1 Larry W. Lee (State Bar No. 228175) FILED Kristen M. Agnew (State Bar No. 247656) KERN COUNTY 2 Nicholas Rosenthal (State Bar No. 268297) DIVERSITY LAW GROUP, P.C. 3 515 S. Figueroa Street, Suite 1250 4 Los Angeles, CA 90071 (213) 488-6555 5 (213) 488-6554 facsimile 6 Attorneys for Plaintiff and the Class 7 8 9 SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA 10 FOR THE COUNTY OF KERN 11 Case No.: BCV-20-101799 12 GEORGE MARIN, JR., as an individual and on behalf of all others similarly 13 [Assigned for all purposes the Hon. Thomas S. situated. Clark, Dept. 17] 14 Plaintiff, PROPOSED ORDER GRANTING 15 PLAINTIFF'S MOTION FOR FINAL VS. 16 APPROVAL OF CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT AND JUDGMENT DREYER'S GRAND ICE CREAM, 17 INC., a Delaware corporation; NESTLE DREYER'S ICE CREAM COMPANY, a Date: July 22, 2022 18 Delaware corporation; and DOES 1 Time: 8:30 A.M. 19 through 50, inclusive, Dept.: 17 20 Complaint Filed: August 4, 2020 Defendants. Trial Date: None 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28

Plaintiff George Marin, Jr. ("Plaintiff") and Defendants Dreyer's Grand Ice Cream, Inc. and Nestle Dreyer's Ice Cream Company ("Defendants") (collectively, the "Settling Parties") have entered into the Joint Stipulation and Settlement of Class Action ("Settlement Agreement" or "Stipulation") to settle the above-captioned class action subject to the Court's approval (the "Settlement").

This matter is now before the Court on Plaintiff's Motion for Final Approval of Class Action Settlement. The Court has read, heard, and considered all the pleadings and documents submitted, and the presentations made in connection with the Motion which came on for hearing on July 22, 2022.

## I. BACKGROUND

On August 4, 2020, Plaintiff initiated this action in the Superior Court of the State of California for the County of Kern, alleging the following class action claims: (1) violation of Labor Code §§ 510, 558, and 1194; (2) violation of Labor Code §§ 201, 202, and 203; (3) violation of Labor Code §§ 226.7 and 512; (4) violation of Labor Code § 226.7; and (5) violation of Business and Professions Code § 17200, *et seq*.

## A. Class Members and PAGA Representative Action Members

The "Class Members" are defined as: All current and former nonexempt employees employed by Nestlé Dreyer's Ice Cream Company who: (a) worked at any time during the Class Period at either the Dreyer's Tulare, California or Bakersfield, California facilities; (b) were not members of the union during the Class Period; and (c) did not previously release the claims alleged in the Action (the "Class").

## B. Operation of the Settlement

Pursuant to the Preliminary Approval Order, this Court conditionally certified the Class and granted preliminary approval of the Settlement. The Preliminary Approval Order also approved of the proposed form of class notice and notice plan. The Court entered the Preliminary Approval Order after review and consideration of the pleadings filed in connection herewith, and the oral presentations made by counsel at the hearing.

In compliance with the Preliminary Approval Order, the Notice of Class Action

Settlement ("Notice") was sent to all Class Members via U.S. first class mail. The notice dissemination process was timely completed.

This Court finds that the Settlement appears to be the product of serious, informed, non-collusive negotiations, has no obvious deficiencies, and does not improperly grant preferential treatment to any individuals. The Court further finds that the Settlement is fair, reasonable, and adequate and that Plaintiff has satisfied the standards for final approval of a class action settlement under California law. Under the provisions of California Code of Civil Procedure § 382 and Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23, as approved for use by the California state court in *Vasquez v. Superior Court* (1971) 4 Cal. 3d 800, 821, the trial court has discretion to certify a class where:

[Q]uestions of law or fact common to the members of the class predominate over any questions affecting only individual members, and that a class action is superior to the available methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of the controversy ... Fed. R. Civ. Proc. 23.

Certification of a settlement class is the appropriate judicial device under these circumstances.

Based on the foregoing, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED AS FOLLOWS:

- 1. The Court, for purposes of this Order, adopts all defined terms as set forth in the Settlement Agreement filed in this case.
- The Court has jurisdiction over the subject matter of the litigation, the Class
  Representative, the other members of the Participating Settlement Class, and Defendants.
- 3. The Court finds that the dissemination of the Notice to the Class Members constituted the best notice practicable under the circumstances to all persons within the definition of the Class, and fully met the requirements of California law and due process under the United States Constitution. No objections were received by the Parties or the Court through the date of this Order. The Court finds that no Class Member submitted a request for exclusion from the settlement as determined by the Claims Administrator.
  - 4. The Court approves the settlement of the above-captioned action, as set forth in

the Settlement Agreement, as fair, just, reasonable, and adequate as to the Settling Parties. The
Settling Parties are directed to perform in accordance with the terms set forth in the Settlement
Agreement. members by posting the order and judgment on the settleme

- 5. Except as otherwise provided in the Settlement Agreement, the Settling Parties (are to bear their own costs and attorneys' fees.
- 6. The Court hereby certifies the following Class for settlement purposes only: All current and former nonexempt employees employed by Nestlé Dreyer's Ice Cream Company who: (a) worked at any time during the Class Period at either the Dreyer's Tulare, California or Bakersfield, California facilities; (b) were not members of the union during the Class Period; and (c) did not previously release the claims alleged in the Action.
- 7. With respect to the Class and for purposes of approving the Settlement only and for no other purpose, this Court finds and concludes that: (a) the members of the Class are ascertainable and so numerous that joinder of all members is impracticable; (b) there are questions of law or fact common to the Class, and there is a well-defined community of interest among members of the Class with respect to the subject matter of the claims in the Litigation; (c) the claims of Class Representative is typical of the claims of the members of the Class; (d) the Class Representative has fairly and adequately protected the interests of the members of the Class; (e) a class action is superior to other available methods for an efficient adjudication of this controversy; and (f) the counsel of record for the Class Representative, *i.e.*, Class Counsel, are qualified to serve as counsel for the Plaintiff in her individual and representative capacity and for the Class.
- 8. Defendants shall fund \$200,000.00 of the total settlement amount pursuant to the terms of the Settlement Agreement.
- 9. The Court approves the individual settlement payment amounts, which shall be distributed pursuant to the terms of the Settlement Agreement.
- 10. The \$200,000.00 Settlement Amount shall be used to pay (a) Class Counsel attorneys' fees in the amount of \$66,666.00 and reimbursement of litigation costs in the amount of \$14,002.93; (b) a service award to the Class Representative George Marin, Jr. to

reimburse him for his unique services in the following amount: \$10,000.00; and (c) \$8,750.00 to the settlement administrator – Phoenix Settlement Administrators (the "Claims Administrator") for its fees and costs relating to the settlement administration process. The Court finds that these amounts are fair and reasonable. Defendants are directed to make such payments in accordance with the terms of the Settlement Agreement. The allocation and distribution of these amounts shall be performed by Claims Administrator.

- 11. As of the date of this Order, all Participating Settlement Class Members are hereby deemed to have waived and released all Released Claims and are forever barred and enjoined from prosecuting the Released Claims against the Released Parties as fully set forth in the Settlement Agreement. The Settlement Agreement is not an admission of liability or wrongdoing by Defendants, nor is this Order a finding of the validity of any claims in the Action or of any fault, omission, or wrongdoing by Defendants.
- 12. The Court hereby enters final judgment in this case in accordance with the terms of the Settlement, Preliminary Approval Order, and this Order.
- 13. Without affecting the finality of the Settlement or Judgment entered, this Court shall retain exclusive and continuing jurisdiction over the action and the Parties, including all Participating Settlement Class Members, for purposes of enforcing and interpreting this Order and the Settlement.

IT IS SO ORDERED AND ADJUDGED.

DATED: 7-22-22

HON. THOMAS S. CLARK

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA