721327
SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA, FOR THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
NOTICE OF CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT

You are not being sued. This notice affects your rights. Please read it carefully
Si desea una traducción al Español de este Aviso, por favor llame al administrador al () ***-****.***

To: All persons who were employed by Defendant Helix Electric, Inc. (“Defendant”) in the State of California at any time from September 17, 2014 though June 30, 2022 (“Class Members”).

All persons who were employed by Defendant in the State of California at any time from September 17, 2017 though June 30, 2022 (“PAGA Members”).

On _____, the Honorable Stuart M. Rice of the Los Angeles County Superior Court granted preliminary approval of this class action settlement and ordered the litigants to notify all Class Members of the settlement. **You have received this notice because Defendant’s records indicate that you are a Class Member, and therefore entitled to a payment from the settlement.**

Unless you choose to opt out of the settlement by following the procedures described below, you will be deemed a Class Member and, if the Court grants final approval of the settlement, you will be mailed a check for your share of the settlement fund. The Final Fairness Hearing on the adequacy, reasonableness, and fairness of the Settlement will be held at ____:00 ____m. on _____, 2023 in Department 1 of the Los Angeles County Superior Court located at 312 North Spring Street, Los Angeles, California 90012.

You are not required to attend the hearing, but if you wish to attend, you may attend the hearing telephonically (remotely), which can be set up through LA Court Connect (www.lacourt.org/lacc/). A prescheduled appointment is currently necessary to review any documents in the clerk’s office.

For in-person appearances, visit http://www.lacourt.org/pdf/recovery_social_distancing.pdf for more information about the Court’s social distancing and mask protocols and guidelines. Please also note that the Final Fairness Hearing may be rescheduled by the Court to another date and/or time. Please visit [settlement website] for any scheduling changes.

Please also note that the Final Fairness Hearing may be rescheduled by the Court to another date and/or time. Please visit [settlement website] for any scheduling changes.

If you move, you must send the Settlement Administrator your new address; otherwise, you may never receive your settlement payment. It is your responsibility to keep a current address on file with the Settlement Administrator.

SUMMARY OF YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS AND OPTIONS IN THIS SETTLEMENT

You Don’t Have to Do Anything to Participate in the Settlement	If you do nothing, you will be deemed a “Participating Class Member,” and will be eligible for a payment from the Net Settlement Fund and PAGA Fund. In exchange, you will be bound by the terms of the proposed Settlement and give up your right to assert wage and hour claims and PAGA penalty claims against Defendant based on the facts alleged in the Action during the applicable Class Period and PAGA Period.
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<p>You Can Opt-out of the Class Settlement but not the PAGA Settlement</p> <p>The Opt-out Deadline is [DATE]</p>	<p>If you don't want to fully participate in the proposed Settlement, you can opt-out of the class settlement by sending the Settlement Administrator a written Request for Exclusion. Once excluded, you will no longer be eligible for a payment from the Net Settlement Fund and will not be bound by the terms of the proposed class settlement.</p> <p>You cannot opt-out of the PAGA portion of the proposed Settlement. PAGA Members remain eligible to receive a payment from the PAGA Fund and must give up their rights to pursue PAGA penalty claims against Defendants based on the facts alleged in the Action during the PAGA Period.</p>
<p>Participating Class Members Can Object to the Class Settlement but not the PAGA Settlement</p> <p>Written Objections Must be Submitted by [DATE]</p>	<p>All Class Members who do not opt-out ("Participating Class Members") can object to any aspect of the proposed class settlement, but not the PAGA settlement.</p>
<p>You Can Participate in the [DATE] Final Approval Hearing</p>	<p>The Court's Final Approval Hearing is scheduled to take place on [DATE] in Department 1 of the Spring Street Courthouse located at 312 North Spring Street, Los Angeles, California 90012. You don't have to attend but you do have the right to appear (or hire an attorney to appear on your behalf at your own cost), in person, by telephone or by using the Court's virtual appearance platform. Participating Class Members can verbally object to the Settlement at the Final Approval Hearing.</p> <p>If the Court grants final approval of the Settlement despite your objection, you will receive a payment from the Net Settlement Fund and you will be bound by the terms of the Settlement.</p>

Summary of the Litigation

Plaintiff Juan Canela, on his behalf and on behalf of other current and former non-exempt employees, alleges that Defendant violated California state labor laws as a result of its alleged failure to, among other things: (1) pay minimum and overtime wages to employees for all hours worked; (2) provide employees with meal and rest breaks; (3) timely pay all wages owed to employees during each pay period and upon termination of their employment; (4) reimburse employees for necessary business expenses; and (5) provide employees with accurate, itemized wage statements.

After the exchange of relevant information and evidence, the parties agreed to enter into settlement negotiations in an attempt to informally resolve the claims in the case. On May 24, 2022, the parties participated in a mediation with Mark Rudy, Esq., an experienced and well-respected class action mediator. With Mark Rudy's guidance, the parties were able to negotiate a complete settlement of Plaintiff's claims.

Counsel for Plaintiff, and the attorneys appointed by the Court to represent the class, Capstone Law APC ("Class Counsel"), have investigated and researched the facts and circumstances underlying the issues raised in the case and the applicable law. While Class Counsel believe that the claims alleged in this lawsuit have merit, Class Counsel also recognize that the risk and expense of continued litigation justify settlement. Based on the foregoing, Class Counsel believe the proposed settlement is fair, adequate, reasonable, and in the best interests of Class Members.

Defendant has denied, and continues to deny the factual and legal allegations in the case and believes that it has valid defenses to Plaintiff's claims. By agreeing to settle, Defendant is not admitting liability on any of the factual allegations or

Questions? Contact the Settlement Administrator toll free at 1-*-***-******

claims in the case or that the case can or should proceed as a class action. Defendant has agreed to settle the case as part of a compromise with Plaintiff.

Summary of The Proposed Settlement Terms

Plaintiff and Defendant have agreed to settle the underlying class claims in exchange for a Gross Settlement Amount of \$6,500,000. This amount is inclusive of: (1) individual settlement payments to all Participating Class Members; (2) a Class Representative Enhancement Payment of \$10,000 to Juan Canela for his services on behalf of the class, and for a release of all claims arising out of his employment with Defendant; (3) \$2,166,667 in attorneys' fees and up to \$35,000 in litigation costs and expenses; (4) a \$200,000 settlement of claims under the Labor Code Private Attorneys General Act of 2004 ("PAGA"), inclusive of a \$150,000 payment to the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency ("LWDA") in connection with the PAGA, and a \$50,000 payment ("PAGA Fund") to all PAGA Members; and (5) reasonable Settlement Administrator's fees and expenses currently estimated at \$_. After deducting the above payments, a total of approximately \$_ will be allocated to Class Members who do not opt out of the Settlement Class ("Net Settlement Fund"). Additionally, all PAGA Members will receive a proportional share of the \$50,000 PAGA Fund, regardless whether they opt out of the Settlement Class.

Payments from Net Settlement Fund. Defendant will calculate the total number of Workweeks worked by each Class Member from September 17, 2014 through June 30, 2022 ("Class Period") and the aggregate total number of Workweeks worked by all Class Members during the Class Period. To determine each Class Member's estimated share of the Net Settlement Fund, the Settlement Administrator will use the following formula: The Net Settlement Fund will be divided by the aggregate total number of Workweeks, resulting in the "Workweek Value." Each Class Member's share of the Net Settlement Fund will be calculated by multiplying each individual Class Member's total number of Workweeks by the Workweek Value. The Individual Settlement Payment will be reduced by any required deductions for each Class Member as specifically set forth herein, including employee-side tax withholdings or deductions. If there are any valid and timely Requests for Exclusion, the Settlement Administrator shall proportionately increase each Participating Class Member's share of the Net Settlement Fund according to the number of Workweeks worked, so that the amount actually distributed to the Settlement Class equals 100% of the Net Settlement Fund.

According to Defendant's records, you worked during the Class Period in a non-exempt position for a total of ____ Workweeks. Accordingly, your estimated payment from the Net Settlement Fund is approximately \$_____.

Payments from PAGA Fund. Defendant will calculate the total number of Workweeks worked by each PAGA Member from September 17, 2017 through June 30, 2022 ("PAGA Period") and the aggregate total number of Workweeks worked by all PAGA Members during the PAGA Period. To determine each PAGA Member's estimated share of the PAGA Fund, the Settlement Administrator will use the following formula: The PAGA Fund will be divided by the aggregate total number of Workweeks, resulting in the "PAGA Workweek Value." Each PAGA Member's share of the PAGA Fund will be calculated by multiplying each individual Participating PAGA Member's total number of Workweeks by the PAGA Workweek Value. A Request for Exclusion does not exclude a PAGA Member from the release of claims under California Labor Code §§ 2698, *et seq.* and the PAGA Member will receive their portion of the PAGA fund even if he or she submits a valid Request for Exclusion.

According to Defendant's records, you worked during the PAGA Period in a non-exempt position for a total of ____ Workweeks. Accordingly, your estimated payment from the PAGA Fund is approximately \$_____.

Your Estimated Payment: Based on the above, your estimated payment from the settlement is approximately \$_____. If you believe the Workweek information provided above is incorrect, please contact the Settlement Administrator to dispute the calculation. You must attach all documentation in support of your dispute (such as check stubs, W2s, or letters from HR). All disputes must be postmarked or faxed on or before [insert date of Response Deadline] and must be sent to:

Settlement Administrator

Questions? Contact the Settlement Administrator toll free at 1-*-***-******

c/o _____
Fax No. _____

If you dispute the information stated above, Defendant's records will control unless you are able to provide documentation that establishes otherwise.

Taxes on Settlement Payments. IRS Forms W-2 and 1099 will be distributed to participating Class Members and the appropriate taxing authorities reflecting the payments they receive under the settlement. Class Members should consult their tax advisors concerning the tax consequences of the payments they receive under the Settlement. For purposes of this settlement, 25% of each settlement payment will be allocated as wages for which IRS Forms W-2 will be issued, and 75% will be allocated as non-wages for which IRS Forms 1099-MISC will be issued.

Your Options Under the Settlement

Option 1 – Automatically Receive a Payment from the Settlement

If you want to receive your payment from the settlement, then no further action is required on your part. You will automatically receive your settlement payment from the Settlement Administrator if and when the Settlement receives final approval by the Court.

If you choose **Option 1**, and if the Court grants final approval of the settlement, you will be mailed a check for your share of the settlement funds. In addition, you will be deemed to have released or waived the Released Class Claims and Released PAGA Claims:

Released Class Claims: All state and federal claims, rights, demands, liabilities, and causes of action, reasonably arising from, or related to, the facts alleged in the First Amended Complaint during the Class Period, including: (i) all claims for unpaid overtime; (ii) all claims for meal and rest break violations; (iii) all claims for unpaid minimum wages; (iv) all claims for the failure to timely pay wages upon termination; (v) all claims for the failure to timely pay wages during employment; (vi) all claims for wage statement violations; (vii) all claims for failure to provide reporting time pay; (viii) all claims for the failure to reimburse for necessary business expenses; and (ix) all claims asserted through California Business & Professions Code §§ 17200, et seq. Any and all federal claims predicated on the foregoing claims, including but not limited to claims under the Fair Labor Standards Act ("FLSA"), shall likewise be released, and shall be barred by the settlement by virtue of res judicata, in accordance with *Rangel v. PLS Check Cashers of Cal., Inc.* 889 F.3d 1106 (9th Cir. 2018).

Released PAGA Claims: All claims for civil penalties under California Labor Code §§ 2698, et seq., that were brought or could reasonably have been brought based on the facts and/or allegations alleged in Plaintiff's LWDA letter during the PAGA Period.

Option 2 – Opt Out of the Settlement

If you do not wish to participate in the settlement, you may exclude yourself from participating by submitting a written request to the Settlement Administrator expressly and clearly indicating that you have received this Notice of Class Action Settlement, decided not to participate in the settlement, and desire to be excluded from the settlement. The written request for exclusion must include your name, signature, address, telephone number, and last four digits of your Social Security Number. Sign, date, and mail the request for exclusion by First Class U.S. Mail or equivalent, to the address below.

Settlement Administrator

c/o _____

Questions? Contact the Settlement Administrator toll free at 1-*-***-******

The Request for Exclusion must be postmarked or faxed not later than _____, 2023. If you submit a Request for Exclusion which is not postmarked or faxed by _____, 2023, your Request for Exclusion will be rejected, and you will be included in the settlement class.

If you choose **Option 2**, you will no longer be a Class Member, and you will:

- Not Receive a Payment from the Net Settlement Fund.
- Not release the Released Class Claims.
- If you are a PAGA Member, you will still release the Released PAGA Claims, and will receive a payment from the PAGA Fund.

Option 3 – Object to the Settlement

If you decide to object to the settlement because you find it unfair or unreasonable, you may submit a written objection stating why you object to the settlement, or you may instead appear at the Final Fairness Hearing to object to the Settlement. Written objections must provide: (1) your full name, signature, address, and telephone number, (2) a written statement of all grounds for the objection accompanied by any legal support for such objection; (3) copies of any papers, briefs, or other documents upon which the objection is based; and (4) a statement about whether you intend to appear at the Fairness Hearing. The objection must be mailed to the administrator at [administrator’s address].

All written objections must be received by the administrator by not later than _____2023. By submitting an objection, you are not excluding yourself from the settlement. To exclude yourself from the settlement, you must follow the directions described above. Please note that you cannot both object to the settlement and exclude yourself. You must choose one option only.

You may also, if you wish, appear at the Final Fairness Hearing set for _____ at _____ a.m./p.m. in the Superior Court of the State of California, for the County of Los Angeles and discuss your objection with the Court and the Parties at your own expense. You may also retain an attorney to represent you at the hearing.

If you choose **Option 3**, you will still be entitled to the money from the settlement. If the Court overrules your objection, you will be deemed to have released the Released Class Claims and Released PAGA Claims.

Additional Information

This Notice of Class Action Settlement is only a summary of the case and the settlement. For a more detailed statement of the matters involved in the case and the settlement, you may refer to the pleadings, the settlement agreement, and other papers filed in the case. All inquiries by Class Members regarding this Class Notice and/or the settlement should be directed to the Settlement Administrator or Class Counsel.

Raul Perez
Capstone Law APC
1875 Century Park E., Suite 1000
Los Angeles, CA 90067
Phone: 1 (888) 503-3778

PLEASE DO NOT CONTACT THE CLERK OF THE COURT, THE JUDGE, DEFENDANT’S ATTORNEYS WITH INQUIRIES.

Questions? Contact the Settlement Administrator toll free at 1-*-***-******