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1. This Joint Stipulation for Class Action and PAGA Settlement Agreement and Release ("Agreement" or "Stipulation") is made by and between Plaintiff Carla Zayac ("Plaintiff"), on behalf of herself and all members of the Settlement Class, as defined below, and as proxy for the State of California, on the one hand, and Defendant Sutter Valley Hospitals ("Sutter" or "Defendant"), on the other hand (collectively, "the Parties"), in the above-captioned matter.

DEFINITIONS

- 2. In addition to the terms defined above, the terms below shall have the following meanings:
- A. "Action" means Plaintiff's lawsuit against Sutter captioned *Carla Zayac v. Sutter Valley Medical Foundation, Sutter Valley Hospitals, et al.*, Case No. 34-2021-00293728, initiated on February 2, 2021 in the Superior Court of the State of California, County of Sacramento.
- B. "Class" or "Settlement Class" means all non-exempt employees who have been employed by Defendant in California from August 8, 2016 through the Class Period End Date and who, during that period, recorded paid sick leave in at least one workweek and also received, in that same workweek, nondiscretionary remuneration other than base hourly wages.
- C. "Class Counsel" means William L. Marder of Polaris Law Group, Majed Dakak of Kesselman Brantly Stockinger LLP, and Dennis S. Hyun of Hyun Legal APC. The term "Class Counsel" shall be used synonymously with the term "Plaintiff's Counsel."
- D. "Class Counsel Award" means the amount allocated to Class Counsel for reimbursement of its reasonable attorneys' fees and expenses incurred to prosecute the Action, as approved by the Court.
- E. "Class Data" means information regarding Class Members that Defendant shall compile from its records, as authorized by the Court, and transmit securely to the Settlement Administrator, including each Class Member's name, last known mailing address; Social Security number; last known telephone number; dates of employment, and other information necessary for the Settlement Administrator to calculate the number of Compensable Workweeks worked during the Class and PAGA Periods.

"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 a PAGA-Eligible Employee.) "Class Members' Released Claims" means the claims being released by the Participating Class Members, as described in Paragraph 20 below. "Class Notice" means the Court-Approved Notice of Pendency of Class Action Settlement and Final Hearing, to be mailed to Class Members in the form, without material variation, attached as Exhibit A and incorporated by reference into this Agreement. "Class Period" means the period from August 8, 2016 through the Class Period "Class Period End Date" means the date on which the Court enters its "Class Representative" means Carla Zayac, the named Plaintiff in the operative complaint in the Action, who is seeking Court approval to serve as the Class Representative. "Class Representative Service Award" means the amount to be paid to the Class Representative for initiating the Action and providing services in support of the Action, as "Compensable Workweeks" means any workweek during the Class Period. including the PAGA Period, in which a Class Member performed at least one hour of work, recorded paid sick leave, and received nondiscretionary remuneration aside from base hourly "Court" means the Sacramento County Superior Court presiding over the "Defense Counsel" means Thomas E. Geidt, Teresa W. Ghali, and Amanda M. "Effective Date" is the date on which the Settlement becomes "Final," which

modification, if there are no objections, or (ii) if there are any objections, the day after the deadline for filing a notice of appeal from the Final Judgment has passed without a timely appeal having been filed; or (iii) if a timely appeal from the Final Judgment is filed, the day after the appellate court affirms the Judgment and issues a remittitur.

- Q. "Final Approval" means the Court's order granting final approval of the Settlement
- R. "Final Approval Hearing" means the Court's hearing on the Motion for Final Approval of the Settlement.
- S. "**Final Judgment**" means the Judgment entered by the Court upon granting Final Approval of the Settlement.
- T. "Individual Class Payment" means the Participating Class Member's pro rata share of the Net Settlement Amount calculated according to the number of Compensable Workweeks worked during the Class Period, as explained below in Paragraph 16.
- U. "Individual PAGA Payment" means the pro rata share of 25% of the PAGA Payment, calculated according to the number of Compensable Workweeks worked during the PAGA Period by the Class Members, whether or not they requested to be excluded from the Settlement, as explained below in Paragraph 17.
 - V. "LWDA" means the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency.
- W. "LWDA Notice" means the November 25, 2020 PAGA letters that Class Counsel sent to the LWDA and Defendant on behalf of Plaintiff Carla Zayac, providing notice pursuant to Labor Code section 2699.3(a).
- X. "LWDA PAGA Payment" means the 75% of the PAGA Payment paid to the Labor and Workforce Development Agency under Labor Code section 2699(i).
- Z. "Maximum Settlement Amount" means \$4,750,000.00, which is the total amount Defendant shall have to pay under the Settlement, except as provided in Paragraph 19 below regarding employer payroll taxes on the wage payments being made under the Settlement. The Maximum Settlement Amount will be used to pay Individual Class Payments, Individual PAGA Payments, the LWDA PAGA Payment, the Class Counsel Award for fees and costs, the Class

Representative Service Payment, and the Settlement Administration Costs. This excludes the employer's contribution of payroll taxes due on the settlement payments apportioned as wages, which Defendant will pay outside of the Maximum Settlement Amount.

- AA. "Net Settlement Amount" means the Maximum Settlement Amount, less the Class Counsel Award, the Class Representative Service Award, the PAGA Payment, and the Settlement Administration Costs.
- BB. "Non-Participating Class Member" means any Class Member who opts out of the Settlement by sending the Settlement Administrator a valid and timely Request for Exclusion
- CC. "**Objection**" means a Class Member's valid and timely submission of a written objection to the Settlement to the Settlement Administrator within the Response Deadline, provided that the Class Member did not submit a Request for Exclusion.
- DD. "PAGA" means the California Private Attorneys General Act (Labor Code §§ 2698. et seq.
- EE. "PAGA-Eligible Employees" means those Class Members who have been employed as non-exempt employees of Defendant during the PAGA Period and who, in at least one workweek during the PAGA Period, recorded paid sick leave and received, during the same workweek, non-discretionary remuneration other than base hourly wages.
- FF. "PAGA Payment" means \$475,000.00, which is the total amount of PAGA civil penalties to be paid from the Maximum Settlement Amount, subject to the Court's approval, in settlement of the PAGA claims in this Action. Of this amount, 75% (\$356,250.00) will be paid to the LWDA and 25% (\$118,750.00) will be distributed as the Individual PAGA Payments to the PAGA-Eligible Employees, whether or not they opted out of the Class Settlement.
- GG. "PAGA Period" means the period from May 31, 2019 through the Class Period End Date.
- HH. "PAGA Released Claims" means the PAGA claims being released as described in Paragraph 21 below.
- II. "Participating Class Member" means a Class Member who does not submit a valid and timely Request for Exclusion from the Settlement.

"Preliminary Approval Order" means the Court's Order Granting Preliminary "Released Parties" means Defendant, and all of its former and present parents, corporate members, subsidiaries, divisions, and affiliated companies, and their respective officers, directors, employees, partners, shareholders, agents, insurers, successors, assigns, and legal "Released Claims Period" for Participating Class Members means the period from August 8, 2016 through the Class Period End Date. For the PAGA claims it means the MM. "Request for Exclusion" means a Class Member's valid and timely submission of a written request to the Settlement Administrator to be excluded from the Class Settlement, "Response Deadline" means 60 days after the Settlement Administrator mails the Class Notice to the Class Members, and shall be the last date on which Class Members may mail (1) Requests for Exclusion from the Settlement, (2) an Objection to the Settlement, or (3) a dispute over the number of Compensable Workweeks attributed to them in the Class Notice. "Settlement" means the final and complete disposition of the Action effected by "Settlement Administrator" or "Administrator" means Phoenix Settlement Administrators, the neutral entity the Parties have agreed to appoint to administer the Settlement, "Settlement Administration Costs" means the Court-approved fees and

Procedural History. On February 2, 2021, Plaintiff filed her initial Complaint in this Action in Sacramento County Superior Court on behalf of herself and all others similarly situated asserting claims pursuant to the California Labor Code and the Business & Professions

Code § 17200, et seq. On March 3, 2021, Plaintiff filed a First Amended Complaint alleging a putative class action based on the substantive claims in the original complaint: 1) Violation of Labor Code § 201, 233, 246; 2) Violation of Labor Code § 226; Violation of Labor Code § 226.7 & 512; Violation of Labor Code § 2698, et seq. and Violation of Business & Professions Code § 17200, et seq.

- 4. **Mediation**. On September 9, 2022, the Parties participated in a full-day, armslength mediation before Michael J. Loeb of JAMS. With the assistance of the mediator, the Parties were able to come to a settlement of the claims in the Action, subject to the Court's approval. The settlement was memorialized in a Memorandum of Understanding, subject to later completion of this long-form Settlement Agreement.
- Counsel recognize the expense and length of continued proceedings necessary to litigate

 Plaintiff's disputes in the Lawsuit through trial and through any possible appeals. Plaintiff has also taken into account the uncertainty and risks of the outcome of further litigation, and the difficulties and delays inherent in such litigation. Plaintiff and Class Counsel are also aware of the burdens of proof necessary to establish liability for the claims asserted in the Lawsuit, both generally and in response to Defendant's defenses thereto, and the difficulties in establishing damages, penalties, restitution and other relief sought in the Action. Plaintiff and Class Counsel also have taken into account Defendant's agreement to enter into a settlement that confers substantial benefits upon the Class Members. Based on the foregoing, Plaintiff and Class Counsel have determined that the Settlement set forth in this Agreement is fair, adequate, and reasonable and is in the best interests of all Class Members.
- 6. **Defendant's Reasons for Settlement**. Defendant has concluded that further defense of the Action would be protracted and expensive. Substantial amounts of Defendant's time, energy, and resources have been, and unless this Settlement is completed, shall continue to be, devoted to the defense of the claims asserted by Plaintiff. Defendant has also taken into account the risks of further litigation in reaching its decision to enter into this Settlement. Even though Defendant contends it is not liable for any of the claims alleged by Plaintiff in the Action and

denies any liability whatsoever, Defendant, nonetheless, has agreed to settle in the manner and upon the terms set forth in this Stipulation and to fully and finally put to rest the claims alleged in the Action. Defendant has asserted and continues to assert that the claims alleged by Plaintiff have no merit and do not give rise to any liability, damages, restitution, penalties or other payments. This Settlement is a compromise of highly-disputed claims. Nothing contained in this Agreement, no documents referred to herein, and no action taken to carry out this Agreement, shall be construed or used as an admission by or against Defendant as to the merits or lack thereof of the claims asserted in the Lawsuit. Defendant contends that it has complied with all applicable state, federal and local laws. In the event this Settlement does not obtain final approval, Defendant retains all rights it has to defend itself in this matter and to take any actions in defense of itself that are available to it.

7. **Dismissal of Sutter Valley Medical Foundation**. Although Plaintiff's Complaint names Sutter Valley Medical Foundation ("SVMF") as a defendant in the Action, Plaintiff understands that Sutter Valley Hospitals was the entity that employed Plaintiff at all times material herein. Consequently, Plaintiff agrees to voluntarily dismiss the operative Complaint without prejudice as to all claims against SVMF. The Parties understand and agree that the dismissal without prejudice of SVMF will likely need to be done pursuant to a stipulation and proposed order subject to the Court's approval. Such dismissal is a material term of this Agreement.

CLASS CERTIFICATION

- 8. **Stipulated Settlement Class**. Solely for purposes of settling the Action, the Parties have agreed to the certification of a Settlement Class consisting of Defendant's non-exempt employees who have been employed in California from August 8, 2016 through the Class Period End Date and who, during that period, recorded paid sick leave in at least one workweek and also received, in that same workweek, nondiscretionary remuneration other than base hourly wages.
- 9. **Certification Is for Settlement Only**. For purposes of this Settlement, the Parties stipulate and agree that the requisites for establishing class certification with respect to the Class

have been met and are met. More specifically, for purposes of settlement only, the Parties stipulate and agree that the Settlement Class is ascertainable and so numerous as to make it impracticable to join all Class Members; and that there are common questions of law and fact including, but not limited to, whether Defendant failed to provide the Class Members with paid sick leave in accordance with the Healthy Workplaces, Healthy Families Act of 2014 ("HWHFA"), Labor Code §§ 245-249 at the regular rate of pay; whether Defendant derivatively failed to furnish accurate, itemized wage statements to all Class Members in accordance with Labor Code section 226; and whether Defendant is liable to the Class Members for derivative waiting time penalties pursuant to Labor Code section 203, among other common issues.

10. Certification Stipulation Nullified if Settlement Not Approved. Should this Settlement not become final, for whatever reason, the fact that the Parties were willing to stipulate provisionally to class certification as part of the Settlement shall have no bearing on, and shall not be admissible in connection with, the issue of whether a class should be certified in a non-settlement context in the Action. Defendant expressly reserves its right to oppose class certification should this Settlement not become final.

MONETARY TERMS OF THE SETTLEMENT

- Classes and the PAGA-Eligible Employees, collectively, are settled for a maximum sum of Four Million, Seven Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents (\$4,750,000.00) ("the Maximum Settlement Amount"). This Maximum Settlement Amount is inclusive of the Class Counsel Award, which includes Class Counsel's reasonable attorneys' fees and costs; the Class Representative Service Payment to Plaintiff Carla Zayac; the Settlement Administration Costs; and the PAGA Payment to the LWDA and the PAGA-Eligible Employees, all as approved by the Court. This excludes the employer's contribution of payroll taxes due on the settlement payments apportioned as wages, which Defendant will pay outside of the Maximum Settlement Amount.
- 12. **Class Counsel Award**. Class Counsel shall be entitled to request attorneys' fees in an amount not to exceed Thirty-Five Percent (35%) of the Maximum Settlement Amount, which amounts to One Million Six Hundred Sixty-Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars and Zero

Cents (\$1,662,500.00). In addition, Class Counsel shall be entitled to request an award of costs associated with Class Counsel's prosecution of the Action not to exceed Forty Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents (\$40,000.00). Class Counsel's request for such attorneys' fees and costs shall be subject to approval from the Court. Defendant agrees not to oppose or object to Class Counsel's requests for attorneys' fees or costs up to these amounts. In the event the Court awards Class Counsel less than these (or any other) requested amounts, the difference shall become part of the Net Settlement Amount and shall be distributed to Participating Class Members as part of their Individual Settlement Awards. Class Counsel shall be solely and legally responsible to pay all applicable taxes on the Class Counsel Award. Class Counsel shall provide the Settlement Administrator with properly completed and signed copies of IRS Form W-9 in order for the Settlement Administrator to process the Class Counsel Award approved by the Court. The Settlement Administrator shall issue an IRS Form 1099 to Class Counsel for the amount of the Class Counsel Award.

Parties agree to the designation of Plaintiff Carla Zayac as the Class Representative. In recognition of her time and effort in bringing and presenting the Action and for releasing the Plaintiff's Released Claims, Plaintiff shall request a Class Representative Service Award not to exceed Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000.00). Plaintiff's request for such award shall be subject to approval from the Court. Defendant agrees not to oppose or object to Plaintiff's request for a Class Representative Service Award that does not exceed this amount. The Class Representative Service Award will be in addition to Plaintiff's Individual Settlement Payment paid pursuant to the Settlement. The Settlement Administrator shall issue an IRS Form 1099 to Plaintiff for her Class Representative Service Award. Plaintiff shall be solely and legally responsible to pay any and all applicable taxes on her Class Representative Service Award. Any amount requested by Plaintiff for the Class Representative Service Award and not awarded by the Court shall become part of the Net Settlement Amount and shall be distributed to Participating Class Members as part of their Individual Settlement Awards.

- 14. **Settlement Administration Costs**. Subject to the Court's approval, Defendant shall reimburse the Settlement Administration Costs, which are estimated not to exceed Sixty-two Thousand Five Hundred (\$62,500.00), which shall be paid from the Maximum Settlement Amount. Prior to the filing of Plaintiff's Motion for Final Approval of the Settlement, the Settlement Administrator shall provide the Parties with a statement detailing the Settlement Administration Costs to date.
- 15. **PAGA Payments**. Defendant shall pay a total of \$475,000.00 to resolve the claims asserted by Plaintiff in the Action, as proxy for the State of California, for civil penalties under PAGA. Seventy-five percent (75%) of this amount (\$356,250.00) will be paid to the LWDA. The remaining twenty-five percent (25%) (\$118,750.00) will be distributed to the PAGA-Eligible Employees, based on their proportionate share of Compensable Workweeks worked during the PAGA Period.
- 16. Individual Class Payments. The Settlement Administrator will determine the Net Settlement Amount by deducting the Class Counsel Award of fees and costs, the Class Representative Service Award, the PAGA Payment and the Settlement Administrator Costs from the Maximum Settlement Amount. The Settlement Administrator will distribute the Individual Class Payments to the Participating Class Members from the Net Settlement Amount. The Administrator will calculate each Participating Class Member's Individual Class Payment by determining the total number of Compensable Workweeks worked by all Participating Class Members during the Class Period, dividing that number into the Net Settlement Amount to determine the per-workweek value of each Compensable Workweek, and then multiplying that sum by the number of Compensable Workweeks worked by each Participating Class Member during the Class Period.
- 17. **Individual PAGA Payments**. The Settlement Administrator will calculate each eligible employee's Individual PAGA Payment by dividing the 25% portion of the PAGA Payment to be distributed to those individuals, i.e. One Hundred Eighteen Seven Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents (\$118,750.00), by the total number of Compensable Workweeks worked by all of the PAGA-Eligible Employees during the PAGA Period to derive

the per-workweek value of the Individual PAGA Payments, and then multiplying that sum by the number of Compensable Workweeks worked by each such employee during the PAGA Period.

- Settlement Awards shall be allocated as follows: 20% as alleged unpaid wages subject to all applicable tax withholdings; and 80% as alleged unpaid interest and penalties. The Settlement Administrator shall issue an IRS Form W-2 to each Participating Class Member for the portion of each Individual Settlement Award allocated as alleged unpaid wages and subject to all applicable tax withholdings. The Settlement Administrator shall issue an IRS Form 1099 to each Participating Class Member for the remaining portion of each Individual Settlement Award. The Settlement Administrator shall also issue an IRS Form 1099 for the Individual PAGA Payments. The non-wage portions of the Individual Settlement Awards and the entirety of the Individual PAGA Payments will be allocated as non-wage penalties and interest and not be subject to payroll tax withholdings.
- 19. **Employer Payroll Taxes**. The Maximum Settlement Amount shall resolve, satisfy and completely extinguish all of Defendant's liability with respect to the Class Members, except that Defendant shall be responsible for paying the employer's share of payroll taxes on the portion of the Individual Settlement Awards that constitute wages. Defendant will pay these taxes, as calculated by the Settlement Administrator, in addition to the Maximum Settlement Amount. Upon Defendant's funding of the Maximum Settlement Amount and the employer portion of payroll taxes on the portion of the Individual Settlement Awards that constitutes wages, Defendant shall have no further payment or defense obligation whatsoever with respect to any claims covered by this Settlement made or asserted by any person or entity anywhere in the world in connection with the Class Members.

RELEASES

20. Class Members' Released Claims. Upon the Effective Date and Defendant's funding of the Maximum Settlement Amount and its share of employer-side payroll taxes, all Participating Class Members will fully, finally and forever release, settle, compromise, relinquish, and discharge all of the Released Parties form any and all claims, rights, demands, liabilities, and

causes of action of every nature and description, arising from August 8, 2016 through the Class Period End Date, including statutory, contractual, or common law claims for wages, damages, penalties, liquidated damages, interest, attorneys' fees, litigation costs, restitution, or equitable relief – whether asserted under the California Labor Code, Business and Professions Code §§ 17200 et seq., the applicable wage orders at California Code of Regulations, Title 8, Section 11000 et seq., or otherwise – that arise out of or are reasonably related to the factual allegations that were alleged or could have been alleged in Plaintiff's Complaint herein, including but not limited to: (a) any and all claims for failure to provide paid sick leave in accordance with the Healthy Workplaces, Healthy Families Act of 2014 ("HWHFA"), Labor Code §§ 245-249, including failure to pay sick leave at the correct regular rate of pay; (b) any and all claims for violation of the "kin care" law, Labor Code § 233; (c) any and all derivative claims for failure to furnish accurate itemized wage statements in accordance with Labor Code § 226 arising out of the above-alleged claims; (d) any and all derivative claims for failure to provide sick leave wages when due upon separation of employment under Labor Code §§ 201-203; (e) any and all derivative claims for "late payment" penalties under Labor Code §§ 204 and 210 arising out of the above-alleged claims; (f) any and all derivative claims for violation of California Business and Professions Code §§ 17200 et seq. arising out of the above-alleged claims; (g) any and all claims for violation of the Private Attorneys General Act of 2004, Labor Code §§2698 et seq. arising out of the above-alleged claims; and (h) any and all claims for attorneys' fees and costs arising out of the above-alleged claims. This release does not include the meal and rest break claims alleged in Plaintiff's Complaint which, as discussed in Paragraph 23 below, are excluded from this Settlement.

21. PAGA Released Claims. All Participating and Non-Participating Class Members who are PAGA-Eligible Employees shall release the Released Parties from any and all claims for PAGA civil penalties, arising from May 31, 2019 through the Class Period End Date, that were alleged or reasonably could have been alleged based on the facts contained in Plaintiff's operative Complaint, as enumerated in Paragraph 20 above, and/or in Plaintiff's LWDA Notice. This release does not include the meal and rest break claims alleged in Plaintiff's Complaint which, as

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Meal and Rest Break Claims Not Released. Although Plaintiff's operative Complaint alleges causes of action against Defendant for failure to provide meal periods and

failure to authorize and permit rest breaks, as well as derivative claims arising from Plaintiff's

meal and rest break claims, the Parties do not intend the Class Members' Released Claims or the

PAGA Released Claims herein to cover those meal and rest break and derivative claims. Instead,

Plaintiff agrees to voluntarily withdraw those claims from her Complaint without prejudice,

because Plaintiff has become aware that substantially similar meal and rest break claims recently

discussed in Paragraph 23 below, are excluded from this Settlement. It is understood and agreed that PAGA-Eligible Employees will not have the opportunity to opt out of this PAGA Release.

Plaintiff's Additional Release. In addition to the Class Members' Released 22. Claims, Plaintiff, in her individual capacity, agrees to release the Released Parties from any and all claims she may have, known and unknown, under federal, state and/or local law, statute, ordinance, regulation, common law, or other source of law, arising as of the date of execution of this Agreement, including but not limited to claims arising from or related to her employment with Defendant, her termination, her compensation while in Defendant's employ, and all other dealings she may have had with the Released Parties. Plaintiff expressly waives and relinquishes all rights and benefits of section 1542 of the Civil Code of the State of California, and does so understanding and acknowledging the significance and consequence of specifically waiving her rights under section 1542 not to otherwise release unknown claims. Section 1542 of the Civil Code of the State of California states as follows:

> 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.

Notwithstanding the provisions of section 1542, and to implement a full and complete release and discharge of the Released Parties, Plaintiff expressly acknowledges that this Agreement is intended to include in its effect, without limitation, all claims that Plaintiff does not know or suspect to exist in her favor at the time of signing this Agreement, and that this Agreement contemplates the extinguishment of any such claims.

have been the subject of a class action and PAGA representative action settlement and release entered into by Defendant in another earlier-filed matter known as the "*Muniz*" matter.

MOTION FOR PRELIMINARY APPROVAL

- 24. **Mutual Duty of Cooperation to Seek Approval**. The Parties agree to work diligently and cooperatively to have this Settlement expeditiously jointly presented to the Court for preliminary approval. Promptly upon execution of this Agreement, the Parties shall apply to the Court for the entry of an order scheduling a fairness hearing on the question of whether the proposed settlement, including payment of attorneys' fees and costs, the Class Representative's Service Award payment, and the PAGA Payment, should be approved as fair, reasonable and adequate as to the members of the Settlement Class. Class Counsel shall prepare a draft motion for preliminary approval, including a proposed Preliminary Approval Order, and will circulate the draft to Defense Counsel at least five business days in advance of its filing. 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 to resolve the disagreement.
- 25. **Contents of Preliminary Approval Order**. As part of the motion for preliminary approval, the Parties shall apply to the Court for the entry of an Order as follows:
 - a. Certifying the Settlement Class for settlement purposes only;
- b. Approving, as to form and content, the proposed Class Notice (**Exhibit 1** attached hereto);
- c. Approving the manner and method for Class Members to object to or request exclusion from the Settlement, as contained herein and within the Class Notice;
- d. Directing the mailing of the Settlement Notices to Class Members, by first class mail;
- e. Preliminarily approving the Settlement subject only to the objections of Class Members and final review by the Court; and
 - f. Setting a date and time for the Final Approval Hearing.

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26. Resolution of Court Concerns. If the Court does not initially grant Preliminary Approval or conditions Preliminary Approval on any material change to this Agreement, Class Counsel and Defense Counsel will expeditiously work together, and in good faith, to modify the Agreement and/or otherwise satisfy the Court's concerns.

SETTLEMENT ADMINISTRATION

- 27. Selection of Settlement Administrator. The Parties have jointly selected Phoenix Settlement Administrators to serve as the Settlement Administrator and verified that, as a condition of appointment, Phoenix Settlement Administrators agrees to perform, as a fiduciary, all duties specified in this Agreement in exchange for payment of the Settlement Administration Costs. The Parties and their Counsel represent that they have no interest or relationship, financial or otherwise, with the Settlement Administrator other than a professional relationship arising out of prior experiences administering settlements.
- 28. Qualified Settlement Fund. The Settlement Administrator shall establish a settlement fund that meets the requirements of a Qualified Settlement Fund ("QSF") under U.S. Treasury Regulation section 468B-1. The Administrator shall have and use its own Employer Identification Number for purposes of calculating payroll tax withholdings and providing reports to state and federal tax authorities.
- Transmission of Class Data to Administrator. Within sixty (60) calendar days 29. after the Court grants preliminary approval of the Settlement, to the extent practicable, Defendant will securely provide the Settlement Administrator with the Class Data, including the names, last known addresses and telephone numbers, and social security numbers of the Class Members, along with data sufficient to enable the Administrator to determine the number of Compensable Workweeks worked by each Class Member during the relevant Class Period and PAGA Period, as reflected in Defendant's records. The Settlement Administrator will retain the class data and will not share it with Class Counsel, except as otherwise permitted herein.
- 30. Mailing of Class Notices. Within twenty-one (21) calendar days after receiving the Class Data from Defendant, the Settlement Administrator shall mail copies of the Courtapproved Class Notice to all Class Members via regular First-Class U.S. Mail. The Settlement

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Administrator shall exercise its best judgment to determine the current mailing address for each Class Member. The address identified by the Settlement Administrator as the current mailing address shall be presumed to be the most current mailing address for each Class Member. The Settlement Administrator shall perform a search based on the National Change of Address Database maintained by the United States Postal Service to update and correct any known or identifiable address changes. The Parties agree that this procedure for notice provides the best notice practicable to Class Members and fully complies with due process.

