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7	all other similarly situated persons			
8	***Additional Counsel Listed on Next Page			
9	UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT			
10	SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA			
11	SOUTHERN DISTRI	Case No. 3:21-cv-01502-GPC-JLB		
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13	MIGUEL GUERRERO, individually and on behalf of all others similarly	STIPULATION, SETTLEMENT, AND RELEASE OF CLASS ACTION		
14	situated,	AND PRIVATE ATTORNEYS		
15	Di : .:cc	GENERAL ACT CLAIMS		
16	Plaintiff,			
17	V.			
18	UNITED STATES GYPSUM	Judge: Hon. Gonzalo P. Curiel Magistrate Judge: Hon. Jill L. Burkhardt		
19	COMPANY, a Delaware corporation;	Courtroom: 2D		
20	and DOES 1-20, inclusive,			
21	Defendants.			
22	Defendants.			
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	1	Case No. 3:21-cv-01502-GPC-JLB		
		LEASE OF CLASS ACTION AND PRIVATE		
	ATTORNEYS GENERAL ACT CLAIMS			

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	2 Case No. 3:21-cv-01502-GPC-JLB

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20	3 Case No. 3:21-cv-01502-GPC-JLB
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STIPULATION, SETTLEMENT, AND RELEASE OF CLASS ACTION AND PRIVATE ATTORNEYS GENERAL ACT CLAIMS

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This Stipulation, Settlement, and Release of Class Action and Private Attorneys General Act Claims is entered into by and between Plaintiff Miguel Guerrero ("Plaintiff"), as an individual, on behalf of all other similarly situated and allegedly aggrieved employees, and as a representative of the State of California on the one hand, and Defendant United States Gypsum Company ("Defendant") on the other hand. Plaintiff and Defendant will be individually referred to as "Party," and collectively as the "Parties" in this Agreement. This Settlement was reached pursuant to a mediation conducted by Steve Rottman, Esq. on February 3, 2022.

I. **DEFINITIONS**

- "Agreement" or "Settlement" or "Settlement Agreement" means this Stipulation, Settlement, and Release of Class Action and Private Attorneys General Act Claims, and all exhibits attached hereto and incorporated herein, including all subsequent amendments agreed to in writing by the Parties and any exhibits to such amendments.
- В. "Action" means the class and representative action lawsuit, entitled Miguel Guerrero v. United States Gypsum Company, filed on April 29, 2021, in the Superior Court of San Diego, and thereafter removed to the United States District Court for the Southern District of California, Case No. 3:21-cv-01502-GPC-JLB.
- "Class Counsel" means Sam Kim and Yoonis Han of Verum Law C. Group, APC, 841 Apollo Street, Suite 340, El Segundo, CA 90245.
- "Class Counsel Costs Award" means the expenses and costs incurred D. by Class Counsel in connection with litigation of the Action, which are not to exceed Seventeen Thousand Dollars (\$17,000.00) and are paid from the Gross Settlement Amount.
- "Class Counsel Fees Award" means attorneys' fees for Class E. Counsel's litigation and resolution of the Action, which are not to exceed 30% of

the Gross Settlement Amount, or One Hundred Eighty Thousand Dollars (\$180,000.00) and are paid from the Gross Settlement Amount.

- F. "Class Period" means the period from April 29, 2017 through January 27, 2022.
- G. "Class Representative" means Plaintiff in his capacity as a representative of the Settlement Class Members.
- H. "Class Settlement Period" means the period from April 29, 2017 through the date of preliminary approval of the Settlement or June 3, 2022, whichever occurs first.
- I. "Compensable Workweeks" means the total number of workweeks during which Settlement Class Members worked for Defendant during the Class Settlement Period.
- J. "Compensable PAGA Pay Periods" means the total number of pay periods during which PAGA Group Members worked for Defendant during the PAGA Settlement Period.
- K. "Court" means the United States District Court for the Southern District of California.
 - L. "Defendant" means United States Gypsum Company.
- M. "Effective Date" means the date by which the final judgment becomes final. For purposes of this Agreement, the final judgment "becomes final" on: (a) the date upon which the time for appeal of the Court's order granting final approval of the Settlement Agreement expires; unless (b) an appeal is timely filed, then "Effective Date" means the date of final resolution of any appeal from the order granting final approval of the Settlement Agreement.
- N. "Employee List" means a complete list of all Settlement Class Members and PAGA Group Members that Defendant will, in good faith, compile from its records and provide to the Settlement Administrator. It shall be formatted 5 Case No. 3:21-cv-01502-GPC-JLB

as a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet and shall include the following information for each Settlement Class Member and PAGA Group Member: (1) employee identification number; (2) full name; (3) last known address; (4) last known home telephone number; (5) Social Security Number; (6) start and end dates of employment; and (7) whether the Settlement Class Member previously received an individual settlement payment as part of the Pick-Up Stix Payments paid by Defendant.

- O. "Employer Taxes" shall mean Defendant's share of any employer payroll taxes and other required employer withholdings due on the Individual Settlement Payments, and Pick-Up Stix Adjustment Payments, including, but not limited to, Defendant's FICA and FUTA contributions, estimated at Ten Thousand Five Hundred Eighty-Seven Dollars and Seventy-Five Cents (\$10,587.75).
- P. "General Release Payment" means the Court approved payment of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) to Plaintiff in exchange for his execution of a general release of known and unknown claims and waiver pursuant to California Civil Code § 1542.
- Q. "Gross Settlement Amount" means a non-reversionary common fund that shall have a total all-in value of Six Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$600,000.00), subject to a credit of One Hundred Sixty-Seven Thousand and Seven Hundred Dollars (\$167,700.00) for Pick-Up Stix Payments previously paid by Defendant, and includes without limitation any and all payments Defendants may be responsible for under the Settlement, including the Individual Settlement Payments, Pick-Up Stix Adjustment Payments, Service Award, General Release Payment, PAGA Payment, Class Counsel Costs Award, Class Counsel Fees Award, Settlement Administration Costs, and Employer Taxes.

- R. "Individual Settlement Payment" means the amount payable from the Net Settlement Amount to each Settlement Class Member who has not submitted a Request for Exclusion.
- S. "Net Settlement Amount" or "NSA" means the Gross Settlement Amount, less the Service Award, General Release Payment, PAGA Payment, Class Counsel Costs Award, Class Counsel Fees Award, Settlement Administration Costs, Employer Taxes, Pick-Up Stix Payments, and Pick-Up Stix Adjustment Payments.
- T. "Notice Packet" means the Notice of Class Action Settlement in a form substantially similar to the form attached hereto as Exhibit 1.
- U. "PAGA" means California's Private Attorneys General Act, California Labor Code § 2699 *et seq*.
- V. "PAGA Group Members" means "all current and former non-exempt employees employed by Defendant in the State of California during the PAGA Settlement Period.
- W. "PAGA Notices" means the PAGA notice sent by Plaintiff to the LWDA dated April 29, 2021, and the amended PAGA notice sent by Plaintiff to the LWDA dated October 25, 2021.
- X. "PAGA Payment" means the amount of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) allocated to penalties under the PAGA, of which Seven Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$7,500.00) shall be paid by the Settlement Administrator directly to the LWDA; and the remaining Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$2,500.00) shall be distributed to PAGA Group Members based on Compensable PAGA Pay Periods.
- Y. "PAGA Period" means the period from April 29, 2020 through January 27, 2022.

- Z. "PAGA Settlement Period" means the period between April 29, 2020 to the date of preliminary approval of the Settlement, or June 3, 2022, whichever is earlier
- AA. "Parties" means Plaintiff and Defendant, collectively, and "Party" shall mean either Plaintiff or Defendant, individually.
- BB. "Pick-Up Stix Adjustment Payments" means payments set aside to give to employees who were not already paid by Defendant for signing Pick-Up Stix settlement agreements. The Pick-Up Stix Adjustment Payments will be subtracted from the Gross Settlement Value, and will be set aside for and will go to employees who did not sign a Pick-Up Stix settlement agreement, to account for a credit of settlement funds that did not go to them. Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) from the Gross Settlement Value will be set aside for Pick-Up Stix Adjustment Payments, and distributed to employees who did not sign a Pick-Up Stix settlement agreement on a pro rata basis as set forth below, and any amount that remains unused shall be part of the Net Settlement Amount and shall be distributed to Settlement Class Members as provided in this Agreement.
- CC. "Pick-Up Stix Payments" means the One Hundred Sixty-Seven Thousand and Seven Hundred Dollars (\$167,700.00) already paid by Defendant for Pick-Up Stix settlement agreements entered into with 352 out of 393 Settlement Class Members to settle the Action prior to this Settlement, and for which Defendant shall receive credit as part of this Settlement.
 - DD. "Plaintiff" means former non-exempt employee Miguel Guerrero.
- EE. "Preliminary Approval Date" means the date on which the Court enters an order granting preliminary approval of the Settlement.
- FF. "Service Award" means the Court approved payment of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) paid to Plaintiff as Class Representative, in addition Case No. 3:21-cv-01502-GPC-JLB

to his Individual Settlement Payment and General Release Payment, in recognition of his efforts and risks in assisting with the prosecution of the Action.

- GG. "Released Parties" means (1) Defendant, (2) its past, present, and/or future parent, subsidiary, affiliated or related entities (including any companies, corporations, partnerships, alter egos, joint venturers, and actual or alleged joint employers), including each related companies/corporations and/or partnerships (defined as a company/corporation and/or partnership that is, directly or indirectly, under common control with that Defendant or any of its parents and/or affiliates), and (3) each of the previously listed entities' respective past, present and future agents, contractors, employees, servants, officers, directors, principals, partners, members, trustees, fiduciaries, representatives, shareholders, stockholders, attorneys, equity sponsors, divisions, assigns, predecessors, successors, insurers, and consultants.
- HH. "Response Deadline" means the date forty-five (45) days after the Settlement Administrator mails Notice Packets to Settlement Class Members and the last date on which Settlement Class Members may submit Requests for Exclusion or objections to the Settlement.
- II. "Settlement Administration Costs" means the costs payable from the Gross Settlement Amount to the Settlement Administrator for administering this Settlement, including, but not limited to the Settlement Administrator's responsibilities outlined in this Settlement Agreement.
- JJ. "Settlement Administrator" means, subject to appointment by the Court, Phoenix Settlement Administrators, who shall be responsible for the administration of the Settlement, distribution of any amounts owed under this settlement, and matters necessarily related thereto pursuant to the terms of this Agreement.

KK. "Settlement Class Members" or "Settlement Class" means all current and former non-exempt employees employed by Defendant in the State of California during the Class Settlement Period. The "Settlement Class Members" or "Settlement Class" shall not include any person who submits a timely and valid Request for Exclusion as provided in this Agreement.

II. RECITALS

- A. On April 29, 2021, Plaintiff filed a putative class action against Defendant in the San Diego County Superior Court, Case No. 37-2021-00019113-CU-OE-CTL, alleging claims for: 1) failure to pay all wages; 2) non-payment of overtime compensation; 3) failure to provide proper meal breaks; 4) failure to authorize and permit proper rest breaks 5) failure to properly maintain and submit itemized wage statements; 6) violation of Labor Code §§ 201 and 202.7; 7) failure to reimburse business expenses; 8) violation of California Business & Professions Code § 17200 *et seq.* (the "Action"). On July 29, 2021, Plaintiff filed a First Amended Complaint ("FAC") adding a claim under the PAGA. On August 24, 2021, Defendant removed the Action to the United States District Court for the Southern District of California, pursuant to the Class Action Fairness Act of 2005, 28 U.S.C. §§ 1332 (d) ("CAFA"). On February 3, 2022, the Parties participated in a mediation with Steve Rottman, Esq., a well-regarded mediator with experience in mediating complex labor and employment matters.
- B. Defendant has denied and continues to deny any liability or wrongdoing of any kind associated with the claims alleged in the Action, disputes the wages, damages and penalties claimed by the Plaintiff, and further contends that, for any purpose other than settlement, Plaintiff's claims are not appropriate for class or representative action treatment. Defendant contends, among other things, that, at all times, it has complied with the California Labor Code, the

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Industrial Wage Commission Orders, and the California Business and Professions Code.

C. The Plaintiff and Class Representative are represented by Class Counsel. Class Counsel conducted an investigation into the facts relevant to the Action, including interviewing Settlement Class Members, propounding written discovery and obtaining formal written responses, and reviewing documents and information provided by Defendant formally and informally during discovery. Based on their own independent investigation and evaluation, Class Counsel is of the opinion that the Settlement with Defendant is fair, reasonable and adequate, and in the best interest of the Settlement Class in light of all known facts and circumstances, including the risks of significant delay, defenses asserted by Defendant, and uncertainties regarding a class and representative action trial on the merits. Although Defendant denies any liability, Defendant has concluded that, because of the substantial expense of defending against the Action, the length of time necessary to resolve the issues presented herein, the inconvenience involved in such litigation, and the concomitant disruption to its business operations, it is in its best interests to accept the terms of this Agreement to avoid the burden, expense and uncertainty of continuing litigation and for the purpose of putting to rest the controversies engendered by the Action. Accordingly, the Parties and their counsel desire to fully, finally, and forever settle, compromise and discharge all disputes and claims arising from or relating to the Action on the terms set forth herein.

III. TERMS OF SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

A. <u>Settlement Consideration</u>. Defendant shall pay the Gross Settlement Amount of Six Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$600,000.00) to settle this Action. Subject to a credit for Pick-Up Stix Payments previously paid by Defendant to 352 out of 393 Settlement Class Members during the pendency of the Action, the Gross Settlement Amount shall include the sum of the Individual Settlement Payments,

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Service Award, General Release Payment, PAGA Payment, Class Counsel Costs Award, Class Counsel Fees Award, Settlement Administration Costs, and Employer Taxes. In no event shall Defendant be required to pay more than the Gross Settlement Amount, except as provided in Section B below. The Settlement is non-reversionary.

- B. Pro Rata Increase of Gross Settlement Amount. The Settlement negotiations were premised on the assumption that Settlement Class Members worked approximately 63,684 workweeks during the Class Period and PAGA Group Members worked approximately 23,195 pay periods during the PAGA Period. If the total number of workweeks worked by Settlement Class Members during the Class Period increases by more than 10% of the 63,684 workweeks (i.e., more than 6,369 additional workweeks), then Defendant will have the option to (1) pay an adjusted pro-rata settlement amount to reflect the increased number of workweeks beyond the original estimate of 63,684 workweeks; (2) cap the workweeks and the scope of the release as of the date that they exceed the above-referenced 10% threshold; or (3) terminate the Settlement.
- C. Released Class Claims. As of the Effective Date, in exchange for the consideration set forth in this Agreement, the claims settled, fully released and forever discharged by the Settlement Class Members, including Plaintiff, constitute any and all claims, causes of action, or legal theories that are asserted in, arising from, or reasonably related to the factual allegations made in the Action. The released class claims include all claims, causes of action, or legal theories that were or could have been asserted based on the factual allegations alleged in the Action up through and specifically including the entire Class Settlement Period, whether or not specifically delineated as a claim or cause of action in the Action, including but not limited to those alleged in the operative complaint in the Action, and any amended complaint in the Action, including claims that reasonably arise out of or Case No. 3:21-cv-01502-GPC-JLB

