

## CLASS ACTION AND PAGA SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT AND CLASS NOTICE

This Class Action and PAGA Settlement Agreement (“**Agreement**”) is made by and between Jamal Ali (“**Plaintiff**”) and Diesel Direct West, LLC (“**Defendant**”) (together, “**the Parties**”).

### **1. DEFINITIONS**

- 1.1 “**Action**” means the Plaintiff’s lawsuit alleging wage and hour violations against Defendant captioned *Jamal Ali v. Diesel Direct West, LLC* initiated on April 13, 2023, and pending in Superior Court of the State of California, County of Alameda.
- 1.2 “**Administrator**” means Apex Class Action Administration the neutral entity the Parties have agreed to appoint to administer the Settlement.
- 1.3 “**Administration Expenses Payment**” means the amount the Administrator will be paid from the Gross Settlement Amount to reimburse its reasonable fees and expenses in accordance with the Administrator’s “not to exceed” bid submitted to the Court in connection with Preliminary Approval of the Settlement.
- 1.4 “**Aggrieved Employee**” means all current and former non-exempt employees that worked either directly or via a staffing agency for Defendant at any location in California during the PAGA Period.
- 1.5 “**Class**” means all current and former non-exempt employees that worked either directly or via a staffing agency for Defendant at any location in California during the Class Period.
- 1.6 “**Class Counsel**” means Michael Crosner, Zach Crosner, Jamie Serb, and Nikki Trenner of Crosner Legal, PC.
- 1.7 “**Class Counsel Fees Payment**” and “**Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment**” mean the amounts allocated to Class Counsel for reimbursement of reasonable attorneys’ fees and expenses, respectively, incurred to prosecute the Action.
- 1.8 “**Class Data**” means Class Member identifying information in Defendant’s possession including the Class Member’s name, last-known mailing address, Social Security number, email address (if available), and number of Class Period Workweeks and PAGA Pay Periods.
- 1.9 “**Class Member**” or “**Settlement Class Member**” means a member of the Class, as either a Participating Class Member or Non-Participating Class Member (including a Non-Participating Class Member who qualifies as an Aggrieved Employee).
- 1.10 “**Class Member Address Search**” means the Administrator’s investigation and search for current Class Member mailing addresses using all reasonably available sources, methods and means including, but not limited to, the National Change of Address database, skip traces, and direct contact by the Administrator with Class Members.
- 1.11 “**Class Notice**” means the COURT APPROVED NOTICE OF CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT AND HEARING DATE FOR FINAL COURT APPROVAL, to be mailed to Class Members in English with a Spanish translation in the form,

without material variation, attached as **Exhibit A** and incorporated by reference into this Agreement.

- 1.12 “***Class Period***” means the period from April 13, 2019, to February 24, 2025.
- 1.13 “***Class Representative***” means the named Plaintiff in the operative complaint in the Action seeking Court approval to serve as a Class Representative.
- 1.14 “***Class Representative Service Payment***” means the payment to the Class Representative for initiating the Action and providing services in support of the Action.
- 1.15 “***Court***” means the Superior Court of California, County of Alameda.
- 1.16 “***Defendant***” means named Defendant Diesel Direct West, LLC
- 1.17 “***Defense Counsel***” means Richard M. Watts, Jr. and Jeremy S. Millstone, Of Counsel, of Peterson Watts Law Group, LLC.
- 1.18 “***Effective Date***” means the date by when both of the following have occurred: **(a)** the Court enters a Judgment on its Order Granting Final Approval of the Settlement, and **(b)** the Judgment is final. The Judgment is final as of the latest of the following occurrences: **(i)** if no Participating Class Member objects to the Settlement, the day the Court enters Judgment; **(ii)** if one or more Participating Class Members objects to the Settlement, the day after the deadline for filing a notice of appeal from the Judgment; or if a timely appeal from the Judgment is filed, the day after the appellate court affirms the Judgment and issues a remittitur.
- 1.19 “***Final Approval***” or “***Final Approval Order***” means the Court’s Order Granting Final Approval of the Settlement.
- 1.20 “***Final Approval Hearing***” means the Court’s hearing on the Motion for Final Approval of the Settlement.
- 1.21 “***Final Judgment***” means the Judgment entered by the Court upon granting Final Approval of the Settlement.
- 1.22 “***Gross Settlement Amount***” means Two Hundred Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents (\$200,000.00) which is the total amount Defendant agrees to pay under the Settlement except as provided in Paragraph 8 below. The Gross Settlement Amount will be used to pay Individual Class Payments, Individual PAGA Payments, the LWDA PAGA Payment, Class Counsel Fees Payment, Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment, Class Representative Service Payment and the Administrator’s Expenses.
- 1.23 “***Individual Class Payment***” means the Participating Class Member’s pro rata share of the Net Settlement Amount calculated according to the number of Workweeks worked during the Class Period.
- 1.24 “***Individual PAGA Payment***” means the Aggrieved Employee’s pro rata share of 25% of the PAGA Penalties calculated according to the number of PAGA Pay Periods worked during the PAGA Period.

- 1.25 “**Judgment**” means the judgment entered by the Court based upon the Final Approval.
- 1.26 “**LWDA**” means the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency, the agency entitled, under Labor Code § 2699, subd. (i).
- 1.27 “**LWDA PAGA Payment**” means the 75% of the PAGA Penalties paid to the LWDA under Labor Code § 2699, subd. (i).
- 1.28 “**Net Settlement Amount**” means the Gross Settlement Amount, less the following payments in the amounts approved by the Court: Individual PAGA Payments, the LWDA PAGA Payment, Class Representative Service Payment, Class Counsel Fees Payment, Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment, and the Administration Expenses Payment. The remainder is to be paid to Participating Class Members as Individual Class Payments.
- 1.29 “**Non-Participating Class Member**” means any Class Member who opts out of the Settlement by sending the Administrator a valid and timely Request for Exclusion.
- 1.30 “**Operative Complaint**” means the First Amended Complaint filed by Plaintiff on January 2, 2024.
- 1.31 “**PAGA Pay Period**” means any Pay Period during the PAGA Period that an Aggrieved Employee worked for Defendant for at least one day.
- 1.32 “**PAGA Period**” means the period from October 29, 2023, to February 24, 2025.
- 1.33 “**PAGA**” means the Private Attorneys General Act (Labor Code §§ 2698 *et seq.*).
- 1.34 “**PAGA Notice**” means Plaintiff’s April 10, 2023, letter to Defendant and the LWDA providing notice pursuant to Labor Code § 2699.3, subd. (a).
- 1.35 “**PAGA Penalties**” means the total amount of PAGA civil penalties (\$10,000.00) to be paid from the Gross Settlement Amount, allocated 25% to Aggrieved Employees (\$2,500.00) and 75% to LWDA (\$7,500.00) to settle the PAGA claims.
- 1.36 “**Participating Class Member**” means a Class Member who does not submit a valid and timely Request for Exclusion from the Settlement.
- 1.37 “**Plaintiff**” means Jamal Ali, the named plaintiff in the Action.
- 1.38 “**Preliminary Approval**” means the Court’s Order Granting Preliminary Approval of the Settlement.
- 1.39 “**Preliminary Approval Order**” means the proposed Order Granting Preliminary Approval of the Settlement.
- 1.40 “**Released Class Claims**” means the claims being released as described in Paragraph 5.2 below.
- 1.41 “**Released PAGA Claims**” means the claims being released as described in Paragraph 5.3 below.

- 1.42 “**Released Parties**” means Defendant and each of its former and present owners, directors, officers, shareholders, members, managing agents, attorneys, insurers, predecessors, successors, assigns, subsidiaries, and affiliates.
- 1.43 “**Request for Exclusion**” means a Class Member’s submission of a written request to be excluded from the Class Settlement signed by the Class Member.
- 1.44 “**Response Deadline**” means 45 days after the Administrator mails Notice to Class Members and Aggrieved Employees and shall be the last date on which Class Members may: **(a)** fax, email, or mail Requests for Exclusion from the Settlement, or **(b)** fax, email, or mail an Objections to the Settlement. Class Members to whom Notice Packets are re-sent after having been returned undeliverable to the Administrator shall have an additional 14 calendar days beyond the Response Deadline has expired.
- 1.45 “**Settlement**” means the disposition of the Action effected by this Agreement and the Judgment.
- 1.46 “**Workweek**” means any week during the Class Period which a Class Member worked for Defendant for at least one day.