- 31. Undeliverable Class Notices. Any Settlement Notice returned to the Settlement Administrator as non-deliverable on or before the Response Deadline shall be re-mailed to the forwarding address affixed thereto within five (5) calendar days of receipt of the returned Class Notice by the Settlement Administrator. If no forwarding address is provided, the Administrator shall attempt to determine a correct address by the use of skip-tracing, or other type of automated search, using the name, address and/or Social Security number of the Class Member involved, and shall then perform a re-mailing to the Class Member whose Class Notice was returned as non-deliverable within five (5) calendar days of receipt of the returned Notice by the Administrator, assuming another mailing address is identified by the Administrator. The deadlines for Class Members to submit written Objections, Requests or Exclusion, or challenges to Compensable Workweeks will be extended an additional 7 calendar days from the date of the re-mailing, even if this results in an extension of the otherwise-applicable 60-day Response Deadline. If these procedures are followed, notice to Class Members shall be deemed to have been fully satisfied, and if the intended recipient of the Settlement Notice does not receive the Class Notice, the intended recipient shall nevertheless remain a Class Member and shall be bound by all terms of the Settlement and the Final Order and Judgment.
- 32. **Determination of Individual Settlement Awards and Individual PAGA Payments.** The Settlement Administrator shall determine the eligibility for, and the amounts of, each Individual Settlement Award and Individual PAGA Payment under the terms of this Agreement based on the number of Compensable Workweeks worked by each Class Member in the applicable Class and/or PAGA Periods. The Administrator will then include the estimated

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number of Compensable Workweeks and the individual payment amounts in each Class Member's Class Notice.

- 33. **Workweek Disputes.** Any Class Member who does not dispute the number of eligible Compensable Workweeks set forth in the Class Notice need not take any further action to participate in the Settlement. Class Members who wish to dispute the number of eligible Compensable Workweeks set forth in the Notice, or assert that they should have been included as a member of the Class, may submit a written statement to the Settlement Administrator within the Response Deadline setting forth the number of Compensable Workweeks they believe should be credited to them within the applicable Class or PAGA Period, accompanied by any supporting documentation of their claim. The Settlement Administrator, in consultation with Class Counsel and Defense Counsel, will review the pertinent payroll records, which Defendant agrees to make available to the Settlement Administrator as needed. Defendant's payroll records will be presumed to be correct unless a Class Member proves otherwise by credible evidence. The Settlement Administrator's decision as to the total number of eligible Compensable Workers shall be final and non-appealable, subject to the ultimate oversight and approval of the Court if necessary.
- 34. Objections to the Settlement. Any Participating Class Member may object to the Settlement by submitting a written objection to the Settlement Administrator within the 60-day Response Deadline, unless that deadline has been extended by a re-mailing of the Class Notice. An objection should include: (a) the objector's full name, signature, address, and telephone number; (b) a written statement of all grounds for the objection accompanied by any legal support for such objection; and (c) copies of any papers, briefs, or other documents upon which the objection is based. Objecting Class Members may appear at the Final Approval Hearing either in person, or through counsel retained at Class Member's own expense, to have their objection heard, whether or not they had submitted a prior written objection as specified in this section. The Court will rule on any objections to the settlement at the Final Approval Hearing. An objection may be withdrawn at any time. The Settlement Administrator shall provide objections, if any, to Class Counsel and Defense Counsel via email within three (3) calendar days of receipt, and the

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Settlement Administrator shall attach any objections to its declaration of due diligence, which is to be filed with the Court prior to the Final Approval Hearing. Any Participating Class Member who files an objection remains eligible to receive monetary compensation from the Settlement. At no time shall any of the Parties, Class Counsel, or Defense Counsel seek to solicit or otherwise encourage or discourage Class Members from submitting a Notice of Objection or filing an appeal from the Final Order and Judgment. Class Members who submit a Request for Exclusion are ineligible to object to the Settlement.

- 35. Requests for Exclusion. Any Class Member may request to be excluded from ("opt out of") the Settlement by submitting a signed, written request to the Settlement Administrator, clearly communicating that the Class Member wishes to be excluded from the Settlement. To be timely and valid, the Request for Exclusion must be mailed (postmarked) by the Response Deadline, 60 days from the Settlement Administrator's mailing of the Class Notice, unless that deadline has been extended by a re-mailing of the Class Notice. The Request for Exclusion should contain the Class Member's name, address, signature, date, telephone number or email address, and the name of the case (Zayac v. Sutter Valley Hospitals). Persons who submit a timely Request for Exclusion will be referred to as Non-Participating Class Members. The Settlement Administrator will 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. Non-Participating Class Members will not be entitled to receive an Individual Class Payment under the Settlement, will not be bound by the terms and conditions of the Class Settlement, and will not be releasing any of the Class Members' Released Claims. However, Non-Participating Class Members who are PAGA-Eligible Employees will still receive Individual PAGA Payments and will be deemed to have released their PAGA claims for civil penalties as described in Paragraph 21. Any Class Member who does not submit a timely Request for Exclusion will be deemed to be a Participating Class Member and will be bound by the terms and condition of the Settlement.
- 36. **Weekly Status Reports**. Following the mailing of the Class Notice, the Settlement Administrator will provide Class Counsel and Defense Counsel with weekly reports

of, among other things: the number of Class Notices mailed or re-mailed, Class Notices returned undelivered, Requests for Exclusion (whether valid or invalid) received, objections received, and challenges to Workweeks received and/or resolved. The Administrator will promptly provide counsel for the Parties with copies of any objections received. Additionally, the Settlement Administrator will provide to counsel for the Parties any other updated reports regarding the administration of the Settlement as may be needed or requested from time to time, including any declarations required by the Court.

37. Other Duties of the Settlement Administrator. The Settlement Administrator shall perform such other duties as may be necessary from time to time, as directed by Counsel or the Court. This shall include, among other things, (1) maintaining and monitoring an email address and toll-free telephone number to receive Class Member calls, faxes and emails; (2) establishing and maintaining an internet website to post necessary information for Class Members regarding this Agreement and the Final Approval Hearing, among other things; (3) providing Counsel for the Parties with a declaration suitable for filing in Court at least 14 days before Plaintiff is required to file her motion for Final Approval of the Settlement, attesting to the Administrator's compliance with all of its obligations under the Agreement and other necessary information regarding the Class Notices, Requests for Exclusion and objections; and (4) providing a final report and compliance declaration suitable for filing with the Court following the Administrator's disbursement of all the payments required by this Agreement, in accordance with any deadlines set by the Court.

MOTION FOR FINAL APPROVAL

38. Final Settlement Approval Hearing and Entry of Final Order and Judgment. Following expiration of the Response Deadline, Plaintiff shall prepare and file a motion on behalf of both Parties seeking final approval of the Settlement, including a request for approval of the PAGA settlement under Labor Code section 2699(1)(2), a proposed Final Approval Order, and a proposed Judgment. Plaintiff shall provide drafts of the motion for final approval and proposed Final Order and Judgment to Defense Counsel not later than seven days prior to filing the motion. Class Counsel and Defense Counsel will expeditiously meet and confer in good faith to resolve

any disagreements concerning the motion. Plaintiff's motion for Final Approval shall be accompanied by a declaration from the Settlement Administrator, as referenced above, describing the process and results of the administration of the Settlement to date. Plaintiff will prepare and include with the Final Approval motion, a request seeking approval of Plaintiff's request for reimbursement of Class Counsel's attorneys' fees and costs incurred in this matter and Plaintiff's request for a Class Representative Service Award.

- 39. **Contents of Proposed Final Order and Judgment**. The proposed Final Order and Judgment will include, among other things:
- a. Final Approval of the Settlement, adjudging the terms thereof to be fair, reasonable and adequate, and directing consummation of its terms and provisions;
- b. Approval of Class Counsel's application for an award of attorneys' fees and costs;
 - c. Approval of the Class Representative Service Award payment to Plaintiff;
 - d. Approval of the Settlement Administration Costs;
 - e. Approval of the PAGA settlement;
- f. The setting of a date when the Parties shall submit the Final Report regarding the distribution of the Maximum Settlement Amount pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure section 384, and, if necessary, a date for a final accounting hearing following its receipt of the Final Report;
- g. The entering of a judgment in the Action that is intended to preclude any Class Members from pursuing any individual, class or representative claims against any of the Released Parties that have been released herein pursuant to the Settlement Agreement, upon satisfaction of all payments and obligations hereunder, excluding the Class claims of those persons who submitted valid and timely Requests for Exclusion.
- 40. **Duty to Cooperate**. If the Court does not grant Final Approval or conditions Final Approval on any material change to the Settlement, the Parties will expeditiously work together in good faith to address the Court's concerns, including, if necessary, by revising the Agreement to obtain Final Approval. The Court's decision to award less than the amounts

requested for the Class Representative Service Payment, Class Counsel Award of fees and costs, and/or Settlement Administration Costs shall not constitute a material modification of the Agreement within the meaning of this Paragraph.

41. **Jurisdiction of the Court Following Judgment**. Following entry of the Final Order and Judgment, the Court shall retain jurisdiction solely with respect to the interpretation, implementation, and enforcement of the terms of this Agreement and all orders and judgments entered in connection therewith; and addressing any other settlement administration and compliance matters that may require its attention. If any party brings an action to enforce the terms of this Agreement, the prevailing party shall be entitled to its/her reasonable attorneys' fees and costs.

SETTLEMENT FUNDING AND PAYMENTS

- than ten (10) calendar days after the Effective Date, the Settlement Administrator will provide Defense Counsel with an accounting of all anticipated payments from the QSF as specified in this Agreement and approved by the Court, including all necessary routing and payment instructions to the QSF, and including the amount due for the employer's share of payroll taxes on the wage payments to be made outside the Maximum Settlement Amount. The Settlement Administrator also will provide counsel for the Parties with at least fourteen (14) calendar days, whether before or after the funding date but before the date of the scheduled distribution date, in which to review and approve the Administrator's proposed payment calculations.
- 43. **Funding of Settlement**. Defendant shall pay the Maximum Settlement Amount, together with the amount the Settlement Administrator has determined or estimated to be Defendant's share of employer taxes due on the wages being paid under the Settlement, in one lump sum payment within thirty (30) calendar days after the Effective Date. Defendant shall provide the Maximum Settlement Amount to the Settlement Administrator in any feasible manner, including, but not limited to, a wire transfer or a check.
- 44. **Timing of Settlement Disbursements**. Within twenty (20) calendar days after the Defendant has provided the Settlement Administrator with the Maximum Settlement Amount,

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- and after the Settlement Administrator has provided the Parties with an opportunity to review and approve the Settlement Administrator's proposed payment calculations, the Settlement Administrator will distribute the payments to Plaintiff for her Class Representative Service Award, to Class Counsel for their awarded attorneys' fees and costs, to the LWDA for its portion of the PAGA Payment, to the Participating Class Members for their Individual Class Payments Awards, to all PAGA-Eligible Employees for their Individual PAGA Payments, and to itself for the Settlement Administration Costs.
- 45. Method of Individual Payments. The Settlement Administrator shall mail the Individual Settlement Awards and Individual PAGA Payments by regular First Class U.S. Mail to each person's last known mailing address. Prior to mailing the payments, the Settlement Administrator shall perform a search based on the National Change of Address Database maintained by the United States Postal Service to update and correct any known or identifiable address changes.
- 46. Non-Reversionary Settlement; No Claim Necessary. Participating Class Members shall not be required to submit a claim in order to receive a share of the Net Settlement Amount, and no portion of the Maximum Settlement Amount shall revert to Defendant. To the extent the Court does not approve the full requested attorneys' fees, litigation costs, Class Representative Service Award or Settlement Administration Costs, the Net Settlement Amount will increase accordingly, by the difference between the requested amounts and the amounts awarded by the Court. If this Settlement is not finally approved by the Court in full, or is terminated, rescinded, canceled or fails to become effective for any reason, or if the Effective Date does not occur, then no portion of the Maximum Settlement Amount shall be paid.
- 47. **Disposition of Uncashed Checks**. Any Individual Settlement Payment check and/or Individual PAGA Payment check issued by the Settlement Administrator must be cashed within 180 days after issuance. After the expiration of the 180-day period, the Settlement Administrator will void any uncashed checks, and the total amount of any uncashed settlement checks will be paid as a cy pres to the Court Appointed Special Advocates of Sacramento County, a non-profit organization that supports projects which will benefit Class Members, pursuant to

California Code of Civil Procedure section 384, subject to the approval of the Court. The Parties and their Counsel certify that they have no connection to or relationship with this cy pres recipient.

48. **Settlement Binding Even If Checks Not Cashed**. In the event a Participating Class Member or Participating PAGA Member fails to cash/deposit his or her Individual Class Payment check and/or Individual PAGA Payment check, for whatever reason, that person shall nevertheless remain bound by the Settlement and/or the PAGA Release.

ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS

- 49. **Revocation of Settlement by Plaintiff**. Defendant has estimated that the Class consisted of approximately 14,148 unique employees covering the period from August 8, 2016 through December 21, 2021, based on the records available at the time of the mediation in this matter. The Parties agree that if the actual number of Class Members as of December 21, 2021 should be determined prior to Final Approval to be ten percent (10%) or more above that number that is, if the Class size exceeded Defendant's estimate by more than 1,414 employees as of December 21, 2021 then the Parties shall meet and confer regarding next steps and, absent any agreement to the contrary, Plaintiff will have the right, in her sole and absolute discretion, to revoke the Settlement.
- 50. Revocation of Settlement by Defendant. If five percent (5%) or more of the Class Members request to be excluded from the Class, Defendant shall have the sole and absolute discretion to revoke the Settlement Agreement. The Settlement Administrator shall provide a list of the Requests for Exclusion within fourteen (14) days after the Response Date. If Defendant elects to revoke/rescind the Settlement Agreement, it shall provide written notice of such revocation to Class Counsel within 14 days after receiving the final list of Requests for Exclusion from the Settlement Administrator. Defendant agrees to meet and confer in good faith with Class Counsel before rescinding or voiding the Settlement Agreement. Such rescission shall have the same effect as a termination of this Settlement Agreement for failure to satisfy a condition of settlement, and the Settlement Agreement shall become null and void and have no further force or effect. If Defendant chooses to terminate this Agreement under this provision, it shall be

responsible to pay the Settlement Administrator's fees and costs incurred to that point. No Party will encourage any class member to opt out of the Settlement.

- Nullification of Settlement for Other Reasons. In the event: (i) the Court does not enter the Preliminary Approval Order; (ii) the Court does not grant Final Approval of the Settlement; (iii) the Court does not enter the Final Order and Judgment; or (iv) the Settlement does not become final for any other reason, this Agreement shall be rendered null and void, and any order or judgment entered by the Court in furtherance of this Agreement shall be treated as void from the beginning. In such a case, this Agreement and any documents related to it shall not be used by any Class Member or Class Counsel to support any claim or request for class certification in the Action, and shall not be used in any other civil or administrative action against Defendant or any of the other Released Parties.
- 52. **Plaintiff's Waiver of Right to Be Excluded**. Plaintiff agrees that by signing this Agreement, she will be bound by the terms herein. Plaintiff further agrees that, upon signing this Agreement, she will not request to be excluded from this Settlement and that any such request for exclusion by Plaintiff will be void and of no force or effect.
- 53. Waiver of Right to Appeal. Provided the Judgment is consistent with the terms and conditions of this Agreement, 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. If an objector appeals the Judgment, the Parties' obligations to perform under this Agreement will be suspended until 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. However, nothing in this Agreement shall preclude Plaintiff from appealing from a court order denying or failing to grant in full her requests for attorneys' fees, costs, or service award. Any order reducing the Class Counsel Award or the Class Representative Service Award will not be grounds on Plaintiff's part to nullify or void this Settlement.
- 54. **No Credit Towards Defendant's Benefit Plans**. Neither the terms of this Settlement nor any of the amounts paid to Plaintiff or any Class Member shall have any effect on the eligibility or calculation of any employee benefits under Defendant's benefit plans. Any

Individual Class Payment or PAGA Payment amounts paid to Class Members under the Settlement do not represent any modification of any Class Member's previously-credited hours of service or other eligibility criteria, and will not be utilized to calculate any additional benefits, vesting or credit under any bonus or compensation plan, collective bargaining agreement, employee pension benefit plan, employee welfare benefit plan or program or policy sponsored by Sutter or any of its affiliates. It is the intent of the Parties that the Individual Settlement Awards and Individual PAGA Payments provided for in this Agreement are the sole payments to be made by Defendant to Class Members and others in connection with this Settlement, and that the Class Members are not entitled to any new or additional compensation or benefits as a result of having received the Individual Settlement Awards and/or and Individual PAGA Payments.

for Other Purposes. Defendant denies all claims alleged in the Action and denies all wrongdoing whatsoever by Defendant. Defendant further denies that any of its employees has been "aggrieved" by a violation of the Labor Code. Neither this Agreement, nor any of its terms and conditions, nor any of the negotiations connected with it, is a concession or admission, and none shall be used against Defendant as an admission or indication with respect to any claim of any fault, concession, or omission by Defendant or that class certification is proper under the standard applied to contested certification motions. The Parties agree that certification of the proposed class and representative treatment under PAGA is for purposes of this Settlement only. This Agreement will not be admissible in this or any other proceeding as evidence that either a class action should be certified, that Plaintiff's PAGA claims are manageable for trial, or that Defendant is liable to Plaintiff or any Class Member, other than according to the terms of this Agreement.

56. Publicity and Confidentiality.

a. Except for when the Court has requested status updates regarding the Parties' settlement efforts, prior to the Filing of Plaintiff's Motion for Preliminary Approval Plaintiff and Class Counsel will not make any public disclosures of any kind regarding the Settlement, this Stipulation of Settlement, or the Parties' Confidential Memorandum of

Understanding, and will abstain from any communications with coworkers, acquaintances, or on social media or any public forum regarding the fact, amount, and terms of the Settlement, until after the Motion for Preliminary Approval is filed. Class Counsel will take all steps necessary to ensure that the Class Representative is aware of, and will encourage her to adhere to, the restriction against any public disclosures regarding the Settlement, this Stipulation of Settlement, and the Confidential Memorandum of Understanding until after the Motion for Preliminary Approval is filed.

- b. At all times, even after preliminary and final court approval of this

 Settlement, Plaintiff and Class Counsel may not initiate any press releases or media

 communications about the fact, amount, and/or terms of this Settlement, and may only say "no

 comment," or words to that effect, in response to any press or media inquiry about the Settlement.
- c. Nothing herein will restrict Class Counsel from including publicly available information regarding this Settlement in future judicial submissions regarding Class Counsel's qualifications and experience.
- d. Nothing herein will restrict Plaintiff or Class Counsel from communicating with Class Members about the Settlement following the Court's Order Granting Preliminary Approval.
 - e. This paragraph is a material term of this Settlement.
- 57. **Tax Liability**. The Parties make no representations as to the tax treatment or legal effect of the payments specified herein, and Class Members are not relying on any statement or representation by the Parties, Class Counsel or Defense Counsel in this regard. Participating Class Members, PAGA-Eligible Employees, Class Counsel, and Plaintiff shall be solely and legally responsible for the payment of all applicable taxes and penalties assessed on the payments specified herein.
- 58. **Circular 230 Disclaimer**. The Parties acknowledge and agree that (i) no provision of this Agreement, and no written communication or disclosure between or among the Parties, Class Counsel or Defense Counsel and other advisers, is or was intended to be, nor shall any such communication or disclosure constitute or be construed or be relied upon as, tax advice

within the meaning of United States Treasury Department Circular 230 (31 CFR Part 10, as amended); (ii) the acknowledging party (a) has relied exclusively upon his, her, or its own, independent legal and tax counsel for advice (including tax advice) in connection with this Agreement, (b) has not entered into this Agreement based upon the recommendation of any other party or any attorney or advisor to any other party, and (c) is not entitled to rely upon any communication or disclosure by any attorney or adviser to any other party to avoid any tax penalty that may be imposed on the acknowledging party; and (iii) no attorney or adviser to any other party has imposed any limitation that protects the confidentiality of any such attorney's or adviser's tax strategies (regardless of whether such limitation is legally binding) upon disclosure by the acknowledging party of the tax treatment or tax structure of any transaction, including any transaction contemplated by this Settlement.

- 59. **Authorization to Enter into Agreement**. Class Counsel and Defense Counsel warrant and represent they are expressly authorized by the Parties whom they represent to negotiate this Agreement and to take all appropriate actions required or permitted to be taken by the Parties pursuant to this Agreement to effectuate its terms, and to execute any other documents required to effectuate its terms. The person signing this Stipulation of Settlement on behalf of Defendant represents and warrants that he/she is authorized to sign this Agreement on behalf of Defendant. Plaintiff represents and warrants that she is authorized to sign this Agreement on behalf of herself and the Class, and as proxy for the State of California, and that she has not assigned any claim or part of a claim covered by this Agreement to a third party.
- 60. Cooperation to Effectuate Settlement. The Parties, Class Counsel and Defense Counsel shall cooperate with each other and use their best efforts to effect the implementation of this Settlement. In the event the Parties are unable to reach agreement on the form or content of any document needed to implement the Settlement, or on any supplemental provisions that may become necessary to effectuate the terms of this Settlement, the Parties may seek the assistance of the Court to resolve such disagreement.

- 61. **Notice to LWDA**. Class Counsel shall submit any required notices of this Agreement to the LWDA as may be required by Labor Code sections 2699(1)(2) and (3) or other provisions of PAGA.
- 62. **Invalidity of Any Provision**. In the event the Court declares any material provision of this Agreement invalid, the Agreement will be void and its terms will be of no force and effect, except as otherwise agreed to by the Parties in writing, subject to the Court's approval. Before the Court concludes that any term or provision of this Agreement is invalid, the Parties will request that the Court first attempt to construe the terms or provisions valid to the fullest extent possible consistent with applicable precedents so as to define all provisions of this Agreement as valid and enforceable. The Parties further agree to meet and confer in an attempt to resolve any issues or concerns the Court may have as to the validity of any provision in an effort to effectuate the essential terms of this Settlement, and to discuss any possible amendments to this Agreement or its Exhibit 1 needed to obtain the Court's approval of the Settlement.
- 63. Binding Nature of Notice of Class Action Settlement. It is agreed that, because the Class Members are so numerous, it is impossible or impractical to have each Class Member execute the Agreement. The Class Notice shall advise all Class Members of the binding nature of the Settlement, and the release of the Class Members' Released Claims as described above in Paragraph 20 shall have the same force and effect as if this Agreement were executed by each Participating Class Member.
- 64. **Entire Agreement**. This Agreement and its attached Exhibit 1 constitute the entire agreement between the Parties, and no oral or written representations, warranties, or inducements have been made to Plaintiff or Defendant concerning this Agreement or Exhibit 1 other than the representations, warranties, and covenants contained and memorialized in this Agreement and Exhibit 1. No other prior or contemporaneous written or oral agreements may be deemed binding on the Parties.
- 65. **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.

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1	66. Amendment or Modification. This Agreement may be amended or modified				
2	only by a written instrument signed by counsel for all Parties or their successors-in-interest, and				
3	approved by the Court.				
4	67. Governing Law. All terms of this Agreement and its exhibit shall be governed by				
5	and interpreted according to the laws of the State of California, without regard to conflict of law				
6	principles.				
7	68. Binding on Successors and Assigns. This Agreement shall be binding upon, and				
8	inure to the benefit of, the successors and assigns of the Parties.				
9	69. Headings . The descriptive heading of any section or paragraph of this Agreement is				
10	inserted for convenience of reference only and does not constitute a part of this Agreement.				
11	70. Counterparts . This Agreement may be executed in one or more counterparts by				
12	facsimile, electronically (i.e., DocuSign), or email, which for purposes of this Agreement shall be				
13	accepted as an original. All executed counterparts and each of them shall be deemed to be one				
14	and the same instrument if counsel for the Parties exchange between themselves signed				
15	counterparts. Any executed counterpart will be admissible in evidence to prove the existence an				
16	contents of this Agreement.				
17	IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties hereto knowingly and voluntarily executed this				
18	Joint Stipulation of Class Action and PAGA Settlement and Release between Plaintiff and				
19	Defendant as of the date(s) set forth below:				
20	PLAINTIFF CARLA ZAYAC DocuSigned by:				
21	Dated: 1/17/2023 Cana Zana				
22	Plaintiffs Carles Zayac				
23	SUTTER VALLEY HOSPTIALS				
24	SUITER VALLET HUSPITALS				
25	Dated: By:Florence L. Di Benedetto				
26	Senior Vice President and General Counsel				
27	Sutter Health				
28					
	-29- IOINT STIPLII ATION OF CLASS ACTION AND PAGA SETTI EMENT AND DELEASE				

	II .	
1	APPROVED AS TO FORM:	
2 3 4	Dated: 1.17.2023	POLARIS LAW GROUP William L. Marder Attorneys for Plaintiff Carla Zayac
5 6 7 8	Dated:01/17/2023	KESSELMAN BRANTLY STOCKINGER LLP Majed Dakak Attorneys for Plaintiff Carla Zayac
9 10 11 12	Dated:01/17/2023	Dennis S. Hyun Attorneys for Plaintiff Carla Zayac
13 14 15 16 17	Dated:	Thomas E. Geidt Teresa W. Ghali Amanda M. Osowski Attorneys for Defendant
18 19 20		SUTTER VALLEY HOSPITALS
21 22		
232425		
26 27		
28	JOINT STIPULATION OF CLASS ACTIO	-30- ON AND PAGA SETTLEMENT AND RELEASE

Exhibit 1

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO

CARLA ZAYAC, on behalf of herself and others similarly situated and as a proxy for the State of California,

Plaintiffs.

VS.

SUTTER VALLEY HOSPITALS, a California Corporation; and DOES 1 through 50, inclusive,

Defendants.

Case No. 34-2021-00293728

NOTICE OF PENDENCY OF CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT AND FINAL HEARING

Judge: Hon. Lauri A. Damrell

Dept: 28

YOU MAY BE ENTITLED TO RECEIVE MONEY FROM A SETTLEMENT ARISING FROM YOUR EMPLOYMENT BY SUTTER VALLEY HOSPITALS

A California court authorized this notice. This is not a solicitation from a lawyer.

- A settlement of a lawsuit will pay money to certain non-exempt employees who have been employed by Sutter Valley Hospitals ("Sutter") from August 8, 2016 through [Preliminary Approval Date].
- The Settlement resolves a class action lawsuit alleging various wage and hour claims brought against Sutter on behalf Sutter's non-exempt employees who were employed during this time period and who received certain paid sick leave payments.
- The Settlement also resolves claims for penalties that have been brought on behalf of the State of California under California's Private Attorneys General Act ("PAGA").
- The Settlement avoids the costs and risks of continuing the lawsuit, pays money to employees, and releases Sutter from liability.
- Sutter expressly denies all of the claims in the lawsuit and denies any wrongdoing or liability. The two sides disagree on how much money if any could have been awarded if employees won at trial.
- YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS ARE AFFECTED WHETHER YOU ACT OR DO NOT ACT. PLEASE READ THIS NOTICE CAREFULLY.

YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS AND OPTIONS IN THIS SETTLEMENT:				
Do Nothing	You need not take any action if you wish to receive your settlement payment. If the Settlement is approved by the Court, you will automatically be mailed a settlement check at the address on file with the Settlement Administrator, If you move, you must notify the Settlement Administrator of your new address.			
Exclude Yourself	Get no class settlement payment. Send a letter to the Settlement Administrator, as explained below, making clear you wish to exclude yourself from the Settlement. This is the only option that allows you to be part of any other lawsuit against Sutter asserting the legal claims that were settled in this case. You will, however, be bound by the Private Attorneys General Act (the "PAGA") release and you will receive a payment for the PAGA release even if you exclude yourself.			
Object	Write to the Court, as explained below, about why you believe the Settlement is unfair.			
Go to a Hearing	Ask to speak in Court about the fairness of the Settlement.			

WHY DID YOU RECEIVE THIS NOTICE?

This notice explains a proposed settlement of a class action and PAGA lawsuit and informs you of your legal rights under that proposed settlement ("the Settlement"). You are receiving this notice because you may be a member of the class action and PAGA lawsuit.

WHAT IS THIS LAWSUIT ABOUT?

On February 2, 2021, Plaintiff Carla Zayac filed this lawsuit in Sacramento County Superior Court. She later amended it to add a claim for civil penalties under PAGA. Plaintiff's lawsuit alleges violations of the California Labor Code and the California Business and Professions Code. Her complaint alleges that members of the Settlement Class employed by Sutter during the Class Period were not always properly paid for days on which they took paid sick leave as required by California law; that their sick leave was sometimes paid at the incorrect pay rate; that Sutter's wage statements were not always accurate, particularly as to paid sick leave; that former employees in the Settlement Class did not receive all wages due to them at time of termination; and several other related claims. Plaintiff seeks to recover unpaid wages, premiums, statutory and civil penalties, attorneys' fees and costs. Sutter denies all of the material allegations in the lawsuit and denies that it did anything wrong.

SUMMARY OF THE SETTLEMENT

A. Why is there a Settlement?

The Court has not made any ruling in favor of Plaintiff or Sutter. It also has not determined whether this lawsuit may proceed as a class action. Plaintiff believes she would have prevailed on her claims at a trial. Sutter does not believe that Plaintiff would have won anything from a trial. But there was no trial. Instead, both sides agreed to a settlement. That way, they each avoid the costs, risks, and

uncertainties of a trial, and the employees allegedly affected will receive compensation. Plaintiff and her attorneys believe the Settlement is fair, reasonable, and adequate and in the best interests of all Settlement Class Members.

B. Who is in the Settlement Class?

The Settlement Class consists of all current and former non-exempt employees of Sutter who have been employed by Sutter from August 8, 2016 through [preliminary approval date] and who, during that period, recorded paid sick leave in at least one workweek and also received other nondiscretionary remuneration in the same workweek ("Compensable Workweek").

Sutter's settlement of the PAGA penalty claim in this case will cover all current and former non-exempt employees who have been employed in the Settlement Class from May 31, 2019 through [preliminary approval date] (the "PAGA Period") and who had one or more Compensable Workweeks during that period.

C. What has Sutter agreed to do?

Sutter will pay \$4,750,000 (the "Maximum Settlement Amount") to settle the lawsuit. The following sums will be paid from the Maximum Settlement Amount: (1) Class Counsel's attorneys' fees in an amount set by the Court not to exceed 35% of the Maximum Settlement Amount (\$1,662,500), plus Class Counsel's documented litigation costs in an amount set by the Court not to exceed \$40,000; (2) a service payment to Plaintiff in an amount set by the Court, not to exceed \$15,000 for her service in the lawsuit; and (3) a reasonable amount set by the Court to the Settlement Administrator for administering the settlement, not to exceed \$62,500. Sutter has also agreed to pay \$475,000 to resolve the claims for civil penalties under PAGA. Of this amount, 75% (\$356,250) will be paid to the State of California and the remaining 25% (\$118,750) will be paid to all persons who are eligible members of the Settlement Class who have been employed during the PAGA Period, whether or not they exclude themselves from the Class Settlement.

The portion of the Maximum Settlement Amount remaining after these payments is the Net Settlement Amount, which will be paid out to those Settlement Class Members who do not opt out of the Settlement, as explained below. Sutter also will pay the employer share of applicable payroll taxes due on the portion of the individual settlement payments designated as "wages," which will be paid outside the Maximum Settlement Amount.

D. What are you giving up to get a payment and stay in the Class?

Subject to the Court's approval of the Settlement, all members of the Settlement Class who do not opt out of the Settlement will release Sutter, and any of its current and former parents, corporate members, subsidiaries, divisions, and affiliated companies, and their respective officers, directors, employees, partners, shareholders, agents, insurers, successors, assigns and legal representatives ("Released Parties"), as follows:

Plaintiff and all members of the Settlement Class will release the Released Parties from any and all claims, rights, demands, liabilities, and causes of action of every nature and description arising during the Class Period, including statutory, contractual, or common law claims, for wages, damages,

penalties, liquidated damages, interest, attorneys' fees, litigation costs, restitution, or equitable relief – whether asserted under the California Labor Code, Business and Professions Code §§ 17200 et seq., the applicable wage orders at California Code of Regulations, Title 8, Section 11000 et seq., or otherwise - that are alleged or reasonably could have been alleged based on the facts contained in the operative Complaint in the Zayac action, including but not limited to: (a) any and all claims for failure to provide paid sick leave in accordance with the Healthy Workplaces, Healthy Families Act of 2014 ("HWHFA"), Labor Code §§ 245-249, including failure to pay sick leave at the correct regular rate of pay; (b) any and all claims for violation of the "kin care" law, Labor Code § 233; (c) any and all derivative claims for failure to furnish accurate itemized wage statement in accordance with Labor Code § 226 arising out of the above-alleged claims; (d) any and all derivative claims for failure to provide sick leave wage when due upon separation of employment under Labor Code §§ 201-203; (e) any and all derivative claims for "late payment" penalties under Labor Code §§ 204 and 210 arising out of the above-alleged claims; (f) any and all derivative claims for violation of California Business and Professions Code §§ 17200 et seq. arising out of the above alleged claims; (g) any and all claims for violation of the Private Attorneys General Act of 2004, Labor Code §§2698 et seq. arising out of the above-alleged claims; and (h) any and all claims for attorneys' fees and costs arising out of the above-alleged claims.

Additionally, upon the funding of the court-approved Settlement by Sutter, all eligible members of the Settlement Class who have been employed between May 31, 2019 through [preliminary approval date], whether or not they exclude themselves from the Settlement, will be deemed to have forever released and extinguished their claims for PAGA civil penalties against the Released Parties arising during the PAGA period to the extent those claims are based on the above-referenced claims that were alleged or reasonably could have been alleged based on the facts contained in Plaintiff's operative Complaint, as enumerated in the preceding subparagraph above and/or in Plaintiff's PAGA Notice to the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency.

Finally, the named Plaintiff, Carla Zayac, will generally release all known and unknown claims she may have against Sutter, of any nature whatsoever, not limited to the wage and hour claims alleged in this lawsuit.

The Released Claims do <u>not</u> include a release of all the other rights you have as an employee or former employee of the Released Parties. The Released Claims are specifically limited to the claims set forth above. This Settlement does not include a release of meal or rest break claims, which are the subject of another pending class and PAGA settlement.

E. How much money will I receive?

Each participating Settlement Class Member will receive an Individual Payment Amount, which is a share of the Net Settlement Amount. The Net Settlement Amount is calculated by first deducting from the Maximum Settlement Amount the court-approved (1) attorneys' fees and costs to Class Counsel; (2) settlement administration costs; (3) service payment to the Plaintiff; and (4) PAGA payments to the State of California and the PAGA-eligible members of the Settlement Class.

Based on Sutter's records, the Settlement Administrator will determine the number of workweeks worked by each Class Member in the Settlement Class. Those who do not opt out of the Settlement will receive an individual settlement award that amounts to a pro rata share of their allocated Net Settlement Amount, based on the number of Compensable Workweeks they worked during the Class Period in proportion to the total number of Compensable Workweeks worked by all of the eligible Settlement Class Members in the Settlement Class.

According to Sutter's records, you were employed in the Settlement Class for [
Compensable Workweeks between August 6, 2016 and [preliminary approval date].				
Also, according to Sutter's records, you have [] Compensable Workweeks during the y approval date]).			
Based on this number, your Individual Payment Amo amount that you receive could be more or less than thi terms approved by the Court.	unt is estimated to be \$[]. The actual s amount, depending on the final settlement			

Please be advised that the number of Compensable Workweeks listed above is presumed to be correct unless you submit documents proving otherwise. If you disagree with the number of Compensable Workweeks listed above, please submit an explanation and evidence of your proposed Compensable Workweeks to the Settlement Administrator no later than [60 days after mailing]. In the event of a dispute about the correct number of Compensable Workweeks you worked during the Class Period, the Settlement Administrator will resolve the challenge with input from Sutter and Class Counsel, subject to final resolution by the Court if necessary.

F. Will any taxes be taken out of the settlement payments?

Twenty percent (20%) of your Individual Payment Amount will be treated as back wages and reported on an IRS Form W-2 with all appropriate taxes withheld. The remaining eighty percent (80%) of your payment will be treated as interest and penalties and reported as non-wage income on an IRS Form 1099. W-2 and 1099 Forms will be issued to all Settlement Class Members who cash their checks, as required by law. The PAGA payments will be treated solely as penalties and reported on an IRS Form 1099, without tax withholding.

Aside from the employer portion of payroll taxes, Settlement Class Members are responsible for the appropriate payment of any federal, state, and/or local income or payroll taxes owed on the Individual Payment Amounts they receive. The tax issues for each Settlement Class Member are unique to that Class Member. You are advised to obtain tax advice from your own tax advisor with respect to any payments resulting from this Settlement. This Notice does not constitute legal or tax advice regarding any federal, state, or local tax issue, and nothing in this Notice is intended to or should be used by any person for the purpose of avoiding any tax liability or tax penalties.

THE FINAL APPROVAL HEARING

The Court will conduct a final fairness hearing regarding the proposed settlement (the "Final Approval Hearing") on _______, 2023, at ______m., in Department 28 of the Sacramento County Superior Court, located at 720 9th Street, Sacramento, CA 95826. The Court will then determine: (i) whether the lawsuit should be certified as a class action for settlement purposes only; (ii) whether the Settlement should be given the Court's final approval as fair, reasonable, adequate and in the best interests of the Settlement Class Members; (iii) whether the Settlement Class Members should be bound by the terms of the Settlement; (iv) the amount of the attorneys' fees and costs to be awarded to Plaintiff's attorneys; (v) the amount that should be awarded to Plaintiff as a service payment; (vi) the amount that should be approved for settlement administration costs. At the Final Approval Hearing, the Court will hear all objections as well as arguments for and against the proposed Settlement. You have a right to attend this hearing, but you are

not required to do so. You also have the right to hire an attorney to represent you, at your own expense, or to enter an appearance and represent yourself.

WHAT ARE YOUR OPTIONS?

• OPTION 1 – DO NOTHING AND PARTICIPATE IN THE SETTLEMENT

IF YOU TAKE NO ACTION IN RESPONSE TO THIS NOTICE, YOU WILL AUTOMATICALLY RECEIVE YOUR SHARE OF THE SETTLEMENT IF IT IS APPROVED BY THE COURT. YOU WILL NEVER BE REQUIRED TO GO TO COURT OR PAY ANYTHING TO THE LAWYERS IN THIS CASE. If you move your residence, you must update your address with the Settlement Administrator. If you disagree with the number of workweeks worked as indicated in section E above, you must submit an explanation and/or documentation to the Settlement Administrator to support your position. The Settlement Administrator's address is [Settlement Administrator address].

• OPTION 2 – OBJECT TO THE SETTLEMENT

If you wish to remain a Settlement Class Member but you object to the proposed Settlement (or any of its terms) and wish the Court to consider your objection at the Final Approval Hearing, you may object to the Settlement in writing. You may also appear at the Final Approval Hearing, either in person or through an attorney at your own expense. All written objections, supporting papers, and/or notices of intent to appear at the Final Approval Hearing must clearly identify the case name and number and be mailed to the Settlement Administrator, ______ at [address]. Objections must be postmarked no later than [60 days after mailing]. However, you still may appear at the Final Approval Hearing and raise an objection to the Settlement even if you did not submit written objections within this 60-day deadline.

• OPTION 3 – EXCLUDE YOURSELF FROM THE SETTLEMENT

You have a right to exclude yourself from ("opt out" of) the Settlement, but if you choose to do so, you will not receive any payment from the proposed Class Settlement. You will not be bound by a judgment in this case as to the Class claims, and you will have the right to file your own lawsuit against Sutter and pursue your own claims in a separate suit if you wish. You can opt out of the Class by mailing a written statement to the Settlement Administrator, ______, at the above-stated address, so that it is postmarked no later than [60 days after mailing of the notice]. The written statement should contain your name, address, signature; your telephone number; and the name of this case, Zayac v. Sutter Valley Hospitals. It also must clearly state that you do not wish to be included in the Settlement, or words to that effect. It must be faxed, emailed or postmarked on or before the response deadline. If you do not exclude yourself from the Settlement in accordance with this procedure, you will be bound by the terms of the Settlement and the related judgment entered by the Court. Even if you exclude yourself as described above, you will still be bound by the PAGA release and you will receive a payment for the PAGA release.

NOTE REGARDING RESPONSE DEADLINES:

The 60-day deadline for you to opt out of the Settlement, object to the Settlement, or submit a challenge to the number of Compensable Workweeks being credited to you may be extended if your Notice was initially returned to the Settlement Administrator as undeliverable and, as a result, the Settlement Administrator re-mailed this Notice to you later. In such a case, you will have up to 7

calendar days from the date of the re-mailing to submit your response, even if that falls beyond the regular 60-day deadline

ARE THERE MORE DETAILS ABOUT THE SETTLEMENT?

The above is a summary of the basic terms of the Settlement. For the precise terms and conditions of the Settlement, you should review the detailed Settlement Agreement, which is on file with the clerk of the Sacramento County Superior Court, 720 9th Street, Room 102, Sacramento, California 95826, and may also be reviewed online at [insert court website link] [or the Settlement Administrator's website] [insert website information].

ALL INQUIRIES REGARDING THIS LITIGATION SHOULD BE MADE TO THE SETTLEMENT ADMINISTRATOR OR COUNSEL FOR THE CLASS. CLASS COUNSEL ARE:

Majed Dakak, Esq. KESSELMAN BRANTLY STOCKINGER LLP 1230 Rosecrans Avenue, Suite 400 Manhattan Beach, California 90266 Telephone: (310) 307-4555

Dennis S. Hyun, Esq. HYUN LEGAL, APC 515 S. Figueroa St., Suite 1250 Los Angeles, California 90071 Telephone: (213) 488-6555

William L. Marder, Esq. POLARIS LAW GROUP 501 San Benito Street, Suite 200 Hollister, California 95023 Telephone: (831) 531-4214

DO NOT TELEPHONE THE COURT FOR LEGAL ADVICE OR FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THIS SETTLEMENT.

BY ORDER OF THE SACRAMENTO COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT