David V.
FILED
OCT 09 2026
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

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SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

FOR THE COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

JAMES VANCLEAVE, an individual, on behalf of himself and others similarly situated,

PLAINTIFF,

v.

HUMBOLDT PETROLEUM, INC.; and DOES 1 thru 50, inclusive,

DEFENDANTS.

CASE NO. CV2200234

[Case Assigned for All Purposes to Timothy Canning in Dept. 4]

~~[PROPOSED]~~ ORDER GRANTING PRELIMINARY APPROVAL OF CLASS AND REPRESENTATION ACTION SETTLEMENT

Date: September 18, 2026
Time: 8:30 A.M.
Dept.: 4

Complaint Filed: February 16, 2022
Trial Date: None Set

FAX FILED

The Motion for Preliminary Approval of the Class and Representative Action Settlement came before this Court on September 18, 2026 at 8:30 A.M. in Department 4, the Honorable Timothy Canning, presiding. The Court, having considered the papers submitted in support of the motion of the parties, **HEREBY ORDERS THE FOLLOWING:**

1. The Court grants preliminary approval of the proposed settlement based upon the terms set forth in the Class Action and PAGA Settlement Agreement ("Agreement" or "Settlement") filed herewith. The Agreement appears to be fair, adequate, and reasonable to the Class. The Court finds that: (a) the Agreement resulted from extensive arm's length negotiations; and (b) the Agreement is sufficient to warrant notice of the Agreement to persons in the Class and a full hearing regarding final approval of the Agreement.

2. For purposes of this Order, the proposed Class is defined as follows:

> "All persons who were employed or have been employed as an hourly-paid or non-exempt employee by HUMBOLDT PETROLEUM, INC., in the State of California who worked one or more work weeks during the Class Period." ("Class Members" or "Class")

3. The Class Period is February 16, 2018 to August 26, 2025.

4. The Agreement falls within the range of reasonableness and appears to be presumptively valid, subject only to any objections that may be raised at the final fairness hearing and final approval by this Court.

5. The Court makes the following preliminary findings for settlement purposes only:

A. The Class, which consists of approximately 779 persons, is so numerous that joinder of all members is impracticable;

B. There appear to be questions of law or fact common to the Class for purposes of determining whether this Settlement should be approved;

C. Plaintiff's claims appear to be typical of the claims being resolved through the proposed settlement;

D. Plaintiff appears to be capable of fairly and adequately protecting the interests of the Class Members in connection with the proposed settlement;

E. Common questions of law and fact appear to predominate over questions affecting only individual persons in the Class. Accordingly, the Class

appears to be sufficiently cohesive to warrant settlement by representation; and

F. Certification of the Class appears to be superior to other available methods for the fair and efficient resolution of the claims of the Class.

6. The Court approves, as to form and content, the Notice of Class Action Settlement to Class Members in substantially the form attached to the Agreement as Exhibit "A".

7. The Court approves the procedure for Class Members to opt out to the Agreement as set forth in the Agreement and the Notice of Class Action Settlement.

8. The Court approves the procedure for Class Members to object to the Agreement as set forth in the Agreement and the Notice of Class Action Settlement.

9. The Court directs the mailing of the Notice of Class Action Settlement and related documents to members of the Class by first class mail in accordance with the Agreement and the implementation schedule set forth below. The Court finds that the dates selected for the mailing and distribution of the notice, as set forth in the following implementation schedule, meet the requirements of due process and provide the best notice practicable under the circumstances and shall constitute due and sufficient notice to all persons entitled thereto.

10. It is ordered that the Class is preliminarily certified for settlement purposes only.

11. The Court confirms Eric B. Kingsley and Jessica Bulaon of KINGSLEY SZAMET EMPLOYMENT LAWYERS as Class Counsel.

12. The Court confirms JAMES VANCLEAVE as Class Representative

13. The Court approves Apex Class Action Administration as the Administrator.

14. The Court orders that pursuant to the California Private Attorneys General Act, Labor Code §§ 2698, et seq. ("PAGA"), statutory notice of this Agreement has been and will continue to be given to the Labor & Workforce Development Agency.

15. A final fairness hearing on the question of whether the proposed Agreement, attorneys' fees and costs to Class Counsel, the PAGA payment, and the claims administration costs should be finally approved as fair, adequate, and reasonable as to the members of the Class is scheduled for 3/19/24 at 10:30 AM (Pacific Time), in Department 4.

16. The Court orders the following Implementation Schedule for further proceedings:

a.	Preliminary Approval Granted	
b.	Deadline for Defendant to Provide Class Members' Information to Administrator	30 calendar days from Entry of Preliminary Approval
c.	Administrator Shall Mail Notice to Class Members	14 calendar days from receipt of the Class List from Defendant
d.	Deadline for Postmark of Any Request for Exclusion	45 Days from Mailing of Notices
e.	Deadline for Postmark of Any Objection	45 Days from Mailing of Notices
f.	Deadline for Class Counsel to file Motion for Final Approval of Class Settlement	To be determined by the Court
g.	Deadline for Class Counsel to file Motion for Attorneys' Fees	To be determined by the Court
h.	Final Approval Hearing	3/19/2024

17. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that if the Court does not execute and file an Order of Final Approval and Judgment, or if the Effective Date of Settlement, as defined in the "Agreement, does not occur for any reason, the Agreement and the proposed Settlement that is the subject of this Order shall become null, void, unenforceable and inadmissible in any judicial, administrative or arbitral proceeding for any purpose, and all evidence, court orders and proceedings had in connection therewith, shall be without prejudice to the status quo ante rights of the Parties to the litigation, as more specifically set forth in the ("Agreement.

18. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that, pending further Order of this Court, all proceedings in this matter except those contemplated herein and in the Agreement are hereby stayed.

19. The Court expressly reserves the right to adjourn or continue the Final Fairness Hearing from time to time without further notice to members of the Class.

DATED: 10/8/2015

JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT

TIMOTHY A. CANNING

(PROOF OF SERVICE)
[CCP 1013(a)(3)]

STATE OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

I am employed in the County of Los Angeles, State of California. I am over the age of 18 years and not a party to the within action. My business address is 16133 Ventura Boulevard, Suite 1200, Encino, California 91436.

On August 14, 2026, I served all interested parties in this action the following documents described as: **[PROPOSED] ORDER GRANTING PRELIMINARY APPROVAL OF CLASS AND REPRESENTATION ACTION SETTLEMENT** by placing a true copy thereof enclosed in a sealed envelope addressed as follows:

PAETKAU LAW GROUP, APC Tyler M. Paetkau tyler@paetkaulg.com Kathy Huynh kathy@paetkaulg.com 2995 Woodside Road Suite 400-467 Woodside, CA 94062 *Attorneys for Defendant*	**ABRAMSON LABOR GROUP** William Zev Abramson wza@abramsonlabor.com 1700 W Burbank Blvd Burbank, CA 91506 *Attorneys for Plaintiff*

[XX] **(BY ELECTRONIC SERVICE)** I caused a true and correct copy thereof to be electronically filed using the Labor and Workforce Development Agency Electronic Filing ("EF") System (https://dir.govfa.net/432) and service was completed by electronic means by transmittal of the documents referenced herein on the EF System (es).

[XX] **(BY ELECTRONIC MAIL TRANSMISSION)** I caused the document to be send to the persons at the e-mail address(es) listed on the attached service list. I did not receive, within a reasonable time after the transmission, any electronic message or other indication that the transmission was unsuccessful. A pdf copy of which was sent via email to the below email address(es).

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

Executed on August 14, 2026, at Chino, California.

Leslie Sanchez