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18 SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
19 COUNTY OF SAN JOAQUIN

20 OSCAR VALLADAREZ, individually and  
21 on behalf of others similarly situated,

22 Plaintiff,

23 vs.

24 AZCO SUPPLY, INC., a California  
25 corporation; and DOES 1 through 50,  
26 inclusive,

27 Defendants.

Case No.: STK-CV-UOE-2024-0002212

Assigned for All Purposes to: Hon. Barbara  
Kronlund, Dept. 10D

CLASS ACTION

~~[PROPOSED]~~ ORDER GRANTING  
MOTION FOR PRELIMINARY  
APPROVAL OF CLASS ACTION AND  
PAGA SETTLEMENT

Hearing Date: July 22, 23, 24, 25, 29, 2025  
Time: 9:00 a.m.  
Dept: 10D

Complaint Filed: February 22, 2024  
Trial Date: None Set

Filed JUL 25 2026  
STEPHANIE BONHEP, CLERK  
By *[Signature]*  
DEPUTY

BY FAX

~~PROPOSED~~ ORDER

The Motion of Plaintiff Oscar Valladares ("Plaintiff") for Preliminary Approval of Class Action and PAGA Settlement ("Motion") came regularly for hearing before this Court on 7/25/2025, 2025. The Court, having fully reviewed Plaintiff's Motion, the Points and Authorities and Declarations filed in support thereof, the Parties' Joint Stipulation of Class Action and PAGA Settlement ("Settlement" or "Settlement Agreement") attached as Exhibit 1 to the Declaration of Heather Davis filed concurrently with the Motion, and the proposed Notice of Settlement ("Notice"), and in recognition of the Court's duty to make a preliminary determination as to the reasonableness of any proposed Class Actions settlement, and if preliminarily determined to be reasonable, to ensure proper notice is provided to Class Members in accordance with due process requirements; and to conduct a Final Approval hearing as to the good faith, fairness, adequacy and reasonableness of any proposed settlement, THE COURT HEREBY MAKES THE FOLLOWING DETERMINATIONS AND ORDERS:

1. The Court GRANTS preliminary approval of the class action settlement as set forth in the Settlement Agreement and finds its terms to be within the range of reasonableness of a settlement that ultimately could be granted approval by the Court at a Final Fairness hearing. All terms used herein shall have the same meaning as defined in the Settlement Agreement. For purposes of the Settlement only, the Court finds that the proposed Class is ascertainable and that there is a sufficiently well-defined community of interest among the members of the Class in questions of law and fact. Therefore, for settlement purposes only, the Court grants conditional certification of the following settlement Class:

All current and former hourly-paid, non-exempt employees of Defendant Azco Supply, Inc. who were employed by Defendant Azco Supply, Inc. in the State of California at any time between February 22, 2020, and May 7, 2025.

2. The Court hereby preliminarily approves the definition of the "PAGA Members" as "all current and former non-exempt employees of Defendant Azco Supply, Inc. who were employed by Defendant Azco Supply, Inc. in the State of California at any time between February 12, 2024, and May 7, 2025."

1           3. For purposes of the Settlement only, the Court designates Plaintiff Oscar  
2 Valladarez as the Class Representative and designates Protection Law Group, LLP as Class  
3 Counsel.

4           4. The Court designates Apex Class Action, LLC as the third-party Settlement  
5 Administrator.

6           5. The Parties are ordered to implement the Settlement according to the terms of the  
7 Settlement Agreement.

8           6. The Court approves, as to form and content, the Court Approved Notice of Class  
9 and PAGA Action Settlement ("Class Notice") attached as Exhibit A to the Settlement  
10 Agreement.

11           7. The Court finds that the form of notice to the Class regarding the pendency of the  
12 Action and of the Settlement, the dates selected for mailing and distribution, and the methods of  
13 giving notice to members of the Class, satisfy the requirements of due process, constitute the best  
14 notice practicable under the circumstances, and constitute valid, due, and sufficient notice to all  
15 members of the Class. The form and method of giving notice complies fully with the requirements  
16 of California Code of Civil Procedure § 382, California Civil Code § 1781, California Rules of  
17 Court §§ 3.766 and 3.769, the California and United States Constitutions, and other applicable  
18 law.

19           8. The Court further approves the procedures for Class Members to opt-out of or  
20 object to the Settlement, as set forth in the Class Notice and the Settlement Agreement. The  
21 procedures and requirements for filing objections in connection with the final fairness hearing are  
22 intended to ensure the efficient administration of justice and the orderly presentation of any Class  
23 Member's objection to the Settlement, in accordance with the due process rights of all Class  
24 Members.

25           9. Within fourteen (14) calendar days of the issuance of this Order, Defendant shall  
26 provide the Settlement Administrator with the Class List as specified in the Settlement  
27 Agreement.

28           10. Within seven (7) calendar days after receipt of the Class Member information from

1 Defendant, the Settlement Administrator shall mail the Class Notice to the members of the Class  
2 in accordance with the terms of the Settlement.

3 11. The hearing on Plaintiff's Motion for Final Approval of Settlement on the question  
4 of whether the Settlement should be finally approved as fair, reasonable, and adequate is  
5 scheduled in Department 10D of this Court, located at 180 E. Weber Ave., Stockton, California  
6 95202, on 11/21/25, at 9 a.m./p.m.

7 12. At the Final Approval Hearing, the Court will consider: (a) whether the Settlement  
8 should be approved as fair, reasonable, and adequate for the Class; (b) whether a judgment  
9 granting final approval of the Settlement should be entered; and (c) whether Plaintiff's application  
10 for an incentive payment, settlement administration costs, and Class Counsel's attorneys' fees and  
11 costs, should be granted.

12 13. Counsel for the Parties shall file memoranda, declarations, or other statements and  
13 materials in support of their request for final approval of Plaintiff's application for an incentive  
14 payment, settlement administration costs, Class Counsel's attorneys' fees and costs, prior to the  
15 hearing on Plaintiff's Motion for Final Approval of Settlement according to the time limits set by  
16 the Code of Civil Procedure and the California Rules of Court.

17 14. An implementation schedule is below:

Event	Date
Defendant to provide Class List to the Settlement Administrator no later than:	_____ [14 calendar days following preliminary approval]
Settlement Administrator to mail the Class Notice to the Class Members no later than:	_____ [7 calendar days following provision of contact information]

1. Deadline for Class Members to submit disputes, request 2. exclusion from, or object to the Settlement:	[60 calendar days after mailing of the Class Notice]
4. Deadline for Plaintiff to file Motion for Final Approval of 5. Class Action and PAGA Settlement:	[16 court days before the Final Approval Hearing]
8. Hearing on Motion for Final Approval of Settlement:	<u>11/21/25</u>

12 15. Pending the Final Approval hearing, all proceedings in this Action, other than  
13 proceedings necessary to carry out or enforce the terms and conditions of the Settlement and this  
14 Order, are stayed. To facilitate administration of the Settlement pending final approval, the Court  
15 hereby enjoins Plaintiff and all members of the Class from filing or prosecuting any claims, or  
16 suits regarding claims released by the Settlement, unless and until such Class Members have filed  
17 valid Requests for Exclusion with the Settlement Administrator.

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

22 IT IS SO ORDERED.

23 Date: 11/25/25

Laurel Coe  
HON.  
JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT