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**FILED**  
Superior Court of California,  
County of Madera  
**10/20/2023**

Adrienne Calip / Clerk of Court  
By: Beatriz Tavera, Deputy Clerk

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

LUIS SANCHEZ, as an individual and on behalf  
of all others similarly situated,

Plaintiff,

vs.

MADERA CALF RANCH, INC., a California  
corporation; and DOES 1 through 100,

Defendants.

Case No.: MCV086823

[Assigned for all purposes to the Hon.  
Brian Enos, Dept. 45]

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

Date: October 20, 2023  
Time: 8:30 a.m.  
Dept.: 45

Complaint Filed: March 28, 2022  
Trial Date: None Set

1           The unopposed motion of Plaintiff Luis Sanchez (“Plaintiff”) for Preliminary Approval  
2 of Class Action Settlement came on regularly for hearing before this Court on October 20, 2023,  
3 at 8:30 a.m. The Court, having considered the proposed Stipulation of Class and PAGA  
4 Settlement (the “Settlement” or “Settlement Agreement”), attached as Exhibit A to the  
5 Declaration of Daniel J. Brown filed concurrently herewith; having considered Plaintiff’s Motion  
6 for Preliminary Approval of Class Action Settlement, Memorandum of Points and Authorities in  
7 support thereof, and supporting declarations filed therewith; and good cause appearing, HEREBY  
8 ORDERS THE FOLLOWING:

9           1.       The Court GRANTS the Parties’ request to file the Second Amended Class and  
10 Representative Action Complaint (“SAC”), attached as Exhibit C to the Declaration of Daniel J.  
11 Brown filed concurrently herewith. The SAC shall be deemed filed as of the date of this Order.  
12 Defendant’s Answer to the Complaint shall be deemed its Answer to the SAC.

13           2.       The Court GRANTS preliminary approval of the class action settlement as set  
14 forth in the Settlement and finds its terms to be within the range of reasonableness of a settlement  
15 that ultimately could be granted approval by the Court at a Final Fairness Hearing. For purposes  
16 of the Settlement, the Court finds that the proposed Settlement Class is ascertainable and that  
17 there is a sufficiently well-defined community of interest among the members of the Settlement  
18 Class in questions of law and fact. Therefore, for settlement purposes only, the Court grants  
19 conditional certification of the following Settlement Class:

20                   All current and former non-exempt employees of Defendant Madera  
21                   Calf Ranch, Inc. who worked for Defendant in California at any time  
22                   from March 28, 2018 through April 14, 2023 (“Class Period”).

23           3.       For purposes of the Settlement, the Court designates Luis Sanchez as Class  
24 Representative and Daniel J. Brown and Jessica Flores of Stansbury Brown Law, PC as Class  
25 Counsel.

26           4.       The Court designates Apex Class Action Settlement Administrators as the third-  
27 party Settlement Administrator for mailing notices.

28           5.       The Court approves, as to form and content, the Notice of Pendency of Class  
Action and Proposed Settlement (“Class Notice”) attached as Exhibit B to the Declaration of

1 Daniel J. Brown filed concurrently herewith.

2 6. The Court finds that the form of notice to the Settlement Class regarding the  
3 pendency of the action and of the Settlement, and the methods of giving notice to members of the  
4 Settlement Class constitute the best notice practicable under the circumstances, and constitute  
5 valid, due, and sufficient notice to all members of the Settlement Class. The form and method of  
6 giving notice complies fully with the requirements of California Code of Civil Procedure section  
7 382, California Civil Code section 1781, California Rules of Court 3.766 and 3.769, the California  
8 and United States Constitutions, and other applicable law.

9 7. The Court further approves the procedures for Settlement Class Members to opt  
10 out of or object to the Settlement, as set forth in the Class Notice.

11 8. The procedures and requirements for filing objections in connection with the Final  
12 Fairness Hearing are intended to ensure the efficient administration of justice and the orderly  
13 presentation of any Settlement Class Member's objection to the Settlement, in accordance with  
14 the due process rights of all Settlement Class Members.

15 9. The Court directs the Settlement Administrator to mail the Class Notice to the  
16 members of the Settlement Class in accordance with the terms of the Settlement. The Court directs  
17 the Settlement Administrator to carry out all duties as required by the Settlement.

18 10. The Class Notice shall provide at least 60 calendar days' notice for Settlement  
19 Class Members to opt out of, or object to, the Settlement. Any request for exclusion or written  
20 objection shall be submitted directly to the Settlement Administrator and not filed with the Court.  
21 Upon receipt of any requests for exclusion or written objection, the Settlement Administrator  
22 shall forward copies of all requests for exclusion or written objection to counsel for all Parties.  
23 The Settlement Administrator shall file a declaration concurrently with the filing of the Motion  
24 for Final Approval of Class Action Settlement which authenticates a copy of every written  
25 objection received by the Settlement Administrator.

26 11. The Final Fairness Hearing on the question of whether the Settlement should be  
27 finally approved as fair, reasonable, and adequate is scheduled in Department 45 of this Court,  
28 located at 200 S. G Street, Madera, California 93637 on February 23, 2024 at 9<sup>00</sup> a.m.

1 12. At the Final Fairness Hearing, the Court will consider: (a) whether the Settlement  
2 should be finally approved as fair, reasonable, and adequate for the Settlement Class; (b) whether  
3 a judgment granting final approval of the Settlement should be entered; and (c) whether Plaintiff's  
4 application for reasonable attorneys' fees, reimbursement of litigation expenses, Service Award  
5 to Plaintiff, and payment to the Labor and Workforce Development Agency ("LWDA") for  
6 penalties under the Labor Code Private Attorneys General Act ("PAGA") should be granted.

7 13. Counsel for the Parties shall file memoranda, declarations, or other statements and  
8 materials in support of their request for final approval of the Settlement, attorneys' fees, litigation  
9 expenses, Plaintiff's Service Award, settlement administration costs, and payment to the LWDA  
10 for PAGA penalties prior to the Final Fairness Hearing according to the time limits set by the  
11 Code of Civil Procedure and the California Rules of Court.

12 14. An implementation schedule is below:

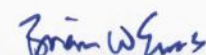
Event	Date
Defendant to provide class list to Settlement Administrator no later than:	November 3, 2023
Settlement Administrator to mail Class Notice and Request for Exclusion Form to Class Members no later than:	November 10, 2023
Deadline for Settlement Class members to request exclusion from, or object to, the Settlement:	January 9, 2024
Deadline for Plaintiff to file Motion for Final Approval of Class Action Settlement:	16 Court Days Prior To Final Fairness Hearing
Final Fairness Hearing:	2/23/24 (10:45 AM)

20 15. Pending the Final Fairness Hearing, all deadlines, including discovery and class  
21 certification deadlines, and proceedings in this action other than proceedings necessary to carry  
22 out or enforce the terms and conditions of the Settlement and this Order, are stayed.

23 16. Counsel for the Parties are hereby authorized to utilize all reasonable procedures  
24 in connection with the administration of the Settlement which are not materially inconsistent with  
25 either this Order or the terms of the Settlement.

26 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

27 Dated: October 20, 2023



Judge of the Superior Court