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FILED
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO
SAN BERNARDINO DISTRICT

APR 10 2026

BY 
VALERIE URJUNA, DEPUTY

Attorneys for Plaintiff, TONY HOWELL
on behalf of himself and all others similarly situated

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO

TONY HOWELL on behalf of himself and all
others similarly situated

Plaintiff,

Case No. CIVSB 2117103
ASSIGNED FOR ALL PURPOSES TO:
JUDGE: Hon. ~~Christian Torres~~
DEPT: S-26 KEVIN LEE

vs.

QUANTA UTILITY ENGINEERING
SERVICES, INC. a Missouri corporation,
UTILITY LINE MANAGEMENT SERVICES,
INC. a California corporation and DOES 1
through 50, inclusive,

Defendants.

**[PROPOSED] ORDER GRANTING
PRELIMINARY APPROVAL OF
CLASS ACTION AND PAGA
SETTLEMENT**

WHEREAS, this action is pending before this Court as a putative class and PAGA action
(the "Action"); and

WHEREAS, Plaintiff, through an unopposed motion for preliminary approval, has
applied to this Court for an order preliminarily approving the settlement of the Action in
accordance with the Class Action and PAGA Settlement Agreement ("Settlement Agreement")
and any exhibit annexed thereto, which sets forth the terms and conditions for a proposed
settlement and final resolution of the Action upon the terms and conditions set forth therein; and
the Court having read and considered the Settlement Agreement and the exhibit annexed thereto;

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NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

1. This Order incorporates by reference the definitions in the final version of the Settlement Agreement which has been filed with the Court and all terms defined therein shall have the same meaning in this Order as set forth in the Settlement Agreement;

2. The Court hereby conditionally certifies the following Classes for settlement purposes only. For the purposes of this settlement, the Classes is defined as: All current and former non-exempt hourly employees employed by Defendants in California who occupied positions of “construction site representative” and/or similar positions from June 14, 2017 through March 13, 2025. (“Class Period”);

3. Should for whatever reason the Settlement not become final, the fact that the Parties were willing to stipulate to class certification as part of the Settlement shall have no bearing on, nor be admissible in connection with, the issue of whether a class should be certified in a non-settlement context;

4. The Court hereby authorizes the retention of Apex Class Action, LLC. as the Administrator for the purpose of this Settlement;

5. The Court hereby conditionally finds that James Hawkins, Isandra Fernandez and Anthony Draper, of James Hawkins APLC, may act as counsel for the Class. The Court further conditionally finds that Plaintiff Tony Howell may act as the Class Representative for the Class;

6. The Court hereby preliminarily APPROVES the proposed Court Approved Notice of Class Action and PAGA Settlement and Hearing Date for Final Court Approval. (“Class Notice”) The Court further finds that the Class Notice appears to fully and accurately inform the Class Members of all material elements of the proposed Settlement Agreement, of the Class Members’ right to be excluded from the Class, and of each Class Member’s right and opportunity to object to the Settlement. The Class Notice shall be mailed to the Class Members as set forth in the Settlement Agreement;

7. The Court finds on a preliminary basis that the Settlement Agreement appears to be within the range of reasonableness of a settlement that could ultimately be given final approval by this Court. It appears to the Court on a preliminary basis that the settlement amount

1 is fair, adequate and reasonable as to all potential Class Members when balanced against the
 2 probable outcome of further litigation relating to liability and damages issues. It further appears
 3 that investigation and research have been conducted such that counsel for the Parties, at this
 4 time, are able to reasonably evaluate their respective positions. It further appears to the Court
 5 that settlement at this time will avoid substantial additional costs by all Parties, as well as avoid
 6 the delay and risks that would be presented by the further prosecution of the Action. It further
 7 appears that the Settlement has been reached as the result of serious and non-collusive, arms-
 8 length negotiations;

9 8. Pursuant to Civil Procedure Code section 664.6 and CRC 3.769(h), this Court
 10 shall retain jurisdiction with respect to all matters related to the administration and
 11 consummation of the settlement, and any and all claims, asserted in, arising out of, or related to
 12 the subject matter of the lawsuit, including but not limited to all matters related to the settlement
 13 and the determination of all controversies relating thereto.

14 9. The Court orders the following implementation schedule for further proceedings:
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Preliminary approval order.	<u>04-10</u> , 2026
Deadline for Defendants to provide the Class Data to the Settlement Administrator.	_____, 2026 (within fourteen (14) calendar days after Court Grants Preliminary Approval).
Mail notices to Settlement Class Members.	_____, 2026 (within fourteen (14) calendar days after Settlement Administrator Receives Class Data from Defendant).
Response Deadline for postmark by mail, fax or email of any Request for Exclusion.	_____, 2026 (forty- five (45) days after Settlement Administrator first mails Notice of Class Settlement to Settlement Class Members).

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Deadline for receipt by the Settlement Administrator of any objections to the Settlement.	_____, 2026 (forty- five (45) days after Settlement Administrator first mails Notice of Class Settlement to Settlement Class Members).
Response Deadline extension for re-mailed notices	_____, 2026 (14 calendar days after Response Deadline expires)
Deadline for Class Counsel to file Motion for Final Approval of Settlement.	<u>07-13</u> , 2026
Final Approval Hearing.	July 21, 2026, at 08:30 a.m.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated: 4-10-2026


KEVIN C. LEE
Hon ~~Christian Towns~~ **KEVIN C. LEE**
Judge of the San Bernardino County Superior Court