arise in connection with the claims and facts alleged in the Action, and any claims which could have reasonably been asserted in the Action arising from the alleged facts and/or primary rights alleged to have been invaded, and any claims that are premised upon or that allege failure to pay all wages due, failure to provide minimum wages or pay for all hours worked, failure to pay overtime compensation, failure to provide meal and/or rest periods, failure to pay proper meal or rest period penalties, failure to provide and maintain accurate itemized wage statements, failure to timely pay wages due during or at separation of employment, failure to reimburse all business-related expenses, and claims arising under or relating to the alleged violations of California Labor Code sections 201, 202, 203, 204, 223, 226, 226.7, 256, 510, 512, 558, 1174, 1194, 1197, 1174, 1174.5, 1182.12, 1194, 1197, 2802, applicable California Industrial Welfare Commission ("IWC") Wage Orders, including but not limited to IWC Wage Order No. 16-2001; and California Business & Professions Code § 17200 et seq. ("Released Class Claims"), against the Released Parties. The release extends to all remedies that could be claimed for any Released Class Claims, including but not limited to statutory, constitutional, contractual, and common law claims for interest, attorney fees and costs, injunctive relief, punitive damages, liquidated damages, restitution, disgorgement, and civil and/or statutory penalties, including under Labor Code sections 218.5, 203, 206, 226(e) and 558(a). Upon approval of the Agreement, Plaintiff and the Settlement Class Members will be forever barred from pursuing against the Released Parties any and all claims, causes of action, or legal theories that are asserted in, arising from, or reasonably related to the factual allegations made in the Action during the Class Settlement Period.

D. <u>Released PAGA Claims.</u> As of the Effective Date, in exchange for the PAGA Payment set forth in this Agreement, the claims settled, fully released and forever discharged by Plaintiff as a representative of the State of California and Case No. 3:21-cv-01502-GPC-JLB

on behalf of the LWDA, constitute any and all claims, causes of action, or legal theories that are asserted in, arising from, or reasonably related to the factual allegations made in the Action, and PAGA Notices. The released PAGA claims include all claims, causes of action, or legal theories that were or could have been asserted based on the factual allegations alleged in the Action and PAGA Notices alleged up through and specifically including the entire PAGA Settlement Period, whether or not specifically delineated as a claim or cause of action in the Action, including but not limited to those alleged in Plaintiff's PAGA Notices provided to the LWDA, the operative complaint in the Action, and any amended complaint in the Action, including claims that reasonably arise out of or arise in connection with the claims and facts alleged in the Action, and any claims which could have reasonably been asserted in the Action arising from the alleged facts and/or primary rights alleged to have been invaded, and any claims that are premised upon or that allege claims for failure to pay all wages due, failure to provide minimum wages or pay for all hours worked, failure to pay overtime compensation, failure to provide meal and/or rest periods, failure to pay proper meal or rest period penalties, failure to provide and maintain accurate itemized wage statements, failure to timely pay wages due during or at separation of employment, failure to reimburse all business-related expenses, and claims arising under or relating to the alleged violations of California Labor Code sections 201, 202, 203, 204, 223, 226, 226.7, 256, 510, 512, 558, 1174, 1194, 1197 1174, 1174.5, 1182.12, 1194, 1197, 2698, 2699, 2802, and applicable California Industrial Welfare Commission ("IWC") Wage Orders, including but not limited to IWC Wage Order No. 16-2001 ("Released PAGA Claims"), against the Released Parties. The release extends to all remedies that could be claimed for any Released PAGA Claims, including but not limited to statutory, constitutional, contractual, and common law claims for interest, attorney fees and costs, injunctive relief, punitive damages, liquidated Case No. 3:21-cv-01502-GPC-JLB

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damages, restitution, disgorgement, and civil and/or statutory penalties, including under Labor Code sections 218.5, 203, 206, 226(e) and 558(a), which includes penalties recoverable under PAGA in an amount equal to underpaid wages. PAGA Group Members will be bound to the Judgment entered by the Court as to the Released PAGA Claims. Upon approval of the Agreement, Plaintiff and the PAGA Group Members will be forever barred from pursuing against the Released Parties any and all claims, causes of action, or legal theories that are asserted in, arising from, or reasonably related to the factual allegations made in the Action and PAGA Notices during the PAGA Settlement Period.

E. General Release by Plaintiff. As of the Effective Date, in addition to releasing the Released Class Claims and Released PAGA Claims, in exchange for the General Release Payment, Plaintiff, for himself and his heirs, successors and assigns, does hereby fully and finally release the Released Parties, from any and all claims, known and unknown, under federal, state and/or local law, statute, ordinance, regulation, common law, public policy, or other source of law, including but not limited to claims arising from or related to Plaintiff's employment with Defendant and/or the termination of Plaintiff's employment from Defendant, including but not limited to all claims asserted in, arising from, or related in any way to the Action, including without limitation any and all claims that could have been asserted as part of the Action based on the facts alleged; any and all claims for violation of the National Labor Relations Act (NLRA) (to the extent permitted by law), Title VII of the Civil Rights Act (Title VII), the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), the Age Discrimination in Employment Act (ADEA), the Older Worker Benefit Protection Act (OWBPA), the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (excluding vested benefits) (ERISA); the Rehabilitation Act, the Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA) (federal and California), the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985 Case No. 3:21-cv-01502-GPC-JLB

(COBRA), the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA), the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA), the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA), the California Family Rights Act (CFRA), the Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification Act (federal and California), the California Fair Employment and Housing Act (FEHA), the Unfair Business Practices Act/Unfair Competition Law (UCL); the California Labor Code, the California Government Code, the California Civil Code, the applicable California Wage Order(s), and the California Private Attorneys General Act (to the extent permitted by law) (all as amended); any and all claims for discrimination or harassment on the basis of any protected status recognized by applicable federal, state or local law, rule, ordinance or regulation; any and all whistleblower or retaliation claims on the basis of any protected activity or other protected basis; any and all claims for breach of any express or implied promise, contract or agreement (express or implied), or breach of the implied covenant of good faith and fair dealing; (e) any tort or common law claims, including wrongful discharge, intentional or negligent infliction of emotional distress, negligence, fraud, misrepresentation, defamation, interference with prospective economic advantage, or other tort or common law actions; any and all claims for misclassification, wage and hour, or other claims related to hours, conditions, or compensation related to work; and any and all claims for any other violation of local, state, or federal law, constitution, statute, regulation, ordinance, order, guidance, resolution, public policy, contract, or tort or common law claim, whether for legal or equitable relief, having any bearing whatsoever on the terms and conditions of employment, or association or working relationship, with any of the Released Parties, including but not limited to any allegations for penalties, interest, costs and fees, including attorneys' fees. Plaintiff's Released Claims include all claims, whether known or unknown. Even if Plaintiff discovers facts in addition to or different from those that Plaintiff now knows or believes to be true Case No. 3:21-cv-01502-GPC-JLB

with respect to the subject matter of Plaintiff's Released Claims, those claims will remain released and forever barred. Thus, Plaintiff expressly waives and relinquishes the provisions, rights and benefits of section 1542 of the California Civil Code, which reads:

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.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, Plaintiff does not waive or release any claim which cannot be waived or released by private agreement. Further, nothing in this Agreement shall prevent Plaintiff from filing a charge or complaint with, or from participating in, an investigation or proceeding conducted by the SEC, OSHA, EEOC, DFEH, NLRB or any other federal, state or local agency charged with the enforcement of any employment or other applicable laws. Plaintiff, however, understands that by signing this Agreement, he waives the right to recover any damages or to receive other relief in any claim or suit brought by or through the EEOC, the DFEH or any other state or local deferral agency on their behalf to the fullest extent permitted by law, but expressly excluding any monetary award or other relief available from the SEC/OSHA, including an SEC/OSHA whistleblower award, or other awards or relief that may not lawfully be waived.

