1 2	Carney R. Shegerian, State Bar No. 150461 CShegerian@Shegerianlaw.com Anthony Nguyen, State Bar No. 259154 ANguyen@Shegerianlaw.com					
3	Cheryl A. Kenner, State Bar No. 305758 CKenner@Shegerianlaw.com					
4	SHEGERIAN & ASSOCIATES, INC. 145 S. Spring Street, Suite 400					
5	Los Angeles, California 90012 Telephone: (310) 860-0770					
6	Facsimile: (310) 860-0771					
7	Attorneys for Plaintiffs, NORMA AGUILAR AND OLGA ITURBIDE, and all others similarly situated and aggrieved					
8	Glenn Dickinson, State Bar No. 159753	•				
9	gdickinson@lightgablerlaw.com Jaclyn Joyce, State Bar No. 285124					
10	jjoyce@lightgablerlaw.com LIGHTGABLER					
11	760 Paseo Camarillo, Ste. 300					
12	Camarillo, CA 93010 Telephone: (805) 248-7208					
13	Facsimile: (805) 248-7209					
14 15	Attorneys for Defendants SANTA ROSA BERRY FARMS, LLC					
16	SUPERIOR COURT OF T	HE STATE OF C	ALIFORNIA			
17	COUNTY OF VENTURA					
18						
19	NORMA AGUILAR; OLGA ITURBIDE,	CASE NO. 56-201	19-00525899-CU-OE-VTA			
20	individually; on behalf of themselves and all others similarly situated and aggrieved,		purposes to Hon. Matthew P.			
21		Guasco, Dept. 20]				
22	Plaintiffs, vs.	CLASS ACTION	SETTLEMENT			
23	vo.	AGREEMENT				
24	SANTA ROSA BERRY FARMS, LLC, a California Limited Liability Company; and	Complaint Filed: FAC Filed:	March 11, 2019 June 12, 2019			
25	DOES 1 to 100, inclusive,	SAC Filed: TAC Filed:	July 30, 2019 September 22, 2020			
26	Defendants.					
27						
28						
	CLASS ACTION SET	Page 1	EEMENT			
	CLASS ACTION SET	ILEMENI AGR	E E IVI E IN I			

CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED, by and among Plaintiffs NORMA AGUILAR and OLGA ITURBIDE, on behalf of themselves and the Settlement Class Members on the one hand, and Defendant SANTA ROSA BERRY FARMS, LLC ("Defendant"), on the other hand, subject to the approval of the Court, that the Action is hereby being compromised and settled pursuant to the terms and conditions set forth in this Class Action Settlement Agreement ("Agreement"), and subject to the definitions, recitals and terms set forth herein, which by this reference become an integral part of this Agreement.

DEFINITIONS

- 1. "Action" means the matter of Norma Aguilar; Olga Iturbide, individually; on behalf of themselves and all others similarly situated and aggrieved v. Santa Rosa Berry Farms, LLC., et al. (Case No. 56-2019-00525899-CU-OE-VTA) filed on March 11, 2019, in Ventura County Superior Court).
 - "Class Counsel" means Shegerian and Associates, Inc. 2.
- 3. "Class Counsel Award" means attorneys' fees for Class Counsel's litigation and resolution of this Action, and actual expenses and costs incurred in connection with the Action paid from the Gross Settlement Amount.
- 4. "Class Information" means information regarding Settlement Class Members that Defendant will in good faith compile from the available information in its records and provide to the Settlement Administrator. It shall be formatted as a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet and shall include: each Settlement Class Member's full name; last known address; last known home telephone number; Social Security Number; start date of employment; end date of employment; and the number of total workweeks worked by the Settlement Class Member as a non-exempt employee for Defendants from during the Class Period ("Total Workweeks").
- 5. "Class Notice" means the Notice of Pendency of Class Action Settlement, including the Notice of Estimated Individual Settlement Payment, (substantially in the form attached as **Exhibit 1**) in English, which will also be disseminated to the Class in Spanish.
 - 6. "Class Period" means the period from March 11, 2015 through August 31, 2020.

- 7. "Class Representative Enhancement Awards" means the amount that the Court authorizes to be paid to Plaintiffs, in addition to their Individual Settlement Payments, in recognition of their effort and risk in assisting with the prosecution of the Action.
 - 8. "Court" means the Ventura County Superior Court.
 - 9. "Defendant" means SANTA ROSA BERRY FARMS, LLC.
 - 10. "Defense Counsel" means LightGabler.
- 11. "Effective Date" means the latter of: (i) the date upon which the Court grants final approval of the Settlement if no Class Members file objections to the Settlement; or (ii) if a Class Member files an objection to the Settlement and that objection is not withdrawn, the Effective Date shall be the date sixty-five (65) calendar days after the date upon which the Court grants final approval of the Settlement if no appeal is initiated by an objector; or (iii) if a timely appeal is initiated by an objector or by Class Counsel to an order which reduces their requested Class Counsel Award, the Effective Date shall be the date of final resolution of that appeal (including any requests for rehearing and/or petitions for certiorari), resulting in final judicial approval of the Settlement.
 - 12. "Gross Settlement Amount" means Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000).
- 13. "Individual Settlement Payment" means the amount payable from the Net Settlement Amount to each Settlement Class Member who does not submit a valid Request for Exclusion from this Settlement.
- 14. "Net Settlement Amount" means the Gross Settlement Amount, less Class Counsel Award, Class Representative Enhancement Awards, PAGA Payment, and Settlement Administrator Costs.
- 15. "PAGA Payment" means a payment of Seven Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$7,500) made to the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency ("LWDA") in exchange for the release of claims under the Private Attorneys General Act of 2004. A total of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000) will be allocated to PAGA, of which 75% (Seven Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$7,500)) will be sent to the LWDA, and the remaining 25% (Two