## 2. RECITALS

- 2.1 On April 13, 2023, Plaintiff commenced this Action by filing a Complaint alleging causes of action against Defendant for: **(a)** recovery of unpaid wages and liquidated damages; **(b)** failure to furnish accurate itemized wage statements; **(c)** failure to timely pay all wages due upon separation of employment; **(d)** failure to reimburse business expenses; and **(e)** violation of the Unfair Competition Law. On January 2, 2024, Plaintiff filed a First Amended Complaint adding a cause of action for violations of the PAGA. Defendant denies the allegations in the Complaint and First Amended Complaint, denies any failure to comply with the laws identified in in the Operative Complaint and First Amended Complaint, and denies any and all liability for the causes of action alleged.
- 2.2 Pursuant to Labor Code § 2699.3, subd. (a), Plaintiff gave timely written notice to Defendant and the LWDA via the PAGA Notice dated April 10, 2023.
- 2.3 On June 7, 2024, the Parties participated in an all-day mediation presided over by Steve Pearl of Steve Pearl Mediation, PC, which led to this Agreement to settle the Action. Although this mediation was not successful, the Parties agreed to participate in a second all-day mediation on August 16, 2024, which also did not result in a settlement. The mediator continued his efforts to resolve the case. On February 24, 2025, the mediator informed the Parties that each of them had accepted the mediator’s proposal to resolve the Action for \$200,000.
- 2.4 Prior to the start of mediation, Plaintiff obtained, through formal and informal discovery, relevant documents and class data from Defendant including: **(a)** Plaintiff’s personnel file, **(b)** Plaintiff’s time and payroll records, **(c)** the employee handbooks in effect during the Class Period, **(d)** Defendant’s additional policies and operating procedures regarding the following: **(i)** payment of wages, **(ii)** timekeeping policies (including recording hours), **(iii)** issuance of wage statements, **(iv)** reimbursement of business expenses, and **(v)** termination wages, **(vi)** a sampling of the payroll and time records for the putative class members, **(vii)** the total number of class members, **(viii)** the total number of aggrieved employees, **(ix)**

the total number of Workweeks, and (x) the total number of Pay Periods, among other information and documents. Plaintiff's investigation was sufficient to satisfy the criteria for court approval set forth in *Dunk v. Foot Locker Retail, Inc.* (1996) 48 Cal.App.4th 1794, 1801 and *Kullar v. Foot Locker Retail, Inc.* (2008) 168 Cal.App.4th 116, 129-130 ("*Dunk/Kullar*").

### 3. MONETARY TERMS

- 3.1 **Gross Settlement Amount.** Defendant promises to pay \$200,000.00 and no more as the Gross Settlement Amount and to separately pay all employer payroll taxes owed on the Wage Portions of the Individual Class Payments. Defendant has no obligation to pay the Gross Settlement Amount (or any payroll taxes) prior to the deadline stated in Paragraph 4.2 of this Agreement. The Administrator will disburse the entire Gross Settlement Amount without asking or requiring Participating Class Members or Aggrieved Employees to submit any claim as a condition of payment. None of the Gross Settlement Amount will revert to Defendant.
- 3.2 **Payments from the Gross Settlement Amount.** The Administrator will make and deduct the following payments from the Gross Settlement Amount, in the amounts specified by the Court in the Final Approval Order:
- 3.2.1 **To Plaintiff:** Class Representative Service Payment to the Class Representative of not more than \$10,000.00 (in addition to any Individual Class Payment and any Individual PAGA Payment the Class Representative is entitled to receive as a Participating Class Member). Defendant will not oppose Plaintiff's request for a Class Representative Service Payment that does not exceed this amount. As part of the Final Approval Motion, Plaintiff will seek Court approval for Class Counsel Fees Payment and Class Litigation Expenses Payment no later than 16 court days prior to the Final Approval Hearing. If the Court approves a Class Representative Service Payment less than the amount requested, the Administrator will retain the remainder in the Net Settlement Amount. The Administrator will pay the Class Representative Service Payment using IRS Form 1099. Plaintiff assumes full responsibility and liability for employee taxes owed on the Class Representative Service Payment.
- 3.2.2 **To Class Counsel:** A Class Counsel Fees Payment of not more than one-third of the Gross Settlement Amount, currently estimated to be \$66,666.67, and a Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment of not more than \$35,000.00. Defendant will not oppose requests for these payments provided they do not exceed these amounts. As part of the Final Approval Motion, Plaintiff will seek approval of the Class Counsel Fees Payment and Class Litigation Expenses. If the Court approves a Class Counsel Fees Payment and/or a Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment less than the amounts requested, the Administrator will allocate the remainder to the Net Settlement Amount. Released Parties shall have no liability to Class Counsel or any other Plaintiff's Counsel arising from any claim to any portion of any Class Counsel Fee Payment and/or Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment. The Administrator will pay the Class Counsel Fees Payment and Class Counsel Expenses Payment using one or more IRS 1099 Forms. Class Counsel assumes full responsibility and liability for taxes owed on the Class Counsel Fees Payment and the Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment and holds Defendant harmless, and indemnifies

Defendant, from any dispute or controversy regarding any division or sharing of any of these Payments.

- 3.2.3 **To the Administrator:** An Administrator Expenses Payment not to exceed \$7,500.00 except for a showing of good cause and as approved by the Court. To the extent the Administration Expenses are less or the Court approves payment less than \$7,500.00, the Administrator will retain the remainder in the Net Settlement Amount.
- 3.2.4 **To Each Participating Class Member:** An Individual Class Payment calculated by **(a)** dividing the Net Settlement Amount by the total number of Workweeks worked by all Participating Class Members during the Class Period, and **(b)** multiplying the result by each Participating Class Member's Workweeks.
- 3.2.4.1 **Tax Allocation of Individual Class Payments.** 20% of each Participating Class Member's Individual Class Payment will be allocated to settlement of wage claims (the "**Wage Portion**"). The Wage Portions are subject to tax withholding and will be reported on an IRS W-2 Form. 80% of each Participating Class Member's Individual Class Payment will be allocated to settlement of claims for interest and penalties (the "**Non-Wage Portion**"). The Non-Wage Portions are not subject to wage withholdings and will be reported on IRS 1099 Forms. Participating Class Members assume full responsibility and liability for any employee taxes owed on their Individual Class Payment.
- 3.2.4.2 **Effect of Non-Participating Class Members on Calculation of Individual Class Payments.** Non-Participating Class Members will not receive any Individual Class Payments. The Administrator will retain amounts equal to their Individual Class Payments in the Net Settlement Amount for distribution to Participating Class Members on a pro rata basis.
- 3.2.5 **To the LWDA and Aggrieved Employees:** PAGA Penalties in the amount of \$10,000.00 to be paid from the Gross Settlement Amount, with 75% (\$7,500.00) allocated to the LWDA PAGA Payment and 25% (\$2,500.00) allocated to the Individual PAGA Payments.
- 3.2.5.1 The Administrator will calculate each Individual PAGA Payment by **(a)** dividing the amount of the Aggrieved Employees' 25% share of PAGA Penalties (\$2,500.00) by the total number of PAGA Pay Periods worked by all Aggrieved Employees during the PAGA Period, and **(b)** multiplying the result by each Aggrieved Employee's PAGA Pay Periods. Aggrieved Employees assume full responsibility and liability for any taxes owed on their Individual PAGA Payment.
- 3.2.5.2 If the Court approves PAGA Penalties of less than the amount requested, the Administrator will allocate the remainder to the Net Settlement Amount. The Administrator will report the Individual PAGA Payments on IRS 1099 Forms.

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#### 4. **SETTLEMENT FUNDING AND PAYMENTS**

- 4.1 **Class Data.** Not later than 15 business days after the Court grants Preliminary Approval of the Settlement, Defendant will simultaneously deliver the Class Data to the Administrator, in the form of a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet. To protect Class Members' privacy rights, the Administrator must maintain the Class Data in confidence, use the Class Data only for purposes of this Settlement and for no other purpose, and restrict access to the Class Data to Administrator employees who need access to the Class Data to effect and perform under this Agreement. Defendant has a continuing duty to immediately notify Class Counsel if it discovers that the Class Data omitted Class Member identifying information and to provide corrected or updated Class Data as soon as reasonably feasible. Without any extension of the deadline by which Defendant must send the Class Data to the Administrator, the Parties and their counsel will expeditiously use best efforts, in good faith, to reconstruct or otherwise resolve any issues related to missing or omitted Class Data.
- 4.2 **Funding of Gross Settlement Amount.** Defendant shall fully fund the Gross Settlement Amount and the amounts necessary to fully pay Defendant's share of payroll taxes by transmitting the funds to the Administrator no later than 14 business days after the Effective Date.
- 4.3 **Payments from the Gross Settlement Amount.** Within 14 days after Defendant funds the Gross Settlement Amount, the Administrator will mail checks for all Individual Class Payments, all Individual PAGA Payments, the LWDA PAGA Payment, the Administration Expenses Payment, the Class Counsel Fees Payment, the Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment, and the Class Representative Service Payment. Disbursement of the Class Counsel Fees Payment, the Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment, and the Class Representative Service Payment shall not precede disbursement of Individual Class Payments and Individual PAGA Payments.
- 4.4.1 The Administrator will issue checks for the Individual Class Payments and Individual PAGA Payments and send them to the Participating Class Members and Aggrieved Employees via First Class U.S. Mail, postage prepaid. The face of each check shall prominently state the date (not less than 180 days after the date of mailing) when the check will be voided. The Administrator will cancel all checks not cashed by the void date. The Administrator will send checks for Individual Settlement Payments to all Participating Class Members (including those for whom Class Notice was returned undelivered). The Administrator will send checks for Individual PAGA Payments to all Aggrieved Employees including Non-Participating Class Members who qualify as Aggrieved Employees (including those for whom Class Notice was returned undelivered). The Administrator may send Participating Class Members a single check combining the Individual Class Payment and the Individual PAGA Payment. Before mailing any checks, the Settlement Administrator must update the recipients' mailing addresses using the National Change of Address Database.
- 4.4.2 The Administrator must conduct a Class Member Address Search for all other Participating Class Members and Aggrieved Employees whose checks are returned undelivered without a USPS forwarding address. Within 7 days of receiving a returned check, the Administrator must re-mail checks to the USPS forwarding address provided or ascertained through the Class Member Address Search. The Administrator need not take further steps to

deliver checks to Participating Class Members and Aggrieved Employees whose re-mailed checks are returned as undelivered. The Administrator shall promptly send a replacement check to any Participating Class Member and/or Aggrieved Employee whose original check was lost or misplaced, requested by the Participating Class Member and/or Aggrieved Employee prior to the void date.

4.4.3 For any Participating Class Member and/or Aggrieved Employee whose Individual Class Payment check or Individual PAGA Payment check is uncashed and cancelled after the void date, the Administrator shall transmit the funds represented by such checks to a Court-approved nonprofit organization or foundation consistent with Code of Civil Procedure § 384, subd. (b) (“**Cy Pres Recipient**”). The Parties, Class Counsel and Defense Counsel represent that they have no interest or relationship, financial or otherwise, with the intended Cy Pres Recipient.

4.4.4 The payment of Individual Class Payments and Individual PAGA Payments shall not obligate Defendant to confer any additional benefits or make any additional payments to Participating Class Members or Aggrieved Employees (such as 401(k) contributions or bonuses) beyond those specified in this Agreement.

5. **RELEASES OF CLAIMS.** Effective on the date when Defendant fully funds the entire Gross Settlement Amount and funds all employer payroll taxes owed on the Wage Portion of the Individual Class Payments, Plaintiff and Class Members release claims against all Released Parties as follows:

5.1 **Plaintiff’s Release.** Plaintiff and his respective former and present spouses, representatives, agents, attorneys, heirs, administrators, successors, and assigns generally, release and discharge Released Parties from all claims, transactions, or occurrences that occurred during the Class Period, including, without limitation: **(a)** all claims that were, or reasonably could have been, alleged, based on the facts contained, in the Operative Complaint, and **(b)** all PAGA claims that were, or reasonably could have been, alleged based on facts contained in the PAGA Notice, Complaint, and/or First Amended Complaint (“**Plaintiff’s Release**”). Plaintiff’s Release does not extend to any claims or actions to enforce this Agreement, or to any claims for vested benefits, unemployment benefits, disability benefits, social security benefits, workers’ compensation benefits that arose at any time, or based on occurrences outside the Class Period. Plaintiff acknowledges that Plaintiff may discover facts or law different from, or in addition to, the facts or law that Plaintiff now knows or believes to be true but agrees, nonetheless, that Plaintiff’s Release shall be and remain effective in all respects, notwithstanding such different or additional facts or Plaintiff’s discovery of them.

5.1.1 **Plaintiff’s Waiver of Rights Under California Civil Code § 1542.** For purposes of Plaintiff’s Release, Plaintiff expressly waives and relinquishes the provisions, rights, and benefits, if any, of section 1542 of the California Civil Code, which reads:

**A GENERAL RELEASE DOES NOT EXTEND TO CLAIMS THAT THE CREDITOR OR RELEASING PARTY DOES NOT KNOW OR SUSPECT TO EXIST IN HIS OR HER FAVOR AT THE TIME OF EXECUTING THE RELEASE, AND THAT IF KNOWN BY HIM OR**

**HER WOULD HAVE MATERIALLY AFFECTED HIS OR HER SETTLEMENT WITH THE DEBTOR OR RELEASED PARTY.**

- 5.2 **Release by Participating Class Members:** All Participating Class Members, on behalf of themselves and their respective former and present representatives, agents, attorneys, heirs, administrators, successors, and assigns, release the Released Parties from all claims that were alleged, or reasonably could have been alleged, based on the facts stated in the Complaint and First Amended Complaint, including, without limitation, **(a)** failure to pay wages and liquidated damages; **(b)** failure to furnish itemized wage statements; **(c)** failure to timely pay all wages due upon separation of employment; **(d)** failure to reimburse business expenses; and **(e)** violations of the Unfair Competition Law during the Class Period. Participating Class Members only release these claims for the duration of the Class Period. Except as set forth in Section 5.3 of this Agreement, Participating Class Members do not release any other claims, including claims for vested benefits, wrongful termination, violation of the Fair Employment and Housing Act, unemployment insurance, disability, social security, workers' compensation, or claims based on facts occurring outside the Class Period.
- 5.3 **Release by Aggrieved Employees:** All Aggrieved Employees are deemed to release, on behalf of themselves and their respective former and present representatives, agents, attorneys, heirs, administrators, successors, and assigns, the Released Parties from all claims for PAGA penalties that were alleged, or reasonably could have been alleged, based on the facts stated in the Operative Complaint and PAGA Notice, including, without limitation: **(a)** failure to pay wages and liquidated damages; **(b)** failure to furnish itemized wage statements; **(c)** failure to timely pay all wages due upon separation of employment; **(d)** failure to reimburse business expenses; **(e)** failure to keep accurate records; **(f)** failure to pay overtime; **(g)** failure to provide meal periods; **(h)** failure to provide rest periods; **(i)** failure to pay statutory wages; **(j)** refusal to pay wages due; **(k)** failure to provide standard conditions of labor; **(l)** unlawful deductions; **(m)** failure to pay reporting time pay; **(n)** failure to provide paid sick leave; **(o)** failure to provide supplemental paid sick leave; **(p)** failure to pay vested vacation and/or paid time off; **(q)** unlawful agreements; and **(r)** unlawful criminal inquiries during the PAGA Period. Aggrieved Employees only release these claims for the PAGA Period.
6. **MOTION FOR PRELIMINARY APPROVAL.** The Parties agree to jointly prepare and file a motion for preliminary approval ("**Motion for Preliminary Approval**") that complies with the Court's current checklist for Preliminary Approvals.
- 6.1 **Plaintiff's Responsibilities.** Plaintiff will prepare and deliver to Defense Counsel all documents necessary for obtaining Preliminary Approval, including: **(a)** a draft of the notice, and memorandum in support, of the Motion for Preliminary Approval that includes an analysis of the Settlement under *Dunk/Kullar* and a request for approval of the PAGA Settlement under Labor Code § 2699, subd. (f)(2)); **(b)** a draft proposed Order Granting Preliminary Approval; **(c)** a draft proposed Class Notice; **(d)** a signed declaration from the Administrator attaching its "not to exceed" bid for administering the Settlement and attesting to its willingness to serve; competency; operative procedures for protecting the security of Class Data; amounts of insurance coverage for any data breach, defalcation of funds or other misfeasance; all facts relevant to any actual or potential conflicts of interest with Class Members or the proposed Cy Pres; and the nature and extent of any financial relationship with Plaintiff, Class Counsel, or Defense Counsel; **(e)** a signed declaration from Plaintiff confirming willingness and competency to serve and

disclosing all facts relevant to any actual or potential conflicts of interest with Class Members, the Administrator, or the proposed Cy Pres; **(f)** a signed declaration from each Class Counsel firm attesting to its competency to represent the Class Members; its timely transmission to the LWDA of all necessary PAGA documents (initial notice of violations (Labor Code § 2699.3, subd. (a)), Operative Complaint (Labor Code § 2699, subd. (l)(1)), this Agreement (Labor Code § 2699, subd. (l)(2)); **(g)** a redlined version of the Parties' Agreement showing all modifications made to the Model Agreement ready for filing with the Court; and **(h)** all facts relevant to any actual or potential conflict of interest with Class Members, the Administrator, or the Cy Pres.

- 6.2 **Responsibilities of Counsel.** Class Counsel and Defense Counsel are jointly responsible for expeditiously finalizing and filing the Motion for Preliminary Approval no later than 30 days after the full execution of this Agreement; obtaining a prompt hearing date for the Motion for Preliminary Approval; and for appearing in Court to advocate in favor of the Motion for Preliminary Approval. Class Counsel is responsible for delivering the Court's Preliminary Approval to the Administrator.
- 6.3 **Duty to Cooperate.** If the Parties disagree on any aspect of the proposed Motion for Preliminary Approval and/or the supporting declarations and documents, Class Counsel and Defense Counsel will expeditiously work together on behalf of the Parties by meeting in person or by telephone, and in good faith, to resolve the disagreement. If the Court does not grant Preliminary Approval or conditions Preliminary Approval on any material change to this Agreement, Class Counsel and Defense Counsel will expeditiously work together on behalf of the Parties by meeting in person or by telephone, and in good faith, to modify the Agreement and otherwise satisfy the Court's concerns.

## 7. **SETTLEMENT ADMINISTRATION**

- 7.1 **Selection of Administrator.** The Parties have jointly selected to serve as the Administrator and verified that, as a condition of appointment, Apex Class Action Administration agrees to be bound by this Agreement and to perform, as a fiduciary, all duties specified in this Agreement in exchange for payment of Administration Expenses. The Parties and their Counsel represent that they have no interest or relationship, financial or otherwise, with the Administrator other than a professional relationship arising out of prior experiences administering settlements.
- 7.2 **Employer Identification Number.** The Administrator shall have and use its own Employer Identification Number for purposes of calculating payroll tax withholdings and providing reports state and federal tax authorities.
- 7.3 **Qualified Settlement Fund.** The Administrator shall establish a settlement fund that meets the requirements of a Qualified Settlement Fund ("QSF") under US Treasury Regulation section 468B-1.
- 7.4 **Notice to Class Members:**
- 7.4.1 No later than 3 business days after receipt of the Class Data, the Administrator shall notify Class Counsel that the list has been received and state the number of Class Members, PAGA Members, Workweeks, and Pay Periods in the Class Data.

- 7.4.2 Using best efforts to perform as soon as possible, and in no event later than 14 days after receiving the Class Data, the Administrator will send to all Class Members identified in the Class Data, via first-class United States Postal Service (“USPS”) mail, the Class Notice with Spanish translation, substantially in the form attached to this Agreement as **Exhibit A**. The first page of the Class Notice shall prominently estimate the dollar amounts of any Individual Class Payment and/or Individual PAGA Payment payable to the Class Member, and the number of Workweeks and PAGA Pay Periods (if applicable) used to calculate these amounts. Before mailing Class Notices, the Administrator shall update Class Member addresses using the National Change of Address database.
- 7.4.3 Not later than 3 business days after the Administrator’s receipt of any Class Notice returned by the USPS as undelivered, the Administrator shall re-mail the Class Notice using any forwarding address provided by the USPS. If the USPS does not provide a forwarding address, the Administrator shall conduct a Class Member Address Search, and re-mail the Class Notice to the most current address obtained. The Administrator has no obligation to make further attempts to locate or send Class Notice to Class Members whose Class Notice is returned by the USPS a second time.
- 7.4.4 The deadlines for Class Members’ written objections, Challenges to Workweeks and/or Pay Periods, and Requests for Exclusion will be extended an additional 14 days beyond the 45 days otherwise provided in the Class Notice for all Class Members whose notice is re-mailed. The Administrator will inform the Class Member of the extended deadline with the re-mailed Class Notice.
- 7.4.5 If the Administrator, Defendant, Defense Counsel, or Class Counsel is contacted by or otherwise discovers any person who believes they should have been included in the Class Data and should have received Class Notice, the Parties will expeditiously meet and confer in person or by telephone, and in good faith in an effort to agree on whether to include them as Class Members. If the Parties agree, such persons will be Class Members entitled to the same rights as other Class Members, and the Administrator will send, via email or overnight delivery, a Class Notice requiring them to exercise options under this Agreement not later than 14 days after receipt of Class Notice, or the deadline dates in the Class Notice, which ever are later.

7.5 **Requests for Exclusion (Opt-Outs)**

- 7.5.1 Class Members who wish to exclude themselves (opt-out of) the Class Settlement must send the Administrator, by fax, email, or mail, a signed written Request for Exclusion not later than 45 days after the Administrator mails the Class Notice (plus an additional 14 days for Class Members whose Class Notice is re-mailed). A Request for Exclusion is a letter from a Class Member or his/her representative that reasonably communicates the Class Member’s election to be excluded from the Settlement and includes the Class Member’s name, address and email address or telephone number. To be valid, a Request for Exclusion must be timely faxed, emailed, or postmarked by the Response Deadline.
- 7.5.2 The Administrator may not reject a Request for Exclusion as invalid because it fails to contain all the information specified in the Class Notice.

The Administrator shall accept any Request for Exclusion as valid if the Administrator can reasonably ascertain the identity of the person as a Class Member and the Class Member's desire to be excluded. The Administrator's determination shall be final and not appealable or otherwise susceptible to challenge. If the Administrator has reason to question the authenticity of a Request for Exclusion, the Administrator may demand additional proof of the Class Member's identity. The Administrator's determination of authenticity shall be final and not appealable or otherwise susceptible to challenge.

7.5.3 Every Class Member who does not submit a timely and valid Request for Exclusion is deemed to be a Participating Class Member under this Agreement, entitled to all benefits and bound by all terms and conditions of the Settlement, including the Participating Class Members' Release and Aggrieved Employee Release under Paragraphs 5.2 and 5.3 of this Agreement, regardless of whether the Participating Class Member actually receives the Class Notice or objects to the Settlement.

7.5.4 Every Class Member who submits a valid and timely Request for Exclusion is a Non-Participating Class Member and shall not receive an Individual Class Payment or have the right to object to the class action components of the Settlement.

7.5.5 Because future PAGA claims are subject to claim preclusion upon entry of the Judgment, Non-Participating Class Members who are Aggrieved Employees are deemed to release the claims identified in Paragraph 5.3 of this Agreement and eligible for an Individual PAGA Payment.

7.6 **Challenges to Calculation of Workweeks.** Each Class Member shall have 45 days after the Administrator mails the Class Notice (plus an additional 14 days for Class Members whose Class Notice is re-mailed) to challenge the number of Class Workweeks and PAGA Pay Periods (if any) allocated to the Class Member in the Class Notice. The Class Member may challenge the allocation by communicating with the Administrator via fax, email, or mail. The Administrator must encourage the challenging Class Member to submit supporting documentation. In the absence of any contrary documentation, the Administrator is entitled to presume that the Workweeks contained in the Class Notice are correct so long as they are consistent with the Class Data. The Administrator's determination of each Class Member's allocation of Workweeks and/or Pay Periods shall be final and not appealable or otherwise susceptible to challenge. The Administrator shall promptly provide copies of all challenges to the calculation of Workweeks and/or Pay Periods to Defense Counsel and Class Counsel as well as the Administrator's determination regarding the challenges.

7.7 **Objections to Settlement**

7.7.1 Only Participating Class Members may object to the class action components of the Settlement and/or this Agreement, including contesting the fairness of the Settlement, and/or amounts requested for the Class Counsel Fees Payment, Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment, and/or Class Representative Service Payment.

7.7.2 Participating Class Members may send written objections to the Administrator, by fax, email, or mail. In the alternative, Participating Class

Members may appear in Court (or engage an attorney to appear in Court) to present verbal objections at the Final Approval Hearing. A Participating Class Member who elects to send a written objection to the Administrator must do so not later than 45 days after the Administrator's mailing of the Class Notice (plus an additional 14 days for Class Members whose Class Notice was re-mailed).

7.7.3 Non-Participating Class Members have no right to object to any of the class action components of the Settlement.

7.8 **Administrator's Duties.** The Administrator has a duty to perform or observe all tasks to be performed or observed by the Administrator contained in this Agreement or otherwise.

7.8.1 **Website, Email Address and Toll-Free Number.** The Administrator will establish and maintain and use an internet website to post information of interest to Class Members including the date, time and location for the Final Approval Hearing and copies of the Settlement Agreement, Motion for Preliminary Approval, the Preliminary Approval, the Class Notice, the Motion for Final Approval, the Motion for Class Counsel Fees Payment, Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment and Class Representative Service Payment, the Final Approval and the Judgment. The Administrator will also maintain and monitor an email address and a toll-free telephone number to receive Class Member calls, faxes and emails.

7.8.2 **Requests for Exclusion (Opt-outs) and Exclusion List.** The Administrator will promptly review on a rolling basis Requests for Exclusion to ascertain their validity. Not later than 5 days after the expiration of the deadline for submitting Requests for Exclusion, the Administrator shall email a list to Class Counsel and Defense Counsel containing: **(a)** the names and other identifying information of Class Members who have timely submitted valid Requests for Exclusion ("**Exclusion List**"); **(b)** the names and other identifying information of Class Members who have submitted invalid Requests for Exclusion; and **(c)** copies of all Requests for Exclusion from Settlement submitted (whether valid or invalid).

7.8.3 **Weekly Reports.** The Administrator must, on a weekly basis, provide written reports to Class Counsel and Defense Counsel that, among other things, tally the number of: Class Notices mailed or re-mailed, Class Notices returned undelivered, Requests for Exclusion (whether valid or invalid) received, objections received, challenges to Workweeks and/or Pay Periods received and/or resolved, and checks mailed for Individual Class Payments and Individual PAGA Payments ("**Weekly Report**"). The Weekly Reports must include the Administrator's assessment of the validity of Requests for Exclusion and attach copies of all Requests for Exclusion and objections received.

7.8.4 **Workweek and/or Pay Period Challenges.** The Administrator has the authority to address and make final decisions consistent with the terms of this Agreement on all Class Member challenges over the calculation of Workweeks and/or Pay Periods. The Administrator's decision shall be final and not appealable or otherwise susceptible to challenge.

- 7.8.5 **Administrator's Declaration.** Not later than 14 days after the Response Deadline, the Administrator will provide to Class Counsel and Defense Counsel, a signed declaration suitable for filing in Court attesting to its due diligence and compliance with all of its obligations under this Agreement, including, but not limited to, its mailing of the Class Notice, the total number of Class Notices returned as undelivered, the re-mailing of Class Notices, attempts to locate Class Members, the total number of Requests for Exclusion from the Settlement it received (both valid or invalid), the number of written objections and attach the Exclusion List. The Administrator will supplement its declaration as needed or requested by the Parties and/or the Court. Class Counsel is responsible for filing the Administrator's declaration(s) in Court.
- 7.8.6 **Final Report by Settlement Administrator.** Within 10 days after the Administrator disburses all funds in the Gross Settlement Amount, the Administrator will provide Class Counsel and Defense Counsel with a final report detailing its disbursements by employee identification number only of all payments made under this Agreement. At least 15 days before any deadline set by the Court, the Administrator will prepare, and submit to Class Counsel and Defense Counsel, a signed declaration suitable for filing in Court attesting to its disbursement of all payments required under this Agreement. Class Counsel is responsible for filing the Administrator's declaration in Court.

8. **CLASS SIZE ESTIMATES.** Based on its records, Defendant estimates that, as of February 24, 2025, there were approximately **(a)** 295 Class Members who worked a total of 21,279 Workweeks during the Class Period, and approximately **(b)** 106 Aggrieved Employees who worked a total of 5,194 Pay Periods during the PAGA Period.
9. **MOTION FOR FINAL APPROVAL.** Not later than 16 court days before the calendared Final Approval Hearing, Plaintiff will file a motion for final approval of the Settlement that includes a request for approval of the PAGA settlement under Labor Code § 2699, subd. (l), a Proposed Final Approval Order and a proposed Judgment (collectively "**Motion for Final Approval**"). Plaintiff shall provide drafts of these documents to Defense Counsel as soon as practicable prior to filing the Motion for Final Approval. Class Counsel and Defense Counsel will expeditiously meet and confer in person or by telephone, and in good faith, to resolve any disagreements concerning the Motion for Final Approval.
- 9.1 **Response to Objections.** Each Party retains the right to respond to any objection raised by a Participating Class Member, including the right to file responsive documents in Court no later than 5 court days prior to the Final Approval Hearing, or as otherwise ordered or accepted by the Court.
- 9.2 **Duty to Cooperate.** If the Court does not grant Final Approval or conditions Final Approval on any material change to the Settlement (including, but not limited to, the scope of release to be granted by Participating Class Members or Aggrieved Employees), the Parties will expeditiously work together in good faith to address the Court's concerns by revising the Agreement as necessary to obtain Final Approval. The Court's decision to award less than the amounts requested for the Class Representative Service Payment, Class Counsel Fees Payment, Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment and/or Administrator Expenses Payment shall not constitute a material modification to the Agreement within the meaning of this paragraph.

- 9.3 **Continuing Jurisdiction of the Court.** The Parties agree that, after entry of Judgment, the Court will retain jurisdiction over the Parties, Action, and the Settlement solely for purposes of **(a)** enforcing this Agreement and/or Judgment, **(b)** addressing settlement administration matters, and **(c)** addressing such post-Judgment matters as are permitted by law.
- 9.4 **Waiver of Right to Appeal.** Provided the Judgment is consistent with the terms and conditions of this Agreement, specifically including the Class Counsel Fees Payment and Class Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment reflected set forth in this Settlement, the Parties, their respective counsel, and all Participating Class Members who did not object to the Settlement as provided in this Agreement, waive all rights to appeal from the Judgment, including all rights to post-judgment and appellate proceedings, the right to file motions to vacate judgment, motions for new trial, extraordinary writs, and appeals. The waiver of appeal does not include any waiver of the right to oppose such motions, writs or appeals. If an objector appeals the Judgment, the Parties' obligations to perform under this Agreement will be suspended until such time as the appeal is finally resolved and the Judgment becomes final, except as to matters that do not affect the amount of the Net Settlement Amount.
10. **APPELLATE COURT ORDERS TO VACATE, REVERSE, OR MATERIALLY MODIFY JUDGMENT.** If the reviewing Court vacates, reverses, or modifies the Judgment in a manner that requires a material modification of this Agreement (including, but not limited to, the scope of release to be granted by Participating Class Members or Aggrieved Employees), this Agreement shall be null and void. The Parties shall nevertheless expeditiously work together in good faith to address the appellate court's concerns and to obtain Final Approval and entry of Judgment, sharing, on a 50-50 basis, any additional Administration Expenses reasonably incurred after remittitur. An appellate decision to vacate, reverse, or modify the Court's award of the Class Representative Service Payment or any payments to Class Counsel shall not constitute a material modification of the Judgment within the meaning of this paragraph, as long as the Gross Settlement Amount remains unchanged
11. **AMENDED JUDGMENT.** If any amended judgment is required under Code of Civil Procedure § 384, the Parties will work together in good faith to jointly submit and a proposed amended judgment.
12. **ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS**
- 12.1 **No Admission of Liability, Class Certification, or Representative Manageability for Other Purposes.** This Agreement represents a compromise and settlement of highly disputed claims. Nothing in this Agreement is intended or should be construed as an admission by Defendant that any of the allegations in the Complaint or First Amended Complaint have merit or that Defendant has any liability for any claims asserted; nor should it be intended or construed as an admission by Plaintiff that Defendant's defenses in the Action have merit. The Parties agree that class certification and representative treatment is for purposes of this Settlement only. If, for any reason the Court does grant Preliminary Approval, Final Approval, or enter Judgment, Defendant reserves the right to contest certification of any class for any reasons, Defendant reserves all available defenses to the claims in the Action, and Plaintiff reserves the right to move for class certification on any grounds available and to contest Defendant's defenses. The Settlement, this Agreement, and the Parties' willingness to settle the Action will have no bearing on, and will not be

admissible in connection with, any litigation (except for proceedings to enforce or effectuate the Settlement and this Agreement).

- 12.2 **Confidentiality Prior to Preliminary Approval.** Plaintiff, Class Counsel, Defendant, and Defense Counsel separately agree that, until the Motion for Preliminary Approval of Settlement is filed, they and each of them will not disclose, disseminate and/or publicize, or cause or permit another person to disclose, disseminate or publicize, any of the terms of the Agreement directly or indirectly, specifically or generally, to any person, corporation, association, government agency, or other entity except: **(a)** to the Parties' attorneys, accountants, or spouses, all of whom will be instructed to keep this Agreement confidential; **(b)** counsel in a related matter; **(c)** to the extent necessary to report income to appropriate taxing authorities; **(d)** in response to a court order or subpoena; or **(e)** in response to an inquiry or subpoena issued by a state or federal government agency. Each of the Parties agrees to immediately notify the other of any judicial or agency order, inquiry, or subpoena seeking such information. Plaintiff, Class Counsel, Defendant, and Defense Counsel separately agree not to, directly or indirectly, initiate any conversation or other communication, before the filing of the Motion for Preliminary Approval, with any third party regarding this Agreement or the matters giving rise to this Agreement except to respond only that "the matter was resolved," or words to that effect. This paragraph does not restrict Class Counsel's communications with Class Members in accordance with Class Counsel's ethical obligations owed to Class Members.
- 12.3 **No Solicitation.** The Parties separately agree that they and their respective counsel and employees will not solicit any Class Member to opt out of or object to the Settlement, or appeal from the Judgment. Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to restrict Class Counsel's ability to communicate with Class Members in accordance with Class Counsel's ethical obligations owed to Class Members.
- 12.4 **Integrated Agreement.** Upon execution by all Parties and their counsel, this Agreement and attached exhibits shall constitute the entire agreement between the Parties relating to the Settlement, superseding any and all oral representations, warranties, covenants, or inducements made to or by either of the Parties.
- 12.5 **Attorney Authorization.** Class Counsel and Defense Counsel separately warrant and represent that they are authorized by Plaintiff and Defendant, respectively, to take all appropriate action required or permitted to be taken by such Parties pursuant to this Agreement to effectuate its terms, and to execute any other documents reasonably required to effectuate the terms of this Agreement including any amendments to this Agreement.
- 12.6 **Cooperation.** The Parties and their counsel will cooperate with each other and use their best efforts, in good faith, to implement the Settlement by, among other things, modifying the Settlement Agreement, submitting supplemental evidence and supplementing points and authorities as requested by the Court. In the event the Parties are unable to agree upon the form or content of any document necessary to implement the Settlement, or on any modification of the Agreement that may become necessary to implement the Settlement, the Parties will seek the assistance of a mediator and/or the Court for resolution.

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- 12.7 **No Prior Assignments.** The Parties separately represent and warrant that they have not directly or indirectly assigned, transferred, encumbered, or purported to assign, transfer, or encumber to any person or entity any portion of any liability, claim, demand, action, cause of action, or right released and discharged by the Party in this Settlement.
- 12.8 **No Tax Advice.** Neither Plaintiff, Class Counsel, Defendant, nor Defense Counsel are providing any advice regarding taxes or taxability, nor shall anything in this Settlement be relied upon as such within the meaning of United States Treasury Department Circular 230 (31 CFR Part 10, as amended) or otherwise.
- 12.9 **Modification of Agreement.** This Agreement, and all parts of it, may be amended, modified, changed, or waived only by an express written instrument signed by both of the Parties or their representatives, and approved by the Court.
- 12.10 **Agreement Binding on Successors.** This Agreement will be binding upon, and inure to the benefit of, the successors of each of the Parties.
- 12.11 **Applicable Law.** All terms and conditions of this Agreement and its exhibits will be governed by and interpreted according to the internal laws of the state of California, without regard to conflict of law principles.
- 12.12 **Cooperation in Drafting.** The Parties have cooperated in the drafting and preparation of this Agreement. This Agreement will not be construed against any Party on the basis that the Party was the drafter or participated in the drafting.
- 12.13 **Confidentiality.** To the extent permitted by law, all agreements made, and orders entered during the Action and in this Agreement relating to the confidentiality of information shall survive the execution of this Agreement.
- 12.14 **Use and Return of Class Data.** Information provided to Class Counsel pursuant to California Evidence Code § 1152, and all copies and summaries of the Class Data provided to Class Counsel by Defendant in connection with the mediation, other settlement negotiations, or in connection with the Settlement, may be used only with respect to this Settlement, and no other purpose, and may not be used in any way that violates any existing contractual agreement, statute, or rule of court. Not later than 90 days after the date when the Court discharges the Administrator's obligation to provide a Declaration confirming the final pay out of all Settlement funds, Plaintiff shall destroy, all paper and electronic versions of Class Data received from Defendant unless, prior to the Court's discharge of the Administrator's obligation, Defendant makes a written request to Class Counsel for the return, rather than the destructions, of Class Data.
- 12.15 **Headings.** The descriptive heading of any section or paragraph of this Agreement is inserted for convenience only and does not constitute a part of this Agreement.
- 12.16 **Calendar Days.** Unless otherwise noted, all reference to "days" in this Agreement shall be to calendar days. In the event any date or deadline set forth in this Agreement falls on a weekend or federal legal holiday, such date or deadline shall be on the first business day thereafter.

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- 12.17 **Notice.** All notices, demands or other communications between the Parties in connection with this Agreement will be in writing and deemed to have been duly given as of the third business day after mailing by United States mail, or the day sent by email or messenger, addressed as follows:

**To Plaintiff**

Zachary Crosner  
zach@crosnerlegal.com  
Michael Crosner  
mike@crosnerlegal.com  
Jamie Serb  
jamie@crosnerlegal.com  
CROSNER LEGAL, PC  
9440 Santa Monica Blvd., Suite 301  
Beverly Hills, CA 90210

**To Defendant**

Richard M. Watts, Jr.  
rwatts@petersonwatts.com  
Jeremy S. Millstone, Of Counsel  
jmillstone@petersonwatts.com  
PETERSON WATTS LAW GROUP, LLP  
2267 Lava Ridge Court, Suite 210  
Roseville, CA 95661

- 12.18 **Execution in Counterparts.** This Agreement may be executed in one or more counterparts by facsimile, electronically (i.e. DocuSign), or email which for purposes of this Agreement shall be accepted as an original. All executed counterparts and each of them will be deemed to be one and the same instrument if counsel for the Parties will exchange between themselves signed counterparts. Any executed counterpart will be admissible in evidence to prove the existence and contents of this Agreement.
- 12.19 **Stay of Litigation.** The Parties agree that upon the execution of this Agreement the litigation shall be stayed, except to effectuate the terms of this Agreement. The Parties further agree that upon the signing of this Agreement that pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure (“CCP”) § 583.330 to extend the date to bring a case to trial under CCP § 583.310 for the entire period of this settlement process.

[signature blocks on next page]

Dated: 04 / 03 / 2025



\_\_\_\_\_  
Plaintiff JAMAL ALI

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

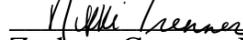
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Title: \_\_\_\_\_

For Defendant DIESEL DIRECT WEST, LLC

Dated: 04/03/2025

**CROSNER LEGAL, PC**

  
\_\_\_\_\_

Zachary Crosner, Esq.

Jamie Serb, Esq.

Nikki Trenner, Esq.

Attorneys for Plaintiff and the Class

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

**PETERSON WATTS LAW GROUP, LLP**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jeremy S. Millstone, Esq., Of Counsel

Richard M. Watts, Jr., Esq.

Attorneys for Defendant

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

Plaintiff JAMAL ALI

Dated: 4/3/2025  
\_\_\_\_\_

DocuSigned by:  
*Tim Johnson*  
\_\_\_\_\_

Print: Tim Johnson  
\_\_\_\_\_

Title: SVP  
\_\_\_\_\_

For Defendant DIESEL DIRECT WEST, LLC

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

**CROSNER LEGAL, PC**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Zachary Crosner, Esq.  
Jamie Serb, Esq.  
Nikki Trenner, Esq.  
Attorneys for Plaintiff and the Class

Dated: 4/3/2025  
\_\_\_\_\_

Signed by:  
**PETERSON WATTS LAW GROUP, LLP**  
*Jeremy S. Millstone*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jeremy S. Millstone, Esq., Of Counsel  
Richard M. Watts, Jr., Esq.  
Attorneys for Defendant

**COURT APPROVED NOTICE OF CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT AND HEARING  
DATE FOR FINAL COURT APPROVAL**

*Jamal Ali v. Diesel Direct West, LLC*  
Alameda County Superior Court Case No. 23CV031181

The Superior Court for the State of California authorized this Notice. Read it carefully!

It's not junk mail, spam, an advertisement, or solicitation by a lawyer. You are not being sued.

You may be eligible to receive money from an employee class action lawsuit ("Action") against Diesel Direct West, LLC ("DDW") for alleged wage and hour violations. The Action was filed by a former DDW employee ("Plaintiff") and seeks payment of back wages and penalties for a class of all current and former non-exempt employees who worked either directly or via a staffing agency for DDW in California ("Class Members") during the Class Period (April 13, 2019, to February 21, 2025); and (2) penalties under the California Private Attorney General Act ("PAGA") for all current and former non-exempt employees who worked either directly or via a staffing agency for DDW in California during the PAGA Period (October 29, 2023, to February 21, 2025) ("Aggrieved Employees").

The proposed Settlement has two main parts: (1) a Class Settlement requiring DDW to fund Individual Class Payments, and (2) a PAGA Settlement requiring DDW to fund Individual PAGA Payments and pay penalties to the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency ("LWDA").

Based on DDW's records, and the Parties' current assumptions, your Individual Class Payment is estimated to be \$ [REDACTED] (less withholding) and your Individual PAGA Payment is estimated to be \$ [REDACTED]. The actual amount you may receive likely will be different and will depend on a number of factors. (If no amount is stated for your Individual PAGA Payment, then according to DDW's records you are not eligible for an Individual PAGA Payment under the Settlement because you didn't work during the PAGA Period.)

The above estimates are based on DDW's records showing that you worked [REDACTED] workweeks during the Class Period and you worked [REDACTED] pay periods during the PAGA Period. If you believe that you worked more workweeks or more pay periods, you can submit a challenge by the deadline date. See Section 4 of this Notice.

The Court has already preliminarily approved the proposed Settlement and approved this Notice. The Court has not yet decided whether to grant final approval of the Settlement. Your legal rights are affected whether you act or not act. Read this Notice carefully. You will be deemed to have carefully read and understood it. At the Final Approval Hearing, the Court will decide whether to finally approve the Settlement and how much of the Settlement will be paid to Plaintiff and Plaintiff's attorneys ("Class Counsel"). The Court will also decide whether to enter a judgment that requires DDW to make payments under the Settlement and requires Class Members and Aggrieved Employees to give up their rights to assert certain claims against DDW.

If you worked for DDW during the Class Period and/or the PAGA Period, you have two basic options under the Settlement:

1. **Do Nothing.** You don't have to do anything to participate in the proposed Settlement and be eligible for an Individual Class Payment and/or an Individual PAGA Payment. As a Participating Class Member, though, you will give up your right to assert Class Period wage claims and PAGA Period penalty claims against DDW.
2. **Opt-Out of the Class Settlement.** You can exclude yourself from the Class Settlement (opt-out) by submitting the written Request for Exclusion or otherwise notifying the Administrator in writing. If you opt-out of the Settlement, you will not receive an Individual Class Payment. You will, however, preserve your right to personally pursue Class Period wage claims against DDW, and, if you are an Aggrieved Employee, remain eligible for an Individual PAGA Payment. You cannot opt-out of the PAGA portion of the proposed Settlement.

DDW will not retaliate against you for any actions you take with respect to the proposed Settlement.

#### **SUMMARY OF YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS AND OPTIONS IN THIS SETTLEMENT**

**You Don't Have to Do Anything to Participate in the Settlement.** If you do nothing, you will be a Participating Class Member, eligible for an Individual Class Payment and an Individual PAGA Payment (if any). In exchange, you will give up your right to assert the wage claims against DDW that are covered by this Settlement (Released Claims).

**You Can Opt-Out of the Class Settlement but not the PAGA Settlement.** The Opt-out Deadline is **DATE**. If you don't want to fully participate in the proposed Settlement, you can opt-out of the Class Settlement by sending the Administrator a written Request for Exclusion. Once excluded, you will be a Non-Participating Class Member and no longer eligible for an Individual Class Payment. Non-Participating Class Members cannot object to any portion of the proposed Settlement. See Section 6 of this Notice.

**You Cannot Opt-out of the PAGA Portion of the Proposed Settlement.** DDW must pay Individual PAGA Payments to all Aggrieved Employees and the Aggrieved Employees must give up their rights to pursue Released Claims (defined below).

**Participating Class Members Can Object to the Class Settlement but not the PAGA Settlement.** Written objections must be submitted by **DATE**. All Class Members who do not opt-out ("Participating Class Members") can object to any aspect of the proposed Settlement. The Court's decision whether to finally approve the Settlement will include a determination of how much will be paid to Class Counsel and Plaintiff who pursued the Action on behalf of the Class. You are not personally responsible for any payments to Class Counsel or Plaintiff. Other than the PAGA portion of this Settlement, you can object to any aspect of this Settlement. See Section 7 of this Notice.

**You Can Participate in the Final Approval Hearing.** The Court’s Final Approval Hearing is scheduled to take place on **DATE**. You don’t have to attend but you do have the right to appear (or hire an attorney to appear on your behalf at your own cost), in person, by telephone or by using the Court’s virtual appearance platform. Participating Class Members can verbally object to the Settlement at the Final Approval Hearing. See Section 8 of this Notice.

**You Can Challenge the Calculation of Your Workweeks/Pay Periods.** Written Challenges Must be Submitted by **DATE**. The amount of your Individual Class Payment and PAGA Payment (if any) depend on how many workweeks you worked at least one day during the Class Period and how many Pay Periods you worked at least one day during the PAGA Period, respectively. The number of Workweeks and number of Pay Periods you worked according to DDW’s records is stated on the first page of this Notice. If you disagree with either of these numbers, you must challenge it by **DATE**. See Section 4 of this Notice.

## **1. WHAT IS THE ACTION ABOUT?**

Plaintiff is a former DDW employee. The Action accuses DDW of violating California labor laws by (a) failure to pay minimum wages and liquidated damages; (b) failure to furnish itemized wage statements; (c) failure to timely pay all wages due upon separation of employment; (4) failure to reimburse business expenses; and (d) violations of the Unfair Competition Law. Based on the same claims, Plaintiff has also asserted a claim for civil penalties under the California Private Attorneys General Act (Labor Code §§ 2698, et seq.) (“PAGA”). Plaintiff is represented by attorneys (“Class Counsel”) in the Action.

DDW strongly denies violating any laws or failing to pay any wages and contends it complied with all applicable laws.

## **2. WHAT DOES IT MEAN THAT THE ACTION HAS SETTLED?**

So far, the Court has made no determination whether DDW violated any laws. In the meantime, Plaintiff and DDW hired an experienced, neutral mediator in an effort to resolve the Action by negotiating an end to the case by agreement (settle the case) rather than continuing the expensive and time-consuming process of litigation. The negotiations were successful. By signing a lengthy written settlement agreement (“Agreement”) and agreeing to jointly ask the Court to enter a judgment ending the Action and enforcing the Agreement, Plaintiff and DDW have negotiated a proposed Settlement that is subject to the Court’s Final Approval. Both sides agree the proposed Settlement is a compromise of disputed claims. By agreeing to settle, DDW does not admit any violations or concede the merit of any claims.

Plaintiff and Class Counsel strongly believe the Settlement is a good deal for you because they believe that: (a) DDW has agreed to pay a fair, reasonable, and adequate amount considering the strength of the claims and the risks and uncertainties of continued litigation; and (b) Settlement is in the best interests of the Class Members and Aggrieved Employees. The Court preliminarily approved the proposed Settlement as fair, reasonable, and adequate, authorized this Notice, and scheduled a hearing to determine whether to finally approve the Settlement.

### 3. WHAT ARE THE IMPORTANT TERMS OF THE PROPOSED SETTLEMENT?

**DDW Will Pay \$200,000.00 as the Gross Settlement Amount (Gross Settlement).** DDW has agreed to deposit the Gross Settlement into an account controlled by the Administrator of the Settlement. The Administrator will use the Gross Settlement to pay the Individual Class Payments, Individual PAGA Payments, Class Representative Service Payment, Class Counsel's attorney's fees and expenses, the Administrator's expenses, and penalties to be paid to the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency ("LWDA"). Assuming the Court grants Final Approval, DDW will fund the Gross Settlement not more than 14 business days after the Judgment entered by the Court becomes final. The Judgment will be final on the date the Court enters Judgment, or a later date if Participating Class Members object to the proposed Settlement or the Judgment is appealed.

**Court Approved Deductions from Gross Settlement.** At the Final Approval Hearing, Plaintiff and/or Class Counsel will ask the Court to approve the following deductions from the Gross Settlement, the amounts of which will be decided by the Court at the Final Approval Hearing:

- Up to \$66,666.67 (one-third of the Gross Settlement) to Class Counsel for attorneys' fees and up to \$35,000.00 for their litigation expenses. To date, Class Counsel have worked and incurred expenses on the Action without payment.
- Up to \$10,000.00 as a Class Representative Service Payment for filing the Action, working with Class Counsel, and representing the Class. A Class Representative Service Payment will be the only monies Plaintiff will receive other than Plaintiff's Individual Class Payment and any Individual PAGA Payment.
- Up to \$7,500.00 to the Administrator for services administering the Settlement.
- Up to \$10,000.00 for PAGA Penalties, allocated 75% to the LWDA PAGA Payment, and 25% in Individual PAGA Payments to the Aggrieved Employees based on the number of Pay Periods worked during the PAGA Period.

Participating Class Members have the right to object to any of these deductions. The Court will consider all objections.

**Net Settlement Distributed to Class Members.** After making the above deductions in amounts approved by the Court, the Administrator will distribute the rest of the Gross Settlement (the "Net Settlement") by making Individual Class Payments to Participating Class Members based on the number of Workweeks worked during the Class Period.

**Taxes Owed on Payments to Class Members.** Plaintiff and DDW are asking the Court to approve an allocation of 40% of each Individual Class Payment to taxable wages ("Wage Portion") and 60% to penalties and interest ("Non-Wage Portion."). The Wage Portion is subject to withholdings and will be reported on IRS W-2 Forms. DDW will separately pay employer payroll taxes it owes on the Wage Portion. The Individual PAGA Payments are counted as penalties rather than wages for tax purposes. The Administrator will report the Individual PAGA Payments and the Non-Wage Portions of the Individual Class Payments on IRS 1099 Forms.

Although Plaintiff and DDW have agreed to these allocations, neither side is giving you any advice on whether your Payments are taxable or how much you might owe in taxes. You are responsible for paying all taxes (including penalties and interest on back taxes) on any payments received from the proposed Settlement. You should consult a tax advisor if you have any questions about the tax consequences of the proposed Settlement.

**Need to Promptly Cash Payment Checks.** The front of every check issued for Individual Class Payments and Individual PAGA Payments will show the date when the check expires (the void date). If you don't cash it by the void date, your check will be automatically cancelled, and the monies will be irrevocably lost to you because they will be paid to a non-profit organization or foundation ("Cy Pres").

**Requests for Exclusion from the Class Settlement (Opt-Outs).** You will be treated as a Participating Class Member, participating fully in the Settlement, unless you notify the Administrator in writing, not later than **DATE**, that you wish to opt-out. The easiest way to notify the Administrator is to send a written and signed Request for Exclusion by the Response Deadline. The Request for Exclusion should be a letter from a you or your representative setting forth your name, present address, telephone number, and a simple statement electing to be excluded from the Settlement. Excluded Class Members (i.e., Non-Participating Class Members) will not receive Individual Class Payments, but will preserve their rights to personally pursue wage and hour claims against DDW.

**You cannot opt-out of the PAGA portion of the Settlement.** Class Members who exclude themselves from the Class Settlement (Non-Participating Class Members) remain eligible for Individual PAGA Payments and are required to give up their right to assert PAGA claims against DDW based on the PAGA Period facts alleged in the Action.

**The Proposed Settlement Will be Void if the Court Denies Final Approval.** It is possible the Court will decline to grant Final Approval of the Settlement or decline to enter a Judgment. It is also possible the Court will enter a Judgment that is reversed on appeal. Plaintiffs and DDW have agreed that, in either case, the Settlement will be void: DDW will not pay any money and Class Members will not release any claims against DDW.

**Administrator.** The Court has appointed a neutral company, Apex Class Action Administration (the "Administrator") to send this Notice, calculate and make payments, and process Class Members' Requests for Exclusion. The Administrator will also decide Class Member Challenges over Workweeks and/or Pay Periods, mail and re-mail settlement checks and tax forms, and perform other tasks necessary to administer the Settlement. The Administrator's contact information is contained in Section 9 of this Notice.

**Participating Class Members' Release.** After the Judgment is final and DDW has fully funded the Gross Settlement and separately paid all employer payroll taxes, Participating Class Members will be legally barred from asserting any of the claims released under the Settlement. This means that unless you opted out by validly excluding yourself from the Class Settlement, you cannot sue, continue to sue, or be part of any other lawsuit against DDW or related entities for wages based

on the Class Period facts and PAGA penalties based on the facts, as alleged in the Action and resolved by this Settlement.

All Participating Class Members, on behalf of themselves and their respective former and present representatives, agents, attorneys, heirs, administrators, successors, and assigns, release Released Parties from all claims that were alleged, or reasonably could have been alleged, based on the facts stated in the Complaint and First Amended Complaint including, (a) failure to pay minimum wages and liquidated damages; (b) failure to furnish itemized wage statements; (c) failure to timely pay all wages due upon separation of employment; (d) failure to reimburse business expenses; and (e) violations of the Unfair Competition Law. Except as set forth in Section 5.3 of the Settlement Agreement, Participating Class Members do not release any other claims, including claims for vested benefits, wrongful termination, violation of the Fair Employment and Housing Act, unemployment insurance, disability, social security, workers' compensation, or claims based on facts occurring outside the Class Period.

**Aggrieved Employees' PAGA Release.** After the Court's judgment is final and DDW has paid the Gross Settlement and separately paid the employer-side payroll taxes, all Aggrieved Employees will be barred from asserting PAGA claims against DDW, whether or not they excluded themselves from the Settlement. This means that all Aggrieved Employees, including those who are Participating Class Members and those who opt-out of the Class Settlement, cannot sue, continue to sue, or participate in any other PAGA claim against DDW or its related entities based on the facts alleged in the Action and resolved by this Settlement.

All Aggrieved Employees are deemed to release, on behalf of themselves and their respective former and present representatives, agents, attorneys, heirs, administrators, successors, and assigns, the Released Parties, from all claims for PAGA penalties that were alleged, or reasonably could have been alleged, based on the PAGA Period facts stated in the First Amended Complaint and PAGA Notice including, (a) failure to pay minimum wages and liquidated damages; (b) failure to furnish itemized wage statements; (c) failure to timely pay all wages due upon separation of employment; (d) failure to reimburse business expenses; (e) failure to keep accurate records; (f) failure to pay overtime; (g) failure to provide meal periods; (h) failure to provide rest periods; (i) failure to pay statutory wages; (10) refusal to pay wages due; (11) failure to provide standard conditions of labor; (j) unlawful deductions; (k) failure to pay reporting time pay; (l) failure to provide paid sick leave; (m) failure to provide supplemental paid sick leave; (n) failure to pay vested vacation and/or paid time off; (o) unlawful agreements; and (p) unlawful criminal inquiries.

#### **4. HOW WILL THE ADMINISTRATOR CALCULATE MY PAYMENT?**

**Individual Class Payments.** The Administrator will calculate Individual Class Payments by (a) dividing the Net Settlement Amount by the total number of Workweeks worked by all Participating Class Members, and (b) multiplying the result by the number of Workweeks worked by each individual Participating Class Member.

**Individual PAGA Payments.** The Administrator will calculate Individual PAGA Payments by (a) dividing \$2,500.00 by the total number of PAGA Pay Periods worked by all Aggrieved

Employees, and (b) multiplying the result by the number of Pay Periods worked by each individual Aggrieved Employee.

**Workweek/Pay Period Challenges.** The number of Workweeks you worked during the Class Period and the number of PAGA Pay Periods you worked during the PAGA Period, as recorded in DDW's records, are stated in the first page of this Notice. You have until **DATE** to challenge the number of Workweeks and/or Pay Periods credited to you. You can submit your challenge by signing and sending a letter to the Administrator via mail, email or fax. Section 9 of this Notice has the Administrator's contact information.

You need to support your challenge by sending copies of pay stubs or other records. The Administrator will accept DDW's calculation of Workweeks and/or Pay Periods based on DDW's records as accurate unless you send copies of records containing contrary information. You should send copies rather than originals because the documents will not be returned to you. The Administrator will resolve Workweek and/or Pay Period challenges based on your submission and on input from Class Counsel (who will advocate on behalf of Participating Class Members) and DDW's Counsel. The Administrator's decision is final. You can't appeal or otherwise challenge its final decision.

## 5. HOW WILL I GET PAID?

**Participating Class Members.** The Administrator will send, by U.S. mail, a single check to every Participating Class Member (i.e., every Class Member who doesn't opt-out) including those who also qualify as Aggrieved Employees. The single check will combine the Individual Class Payment and the Individual PAGA Payment.

**Non-Participating Class Members.** The Administrator will send, by U.S. mail, a single Individual PAGA Payment check to every Aggrieved Employee who opts out of the Settlement (i.e., every Non-Participating Class Member).

Your check will be sent to the same address as this Notice. If you change your address, be sure to notify the Administrator as soon as possible. Section 9 of this Notice has the Administrator's contact information.

## 6. HOW DO I OPT-OUT OF THE CLASS SETTLEMENT?

Submit a written and signed letter with your name, present address, telephone number, and a simple statement that you do not want to participate in the Settlement. The Administrator will exclude you based on any writing communicating your request be excluded. Be sure to personally sign your request, identify the Action as *Jamal Ali v. Diesel Direct West, LLC*, and include your identifying information (full name, address, telephone number, approximate dates of employment, and social security number for verification purposes). You must make the request yourself. If someone else makes the request for you, it will not be valid. The Administrator must be sent your request to be excluded by **DATE**, or it will be invalid. Section 9 of the Notice has the Administrator's contact information.

## 7. HOW DO I OBJECT TO THE SETTLEMENT?

Only Participating Class Members have the right to object to the Settlement. Before deciding whether to object, you may wish to see what Plaintiff and DDW are asking the Court to approve. At least 16 court days before the Final Approval Hearing, Class Counsel and/or Plaintiff will file in Court a Motion for Final Approval that includes, among other things, the reasons why the proposed Settlement is fair, and stating (a) the amount Class Counsel is requesting for attorneys' fees and litigation expenses, and (b) the amount Plaintiff is requesting as a Class Representative Service Payment. Upon reasonable request, Class Counsel (whose contact information is in Section 9 of this Notice) will send you copies of these documents at no cost to you. You can also view them on the Administrator's Website \_\_\_\_\_ (url) or the Court's website <https://eportal.alameda.courts.ca.gov/>.

A Participating Class Member who disagrees with any aspect of the Agreement or the Motion for Final Approval may wish to object, for example, that the proposed Settlement is unfair, or that the amounts requested by Class Counsel or Plaintiff are too high or too low. The deadline for sending written objections to the Administrator is **DATE**. Be sure to tell the Administrator what you object to, why you object, and any facts that support your objection. Make sure you identify the Action *Jamal Ali v. Diesel Direct West, LLC* and include your name, current address, telephone number, and approximate dates of employment with DDW and sign the objection. Section 9 of this Notice has the Administrator's contact information.

Alternatively, a Participating Class Member can object (or personally retain a lawyer to object at your own cost) by attending the Final Approval Hearing. You (or your attorney) should be ready to tell the Court what you object to, why you object, and any facts that support your objection. See Section 8 of this Notice (immediately below) for specifics regarding the Final Approval Hearing.

## 8. CAN I ATTEND THE FINAL APPROVAL HEARING?

You can, but don't have to, attend the Final Approval Hearing on **DATE** at **TIME** in Department 23 of the Alameda County Superior Court, located at 1225 Fallon St., Oakland, CA 94612. At the Hearing, the judge will decide whether to grant Final Approval of the Settlement and how much of the Gross Settlement will be paid to Class Counsel, Plaintiff, and the Administrator. The Court will invite comment from objectors, Class Counsel and Defense Counsel before making a decision. You can attend (or hire a lawyer to attend) either personally or virtually via Zoom (<https://www.alameda.courts.ca.gov/general-information/remote-appearances>). Check the Court's website for the most current information.

It's possible the Court will reschedule the Final Approval Hearing. You should check the Court's website beforehand or contact Class Counsel to verify the date and time of the Final Approval Hearing.

## 9. HOW CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION?

The Agreement sets forth everything DDW and Plaintiff have promised to do under the proposed Settlement. The easiest way to read the Agreement, the Judgment or any other Settlement document is to go to the Settlement Administrator's website at \_\_\_\_\_ (url). You can also

telephone or send an email to Class Counsel or the Administrator using the contact information listed below or consult the Superior Court website by going to (<https://eportal.alameda.courts.ca.gov/>), creating an account, and entering the Case Number for the Action, Case No. 23CV031181.

**DO NOT TELEPHONE THE SUPERIOR COURT TO OBTAIN INFORMATION ABOUT THE SETTLEMENT.**

**Class Counsel:**

Zachary Crosner

zach@crosnerlegal.com

Jamie Serb

jamie@crosnerlegal.com

Nikki Trenner

nikki@crosnerlegal.com

9440 Santa Monica Blvd., Suite 301

Beverly Hills, CA 90210

**Settlement Administrator:**

Apex Class Action Administration

Email Address:

Mailing Address:

Telephone:

Fax Number:

**10. WHAT IF I LOSE MY SETTLEMENT CHECK?**

If you lose or misplace your settlement check before cashing it, the Administrator will replace it as long as you request a replacement before the void date on the face of the original check. If your check is already void you will have no way to recover the money.

**11. WHAT IF I CHANGE MY ADDRESS?**

To receive your check, you should immediately notify the Administrator if you move or otherwise change your mailing address.