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

PLATON ARVIZU, as an individual and on
behalf of all others similarly situated,

Plaintiff,

vs.

VASTAGO HARVESTING, INC., a California
corporation; MONTEREY PACIFIC, INC., a
California corporation and DOES 1 through
100,

Defendants.

Case No. 19CV002574

*[Assigned for all purposes to the Hon. Lydia
M. Villarreal, Dept. 13]*

~~PROPOSED~~ ORDER GRANTING
PRELIMINARY APPROVAL OF CLASS
ACTION SETTLEMENT

Date: July 13, 2021
Time: 8:30 a.m.
Dept.: 13

Action Filed: July 27, 2019
Trial Date: None Set

~~**[PROPOSED] ORDER**~~

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2 The Motion of Plaintiff Platon Arvizu (“Plaintiff”) for Preliminary Approval of Class
3 Action Settlement came regularly for hearing before this court on July 13, 2021, at 8:30 a.m. The
4 Court, having considered the proposed Stipulation of Settlement (“Settlement Agreement” or
5 “Settlement”), attached as Exhibit A to the Declaration of Fletcher W. Schmidt filed concurrently
6 with the Motion; having considered Plaintiff’s Motion for Preliminary Approval of Class Action
7 Settlement, the memorandum of points and authorities in support thereof, and supporting
8 declarations filed therewith; and good cause appearing, **HEREBY ORDERS THE FOLLOWING:**

9
10 1. The Court GRANTS preliminary approval of the class action settlement as set
11 forth in the Settlement Agreement, and finds its terms to be within the range of reasonableness of
12 a settlement that ultimately could be granted approval by the Court at a Final Fairness hearing.

13 2. The Court preliminarily approves the terms of the Settlement Agreement and finds
14 that they fall within the range of approval as fair, adequate and reasonable. Based on a review of
15 the papers submitted by Plaintiff, the Court finds that the Settlement is the result of arms’-length
16 negotiations conducted after Plaintiff and/or Plaintiff’s counsel adequately investigated the claims
17 and became familiar with the strengths and weaknesses of the claims. The assistance of an
18 experienced mediator in the settlement process supports the Court's conclusion that the Settlement
19 is non-collusive and reasonable. The Settlement is presumptively valid, subject only to any
20 objections that may be raised pursuant to the terms of the Settlement Agreement.

21 3. For purposes of the Settlement, the Court finds that the proposed Settlement Class
22 is ascertainable and that there is a sufficiently well-defined community of interest among the
23 members of the Settlement Class in questions of law and fact. Therefore, for settlement purposes
24 only, the Court grants conditional certification of the following Settlement Class:

25 All current and former non-exempt employees of Vastago Harvesting, Inc. who
26 performed work for Defendant Monterey Pacific, Inc. from June 1, 2016 through
27 November 18, 2019 (the “Class Period”).

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1 4. For purposes of the Settlement, the Court designates named Plaintiff Platon Arvizu
2 as Class Representative, and designates Paul K. Haines, Fletcher W. Schmidt, Matthew K. Moen,
3 and Alma V. Montenegro of Haines Law Group, APC as Class Counsel.

4 5. The Court designates Phoenix Settlement Administrators as the third-party
5 Settlement Administrator for mailing notices.

6 6. The Court approves, as to form and content, the Notice of Class Action Settlement
7 (“Class Notice”) and the Notice of Individual Settlement Payment (collectively referred to as the
8 “Notice Packet”) attached as Exhibit B to the Declaration of Fletcher W. Schmidt.

9 7. The Court finds that the form of notice to the Settlement Class regarding the
10 pendency of the action and of the Settlement, and the methods of giving notice to Settlement Class
11 Members, constitute the best notice practicable under the circumstances, and constitute valid, due,
12 and sufficient notice to all Settlement Class Members. The form and method of giving notice
13 complies fully with the requirements of California Code of Civil Procedure section 382, California
14 Rules of Court 3.766 and 3.769, the California and United States Constitutions, and other
15 applicable law.

16 8. The Court further approves the procedures for Settlement Class Members to opt-
17 out of or object to the Settlement, as set forth in the Class Notice and the Settlement Agreement.

18 9. The procedures and requirements for submitting objections in connection with the
19 Final Approval Hearing are intended to ensure the efficient administration of justice and the
20 orderly presentation of any Settlement Class Member’s objection to the Settlement, in accordance
21 with the due process rights of all Settlement Class Members.

22 10. The Court directs the Settlement Administrator to mail the Notice Packet to the
23 Settlement Class Members in English and Spanish, in accordance with the terms of the Settlement.

24 11. The Class Notice shall provide at least 60 calendar days’ notice for Settlement
25 Class Members to submit disputes, opt-out of, or object to the Settlement.

26 12. The Final Approval Hearing on the question of whether the Settlement Agreement
27 should be finally approved as fair, reasonable and adequate is scheduled on
28 At counsel's request, 2021 at 8:30 a.m. / ~~p.m.~~ in Department 13 of this Court,

1 Monterey Courthouse, located at 1200 Aguajito Road, Monterey, California 93940. The Court
 2 reserves the right to continue the date of the Final Approval Hearing without further notice to the
 3 Settlement Class Members. The Court retains jurisdiction to consider all further applications
 4 arising out of or in connection with the Settlement Agreement.

5 13. At the Final Approval Hearing, the Court will consider: (a) whether the Settlement
 6 Agreement should be approved as fair, reasonable, and adequate for the Settlement Class; (b)
 7 whether a judgment granting final approval of the Settlement should be entered; and (c) whether
 8 Plaintiff’s application for an incentive award, settlement administration costs, payment to the
 9 California Labor and Workforce Development Agency (“LWDA”) for its 75% share of civil
 10 penalties under the Private Attorneys General Act (“PAGA”), Labor Code section 2698 *et seq.*,
 11 and Class Counsel’s attorneys’ fees and costs should be granted.

12 14. Counsel for the parties shall file memoranda, declarations, or other statements and
 13 materials in support of their request for final approval of the Settlement and Plaintiff’s application
 14 for an enhancement payment, settlement administration costs, payment to the LWDA for its share
 15 of PAGA penalties, and Class Counsel’s attorneys’ fees and costs prior to the Final Approval
 16 Hearing according to the time limits set by the Code of Civil Procedure and the California Rules
 17 of Court.

18 15. An implementation schedule is provided below (assuming the Court grants
 19 preliminary approval of the Settlement on July 13, 2021):

Event	Date
Defendant to provide class contact information to Settlement Administrator no later than:	July 27, 2021
Settlement Administrator to mail the Notice Packet to the Settlement Class Members no later than:	August 10, 2021
Deadline for Class Members to submit disputes, request exclusion from, or object to the Settlement:	October 9, 2021
Deadline for Plaintiff to file Motion for Final Approval of Class Action Settlement:	At least 16 court days prior to Final Approval Hearing
Final Approval Hearing	<input type="checkbox"/> November 16, 2021 at ___ a.m./p.m. <input type="checkbox"/> _____, 2021

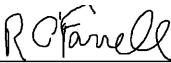
1 16. Pending the Final Approval Hearing, all proceedings in this action, other than
2 proceedings necessary to carry out or enforce the terms and conditions of the Settlement and this
3 Order, are stayed.

4 17. Counsel for the parties are hereby authorized to utilize all reasonable procedures
5 in connection with the administration of the Settlement which are not materially inconsistent with
6 either this Order or the terms of the Settlement.

7 18. In the event the Settlement is not finally approved, or otherwise does not become
8 effective in accordance with the terms of the Settlement, this Order shall be rendered null and
9 void and shall be vacated, and the parties shall revert to their respective positions as of before
10 entering into the Settlement.

11 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

12
13 Dated: **July 23, 2021**, 2021

 **Robert O'Farrell**
~~Honorable Lydia M. Villarreal~~
Judge of the Superior Court