28

Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$2,500)) shall remain in the Net Settlement Amount for distribution to Participating Class Members.

- 16. "Participating Class Member" means any Settlement Class Member who does not opt out of the Settlement by submitting a valid and timely Request for Exclusion.
- 17. "Parties" means Plaintiffs and Defendant, collectively, and "Party" shall mean either Plaintiffs or Defendant.
- 18. "Payment Ratio" means the respective Total Workweeks for each Settlement Class Member divided by the sum of Total Workweeks for all Settlement Class Members.
 - 19. "Plaintiffs" and "Class Representatives" mean Norma Aguilar and Olga Iturbide.
- 20. "Released Claims" means any and all known and unknown claims, losses, damages, liquidated damages, penalties, interest, liabilities, causes of action, civil complaints, arbitration demands or suits which arise or could have arisen from the facts asserted in the Action, including the Third Amended Complaint, including violations for meal periods, rest breaks, failure to pay minimum wages, failure to pay overtime wages, timely payment of wages, wage statements, waiting time penalties, violations of California Unfair Competition Law (Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code §§ 17200, et seq.), and penalties under the Private Attorneys General Act sections 2698, et seq., or other remuneration whether sought under statute, tort, contract or as an unfair business practice for the Class Period.
- 21. "Released Parties" means Defendant and any parent, subsidiary, affiliate, predecessor or successor, and all agents, employees (current and former), officers, directors, insurers and attorneys.
- 22. "Request for Exclusion" means a Settlement Class Member's signed, written, valid request to be excluded or "opt out" of the Settlement.
- 23. "Response Deadline" means the date thirty (30) calendar days after the Settlement Administrator mails the Notice to Settlement Class Members and the last date on which Settlement Class Members may postmark written Requests for Exclusion or a Notice of Objection to the Settlement. For Settlement Class Members who are sent re-mailed Class Notices, the "Extended Response Deadline" shall mean thirty (30) calendar days from the date

28

the Settlement Administrator re-mails the Notice of Settlement to Class Members but not later than forty-five (45) days from the Response Deadline. The Extended Response Deadline is the last date on which Settlement Class Members who are sent re-mailed Class Notices may postmark written Requests for Exclusion or a Notice of Objection to the Settlement.

- 24. "Settlement" means the disposition of the Action pursuant to this Agreement.
- 25. "Settlement Administration Costs" means the amount to be paid to the Settlement Administrator from the Gross Settlement Amount for administration of this Settlement.
 - 26. "Settlement Administrator" means CPT Group, Inc.
- 27. "Settlement Class Members" means all current and former hourly and/or piece rate, nonexempt employees of Defendant within the State of California at any time during the Class Period.
- 28. "Total Workweeks" means the number of weeks or fraction thereof worked by Settlement Class Members during the Class Period.

RECITALS

- 29. Class Certification. Defendant contends that the facts do not justify class certification under the governing legal standards. Consequently, the Parties will agree to a stipulated "Settlement Class" solely for purposes of administration and resolution of this matter. Should the Settlement not become final and effective as herein provided, class certification shall immediately be set aside and the Settlement Class immediately decertified. The Parties' willingness to stipulate to class certification as part of the Settlement shall have no bearing on, and shall not be admissible in or considered in connection with, any other issue in this Action, including whether a class should be certified in a non-settlement context in this Action and shall have no bearing on, and shall not be admissible or considered in connection with, the issue of whether a class should be certified in any other lawsuit. Defendant specifically denies any and all liability.
- 30. Procedural History. On March 11, 2019, Plaintiffs filed a class and representative enforcement PAGA action against Defendant for various alleged wage and hour violations.

