

**SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF TULARE**

Tinajero, Lucille
Plaintiff/Petitioner,

vs.

Sequoia Medical Services, L.P. et al
Defendant/Respondent.

Jud. Officer: **Russell Burke**
Clerk: **Skye Woods**
Bailiff: **A Gonzalez**
CSR:
Interpreter:
Language:

Minutes: **Motion Hearing
Preliminary Approval**
Date: **January 26, 2026**

Case No. **VCU319687**
Department **07**

Related Cases:

Appearances: No Appearances

- Party: _____
- Remote Appearance
- Party: _____
- Remote Appearance
- Party: _____
- Remote Appearance
- Other: _____
- Remote Appearance

- Attorney: _____
- Remote Appearance
- Attorney: _____
- Remote Appearance
- Attorney: _____
- Remote Appearance

- Court makes interpreter findings on the record pursuant to GC 68561(g)/GC 68561(f)
- No court reporter was available for today's proceedings. Not Reported ER Number

Motion: Continued Motion for Preliminary Approval of Class Action and PAGA Settlement

Case called at 9:07 a.m.

No requests for oral argument presented.

ORDER: The Court adopts the Tentative Ruling as the Order of the Court as follows:

TENTATIVE RULING:

Tentative Ruling: To grant the motion for preliminary approval; to set the motion for final approval for August 31, 2026, 8:30 am, Dept. 7.

Background

The Court previously continued this matter and ordered supplemental declarations filed as to the notice period, information to calculate the lodestar, presently incurred costs and proof of the submission of this settlement to the LWDA.

On December 22, 2025, supplemental declarations were filed. Therefore, the Court rules as follows:

Class Notice

The settlement agreement provides no claim form will be required of class members to participate in distributions. Only those wishing to object or opt out must file notice with the settlement administrator.

Objections or opt out notices are now to be made within 60 days. The Court regularly approves notice periods of 60 days or longer. The notice period is approved.

Attorneys' Fees and Costs

Attorneys' fees of 33% of the gross settlement fund of \$150,000 or \$50,000 and costs not to exceed \$20,000 are sought by Plaintiff's counsel. Counsel has utilized the percentage of common fund methodology as well as provided adequate lodestar information to evaluate the reasonableness of the fee request.

Attorney Akhavan indicates 49.5 hours at the rate of \$650 per hour, creating a base lodestar of \$32,175 (Supplemental Declaration of Akhavan ¶10.)

Barahmand Law Group indicates 46.2 hours at the rate of \$400 per hour, creating a base lodestar of \$18,480. (Supplemental Declaration of Barahmand ¶6.)

Therefore, the combined lodestar is \$50,655 and the Court approves the requested fees with no multiplier.

As to costs, Attorney Akhavan indicates \$14,919.56 currently expended in costs. Therefore, the Court approves costs not to exceed \$20,000.

LWDA Notice

Counsel's supplemental declaration indicates confirmation from the LWDA of receipt of proof of submission of the proposed settlement agreement. (Lab. Code, § 2699, subd. (1)(2).) (Supplemental Declaration of Akhavan ¶ 17 – Ex G.)

Therefore, the Court preliminarily approves deductions from the gross settlement of \$150,000 as follows:

Preliminarily Approved Court Attorneys' Fees (33.3%):	\$50,000
Preliminarily Approved Attorney Costs (up to):	\$20,000
Preliminarily Approved Enhancement Payment to Plaintiff:	\$5,000
Preliminarily Approved Settlement Administrator Costs	\$3,750
Preliminarily Approved Total PAGA Payment	\$20,000
Proposed Net Settlement Amount	\$51,250

Therefore, the Court grants the motion as noted above and sets the motion for final approval for August 31, 2026, 8:30 am, Dept. 7.