- F. <u>Conditions Precedent</u>: This Settlement will become final and effective only upon the occurrence of all of the following events:
- 1. The Court enters an order granting preliminary approval of the Settlement;

- 2. The Court enters an order granting final approval of the Settlement and a Final Judgment in the Action;
- 3. The time for appeal of the Final Judgment and Order Granting Final Approval of Class Action Settlement expires; or, if an appeal is timely filed, there is a final resolution of any appeal from the Judgment and Order Granting Final Approval of Class Action Settlement;
 - 4. Defendant funds the Gross Settlement Amount; and
- 5. Defendant does not invoke its right to revoke the Settlement as provided herein.
- G. <u>Certification of the Settlement Class</u>. The Parties stipulate to conditional class certification of the Settlement Class for the Class Settlement Period for purposes of settlement only. In the event that this Settlement is not approved by the Court, fails to become effective, or is reversed, withdrawn or modified by the Court, or in any way prevents or prohibits Defendant from obtaining a complete resolution of the claims as described herein, the conditional class certification (obtained for any purpose) shall be void *ab initio* and of no force or effect, and shall not be admissible in any judicial, administrative or arbitral proceeding for any purpose or with respect to any issue, substantive or procedural.
- H. <u>Nullification of Settlement Agreement</u>. In the event that (i) this Settlement Agreement is not preliminarily or finally approved by the Court, (ii) the Court does not enter a final judgment as provided herein which becomes final as a result of the occurrence of the Effective Date, or (iii) if the Settlement is construed in a manner in which Defendant is required to pay more than the Gross Settlement Amount, Defendant shall have the right to withdraw from the Settlement and:
- 1. 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 *ab initio*, and the Agreement shall not be admissible in any judicial,

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administrative or arbitral proceeding for any purpose or with respect to any issue, substantive or procedural;

- 2. The conditional class certification (obtained for any purpose) shall be void *ab initio* and of no force or effect, and shall not be admissible in any judicial, administrative or arbitral proceeding for any purpose or with respect to any issue, substantive or procedural;
- 3. None of the Parties to this Settlement will be deemed to have waived any claims, objections, defenses or arguments in the Action, including with respect to the issue of class certification;
- 4. The fact that the Parties were willing to stipulate to class certification as part of the Settlement shall have no bearing on, and shall not be admissible in connection with, the issues of whether a class should be certified in a non-settlement context in the Action. Nor shall the fact that the Parties were willing to stipulate that Plaintiff's counsel may be appointed Class Counsel and that Plaintiff may be appointed as Class Representative as part of the Settlement have any bearing on, and be admissible in connection with, the issues of whether Plaintiff's counsel should be appointed as Class Counsel and whether Plaintiff should be appointed as Class Representative in a non-settlement context in the Action; and
- 5. Any funds to be awarded under this Settlement shall be returned to Defendant as of the date and time immediately prior to the execution of this Agreement, and the Parties shall proceed in all respects as if this Settlement Agreement had not been executed, except that any fees already incurred by the Settlement Administrator shall be borne equally by the Parties.
- I. <u>Tax Liability</u>. The Parties make no representations as to the tax treatment or legal effect of the payments called for hereunder, and the Parties, Settlement Class Members, and PAGA Group Members are not relying on any 19 Case No. 3:21-cv-01502-GPC-JLB

statement, representation, or calculation by the Parties in this regard. Plaintiff, Settlement Class Members, and PAGA Group Members understand and agree that except for the employer's portion of any payroll taxes, Plaintiff, Settlement Class Members, and PAGA Group Members will be solely responsible for the payment of any taxes and penalties assessed on the payments described herein and will hold the Parties and their respective counsel free and harmless from and against any claims, liabilities, costs and expenses, including attorney's fees, resulting in any way from personal tax treatment of the payments made pursuant to this Agreement, including the treatment of such payments as not subject to withholding or deduction for payroll and employment taxes (except for any obligation to pay Employer Taxes under the Settlement). Employer Taxes due on the Individual Settlement Payments, including, but not limited to, Defendant's FICA and FUTA contributions, estimated at Ten Thousand Five Hundred Eighty-Seven Dollars and Seventy-Five Cents (\$10,587.75) shall be paid from the Gross Settlement Amount.

J. <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 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.

- K. <u>Preliminary Approval Motion</u>. At the earliest practicable time, Plaintiff shall file with the Court a Motion for Order Granting Preliminary Approval and supporting papers, which shall include this Settlement Agreement.
- L. <u>Notice Obligations Under 28 U.S.C. Section 1715</u>. Within ten (10) days after the filing of the Motion for Order Granting Preliminary Approval, Defendant shall provide notice of the Settlement, consistent with the requirements of 28 U.S.C. Section 1715, to the Attorney General of the United States and the California Attorney General. If any of the notified federal or state officials takes any action adversely affecting the validity or enforceability of the Settlement, or seeking to impose additional liability on Defendant for the matters resolved by the Released Claims, Defendant may, at its option, suspend the implementation of the Settlement pending the outcome of the action initiated by the notified federal or state official or may elect to void the Settlement by written notice to Class Counsel.
- M. <u>Settlement Administrator</u>. The Settlement Administrator shall be responsible for: (a) calculating Individual Settlement Payments and the portion of the PAGA Payment paid to each PAGA Group Member; (b) processing and mailing payments to the Class Representative, Class Counsel, LWDA, Settlement Class Members and PAGA Group Members; (c) preparing, printing and mailing the Notice Packets to the Settlement Class Members and PAGA Group Members as directed by the Court; (d) receiving and reporting the objections and requests for exclusion; (e) calculating and withholding all required state and federal taxes owed Case No. 3:21-cv-01502-GPC-JLB

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by the Settlement Class Members, PAGA Group Members, and Defendant; (f) processing and mailing tax payments to the appropriate state and federal taxing authorities; (g) providing declaration(s), as necessary, in support of preliminary and/or final approval of this Settlement; (h) preparing and mailing the required notices pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1715, as provided by Section L herein; and (i) other tasks as the Parties mutually agree or the Court orders the Settlement Administrator to perform. The Settlement Administrator shall keep the Parties timely apprised of the performance of all Settlement Administrator responsibilities.

N. Settlement Administration.

1. Employee List. No later than fifteen (15) business days after the Preliminary Approval Date, Defendant shall provide the Settlement Administrator with the Employee List for purposes of preparing, printing and mailing Notice Packets to Settlement Class Members and PAGA Group Members. The Employee List shall be used solely for the administration of this Settlement and for no other purpose, and shall not be shared with any persons or entity not employed by the Settlement Administrator and working on the administration of this Settlement, unless required by the Court to be reviewed by Class Counsel. Because sensitive personal information is included in the Employee List, the Settlement Administrator shall maintain the Employee List securely and in confidence. Access to such Employee List shall be limited to employees of the Settlement Administrator with a need to use the Employee List for administration of the Settlement. In the event that the Settlement Agreement is not finally approved by the Court, or if it is in any way altered or disapproved on appeal, the Settlement Administrator shall not thereafter use the Employee List, and shall destroy any and all copies or versions of it (including any in electronic form).

2. <u>Notice Packets.</u>

- Action Settlement in a form substantially similar to the form attached hereto as Exhibit 1. The Notice of Class Action Settlement shall set forth the material terms of the Settlement, including the release to be given by all members of the Settlement Class who do not request to be excluded from the Settlement Class. The Notice Packet also shall be individualized by including the Compensable Workweeks and Compensable PAGA Pay Periods (if applicable), and the estimated amount of the Individual Settlement Payment for the Settlement Class Member and the payment for the PAGA Group Member (if applicable).
- b) The Notice Packet's mailing envelope shall include the following language: "IMPORTANT LEGAL DOCUMENT- YOU ARE ENTITLED TO MONEY FROM A CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT; YOUR PROMPT REPLY IS REQUIRED AS EXPLAINED IN THE ENCLOSED NOTICE."
- List, the Settlement Administrator will perform a search based on the National Change of Address Database and/or similar database(s) to update and correct any known or identifiable address changes. No later than fourteen (14) calendar days after receiving the Employee List from Defendant as provided herein, the Settlement Administrator shall mail copies of the Notice Packet to all Settlement Class Members and PAGA Group 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 and PAGA Group 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 and PAGA Group Member. In the event more than one address is

identified, then the Settlement Administrator shall mail to each potentially valid address.

- 4. <u>Undeliverable Notices</u>. Any Notice Packets returned to the Settlement Administrator as non-delivered 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 lawful use of skip-tracing, or other search using the name, address and/or Social Security number of the Settlement Class Member and PAGA Group Member involved, and shall then perform a re-mailing, if another mailing address is identified by the Settlement Administrator. Settlement Class Members and PAGA Group Members who received a re-mailed Notice Packet shall have their Response Deadline extended fifteen (15) days from the original Response Deadline.
- 5. <u>Notice Satisfies Due Process.</u> Compliance with the notice procedures specified in this Settlement Agreement shall constitute due and sufficient notice to Settlement Class Members and PAGA Group Members of this Settlement and shall satisfy the requirements of due process. Nothing else shall be required of, or done by, the Parties, Class Counsel, or Defendant's counsel to provide notice of the proposed Settlement. In the event the procedures in this Settlement Agreement are followed and the intended recipient of a Notice Packet still does not receive the Notice Packet, the intended recipient shall be a Settlement Class Member and will be bound by all the terms of the Settlement and the Final Approval entered by the Court if the Settlement becomes effective.
- 6. <u>Disputes Regarding Individual Settlement Payments.</u>
 Settlement Class Members and PAGA Group Members will have the opportunity, should they disagree with Defendant's records regarding the Compensable Workweeks and/or Compensable PAGA Pay Periods stated in their Notice Packet, Case No. 3:21-cv-01502-GPC-JLB

to provide documentation and/or an explanation to show contrary Compensable Workweeks and/or Compensable PAGA Pay Periods. Settlement Class Members must submit information to the Settlement Administrator in writing no later than the Response Deadline. 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 binding upon the Settlement Class Member and the Parties.

- 7. <u>Disputes Regarding Administration of Settlement.</u> Any disputes not resolved by the Settlement Administrator 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.
- 8. Request for Exclusion. The Notice of Class Action Settlement contained in the Notice Packet shall state that Settlement Class Members who wish to exclude themselves from the Settlement must submit to the Settlement Administrator a signed, written statement requesting exclusion from the Settlement ("Request for Exclusion"). The written statement must contain the Settlement Class Member's name, address, telephone number, and the last four digits of the Settlement Class Member's Social Security number and/or the Employee ID number. The Request for Exclusion will not be valid if it is not signed by the person requesting exclusion, timely submitted by the Response Deadline, and received by the Settlement Administrator. The date of the postmark on the return mailing envelope on the Request for Exclusion shall be the exclusive means used to

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determine whether the Request for Exclusion was timely submitted. postmark is illegible, then the Request for Exclusion must arrive within three (3) days after the Objection/Exclusion Deadline Date to be considered timely. 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 final judgment entered in this Action if the Settlement is approved by the Court. No later than fourteen (14) calendar days after the Response Deadline, the Settlement Administrator shall provide counsel for the Parties with a final list of the Settlement Class Members who have timely submitted Requests for Exclusion. At no time shall any of the Parties or their counsel seek to directly or indirectly solicit or otherwise encourage members of the Settlement Class to submit Requests for Exclusion from the Settlement. Settlement Class Members who submit a Request for Exclusion are not entitled to object to the Settlement. PAGA Group Members will not have the opportunity to opt out of, or object to, their payment from the portion of the PAGA Payment paid to PAGA Group Members or the Released PAGA Claims set forth in this Settlement Agreement.

9. Objections. The Notice of Class Action Settlement contained in the Notice Packet shall state that Settlement Class Members who wish to object to the Settlement should serve on the Settlement Administrator a written statement of objection ("Notice of Objection") by the Response Deadline. The Notice of Objection should be signed by the Settlement Class Member and state: (1) the full name of the Settlement Class Member; (2) the dates of employment of the Settlement Class Member; (3) the last four digits of the Settlement Class Member's Case No. 3:21-cv-01502-GPC-JLB

Social Security number and/or the Employee ID number; and (4) the basis for the objection. Settlement Class Members who fail to make objections shall be deemed to have waived any objections and shall be foreclosed from making any objections (whether by appeal or otherwise) to the Settlement. The Parties will be permitted to respond in writing to such objections prior to the Court's ruling on the same Settlement Class Members have a right to appear at the Final Approval/Settlement Fairness Hearing in order to have their objections heard by the Court. At no time shall any of the Parties or their counsel seek to directly or indirectly solicit or otherwise encourage Settlement Class Members to file or serve written objections to the Settlement or appeal from the Order and Final Judgment. Settlement Class Members who submit a Request for Exclusion are not entitled to object to the Settlement.

- O. <u>Funding and Allocation of the Gross Settlement Amount</u>. No later than fourteen (14) calendar days after the Effective Date (the "funding date"), Defendant shall provide the Gross Settlement Amount, minus the Pick-Up Stix Payments of One Hundred Thousand Sixty-Seven Dollars (\$167,700.00) already paid by Defendant, to the Settlement Administrator to fund the Settlement, as set forth in this Agreement.
- 1. <u>Individual Settlement Payments</u>. Individual Settlement Payments shall be paid from the Net Settlement Amount and shall be paid pursuant to the formula set forth herein; provided, however, that prior to the calculation of Individual Settlement Payments, employees who were not paid already by Defendant for signing Pick-Up Stix settlement agreements will receive Pick-Up Stix Adjustment Payments.
- a) <u>Calculation of Individual Settlement Payments</u>. Using the Employee List, the amount of each Individual Settlement Payment will be calculated on a pro rata basis, based on the number of Compensable Workweeks 27 Case No. 3:21-cv-01502-GPC-JLB

each Settlement Class Member worked during the Class Settlement Period. To establish the value of each Compensable Workweek ("Compensable Workweek Value"), the Settlement Administrator will first determine the total number of workweeks worked by the Settlement Class Members during the Class Settlement Period. The Compensable Workweek Value will be equal to the Net Settlement Amount divided by the total number of workweeks worked by all Settlement Class Members during the Class Settlement Period. The Compensable Workweek Value will be rounded to the nearest cent. The Individual Settlement Payment to each Settlement Class Member will be determined by multiplying the Compensable Workweek Value by the total number of Compensable Workweeks each Settlement Class Member worked during the Class Settlement Period. The total of all Individual Settlement Payments for all Settlement Class Members shall equal the Net Settlement Amount. There is no need for a Settlement Class Member to submit a claim form in order to be eligible for and to receive an Individual Settlement Payment. Any partial workweek will be rounded up to the nearest full workweek. Individual Settlement Payments will be reduced by any required deductions for each Settlement Class Member, including employee-side tax withholdings and/or deductions.

b) <u>Calculation of Pick-Up Stix Adjustment Payments.</u>
Using the Employee List, the Settlement Administrator will identify all employees who did not sign Pick-Up Stix settlement agreements. The amount of each Pick-Up Stix Adjustment Payment will be calculated on a pro rata basis, based on the number of Compensable Workweeks worked during the Class Settlement Period by each Settlement Class Member who did not sign a Pick-Up Stix settlement agreement. To establish the value of each Compensable Workweek for Pick-Up Stix Adjustment Payments ("Compensable Workweek Adjustment Value"), the Settlement Administrator will first determine the total number of workweeks Case No. 3:21-cv-01502-GPC-JLB

worked during the Class Settlement Period by the Settlement Class Members who did not sign a Pick-Up Stix settlement agreement. The Compensable Workweek Adjustment Value will be equal to five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00) divided by the total number of workweeks worked during the Class Settlement Period by all Settlement Class Members who did not sign a Pick-Up Stix settlement agreement. The Compensable Workweek Adjustment Value will be rounded to the nearest cent. Each Pick-Up Stix Adjustment Payment will be determined by multiplying the Compensable Workweek Adjustment Value by the total number of Compensable Workweeks worked during the Class Settlement Period by all Settlement Class Members who did not sign a Pick-Up Stix settlement agreement. The sum of all Pick-Up Stix Adjustment Payments shall equal \$5,000. There is no need for a Settlement Class Member who did not sign a Pick-Up Stix settlement agreement to submit a claim form in order to be eligible for and to receive an Pick-Up Stix Adjustment Payment. Any partial workweek will be rounded up to the nearest full workweek. Pick-Up Stix Adjustment Payments will be reduced by any required deductions for each Settlement Class Member, including employee-side tax withholdings and/or deductions.

c) Allocation. For tax purposes, Pick-Up Stix Adjustment Payments shall be allocated and treated as one hundred percent (100%) wages. For tax purposes, Individual Settlement Payments shall be allocated and treated as follows: twenty percent (20%) as wages; eighty percent (80%) as penalties and interest.

d) Mailing. Individual Settlement Payments and shall be mailed by regular First-Class U.S. Mail to Settlement Class Members' last known mailing address no later than twenty-five (25) calendar days after the Effective Date. Pick-Up Stix Adjustment Payments will be mailed along with Individual Case No. 3:21-cv-01502-GPC-JLB

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Settlement Payments to employees eligible for a Pick-Up Stix Adjustment Payment.

- e) <u>Expiration</u>. 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. If a Settlement Class Member does not cash his or her settlement check within 180 days, the uncashed funds, plus any accrued interest that has not been distributed pursuant to the Order of this Court, shall be voided by the Settlement Administrator and the Settlement Administrator will take all steps necessary to ensure that the proceeds from the Settlement Class Member's uncashed check(s), including unpaid cash residue(s), or other unclaimed or abandoned fund(s), shall be distributed by the Settlement Administrator to the California State Controller's Office Unclaimed Property Fund in the name of the Settlement Class Member.
- 2. Service Award and General Release Payment. Defendant agrees not to oppose or object to any application or motion by Plaintiff for a Service Award of up to Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000). The Service Award is for Plaintiff's time, effort and risk in bringing and prosecuting the Action. The Settlement Administrator shall pay the Service Award to Plaintiff from the Gross Settlement Amount no later than twenty-five (25) calendar days after the Effective Date. Any portion of the requested Service Award 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 Plaintiff for his Class Service Award. Plaintiff shall be solely and legally responsible to pay any and all applicable taxes on his respective Service Award and shall hold harmless Defendant from any claim or liability for taxes, penalties, or interest arising as a result of the Service Award. The Class Representative Service Award shall be in Case No. 3:21-cv-01502-GPC-JLB

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addition to the Plaintiff's Individual Settlement Payment as a Settlement Class Member and General Release Payment. In addition, Defendant agrees not to oppose or object to any application or motion by Plaintiff for a payment of up to Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000) for his execution of a general release and waiver of Civil Code § 1542 ("General Release Payment"). The General Release Payment includes the release of any and all known or unknown non-wage related claims that Plaintiff may have against Defendant, as set forth above.

3. Class Counsel's Attorneys' Fees and Costs. Defendant agrees not to oppose or object to any application or motion by Class Counsel for the Class Counsel Fees Award for attorneys' fees not to exceed 30% of the Gross Settlement Amount (\$180,000.00), plus a request for the Class Counsel Costs Award for costs and expenses not to exceed Seventeen Thousand Dollars (\$17,000.00), supported by a declaration from Class Counsel, from the Gross Settlement Amount. The Parties agree that any and all claims for reasonable attorneys' fees and costs have been settled by this Agreement and that neither Plaintiff, Settlement Class Members, nor Class Counsel shall seek payment of attorneys' fees or reimbursement of costs/expenses from Defendant except as set forth in this Agreement. Any portion of the requested Class Counsel Fees Award or Class Counsel Costs Award that is not awarded to Class Counsel shall be part of the Net Settlement Amount and shall be distributed to Settlement Class Members as provided in this Agreement. Notwithstanding anything else in this Agreement, Settlement is not contingent upon the Court awarding Class Counsel any particular amount in attorneys' fees and costs and, in the event that the Court does not approve the requested amount of, or reduces the Class Counsel Fees Award and/or Class Counsel Costs Award amounts, Plaintiff and Class Counsel shall not have the right to modify or revoke the Settlement, or to appeal such order, nor will Plaintiff or Class Counsel seek, request, or demand an increase to the Gross Settlement Case No. 3:21-cv-01502-GPC-JLB

Amount on that basis. The Settlement Administrator shall pay the Class Counsel Fees Award and the Class Counsel Costs Award to Class Counsel from the Gross Settlement Amount no later than twenty-five (25) calendar days after the Effective Date. Class Counsel shall be solely and legally responsible to pay all applicable taxes on the payment made pursuant to this paragraph. Class Counsel agrees to provide the Settlement Administrator (and not Defendant or Defendant's counsel) with executed IRS Forms W-9 within five (5) days after the funding date and before payments for the Class Counsel Fees Award and Class Counsel Costs Award are The Settlement Administrator shall issue an IRS Form 1099 — MISC to issued. Class Counsel for the payments made pursuant to this paragraph. Neither Class Counsel nor any other current or past counsel for Plaintiff shall be permitted to petition the Court for, or accept, any additional payments for fees, costs, or interest, and the Class Counsel Fees Award and Class Counsel Costs Award shall be for all claims for attorneys' fees and costs whenever incurred, including past and present fees and costs incurred in the Action to date and through and including the Effective Date, as well as final distribution of all payments under this Settlement Agreement and through and after final judgment. Upon the Gross Settlement Amount funding date, payment of the Class Counsel Fees Award and Class Counsel Costs Award to Class Counsel as set forth herein shall constitute full satisfaction of the obligation to pay any amounts to any person, attorney or law firm for attorneys' fees, expenses or costs in the Action incurred by any attorney on behalf of Plaintiff, the Settlement Class, and/or any of the PAGA Group Members, and shall relieve the Settlement Class, PAGA Group Members, Defendant, the Settlement Administrator, and Defendant's Counsel of any other claims or liability to any other attorney or law firm for any attorneys' fees, expenses and/or costs to which any of them may claim to be entitled on behalf of Plaintiff, the Settlement Class, and/or the PAGA Group Members in connection with the claims released in this Settlement.

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- 4. <u>PAGA Payment</u>. Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000) shall be allocated from the Gross Settlement Amount for settlement of claims for civil penalties under the PAGA. The Settlement Administrator shall pay seventy-five percent (75%) of the PAGA Payment, or \$7,500.00, to the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency no later than twenty-five (25) calendar days after the Effective Date; and the remaining Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$2,500.00) shall be distributed to PAGA Group Members as follows:
- a) Calculation. Using the Employee List, the remaining Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$2,500.00) shall be distributed to all PAGA Group Members, with each receiving a pro rata shared based on the number of Compensable PAGA Periods each PAGA Group Member worked during the PAGA Settlement Period. To establish the value of each Compensable PAGA Period ("Compensable PAGA Period Value"), the Settlement Administrator will first determine the total number of pay periods worked by the PAGA Group Members during the PAGA Settlement Period. The Compensable PAGA Period Value will be equal to Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$2,500.00) divided by the total number of pay periods worked by all PAGA Group Members during the PAGA Settlement Period. The Compensable PAGA Period Value will be rounded to the nearest cent. The payment to each PAGA Group Member will be determined by multiplying the Compensable PAGA Period Value by the total number of Compensable PAGA Periods each PAGA Group Member worked during the PAGA Settlement Period. The total of all payments for all PAGA Group Members shall equal Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$2,500.00). Any partial pay period will be rounded up to the nearest full pay period. The portion of the PAGA Payment paid to the PAGA Group Members shall be treated entirely as penalties. In the event that the Court awards less than the full amount requested

for the PAGA Payment, the un-awarded amount shall remain in the Net Settlement Amount and be distributed to Settlement Class Members.

- b) <u>Mailing</u>. Payments to PAGA Group Members shall be mailed along with Individual Settlement Payments by regular First-Class U.S. Mail to the PAGA Group Member's last known mailing address no later than twenty-five (25) calendar days after the Effective Date.
- C) Expiration. Any checks issued to PAGA Group Members shall remain valid and negotiable for one hundred and eighty (180) days from the date of their issuance. If a PAGA Group Member does not cash his or her settlement check within 180 days, the uncashed funds, plus any accrued interest that has not been distributed pursuant to the Order of this Court, shall be voided by the Settlement Administrator and the Settlement Administrator will take all steps necessary to ensure that the proceeds from the PAGA Group Member's un-cashed check(s), including unpaid cash residue(s), or other unclaimed or abandoned fund(s), shall be distributed by the Settlement Administrator to the California State Controller's Office Unclaimed Property Fund in the name of the PAGA Group Member.
- 5. <u>Settlement Administration Costs</u>. The Settlement Administrator shall be paid for the costs of administration of the Settlement from the Gross Settlement Amount. The Settlement Administration Costs are not to exceed Nine Thousand Dollars (\$9,000.00). The Settlement Administrator shall be paid the Settlement Administration Costs no later than twenty-five (25) calendar days after Defendant provides funds to the Settlement Administrator for disbursement under this Agreement.
- P. <u>Government Actions Affecting Settlement</u>. If any administrative proceeding or action is commenced on or before a date that is one (1) year from the Preliminary Approval Date by any federal, state or local government authority, 34 Case No. 3:21-cv-01502-GPC-JLB

including, without limitation, the U.S. Department of Labor or the California Division of Labor Standards Enforcement, in a *parens patriae* or other function asserting the Released Claims, Plaintiff and Class Counsel will sign an appropriate declaration at the request of Defendant supporting the Settlement and asserting that the governmental action is within the scope of this Stipulation, the Actions and the Final Judgment. Additionally, in the event any action is commenced by a governmental authority as stated herein, Defendant shall have the option to seek an Order from the Court, requesting that payments to the Settlement Class Members be immediately suspended pending the outcome of the suit or administrative proceeding brought by the governmental authority.

- Q. <u>Final Approval Motion</u>. At the earliest practicable time following the expiration of the Response Deadline, Plaintiff shall file with the Court a Motion for Order Granting Final Approval and Entering Judgment, which motion shall request final approval of the Settlement and the amounts payable for the Service Award, General Release Payment, Class Counsel Costs Award, Class Counsel Fees Award, PAGA Payment, Employer Taxes, Settlement Administration Costs, and the credit for Pick-Up Stix Payments. Upon final approval of the Settlement by the Court at or after the Final Approval hearing, the Parties shall present a Proposed Final Judgment to the Court for its approval. Class Counsel will be responsible for drafting all documents necessary to obtain Final Approval, including the Final Judgment.
- 1. <u>Declaration by Settlement Administrator</u>. Upon completion of administration of the Settlement, the Settlement Administrator shall submit a declaration, under penalty of perjury, in support of Plaintiff's motion for final approval of this Settlement detailing (a) the number of Notice Packets mailed and re-mailed to Settlement Class Members, (b) the number of undeliverable Notice Packets, (c) the number of timely Requests for Exclusion, (d) the number of timely

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objections received, (e) the amount of the average Individual Settlement Payment, (f) the Settlement Administration Costs, (g) the confirmed mailing of notices to the federal and state governmental agencies pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1715, and (h) any other information as the Parties mutually agree or the Court orders the Settlement Administrator to provide.

- 2. <u>Final Approval Order and Judgment</u>. The Parties shall present a Judgment and Order Granting Final Approval of Class Action Settlement to the Court for its approval. The Final Judgment shall, among other things:
- (a) Find that the Court has personal jurisdiction over all Settlement Class Members and PAGA Group Members, and that the Court has subject matter jurisdiction to approve this Stipulation and all exhibits thereto;
- (b) Approve this Agreement and the proposed Settlement as fair, reasonable and adequate, consistent and in compliance with all applicable requirements of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, the California and United States Constitutions (including the due process clauses), the Southern District of California Local Rules and any other applicable law, and in the best interests of each of the Parties and the Settlement Class Members and PAGA Group Members; direct the Parties and their counsel to implement this Agreement according to its terms and provisions; and declare this Agreement as to the Released Class Claims to be binding on Plaintiff and all other Settlement Class Members, except those who timely and properly filed Request for Exclusions, as well as their heirs, executors and administrators, successors and assigns, and also declare that the judgment entered by the Court as to the Released PAGA Claims is binding on all PAGA Group Members;
- (c) Find that the Notice and notice methodology implemented pursuant to this Agreement (i) constituted the best practicable notice; (ii) constituted notice that was reasonably calculated, under the circumstances, to apprise Settlement Class Members of the pendency of the Action, their right to

object to or exclude themselves from the proposed Settlement and their right to appear at the Final Settlement Hearing; (iii) were reasonable and constituted due, adequate and sufficient notice to all persons entitled to receive notice; and (iv) met all applicable requirements of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, the California and United States Constitutions (including the Due Process Clause), the Southern District Local Rules and any other applicable law;

- (d) Find that Plaintiff and Class Counsel adequately represented the Settlement Class for purposes of entering into and implementing the settlement;
- (e) Dismiss the Action (including all individual claims, Released Class Claims and Released PAGA Claims) with prejudice, without fees or costs to any party except as provided in this Stipulation;
- (f) (i) Without affecting the finality of the Final Judgment, the Court shall retain continuing jurisdiction over the Action, the Parties, and the Settlement Class, as well as the administration and enforcement of the Settlement. Any disputes or controversies arising with respect to the interpretation, consummation, enforcement, or implementation of the Settlement shall be presented by motion to the Court;
- R. Option to Terminate Settlement. If, after the Response Deadline, the total number of Settlement Class Members who submitted timely and valid Requests for Exclusion from the Settlement is at least five percent (5%) of all Settlement Class Members, Defendant shall have, in its sole discretion, the option to terminate this Settlement. If Defendant exercises the option to terminate this Settlement, Defendant shall: (a) provide written notice to Class Counsel within seven (7) calendar days after the Response Deadline and (b) pay all Settlement Administration Costs incurred up to the date or as a result of the termination; and the Parties shall proceed in all respects as if this Agreement had not been executed.

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- S. <u>Motions for Preliminary and Final Approval</u>. Class Counsel will provide an opportunity for Counsel for Defendant to review the Motions for Preliminary and Final Approval prior to filing with the Court. The Parties and their counsel will cooperate with each other and use their best efforts to seek Court approval of the Motions for Preliminary and Final Approval of the Settlement.
- Т. No Impact on Benefit Plans. Neither this Settlement nor any amounts paid under the Settlement will modify any previously credited hours or service under any employee benefit plan, policy, or bonus program sponsored by Defendant. Such amounts will not form the basis for additional contributions to, benefits under, or any other monetary entitlement under Defendant-sponsored benefit plans, policies, or bonus programs. The payments made under the terms of this Stipulation shall not be applied retroactively, currently, or on a going forward basis, as salary, earnings, wages, or any other form of compensation for the purposes of Defendant's benefit plan, policy, or bonus program. Defendant retains the right to modify the language of its benefit plans, policies and bonus programs to effect this intent, and to make clear that any amounts paid pursuant to this Settlement are not for "hours worked," "hours paid," "hours of service," or any similar measuring term as defined by applicable plans, policies and bonus programs for purposes of eligibility, vesting, benefit accrual, or any other purpose, and that additional contributions or benefits are not required by this Settlement.
- U. <u>Notices</u>. Unless otherwise specifically provided herein, all notices, demands, or other communications given hereunder shall be in writing and shall be deemed to have been duly given as of the third (3rd) business day after mailing by United States certified mail, return receipt requested, addressed as follows:

To Plaintiff and the Settlement Class:

Sam Kim

VERUM LAW GROUP, APC

841 Apollo Street, Suite 340

El Segundo, CA 90245

Telephone: (424) 320-2000 Facsimile: (424) 221-5010

To Defendant:

Tracey Kennedy
SHEPPARD, MULLIN, RICHTER & HAMPTON LLP
A Limited Liability Partnership
Including Professional Corporations
333 South Hope Street, 43rd Floor

Los Angeles, California 90071 Telephone: 213.620.1780 Facsimile: 213.620.1398

- V. <u>Cooperation</u>. The Parties and their counsel will cooperate with each other and use their best efforts to implement the Settlement. The Parties have cooperated in the drafting and preparation of this Settlement Agreement. Hence, in any construction made to this Settlement Agreement, the same shall not be construed against any of the Parties
- W. <u>Admissibility of Agreement</u>. This Agreement shall not be admissible in any proceeding for any purpose, except to enforce it according to its terms.
- X. <u>Amendment or Modification</u>. This Agreement may be amended or modified only by a written instrument signed by counsel for all Parties or their successors-in-interest, and approved by the Court.
- Y. <u>Entire Agreement</u>. This Agreement and any attached Exhibits 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 Exhibits other than the representations, warranties and covenants contained and memorialized in the Agreement and its Exhibits.

- Z. Authorization to Enter Into Settlement Agreement. Counsel for all Parties warrant and represent they are expressly authorized by the Parties whom they 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 persons signing this Agreement on behalf of Defendant represent and warrant that they are authorized to sign this Agreement on behalf of Defendant. Plaintiff represents and warrant that he is authorized to sign this Agreement and that he has not assigned any claim, or part of a claim, covered by this Settlement to a third-party.
- AA. <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.
- BB. <u>California Law Governs</u>. All terms of this Agreement and the Exhibits hereto and any disputes arising hereunder shall be governed by and interpreted according to the laws of the State of California.
- CC. <u>Counterparts</u>. This Agreement may be executed in one or more counterparts. All executed counterparts and each of them shall be deemed to be one and the same instrument provided that counsel for the Parties to this Agreement shall exchange among themselves copies or originals of the signed counterparts.
- DD. 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 arms-length negotiations, taking into account all relevant factors, present and potential. This Settlement was reached after extensive negotiations and mediation with a well-renowned class action mediator.

EE. <u>Jurisdiction of the Court</u>. 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.

FF. <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. Should the Court deem any clause or provision of this Agreement be invalid, illegal, or unenforceable, it shall first attempt to modify or reform it as minimally necessary to be valid, lawful, and enforceable.

GG. Publicity. Neither Plaintiff nor Plaintiff's counsel shall issue any press release or announcement of any kind related in any way to the settlement. Plaintiff and Plaintiff's counsel agree that, prior to preliminary approval of the settlement, they will keep the terms of the settlement confidential except for purposes of communicating with Plaintiff only. Plaintiff understands that the settlement is confidential and shall keep the settlement confidential. From and after preliminary approval of the settlement, Plaintiff and Plaintiff's counsel may: (1) as required by law; (2) as required under the terms of the settlement; or (3) as required under counsel's duties and responsibilities as class counsel, comment regarding the specific terms of the settlement. In all other cases, Plaintiff and Plaintiff's counsel agree to limit their statements regarding the terms of the settlement, whether oral, written or electronic (including the world wide web), to say the Lawsuit has been resolved and that Plaintiff and Plaintiff's counsel are satisfied with the settlement Case No. 3:21-cv-01502-GPC-JLB

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terms. Nothing in this Paragraph is intended to interfere with Plaintiff's counsel's duties and obligations to faithfully discharge their duties as class counsel, including but not limited to, communicating with Settlement Class Members regarding the settlement, and nothing shall prohibit Plaintiff's counsel from referring to the settlement in adequacy of counsel declarations or related court filings.

- HH. Waiver of Certain Appeals. Except as provided herein, the Parties agree to waive any and all rights to appeal, this waiver being contingent upon the Court entering the Final Judgment. This waiver includes waiver of all rights to any post-judgment proceeding and appellate proceeding, including, but not limited to, motions for relief from judgment and motions to amend or alter the judgment.
- II. No Admissions. Plaintiff has claimed and continues to claim that the Released Class Claims and Released PAGA Claims have merit and give rise to liability on the part of Defendant. Defendant has claimed and continues to claim that the Released Class Claims and Released PAGA Claims have no merit and do not give rise to liability. This Agreement is a compromise of disputed claims. Nothing contained in this Agreement and no documents referred to herein and no action taken to carry out this Agreement may be construed or used as an admission by or against the Defendant or Plaintiff or Class Counsel as to the merits or lack thereof of the claims asserted. Whether or not the Settlement is finally approved, neither the Settlement, nor any document, statement, proceeding or conduct related to this Settlement Agreement, nor any reports or accounts thereof, shall in any event be: (1) construed as, offered or admitted in evidence as, received as, or deemed to be evidence for any purpose adverse to the Released Parties, including, but not limited to, evidence of a presumption, concession, indication or admission by any of the Released Parties of any liability, fault, wrongdoing, omission, concession or damage; or (2) disclosed, referred to or offered or received in evidence against any of the Released Parties, in any further proceeding in the Lawsuits, or any other Case No. 3:21-cv-01502-GPC-JLB

1	civil, criminal or administrative	action or proceeding, except for purposes of
2	settling the Lawsuits pursuant to this Settlement Agreement.	
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4	02 2000	Manua
5		Plaintiff Miguel Guerrero
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10		Defendant United States Gypsum
11		Company Noreen Cleary
12		Chief Human Resources Officer
13		
14	AGREED AS TO FORM:	
15		
16	Dated: March, 2022	
17	Dated. Water, 2022	Sam Kim
18		Verum Law Group, APC Attorneys for Plaintiff
19		This is a summer
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22		
23	Dated: March, 2022	Tracay A Vannady
24		Tracey A. Kennedy Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP
25		Attorneys for Defendant
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		43 Case No. 3:21-cv-01502-GPC-JLE
	STIPULATION, SETTLEMENT, A	AND RELEASE OF CLASS ACTION AND PRIVATE LYS GENERAL ACT CLAIMS
	ATTORNE	TO OLIVERAD HOT OLIVE

1	civil, criminal or administrative action or proceeding, except for purposes of	
2	settling the Lawsuits pursuant to this	Settlement Agreement.
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5	Dated: March, 2022	
6		Plaintiff Miguel Guerrero
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8		Dan & Plane
9	Dated: March <u>22</u> , 2022	Moreur & Cleary
10		Defendant United States Gypsum Company
11		Noreen Cleary
12		Chief Human Resources Officer
13		
14	AGREED AS TO FORM:	
15		
16	Dated: March, 2022	
17	Dated: Water	Sam Kim
18		Verum Law Group, APC
19		Attorneys for Plaintiff
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22		Jun
23	Dated: March <u>24</u> , 2022	
24		Tracey A. Kennedy Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP
25		Attorneys for Defendant
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		43 Case No. 3:21-cv-01502-GPC-JLB

1	civil, criminal or administrative act	tion or proceeding, except for purposes of
2	settling the Lawsuits pursuant to this	Settlement Agreement.
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5	Dated: March, 2022	Distriction of Community
6		Plaintiff Miguel Guerrero
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9	Dated: March, 2022	
10		Defendant United States Gypsum Company
11		Noreen Cleary
12		Chief Human Resources Officer
13	A CREED A C TO FORM	
14	AGREED AS TO FORM:	
15		
16	Dated: March <u>24</u> , 2022	
17		Sam Kim
18		Verum Law Group, APC Attorneys for Plaintiff
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21		
22		
23	Dated: March, 2022	Tracey A. Kennedy
24		Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP
25		Attorneys for Defendant
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27		
28		
		43 Case No. 3:21-cv-01502-GPC-JLB