Following Defendant's production of arbitration agreements Plaintiffs signed and subsequent meet and confer efforts, Plaintiffs dismissed the class allegations, converting this action to a representative enforcement PAGA action. Plaintiffs served formal written discovery, and Defendant provided responses. Thereafter, the Parties agreed to go to mediation and exchange further discovery informally. Following that exchange of informal discovery and data to assess potential class-wide damages, the Parties participated in a private mediation with experienced and respected mediator Jeffrey Krivis of First Mediation Services on August 10, 2020. The Parties settled at the mediation and executed a Memorandum of Understanding at the conclusion of the mediation. The Parties settled the case as a class action and agreed that Plaintiffs would file a Third Amended Complaint to add class allegations once the Court enters the stipulation for leave for Plaintiff to file a Third Amended Complaint. On September 22, 2020, Plaintiffs filed a Third Amended Class Action and PAGA Enforcement Action Complaint based on the same Labor Code violations pled in the Second Amended Complaint.

TERMS OF AGREEMENT

- 31. Release As to All Class Members. As of the Effective Date, Plaintiffs and the Settlement Class Members who are not excluded from this Settlement, on behalf of themselves and each of their heirs, representatives, successors, assigns and attorneys, hereby release Defendant and Released Parties from the Released Claims as consideration for Defendant's payment of the Gross Settlement Amount. The Released Claims shall be fully, finally and forever released, relinquished and discharged.
- 32. <u>Tax Liability</u>. The Parties make no representations as to the tax treatment or legal effect of the payments called for hereunder, and Settlement Class Members are not relying on any statement or representation by the Parties in this regard.
- 33. <u>Circular 230 Disclaimer</u>. Each Party to this Agreement (for purposes of this section, the "Acknowledging Party" and each Party to this Agreement other than the Acknowledging Party, an "Other Party") acknowledges and agrees that (1) no provision of this Agreement, and no written communication or disclosure between or among the Parties or their attorneys and other advisers, is or was intended to be, nor shall any such communication or

	1
	2
	3
	4
	5
	6
	7
	8
	9
1	0
1	1
1	2
1	3
1	4
1	5
1	6
1	7
1	8
1	9
2	0
2	1
2	2
2	3
2	4
2	5
2	6
2	7

disclosure constitute or be construed or be relied upon as, tax advice within the meaning of United States Treasury Department circular 230 (31 CFR part 10, as amended); (2) the Acknowledging Party (a) has relied exclusively upon his, her, or its own, independent legal and tax counsel for advice (including tax advice) in connection with this Agreement, (b) has not entered into this Agreement based upon the recommendation of any other party or any attorney or advisor to any Other Party, and (c) is not entitled to rely upon any communication or disclosure by any attorney or adviser to any Other Party to avoid any tax penalty that may be imposed on the Acknowledging Party; and (3) no attorney or adviser to any Other Party has imposed any limitation that protects the confidentiality of any such attorney's or adviser's tax strategies (regardless of whether such limitation is legally binding) upon disclosure by the Acknowledging Party of the tax treatment or tax structure of any transaction, including any transaction contemplated by this Agreement.

- 34. Notice and Preliminary Approval of Settlement. As part of this Settlement, Plaintiffs will request that the Court: (a) grant preliminary approval of the Settlement, (b) certify a Settlement Class, (c) approve distribution of Notice to Settlement Class Members, and (d) grant final approval of the Settlement. Plaintiffs shall request a hearing before the Court to obtain preliminary approval of the Settlement. In conjunction with the hearing, Plaintiffs will submit this Agreement, which sets forth the terms of this Settlement, and will include a proposed Notice, as necessary to implement the Settlement.
- 35. <u>Settlement Administration</u>. Within thirty (30) calendar days after the Court grants preliminary approval of this Agreement, Defendant shall provide the Settlement Administrator with the Class Information for purposes of mailing the Notice to Settlement Class Members.
 - a. <u>Notice by First Class U.S. Mail with Business Reply Mail Postage</u>. Upon receipt of the Class Information, the Settlement Administrator will perform a search based on the National Change of Address Database to update and correct any known or identifiable address changes. Within ten (10) business days after receiving the Class Information from Defendant as provided herein, the

28

Settlement Administrator shall mail copies of the Notice to all Settlement Class Members via regular First Class U.S. Mail. The Settlement Administrator shall exercise its best judgment to determine the current mailing address for each Settlement Class Member. The address identified by the Settlement Administrator as the current mailing address shall be presumed to be the best mailing address for each Settlement Class Member.

- i. <u>Undeliverable Notices</u>. Any Notice returned to the Settlement Administrator as undeliverable on or before the Response Deadline shall be re-mailed to the forwarding address affixed thereto. If no forwarding address is provided, the Settlement Administrator shall promptly attempt to determine a correct address by use of skip-tracing, or other search using the name, address and/or Social Security number of the respective Settlement Class Member, and shall then perform a re-mailing, if another mailing address is identified by the Settlement Administrator. If a Settlement Class Member's Notice is returned to the Settlement Administrator more than once as non-deliverable on or before the Response Deadline, then an additional Notice need not be re-mailed and the Settlement Class Member is deemed to have received Notice. The Settlement Administrator shall email a Settlement Class Member's Notice upon request and proper verification by the Settlement Class Member or their or her counsel, provided a valid email address is given.
- ii. Re-mailed Notices. In the event the Settlement Administrator remails a Notice to a Settlement Class Member, the Settlement Administrator will update the Response Deadline on the re-mailed Notice to reflect the applicable Extended Response Deadline or else will include a cover letter indicating the applicable Extended Response Deadline.
- No Claim Form Necessary. All Settlement Class Members who do not b. request to be excluded from the Settlement will receive Individual Settlement

Payments from the Net Settlement Amount; submission of a claim form is not necessary to receive an Individual Settlement Payment. The estimated Individual Settlement Payments will be stated in the Notice. This Settlement is non-reversionary.

- i. Disputes Regarding Individual Settlement Payments. Settlement Class Members will have the opportunity, should they disagree with Defendant's records regarding their employment dates or Total Workweeks, to provide documentation and/or an explanation to correct the information and seek modification of their estimated Individual Settlement Payments. The employment dates and Total Workweeks provided by Defendant are presumed to be correct unless documentation is timely provided to show otherwise. If there is a dispute, the Settlement Administrator will consult with the Parties to determine whether an adjustment is warranted. The Settlement Administrator shall determine the eligibility for, and the amounts of, any Individual Settlement Payments under the terms of this Agreement. The Settlement Administrator's determination of the eligibility for and amount of any Individual Settlement Payment shall be final and binding upon the Settlement Class Members and the Parties.
- ii. <u>Disputes Regarding Administration of Settlement</u>. Any disputes not resolved concerning the administration of the Settlement will be resolved by the Court, under the laws of the State of California. Prior to any such involvement of the Court, counsel for the Parties will confer in good faith to resolve the disputes without the necessity of involving the Court.
- c. <u>Requests for Exclusion</u>. The Notice shall state that Settlement Class Members who wish to exclude themselves from the Settlement must submit a written Request for Exclusion by the Response Deadline or, if applicable,

28

Extended Response Deadline. A valid written Request for Exclusion: (1) must contain the name, address, telephone number and the last four digits of the Social Security number and/or the Employee ID number of the person requesting exclusion, (2) must be signed by the Settlement Class Member; (3) must be postmarked by the Response Deadline and returned to the Settlement Administrator at the specified address; and (4) must describe the Settlement Class Member's intent to request exclusion or to opt out, or words to that effect. If a Request for Exclusion is submitted that does not meet all of the foregoing requirements, it will not be deemed valid for exclusion from this Settlement. The date of the postmark on the return mailing envelope of the Request for Exclusion shall be the exclusive means used to determine whether the Request for Exclusion was timely submitted. However, if the date of the postmark is illegible, the Settlement Administrator shall take the earliest postmark date of other domestic First Class Mail items it receives in the mail that day. Any Settlement Class Member who requests to be excluded from the Settlement Class will not be entitled to any recovery under the Settlement and will not be bound by the terms of the Settlement or have any right to object, appeal or comment thereon. Settlement Class Members who fail to submit a valid and timely written Request for Exclusion on or before the Response Deadline shall be bound by all terms of the Settlement and any Judgment entered in this Action, if the Settlement is finally approved by the Court.

i. No later than twenty-one (21) calendar days after the Response

Deadline, the Settlement Administrator shall provide counsel for Defendant
with a complete list of the names of all Settlement Class Members who
have timely submitted valid, written Requests for Exclusion. Defendant
also agrees to provide Plaintiffs and/or the Court the names of those
Settlement Class Members who timely request exclusion from the
Settlement if ordered by the Court for purposes of approving the Settlement

27

28

or facilitating the administration of the Settlement. At no time shall any of the Parties or their counsel seek to solicit or otherwise encourage members of the Settlement Class to submit Requests for Exclusion from the Settlement.

- ii. No later than thirty (30) calendar days after the Response Deadline, the Settlement Administrator will provide Defendant with an accounting of all payments and awards payable from the Gross Settlement Amount.
- d. Objections. The Notice shall state that Settlement Class Members who wish to object to the Settlement may mail to the Settlement Administrator a written statement of objection ("Notice of Objection") by the Response Deadline or, if applicable, Extended Response Deadline. The date of the postmark on the return envelope shall be the exclusive means for determining that a Notice of Objection was timely submitted. However, if the date of the postmark is illegible, the Settlement Administrator shall take the earliest postmark date of other domestic First Class Mail items it receives in the mail that day. The Notice of Objection must be signed by the Settlement Class Member and state: (1) the full name, address, and telephone number of the Settlement Class Member; (2) the last four digits of the Settlement Class Member's Social Security number and/or the Employee ID number; (3) the basis for the objection; and (4) whether they/she intends to appear at the final approval hearing. However, a failure to express an intention of appearing or an intention of not appearing at the final approval hearing shall not preclude the Settlement Class Member from being heard at the final approval hearing. Class Counsel shall include all objections received and Plaintiff's response(s) with Plaintiff's motion for final approval of the Settlement. Class Counsel shall not represent any Settlement Class Members with respect to any such objections.

- No Solicitation of Settlement Objections or Exclusions. The Parties agree e. to use their best efforts to carry out the terms of this Settlement. At no time shall any of the Parties or their counsel seek to solicit or otherwise encourage Settlement Class Members to submit either Notices of Objection to the Settlement or Requests for Exclusion from the Settlement, or to appeal from the Court's Final Judgment.
- 36. Funding and Allocation of Gross Settlement Amount. Defendant will deposit \$250,000 in a Qualified Settlement Fund ("QSF") within ten (10) days of the Effective Date. Defendant will deposit the remaining balance of the Gross Settlement Amount of \$250,000 in the QSF by or before December 31, 2021. Payments from the Gross Settlement Amount shall be made, as specified in this Agreement and approved by the Court, for: (1) Individual Settlement Payments to Settlement Class Members who do not request to be excluded, (2) Class Representative Enhancement Awards, (3) Class Counsel Award, (4) PAGA Payment, and (5) the Settlement Administration Costs. With each of the foregoing payments, Defendant shall pay the employer's share of employer taxes on the wage portion of the Individual Settlement Payments in addition to the Gross Settlement Amount.
 - Individual Settlement Payments. Individual Settlement Payments will be paid from the Net Settlement Amount and shall be paid pursuant to the terms set forth herein. Individual Settlement Payments shall be mailed by regular First Class U.S. Mail to the respective Settlement Class Member's last known mailing address within fourteen (14) calendar days after Defendant makes the second and final funding payment to the Settlement Administrator for disbursement under this Agreement. Individual Settlement Payments will be allocated as follows: 65% as wages, 15% as penalties, and 20% as interest. Any checks issued to Settlement Class Members shall remain valid and negotiable for one hundred and eighty (180) days from the date of their issuance.
 - i. Calculation of Individual Settlement Payments. Defendant will calculate the Total Workweeks for each Settlement Class Member. The

respective Total Workweeks for each Settlement Class Member will be divided by the Total Workweeks for all Settlement Class Members who do not opt out, resulting in the Payment Ratio for each Settlement Class Member. Each Settlement Class Member's Payment Ratio is then multiplied by the Net Settlement Amount to determine their or her Individual Settlement Payment. Each Individual Settlement Payment will be reduced by any legally mandated deductions for each Settlement Class Member. With the exception of the Class Representative Enhancement Awards for the Class Representative, Settlement Class Members are not eligible to receive any compensation under the Settlement other than Individual Settlement Payments.

- b. <u>Uncashed Settlement Checks</u>. Funds represented by Individual Settlement Payment checks returned as undeliverable and Individual Settlement Payment checks remaining uncashed for more than one hundred and eighty (180) calendar days after issuance, plus any accrued interest in the Settlement Administrator's qualified settlement fund that has not otherwise been distributed, will be tendered to the California State Controller's Office's Unclaimed Property Division in the name of the Participating Class Member.
- c. <u>Plaintiffs' General Release</u>. In addition to Released Claims, Plaintiffs will make the following additional general release ("General Release"): Plaintiffs release Defendant and the Released Parties from all claims, demands, rights, liabilities and causes of action of every nature and description whatsoever, known or unknown, asserted or that might have been asserted, whether in tort, contract, or for violation of any state or federal statute, rule or regulation arising out of, relating to, or in connection with any act or omission by or on the part of any of the Released Parties committed or omitted prior to the execution hereof. Plaintiffs stipulate and agree that they have expressly waived and relinquished, to the fullest extent permitted by law, the provisions, rights and benefits of Section 1542 of the California Civil Code, or any other provision under federal or state law, which provides:

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

d. <u>Class Representative Enhancement Awards</u>. Subject to Court approval, in exchange for the release of all Released Claims, a General Release under Section 1542 of the California Civil Code, and for their time, effort, and risk in bringing and prosecuting this matter, Plaintiffs Norma Aguilar and Olga Iturbide shall be paid up to Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000) each, subject to Court approval. The Class Representative Enhancement Awards shall be paid directly to Plaintiffs from the Gross Settlement Amount no later than seven (7) calendar days after Defendant provides the settlement funds in full to the Settlement Administrator for disbursement under this Agreement. Any portion of the requested Class Representative Enhancement Awards that is not awarded to the Class Representative shall be part of the Net Settlement Amount and shall be distributed to Settlement Class Members as provided in this Agreement. The Settlement Administrator shall issue an IRS Form 1099-MISC to Plaintiffs for their Class Representative Enhancement Awards. Plaintiffs shall be solely and legally responsible to pay any and all applicable taxes on their Class Representative Enhancement Awards and shall hold harmless Defendant and Released Parties from any claim or liability for taxes, penalties, or interest arising as a result of the Class Representative Enhancement Awards. The Class Representative Enhancement Awards shall be in addition to the Plaintiffs' Individual Settlement Payment as a Settlement Class Member.

28

25

26

27

Class Counsel Award. Defendant agrees not to oppose or object to any e. application or motion by Class Counsel for attorneys' fees not to exceed One Hundred Sixty-Six Thousand Six Hundred Sixty-Seven Dollars (\$166,667) of the Gross Settlement Amount. Defendant also agrees not to oppose any application or motion by Class Counsel for the reimbursement of actual costs of up to Thirty-Two Thousand Dollars (\$32,000), subject to submission of records to the Court, associated with Class Counsel's prosecution of this Action from the Gross Settlement Amount, and Class Counsel agrees not to appeal any award of attorneys' fees or costs. Any portion of the requested Class Counsel Award that is not awarded to Class Counsel shall be part of the Net Settlement Amount and distributed to Settlement Class Members as provided in this Agreement. So long as there are no objections, Class Counsel shall be paid any Court-approved fees and costs no later than seven (7) calendar days after Defendant provides the settlement funds in full to the Settlement Administrator for disbursement under this Agreement. Class Counsel shall be solely and legally responsible to pay all applicable taxes on the payment made pursuant to this paragraph. The Settlement Administrator shall issue an IRS Form 1099-MISC to Class Counsel for the payments made pursuant to this paragraph. This Settlement is not contingent upon the Court awarding Class Counsel any particular amount in attorneys' fees and costs.

f. PAGA Payment. Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000) shall be allocated to the release of Plaintiffs' PAGA claim. From that allocation, the Settlement Administrator shall make the PAGA Payment to the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency in the amount of Seven Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$7,500). The PAGA Payment will be paid from the Gross Settlement Amount within fourteen (14) calendar days after Defendant provides the full Gross Settlement Amount to the Settlement Administrator for disbursement under this Agreement. The remaining Two Thousand Five

Hundred Dollars (\$2,500) of the amount allocated to the release of Plaintiffs' PAGA claim shall be included as part of the Net Settlement Amount for payment to Participating Class Members who do not request to be excluded from the Settlement.

- g. Settlement Administration Costs. The Settlement Administrator shall be paid for the costs of administration of the Settlement from the Gross Settlement Amount. The capped cost of administration for this Settlement is Fifteen Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$15,500). The Settlement Administrator shall provide the Parties with a declaration to support the cost of administration. The Settlement Administrator shall be paid the Settlement Administration Costs no later than seven (7) calendar days after Defendant provides the settlement funds in full to the Settlement Administrator for disbursement under this Agreement. The Settlement Administrator, on Defendant's behalf, shall have the authority and obligation to make payments, credits and disbursements, including in the manner set forth herein, to Settlement Class Members and the Internal Revenue Service, calculated in accordance with the methodology set out in this Agreement and orders of the Court.
 - i. The Parties agree to cooperate in the Settlement Administration process and to make all reasonable efforts to control and minimize the cost and expenses incurred in administration of the Settlement. The Parties each represent they do not have any financial interest in the Settlement Administrator or otherwise have a relationship with the Settlement Administrator that could create a conflict of interest.
 - ii. The Settlement Administrator shall be responsible for: processing and mailing payments and associated tax forms to the Plaintiffs, Class Counsel, Settlement Class Members, the Internal Revenue Service, the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency, California State Treasury, the Unclaimed Property Division of the California State

Controller Office, printing, and mailing the Notice to the Settlement Class Members, as directed by the Court; receiving and reporting the Requests for Exclusion and Notices of Objection submitted by Settlement Class Members; completing all tax reporting, withholdings, and payments to the Internal Revenue Service; providing declaration(s) and reports as necessary in support of preliminary and final approval of this Settlement and upon completion of this settlement; and other tasks as the Parties mutually agree or the Court orders the Settlement Administrator to perform both before and after distribution of the Gross Settlement Amount. The Settlement Administrator shall keep the Parties timely apprised of the performance of all Settlement Administrator responsibilities.

- h. No person shall have any claim against Defendant, Defense Counsel,
 Plaintiffs, Settlement Class Members, Class Counsel or the Settlement
 Administrator based on distributions and payments made in accordance with this
 Agreement.
- 37. <u>Declarations by Settlement Administrator</u>. The Settlement Administrator shall submit a declaration in support of Plaintiffs' Motion for Preliminary Approval of this Settlement detailing its qualifications, experience, and estimated costs for administration of this Settlement. The Settlement Administrator shall submit a declaration in support of Plaintiffs' Motion for Final Approval of this Settlement detailing the number of Notices mailed and re-mailed to Settlement Class Members, the number of undeliverable Notices, the number of timely and valid Requests for Exclusion, the number of timely and late objections received, if any, the amount of the average Individual Settlement Payment and maximum and minimum Individual Settlement Payments, the Settlement Administration Costs, and any other information as the Parties mutually agree or the Court orders the Settlement Administrator to provide. If the Motion for Final Approval is filed prior to the Response Deadline, the Settlement Administrator shall, if requested to do so, submit a Supplemental Declaration following the Response deadline,

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

updating the information set forth above. Finally, the Settlement Administrator shall submit to Class Counsel a Declaration of Compliance Regarding Disbursement of the Net Settlement Amount to Participating Class Members, detailing the disbursement of funds and redirection of the uncashed checks to the Unclaimed Property Division, at least one (1) week before Class Counsel must file it with the Court.

- 38. <u>Final Settlement Approval Hearing and Entry of Final Judgment</u>. Upon expiration of the Response Deadline, with the Court's permission, a Final Approval/Settlement Fairness Hearing shall be conducted to determine final approval of the Settlement along with the amount properly payable for (i) the Class Counsel Award, (ii) the Class Representative Enhancement Awards, (iii) Individual Settlement Payments, (iv) the Settlement Administration Cost, and (v) the PAGA Payment. Pursuant to California Rule of Court 3.769(h), after granting final approval, the Court shall retain jurisdiction over the Parties to enforce the terms of the judgment.
- 39. Omitted Class Members. If additional individuals not originally included on the Class List are discovered after Class Notices have been distributed and no later than fourteen (14) calendar days before the Final Approval Hearing, Defendant shall, in good faith, make a determination as to whether those individuals should be deemed Settlement Class Members and entitled to participate in the Settlement. If Defendant determines that the omitted individual is a Settlement Class Member, the third-party administrator shall mail the individual a Class Notice and recalculate the Individual Settlement Payments of all Settlement Class Members by the formula set forth herein to include any additional shifts worked by any additional individuals determined to be Settlement Class Members. The Omitted Class Member will have until thirty five (35) days before the Effective Date to submit a Request for Exclusion or Objection. The Omitted Class Member's Request for Exclusion or Objection must comply with the terms of this Agreement to be deemed valid. If additional individuals not originally included on the Class List are discovered later than thirty-five (35 days) before the Effective Date, those individuals shall not be deemed Settlement Class Members, will not receive payment, and will not release claims against Defendant or Released Parties. In the event there is a dispute regarding the Total

4

3

6

5

7 8

9

10 11

12

13 14

15

16

17

18 19

20

21

22

23 24

25

26

27

28

Workweeks for the Omitted Class Member, the provisions of paragraph 35(b)(i) of this Agreement shall govern the dispute regarding the Total Workweeks for the Omitted Class Member.

- 40. Nullification of Settlement Agreement. In the event: (i) the Court does not enter an order for preliminary approval; (ii) the Court does not enter an order for final approval; (iii) the Court does not enter a Final Judgment, (iv) the Effective Date is not triggered, or (v) the Settlement does not become final for any other reason, this Settlement Agreement shall be null and void and any order or judgment entered by the Court in furtherance of this Settlement shall be treated as void from the beginning. In such case, Defendant shall not make any payment under this Agreement, and the Parties shall proceed in all respects as if this Agreement had not been executed, except that any fees already incurred by the Settlement Administrator shall be paid by Defendant.
- 41. No Effect on Employee Benefits. Amounts paid to Plaintiffs or other Settlement Class Members pursuant to this Agreement shall be deemed not to be pensionable earnings and shall not have any effect on the eligibility for, or calculation of, any of the employee benefits (e.g., vacations, holiday pay, retirement plans, etc.) of the Plaintiffs or Settlement Class Members.
- 42. Publicity. The Parties and their counsel agree that this Settlement is confidential (except for purposes of enforcement) and that neither party will issue or file a press release or other public or non-public representation regarding the settlement or otherwise publicize the terms of this Settlement, other than as necessary to obtain Court approval and effectuate the terms of the settlement. Plaintiffs will not disparage Defendant or its counsel. Plaintiffs will not speculate about the motivations behind the decision of Defendant to settle this Action. The Parties and their counsel agree that they will not initiate or have any contact with the press, respond to any press inquiry or have any communication with the press about this Action.
- 43. No Admission by Defendant. Defendant denies any and all claims alleged in this Action and denies all wrongdoing whatsoever. This Agreement is not a concession or admission of any liability or wrongdoing by Defendant, and it shall not be used against

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

Defendant as an admission with respect to any claim of fault, concession or omission by Defendant.

- 44. Exhibits and Headings. The terms of this Agreement include the terms set forth in the attached exhibit, which is incorporated by this reference as though fully set forth herein. The exhibit to this Agreement is an integral part of the Settlement; however, the terms of this Agreement control in case of conflict. The descriptive headings of any paragraphs or sections of this Agreement are inserted for convenience of reference only.
- 45. <u>Interim Stay of Proceedings</u>. The Parties agree to stay all proceedings in the Action, except such proceedings necessary to implement and complete the Settlement, pending the Final Approval/Settlement Fairness Hearing to be conducted by the Court.
- 46. Amendment or Modification. This Agreement may be amended or modified only by a written instrument signed by counsel for all Parties or their successors-in-interest.
- 47. Entire Agreement. This Agreement and the attached exhibit constitute the entire Agreement among these Parties, and no oral or written representations, warranties or inducements have been made to any Party concerning this Agreement or its exhibit other than the representations, warranties and covenants contained and memorialized in the Agreement and its exhibit.
- 48. Authorization to Enter into Settlement Agreement. Counsel for the Parties warrant and represent they are expressly authorized by the Party whom they each represent to negotiate this Agreement and to take all appropriate actions required or permitted to be taken by such Parties pursuant to this Agreement to effectuate its terms, and to execute any other documents required to effectuate the terms of this Agreement. The Parties and their counsel will cooperate with each other and use their best efforts to effect the implementation of the Settlement. In the event the Parties are unable to reach an agreement on the form or content of any document needed to implement the Settlement, or on any supplemental provisions that may become necessary to effectuate the terms of this Settlement, the Parties may seek the assistance of the Court to resolve such disagreement. The person signing this Agreement on behalf of Defendant represents and warrants that they/she is authorized to sign this Agreement on behalf

of Defendant. The person signing this Agreement on behalf of Plaintiffs represents and warrants that he/she is authorized to sign this Agreement and that they/she has not assigned any claim, or part of a claim, covered by this Settlement to a third-party.

- 49. <u>Binding on Successors and Assigns</u>. This Agreement shall be binding upon, and inure to the benefit of, the successors or assigns of the Parties hereto, as previously defined.
- 50. <u>California Law Governs</u>. All terms of this Agreement and the exhibit hereto shall be governed by and interpreted according to the laws of the State of California.
- 51. <u>Counterparts</u>. This Agreement may be executed in one or more counterparts. All executed counterparts together shall be deemed to be one and the same instrument.
- 52. This Settlement Is Fair, Adequate and Reasonable. The Parties believe this Settlement is a fair, adequate and reasonable settlement of this Action and have arrived at this Settlement after extensive arm's-length negotiations, taking into account all relevant factors, present and potential.
- 53. <u>Jurisdiction of the Court</u>. In accordance with California Rule of Court 3.769(h), the Parties agree that the Court shall retain jurisdiction with respect to the interpretation, implementation and enforcement of the terms of this Agreement and all orders and judgments entered in connection therewith, and the Parties and their counsel hereto submit to the jurisdiction of the Court for purposes of interpreting, implementing and enforcing the Settlement embodied in this Agreement and all orders and judgments entered in connection therewith.
- 54. <u>Invalidity of Any Provision</u>. Before declaring any provision of this Agreement invalid, the Court shall first attempt to construe the provisions valid to the fullest extent possible consistent with applicable precedents so as to define all provisions of this Agreement valid and enforceable.

[signatures to follow]

1		DI AINTELEC
1		PLAINTIFFS
2	Date: November 5, 2020	Norma Aguilar
3		Norma Aguilar Norma Aguilar
4		
5	Date:	
6		Olga Iturbide
7		CLASS COUNSEL
8		CLASS COUNSEL Shegerian & Associates, Inc.
9		
10	Date:	
11		Cheryl A. Kenner Attorneys for Plaintiffs
12		
13		DEFENDANT
14		
15	Date:	Bryan Fiscalini
16		On behalf of Defendant
17		SANTA ROSA BERRY FARMS, LLC
18		DEFENDANT'S COUNSEL
19		Light Gabler
20		
21	Date:	Glenn Dickinson
22		Attorneys for Defendant
23		
24		
25		
26		
27		
28		
	CLASS AC	Page 22 TION SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

1		PLAINTIFFS
2		
3	Date:	Norma Aguilar
4		Norma Agunar
5	noviembre 5, 2020	OIM
6	Date:	Olga Iturbide
7		
8		CLASS COUNSEL Shegerian & Associates, Inc.
9 10	Date: November 5, 2020	Cheryl Henner
11	Date:	Cherye A. Kenner
12		Attorneys for Plaintiffs
13		DEFENDANT
14		
15	Date:	
16		Bryan Fiscalini On behalf of Defendant
17		SANTA ROSA BERRY FARMS, LLC
18		DEFENDANT'S COUNSEL
19		Light Gabler
20		
21	Date:	Glenn Dickinson
22		Attorneys for Defendant
23		
24		
25		
26		
27		
28		
		Page 22 N SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT
	CLASS ACTION	N SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

	PLAINTIFFS
Date:	Norma Aquilor
	Norma Aguilar
Date:	Olga Iturbide
	Olga Hurbide
	CLASS COUNSEL
100	Shegerian & Associates, Inc.
Datas	
Date:	Cheryl A. Kenner
	Attorneys for Plaintiffs
	DEFENDANT
	O I I
Date: 11/09/2020	Numm Line C
//	Bryan Fiscalini On behalf of Defendant
	SANTA ROSA BERRY FARMS, LLC
	DEFENDANT'S COUNSEL Light Gabler
8	
Date:11-09-2020	Worden
	Glenn Dickinson Attorneys for Defendant
	Page 22 S ACTION SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT