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10 Attorneys for FRANCISCO ARROYO MORA, on behalf of himself,
all others similarly situated, and on behalf of the general public

11
12 **SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

13 **IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF ORANGE**

14 FRANCISCO ARROYO MORA on behalf
15 of himself, all others similarly situated, and
16 on behalf of the general public,

17 Plaintiffs,

18 v.

19 STERLING PLUMBING, INC.; and DOES
20 1-100,

21 Defendants.

Case No. 30-2024-01371468-CU-OE-CXC

[Assigned for all purposes to the Honorable
Layne H. Melzer]

**NOTICE OF ENTRY OF ORDER
GRANTING PLAINTIFF'S MOTION FOR
PRELIMINARY APPROVAL OF CLASS
AND PAGA ACTION SETTLEMENT,
CONDITIONAL CERTIFICATION,
APPROVAL OF CLASS NOTICE, SETTING
OF FINAL APPROVAL HEARING DATE**

Date: September 4, 2025

Time: 2:00 p.m.

Department: CX-102

Reservation No.: 74513908

1 **TO ALL PARTIES AND THEIR ATTORNEYS OF RECORD:**

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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on September 4, 2025, the Court issued Tentative Ruling Granting Plaintiffs’ Motion for Preliminary Approval of Class and PAGA Action Settlement, Conditional Certification, Approval of Class Notice, Setting of Final Approval Hearing Date. The Parties submitted on the Tentative Ruling, and thus the ruling became final. A true and correct copy of the Tentative Ruling which became final is attached hereto as **Exhibit 1**.

Dated: September 5, 2025

MARA LAW FIRM, PC



David Mara, Esq.
Matthew Crawford, Esq.
Attorneys for FRANCISCO ARROYO and all others
similarly situated, and on behalf of the general public

Exhibit 1

TENTATIVE RULINGS

DEPT CX102

Judge Layne H. Melzer

Court Reporters: Official court reporters (i.e., court reporters employed by the Court) are **NOT** typically provided for law and motion matters in this department. If a party desires a record of a law and motion proceeding, it will be the party's responsibility to provide a court reporter. Parties must comply with the court's policy on the use of privately retained court reporters which can be found on the court's website at [Court Reporter Services | Superior Court of California | County of Orange](#).

Tentative rulings: The court endeavors to post tentative rulings on the court's website in the morning, prior to the afternoon hearing. However, ongoing proceedings such as jury trials may prevent posting by that time. Tentative rulings may not be posted in every case. Please do not call the department for tentative rulings if tentative rulings have not been posted. The court will not entertain a request to continue a hearing or the filing of further documents once a tentative ruling has been posted.

Submitting on tentative rulings: If all counsel intend to submit on the tentative ruling and do not desire oral argument, please advise the Courtroom Clerk or Courtroom Attendant by calling (657) 622-5302. Please do not call the department unless all parties submit on the tentative ruling. If all sides submit on the tentative ruling and so advise the court, the tentative ruling shall become the court's final ruling and the prevailing party shall give notice of the ruling and prepare an order for the court's signature if appropriate under Cal. R. Ct. 3.1312.

Non-appearances: If nobody appears for the hearing and the court has not been notified that all parties submit on the tentative ruling, the court shall determine whether the matter is taken off calendar or the tentative ruling becomes the final ruling. The Court also might make a different order at the hearing. (*Lewis v. Fletcher Jones Motor Cars, Inc.* (2012) 205 Cal.App.4th 436, 442, fn. 1.)

APPEARANCES: Department CX102 conducts non-evidentiary proceedings, such as law and motion, remotely, by Zoom videoconference pursuant to CCP §367.75, California Rule of Court (CRC) 3.672 and Orange County Local Rule (OCLR) 375. All counsel and self-represented parties appearing for such hearings must check-in online through the Court's civil video appearance website at [Civil Remote Hearings | Superior Court of California | County of Orange](#) prior to the commencement of their hearing. Once the online check-in is completed, participants will be prompted to join the courtroom's Zoom hearing session. Participants will initially be directed to a virtual waiting room pending the start of their specific video hearing. Check-in instructions and instructional video are available on the website. The Court's "Appearance Procedures and Information--Civil Unlimited and Complex" ("Appearance Procedures") and "Guidelines for Remote Appearances" ("Guidelines") contained on the Court's website will be strictly enforced. Parties preferring to appear in-person for law and motion hearings may do so pursuant to CCP §367.75 and OCLR 375.

PUBLIC ACCESS: The courtroom remains open for all evidentiary and non-evidentiary proceedings.

No filming, broadcasting, photography, or electronic recording is permitted of the video session pursuant to California Rules of Court, rule 1.150 and Orange County Superior Court rule 180.

TENTATIVE RULINGS
September 4th, 2025

#	Case Name	

111	Mora vs. Sterling Plumbing, Inc. 2024-0137468	Motion for Approval of Class Settlement <p>The Court has reviewed the supplemental papers provided by Class Counsel and finds they adequately address the previously identified concerns. Accordingly, Plaintiff Francisco Arroyo Mora’s Motion for Preliminary Approval of Class Action and PAGA Settlement is GRANTED.</p> <p>This is a putative wage-and-hour class action and PAGA matter. On January 8, 2024, Plaintiff Francisco Arroyo Mora, on behalf of himself and all others similarly situated and on behalf of the general public (“Plaintiff”), filed a PAGA Complaint against Defendant Sterling Plumbing, Inc. (“Defendant”). The Complaint alleges individual and representative PAGA claims predicated on the violation of several wage-and-hour provisions of the Labor Code. Defendant answered on February 24, 2024.</p> <p>On March 30, 2025, pursuant to stipulation and order (and in conjunction with the proposed Settlement), Plaintiff filed the operative First Amended Class Action Complaint (“FAC”) asserting ten (10) causes of action for various wage-and-hour violations of the Labor Code, unfair competition, and PAGA penalties.</p> <p>On March 18, 2025, Plaintiff filed the current Motion for Preliminary Approval of Class Action and PAGA Settlement, and submitted the Joint Stipulation and Settlement Agreement, as well as the Class Notice, for the Court’s review. The Motion seeks preliminary approval of the parties’</p>

proposed settlement for the non-reversionary Gross Settlement Amount of \$239,300.00.

After the Court expressed certain concerns about the Settlement Agreement, Class Notice, and moving papers, the parties executed a revised Joint Stipulation and Settlement Agreement ("Settlement Agreement") and prepared a revised Class Notice.

Based on a review of the revised Settlement Agreement and other supplemental information, the Court finds that the Settlement falls within the range of what is considered fair and reasonable, subject to a final determination at the Final Approval hearing.

The Motion for Final Approval is set for March 5, 2026, at 2:00 p.m. in Department CX102. All papers for the Motion for Final Approval are due no later than sixteen (16) court days prior to the hearing date. If Class Counsel cannot meet this deadline, then counsel must request a continuance of the hearing. Failure to do so may result in the issuance of an OSC re Monetary Sanctions.

At the Final Approval hearing, evidence supporting the request for an award of attorneys' fees should be presented in the form of time records, or a summary of time spent on the substantive tasks, to enable the Court to evaluate the lodestar and costs claimed. Class Counsel should state by declaration whether time records were kept and created contemporaneously or otherwise. The Court also reminds Plaintiff's counsel that although a determination regarding the amount of the attorneys' fees award will not be made until final approval, the Court is unlikely to approve attorneys' fees in excess of thirty percent (30%) of the Gross Settlement Amount absent unique circumstances. As a result, in the supplemental filing, Class Counsel should address whether any such unique circumstances exist in this litigation.

At the Final Approval hearing, Plaintiff and Class Counsel must provide detailed declarations describing circumstances to justify the requested enhancement awards, and addressing factors set forth in *Golba v. Dick's Sporting Goods, Inc.* (2015) 238 Cal.App.4th 1251, 1272, and *Clark v. Am. Residential Servs., LLC* (209) 175 Cal.App.4th 785, 804. Plaintiff must provide an estimate of the hours she spent on this litigation.

Plaintiff to give notice of this Court's ruling, including to the LWDA, within five (5) calendar days, and file proof of service.

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6 Attorneys for FRANCISCO ARROYO MORA, on behalf of himself,
all others similarly situated, and on behalf of the general public

7 **SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

8 **IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF ORANGE**

9
10 FRANCISCO ARROYO MORA on behalf
of himself, all others similarly situated, and
11 on behalf of the general public,

12 Plaintiffs,

13 v.

14 STERLING PLUMBING, INC.; and DOES
1-100,

15 Defendants.
16
17

Case No. 30-2024-01371468-CU-OE-CXC

PROOF OF SERVICE

Complaint Filed: January 8, 2024

Trial Date: None Set

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1 **Case Name:** Francisco Arroyo Mora v. Sterling Plumbing, Inc.
2 **Court:** Superior Court of Orange
3 **Case Number:** 30-2024-01371468-CU-OE-CXC

4 **PROOF OF SERVICE**

5 STATE OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

6 I am employed in the County of: San Diego, State of California.

7 I am over the age of 18 and not a party to the within action; my business address is:
8 2650 Camino Del Rio N., Suite 302, San Diego 92108

9 On, September 5, 2025 I served the foregoing document(s) described as:

10 **NOTICE OF ENTRY OF ORDER**

11 On interested parties in this action by placing a true copy thereof enclosed in a sealed envelope
12 addressed as follows:

13 Marie D. DiSante, Esq.
14 Leigh A. White, Esq.
15 Osaama Saifi, Esq.
16 **CDF LABOR LAW LLP**
17 18300 Von Karman Avenue, Suite 800
18 Irvine, CA 92612
19 Telephone: (949) 622-1661
20 mdisante@cdflaborlaw.com
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sfaranesh@lfecr.com
kschattinger@lfecr.com

Attn: PAGA Administrator
**California Labor and Workforce
Development Agency**
455 Golden Gate Avenue, 9th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94102
(Via Electronic Filing)

25 **[XX] (BY E-MAIL)** On September 5, 2025, I caused the documents to be sent to the persons at
26 the electronic notification addresses of the parties named above. I did not receive, within a
27 reasonable time after the transmission, any electronic message or other indication that the
28 transmission was unsuccessful.

[XX] (DECLARATION) I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of
California that the above is true and correct.

Dated: September 5, 2025

Raquel Gerardo
Raquel Gerardo