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6	[Additional counsel listed on signature page]					
7	SUPERIOR COUF	RT OF CALIFORNIA				
8	COUNTY OF	LOS ANGELES				
	JOSE MARIO CASTRO and BRETH	Case No. 19STCV02041				
9 10	ALEXANDER PONCE, as individuals, on behalf of themselves and the proposed class members,	[Case Assigned for All Purposes to Hon. Elihu M. Berle, in Dept. SS-6]				
11	Plaintiffs,	JOINT STIPULATION OF SETTLEMENT AND RELEASE BETWEEN PLAINTIFFS				
12	v.	AND DEFENDANTS				
13	SOLA RENTALS, INC., MARTIN MUOTO, and DOES 1 through 50, inclusive,	Trial Date: None Set Complaint Filed: January 25, 2019				
14 15	Defendants.	FAC Filed: April 5, 2019 )				
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17	TOTALE CHARACTER AND AN OF CENTERS FOR FINA					
18	JOINT STIPULATION OF SETTLEMENT AND RELEASE BETWEEN PLAINTIFFS					
19	AND DEFENDANTS					
20	This Joint Stipulation of Settlement and Release (hereinafter "Stipulation of Settlement" or					
	"Settlement") is made and entered into by and between Plaintiffs Jose Mario Castro and Breth					
21	Alexander Ponce ("Plaintiffs" or "Named Plaintiffs") and Defendants SoLa Rentals, Inc. ("SoLa					
22	Rentals") and Martin Muoto (collectively with S	SoLa Rentals, "Defendants").				
23	This Settlement shall be binding on Plain	ntiffs and the class they purport to represent, and				
24	Defendants and their present and former parent	companies, subsidiaries, related or affiliated				
25	companies, shareholders, owners, officers, direc	etors, employees, agents, attorneys, insurers,				
<ul><li>26</li><li>27</li></ul>	successors and assigns, and any individual or en	atity which could be jointly liable with Defendants,				
28						
	JOINT STIPULATION OF SETTLEMENT AND RE	LEASE BETWEEN PLAINTIFFS AND DEFENDANTS				

JOINT STIPULATION OF SETTLEMENT AND RELEASE BETWEEN PLAINTIFFS AND DEFENDANTS

1" = "1" "4843-5954-4001 V1" "" 4843-5954-4001 V1

4840-4582-5997 V1

and their respective counsel, subject to the terms and conditions hereof and the approval of the Court.

# THE PARTIES STIPULATE AND AGREE AS FOLLOWS:

- 1. On January 18, 2019, Plaintiffs sent a letter to the Labor Workforce Development Agency ("LWDA") giving notice of claims pursuant to Labor Code § 2698, et seq. and alleging that Defendants violated Labor Code §§ 226(a), 226.7, 226.8, 558, 1194, 1194.2, and 1199 and Wage Order 16-201.
- 2. On January 25, 2019, Plaintiffs filed a Class Action Complaint captioned *Jose Mario Castro and Breth Alexander Ponce v. Sola Rentals, Inc., Marin Muoto* and Does 1 thru 50, Case No. 19STCV02041 in the Los Angeles County Superior Court on behalf of themselves and all other similarly situated employees ("Complaint"). The Complaint alleged violations of Labor Code § \$510, 1194, 1194.2, 1199, 226(a) and 226.7, and Business & Professions Code § 17200. The Complaint sought recovery of penalties, pre-judgment and post-judgment interest, issuance of an injunction, restitution and attorney's fees and costs.
- 3. On February 14, 2019, Plaintiffs sent an amended notice to the LWDA describing "Defendant's [sic] conduct in violation of the Labor Code."
- 4. On April 5, 2019, Plaintiffs filed a First Amended Class Action Complaint (the "FAC") largely raising the same claims and remedies set forth in the Complaint, but adding a Private Attorneys General Act claim pursuant to Labor Code § 2699, et seq. (together with the Complaint, the "Action").
- 5. On July 24, 2019, Defendants filed and served an Answer to the FAC in the Action, denying all material allegations of the complaint and asserting affirmative defenses. These include denying that the Plaintiffs and Putative Class Members are entitled to any of the penalties, damages, interest, injunctions, or any other relief alleged in or sought by way of the Action, and further denying that the Action can proceed as a class action.
  - 6. Plaintiffs and Defendants are collectively referred to herein as "the Parties."

- 7. After the pleadings were settled, the Parties agreed to engage in informal discovery regarding class member information. Defendants produced a list of all putative class members (names redacted), which list included positions held, start and end dates, rate of pay and total pay over the class period..
- 8. Defendants also deposed Humberto Cruz, a plaintiff in a related individual action (*Cruz v. SoLa Rentals, Inc. et al.*, Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 19STCV07041), and a Putative Class Member. Mr. Cruz was engaged by Defendants for approximately six years from 2012 to 2018. Mr. Cruz was paid to oversee various construction projects for Defendants during his tenure, and was responsible for recruiting others to work on his projects and recommending daily rates of pay. Mr. Cruz testified about, among other things, the rate of pay and hours worked by him and others in the putative class, and frequency and length of meal and rest breaks. The Parties agree, for purposes of settlement agreement and any motion for approval of the settlement, the testimony of Mr. Cruz is relevant and may be used in this case.
- 9. Beginning October 16, 2019, and continuing through May 29, 2020 the parties engaged in extensive, arms-length settlement negotiations. The negotiations included two inperson meetings (October 16, 2019, January 8, 2020) and numerous phone calls and emails. As part of the settlement process, Defendants also provided to Plaintiffs detailed profit and loss statements for SoLa Rentals for the years 2015 to 2019. The profit and loss statements provided details of SoLa's expenses, sources of revenue, net income (loss) before taxes, taxes, and net income (loss) after taxes. Defendants also shared information concerning Mr. Muoto's earnings from SoLa Rental's operations.
- 10. On or about May 29, 2020, following extensive negotiations, the parties reached a settlement of this matter.
- 11. For purposes of this Stipulation of Settlement, there shall be a Settlement Class ("Class" or "Class Members") defined as follows:

All individuals hired as independent contractors to be laborers or maintenance workers, or similar titles, for SOLA RENTALS, INC. in the State of California who

worked more than one pay period since four (4) years prior to the filing of this action to the present.

- 12. The Class Period is from January 25, 2015 through June 1, 2020.
- 13. The Settlement Class shall not include any person who opts out of the Class, any person who, prior to the filing of the Complaint, settled or released the claims covered by this Settlement, any person who previously was paid or received awards or payments through civil or administrative actions for the claims covered by this Settlement, and any persons who, prior to the filing of the Complaint, gave Defendants a general release for any and all claims related to their employment with Defendants.
- 14. Defendants have denied and continue to deny each of the claims asserted by Plaintiffs in the Action. Defendants have asserted and continue to assert defenses to Plaintiffs' claims, including that class treatment of the putative class is inappropriate in this case, and have expressly denied and continue to deny any wrongdoing whatsoever. Neither this Stipulation nor any action taken to carry out this settlement may be construed as an admission by Defendants of any fault, wrongdoing, or liability whatsoever, or that certification of a class is appropriate in this case.
- 15. Plaintiffs have claimed and continue to claim that the assertions in this Complaint have merit. Neither this Stipulation nor any action taken to carry out this Settlement may be construed as an admission by Plaintiffs that their claims lack merit, including their claim that certification of a class is appropriate in this case.
- 16. It is the desire of the Parties to fully, finally, and forever settle, compromise, and discharge all disputes and claims arising from, or related to, the Action. In order to achieve a full and complete release of Defendants, each Class Member acknowledges that this Stipulation of Settlement is intended to include in its effect all claims of any nature arising from or related to this case, including but not limited to all claims of any nature for alleged failure to provide rest periods, pay minimum wage and overtime, and provide accurate itemized wage statements.

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- 17. It is the intention of the Parties that this Stipulation of Settlement shall constitute a full and complete settlement and release of all claims arising from or related to the allegations of this class action case against Defendants, which release includes in its effect all present and former parent companies, subsidiaries, related or affiliated companies, shareholders, owners, officers, directors, employees, agents, attorneys, insurers, and successors and assigns of Defendants, and any individual or entity which could be jointly liable with Defendants.
- 18. Counsel for the Class has conducted a thorough investigation into the facts of this class action case, including interviewing putative class members, conducting an extensive review of time and pay records of the Class Members, analyzing detailed profit and loss statements for SoLa Rentals, and has diligently pursued an investigation of Class Members' claims against Defendants. Based on its own independent investigation and evaluation, Class Counsel is of the opinion that the Settlement with Defendants for the consideration and on the terms set forth in this Stipulation of Settlement is fair, reasonable, and adequate and is in the best interest of the Class in light of all known facts and circumstances, including the risk of significant delay, the risk the Class will not be certified by the Court, the defenses asserted by Defendants, Defendants' inability to pay a larger judgment against them, and numerous potential appellate issues. Defendants and their counsel have similarly concluded that it is desirable that the Action be settled in a manner and upon such terms and conditions set forth herein in order to avoid further expense, inconvenience and distraction of further legal proceedings, and the risk of the outcome of the Action. Therefore, Defendants have determined that it is desirable and beneficial to finally and fully put to rest the claims in the Action.
- 19. The Parties agree to cooperate and take all steps necessary and appropriate to enter a Judgment in this case.
- 20. This Settlement provides for a cash settlement requiring Defendants to pay settlement payments according to the formula specified in Paragraph 15(g)(i) below. There is no reversion. The maximum total payment under the Settlement, including all attorney's fees, attorney's costs, the enhancement fees to the Named Plaintiff, and any other payments provided

by this Settlement, is FIVE HUNDRED TWENTY THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$520,000.00). It is understood and agreed that Defendants' maximum total liability under this Settlement shall not exceed the sum of FIVE HUNDRED TWENTY THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$520,000.00).

# TERMS OF SETTLEMENT

- 21. **NOW THEREFORE**, in consideration of the mutual covenants, promises and agreements set forth herein, the Parties agree, subject to the Court's approval, as follows:
- a. It is agreed by and among Plaintiffs and Defendants that this case and any claims, damages, or causes of action arising out of the disputes which are the subject of this case, be settled and compromised as between the Class and Defendants, subject to the terms and conditions set forth in this Stipulation of Settlement and the approval of the Los Angeles Superior Court.
- b. Conditional Certification of the Settlement Class: The Parties stipulate to the conditional certification of the Settlement Class as defined herein for settlement purposes only. As set forth in the provisions below, the certification for settlement purposes is void and all terms of this Settlement are void if this Settlement is not approved by the Court. The Parties further stipulate that for settlement purposes only, the law firm of Kingsley & Kingsley, APC and Chami Law, PC may be appointed as Class Counsel, and that Plaintiffs Jose Mario Castro and Breth Alexander Ponce may be appointed the Class Representatives. Defendants' stipulation to the Settlement Class shall not be construed as an admission or acknowledgement of wrongdoing of any kind or that any class should be certified or given collective action treatment.
- c. Final Effective Date: The settlement embodied in this Stipulation of Settlement shall become effective when all of the following events have occurred: (i) this Stipulation of Settlement has been executed by all Parties and by Counsel for the Class and Defendants; (ii) the Court has given Preliminary Approval to the settlement; (iii) notice has been given to the putative members of the Class, providing them with an opportunity to opt out of the settlement; (iv) the Court has held a formal fairness hearing and entered a Final Order and Judgment certifying the Class and approving this Stipulation of Settlement ("Final Approval"); and (v) in the event there are written objections filed prior to the formal fairness hearing which are not later withdrawn, the

later of the following events: when the period for filing any appeal, writ or other appellate proceeding opposing the Settlement has elapsed without any appeal, writ or other appellate proceeding having been filed; or any appeal, writ or other appellate proceeding opposing the Settlement has been voluntarily or involuntarily dismissed finally and conclusively with no right to pursue further remedies or relief; or any appeal, writ or other appellate proceeding has upheld the Court's final order with no right to pursue further remedies or relief. In this regard, it is the intention of the Parties that the Settlement shall not become effective until the Court's order approving the Settlement is completely final, and there is no further recourse by an appellant or objector who seeks to contest the Settlement. If there are no objections filed then the Parties agree that the later of the date of the Final Approval Order and entry of judgment thereon shall be the Final Effective Date. For purposes of determining the Final Effective Date, the Class Members and Defendants agree that only California Courts have jurisdiction over any such appeals, except for any appellate procedure over which the United States Supreme Court may exercise jurisdiction.

- d. Establishment of Gross Fund Value: Defendants shall pay no more than a sum equal to Five Hundred Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$520,000.00) that shall be referred to herein as a Gross Fund Value ("GFV") to fund the settlement of this Action.
- e. Calculation of Net Settlement Fund: The Net Settlement Fund ("NSF") will constitute the total sum from which Class Members will be paid after Court-approved attorney's fees and costs, administration costs, penalties, and enhancement payment described herein are subtracted from the GFV.

Attorney's fees	Up To	\$ 174,000.00
Attorney's costs	Up To:	\$ 7,500.00

Incentive Payment to Named Plaintiffs	Up To:	\$ 7,500 each
Claims Administration	Up To:	\$15,176.00
LWDA Payment	Up To:	\$ 15,000.00 (with 75% to the LWDA and 25% to remain in the

Therefore the NSF amount to be allocated to the Class is at least Two Hundred and Ninety Seven Thousand Seventy Four Dollars (\$297,074.00).

NSF)

- f. *Cost of Administration:* The budget for claims administration shall be Fifteen Thousand One Hundred Seventy-Six Dollars (\$15,176.00), which shall be used to pay the cost of notice and administration of the claims procedure, including expenses incurred during the administration of the settlement. Any funds remaining after the Claims Period, as defined below, has closed shall be reallocated, if feasible, to the NSF.
- g. Settlement Payments to Class Members and Discharge of Defendants' Obligation to the Class: A Class Member who does not file a request for exclusion is considered a Settlement Class Member. All Class Members, unless they have filed a request for exclusion, shall be deemed to be within the Class for all purposes under this Stipulation of Settlement, shall be bound by the terms and conditions of this Stipulation of Settlement, including all orders issued pursuant thereto, and shall be deemed to have waived all unstated objections and opposition to the fairness, reasonableness, and adequacy of this Stipulation of Settlement, and any of its terms.
  - (i). Calculation of Settlement Payments: Settlement Payments will be calculated as follows: The NSF will be divided proportionately to the entire class based on each Class Member's total earnings over the course of the Class Period as reflected in Defendants' business records. This calculation will result in an amount reflecting the settlement value to be assigned to eligible Class Member (the "Pro Rata Settlement Value").

(ii).

- Right of Class Member to Object or Request Exclusion from the Settlement: Class Members have sixty (60) calendar days ("Response Deadline") from the original date of mailing the Notice and Notice of Settlement Payment within which to file an objection to or a request exclusion from the Settlement. To object, a Class Member must mail a written objection to the Settlement Administrator by the Response Deadline and the Settlement Administrator shall ensure that copies of the objection are filed with the Court and circulated to all parties. Class Counsel and Defense Counsel may file responses to any written objections submitted to the Court. Class Members may appear at the final approval hearing to object regardless of whether a written objection was submitted. Class Members may opt out of the Settlement established by this Agreement only by making an effective Opt-Out Request. An Opt-Out Request must be made in writing, indicate that the Class Member wishes to opt out (or words to that effect) and be signed by the Class Member seeking exclusion from the Settlement. The Opt-Out Request must contain the name, address, and last four digits of the Social Security Number or employee identification number of the person requesting exclusion. The Opt-Out Request must be completed by the Class Member seeking exclusion from the Settlement and mailed by the Response Deadline. No other person, with the exception of a Class Member's attorney, may opt out for a Class Member. Any Class Member who properly opts out of the Class using this procedure will not be entitled to any payment hereunder and will not be bound by the Settlement or have any right to object, appeal or comment thereon.
- (iii). Allocation of Settlement Payments: The Parties have agreed that individual payments payable to eligible Class Members will be allocated as 25% wages and 75% non-wage earnings, including "interest and penalties", for which IRS Forms 1099 will be issued. Defendant is responsible for its share of the payroll taxes

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- outside of the Gross Settlement Fund. The claims administrator will be responsible for sending out the appropriate tax forms.
- (iv). Penalties Pursuant to California Labor Code § 2699 (the "Private Attorney General's Act". or "PAGA"): The Parties agree to use Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000.00) of the maximum settlement amount to settle and resolve Defendants' alleged liability based upon Plaintiff's Complaint for penalties pursuant to PAGA. Such a payment is merely for purposes of settling this disputed claim. It is without any admission, fault, or liability that any of the Defendants violated any section(s) of the Labor Code. Seventy-five percent (75%) of the Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$11,250.00) payment will be paid to the Labor and Workforce Development Agency ("LWDA") pursuant to Labor Code § 2699(i).
- (v). Mailing of Settlement Payment and Related Settlement Payments: Defendants shall fund the Court-approved attorney's fees and costs, penalties, enhancement payment, payment to the LWDA, and the Settlement Payments to the Claims Administrator in two (2) equal payments as follows: first payment due sixty (60) days after Preliminary Approval and second payment due ten (10) days after the Final Effective Date. The Claims Administrator shall cause the Settlement Payments to be mailed in the form of a check to the Settlement Class Members within fifteen (15) calendar days from the receipt of the funds from the Defendants. In addition, the Claims Administrator shall pay attorney's fees, attorney's costs, the incentive payment to the Class Representative, the payment to the LWDA, and the payment to the Claims Administrator within fifteen (15) calendar days from the receipt of the funds from the Defendants. In the conditions of the Settlement set forth in this Settlement Agreement are not satisfied, or if either Party terminates and withdraws from the Settlement, or if the Court does not enter judgment consistent with this Stipulation, or if appellate review is sought and on such review the Court's decision is materially modified or reversed, or, if one or more of the terms of the Settlement

is not approved or the Settlement with respect to one or more such terms is materially modified or reversed, then the initial deposit of funds shall be immediately, and in no event more than 5 business days, returned to Defendants.

- h. *Attorney's Fees and Attorney's Costs:* Subject to Court approval and/or modification, Class Counsel may apply for a fee and cost award as set forth in Paragraph 24, et seq., below.
- i. Payment to Class Representative: Subject to Court approval, Named Plaintiffs shall be entitled to an enhancement fee of up to \$7,500 each. As a condition to receiving the enhancement fee, the Class Representative must execute a General Release, which includes a waiver under Civil Code § 1542, in a form acceptable to Defendants, of all claims against Defendants and Released Parties. Defendants will not object to Class Counsel's application for Court Approval of the enhancement fee to the Class Representative as defined herein. It is understood that the enhancement fee is in addition to Plaintiffs' claim share to which she may be entitled along with other Settlement Class Members.
  - (i). The Claims Administrator will issue Forms 1099 for the enhancement fee to Plaintiffs for their service as Class Representatives, and the Class Representatives will be responsible for correctly characterizing this compensation for tax purposes and for paying any taxes on the amounts received.
  - (ii). The enhancement fees, if any, approved by the Court to the Plaintiffs shall be paid by the Claims Administrator on the same date Settlement Class Members are compensated, provided Plaintiffs have met the conditions set forth in this paragraph 20(i).
- j. Right to Rescission: If more than five percent (5%) of the putative Class Members opt out of the Settlement Class by submitting valid and timely Request for Exclusion, Defendants shall have the right in their sole discretion to rescind and void the Parties' settlement prior to final approval by the Court by giving written notice to Class Counsel.

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k. Returned or Uncashed Checks: Defendants shall fully discharge their obligations to those Class Members to whom they will pay a Settlement Payment through the mailing of a Check as set forth in Paragraph 20(g)(vi) above, regardless of whether such checks are actually received and/or negotiated by Class Members. Any check that is not negotiated within One Hundred Eighty (180) days of mailing to a Class Member shall be re-allocated to all those Class Members who did cash their Settlement checks during the 180 day period. The cost of mailing these checks to the participating Class Members shall be deducted from the amounts left in uncashed checks. If there is not enough left to ensure that each Class Member receiving a check get at least \$25.00 after the cost of the administration is deducted, or if any of the second round of checks are not cashed, the residue shall sent to Bet Tzedek Legal Services as cy pres.

1. Right to Revoke: Either Party has the right in its sole and exclusive discretion to terminate and withdraw from the Settlement at any time prior to Final Approval if any of the following occur: (a) the Settlement is construed in such a fashion that Defendants are required to pay more than the Gross Fund Value; or (b) the Court does not certify the Settlement Class as described herein, or does not certify a class releasing all of the released claims defined herein, or otherwise makes an order inconsistent with any of the terms of this Settlement Agreement (except for an order reducing Class Counsel's proposed attorney's fees or litigation costs, or the Class Representative Enhancement Payment); or (c) the Court does not grant preliminary or final approval of the Settlement. If for any reason the Settlement is not approved by the Court, or if a Party terminates and withdraws from the Settlement pursuant to this paragraph, this Settlement Agreement and any related settlement documents shall be null and void, and any class certified for settlement purposes will be vacated. In such an event, neither the Settlement Agreement, nor the settlement documents, nor the negotiations leading to the Settlement may be used as evidence for any purpose. Defendants shall retain the right to challenge all claims and allegations in the action, to assert all applicable defenses, and to dispute the propriety of class certification on all applicable grounds.

m. Termination of Settlement Agreement: If the conditions of the Settlement set forth in this Settlement Agreement are not satisfied, or if either Party terminates and withdraws from the Settlement, or if the Court does not enter judgment consistent with this Stipulation, or if appellate review is sought and on such review the Court's decision is materially modified or reversed, or, if one or more of the terms of the Settlement is not approved or the Settlement with respect to one or more such terms is materially modified or reversed, then this Settlement shall be canceled, terminated, and shall have no force or effect. If Final Approval does not occur, or if this Settlement is terminated, revoked, or canceled pursuant to its terms, the Parties to this Settlement shall be deemed to have reverted to their respective status as of the date and time immediately prior to the execution of this Settlement.

# **CLAIMS ADMINISTRATION**

- 22. The Parties have agreed to the appointment of JND Legal Administration Co. to perform the customary duties of Claims Administrator. The Claims Administrator will send out to the Class Members the Notice of Pendency of Class Action and Proposed Settlement and the Notice of Settlement Payment. Upon receipt of sufficient funds from Defendants to compensate all claimants, the Claims Administrator will issue and send out Settlement Payment checks to Settlement Class Members, and will issue tax forms in accordance with this Stipulation of Settlement. All disputes relating to the Claims Administrator's performance of its duties shall be referred to the Court, if necessary, which will have continuing jurisdiction over the terms and conditions of this Stipulation of Settlement until all payments and obligations contemplated by this Stipulation of Settlement have been fully carried out.
- 23. In the event of any disagreement between an actual or potential Settlement Class Member and Defendants regarding the right to receive a Settlement Payment or the amount of the Settlement Payment, the following dispute resolution procedure shall be used: The actual or potential Class Member shall send a written statement along with and any supporting evidence to the Claims Administrator. The Claims Administrator shall provide this information to Defendants' Counsel and Class Counsel for review. If the Parties cannot thereafter resolve the disagreement,

Defendants shall also provide their records to the Claims Administrator. Disputes shall be resolved by the Class Administrator, based on a review of Defendants' records and the Class Member's records. The decision of the Claims Administrator with regard to the amount of the Settlement Payment, if any, that the person is entitled to receive shall be final, non-appealable, and binding on the person and Defendants.

24. Defendants will comply with any and all federal, state, and local tax reporting obligations in connection with the payments made to the Class Representative, Settlement Class Members, and Class Counsel pursuant to this Stipulation of Settlement, but Defendants are not and will not be obligated to compute, estimate, or pay any taxes on behalf of the Class Representative, any Class Member, or Class Counsel.

# ATTORNEY'S FEES AND COSTS

25. In consideration for settling this matter and in exchange for the release of all claims by the Class, and subject to final approval and/or modification by the Court, Plaintiffs may apply for Class Counsel attorney's fees up to the total sum of One Hundred and Seventy Four Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents (\$174,000.00) and attorney's costs up to the total sum of Seven Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$7,500.00). Defendants will not object to Class Counsel's application or attorney's fees and costs up to these amounts. The amounts set forth above will cover all work performed and all fees and costs incurred to date, and all work to be performed and all fees and costs to be incurred in connection with the approval by the Court of this Stipulation of Settlement, the administration of the Settlement, and obtaining a judgment.

# NOTICE TO THE PLAINTIFF CLASS

26. A Notice of Pendency of Class Action, Proposed Settlement and Hearing Date for Court Approval ("Notice of Pendency of Class Action") in substantially the form attached hereto as Exhibit "1," and as approved by the Court, shall be sent by the Claims Administrator to the Class Members, by first class U.S. mail. Attached to the Notice of Pendency of Class Action will be a Notice of Settlement Payment, in substantially the form attached hereto as Exhibit "2," and as approved by the Court. Any returned envelopes from this mailing with forwarding addresses will

be utilized by the Claims Administrator to forward the Notice and Notice of Settlement Payment to the Class Members. If no forwarding address is provided, then the Claims Administrator shall promptly attempt to determine a correct address using a skip-trace, computer, or other search using the name, address, and/or social security number of the Class Member involved, and then shall perform a remailing.

- a. No later than ten (10) days after preliminary approval of this Settlement by the Court, Defendants shall provide the Claims Administrator a database, which will list for each Class Member the Class Member's name, last known address, social security number (if known), dates of engagement during the Class Period, and proportionate share of the Net Settlement Fund ("Class Data"). This database shall be based on Defendants' business records and in a format acceptable to the Claims Administrator. Defendants agrees to consult with the Claims Administrator prior to the production date to ensure that the format will be acceptable to the Claims Administrator. Class Data shall be used by the Claims Administrator solely for the purpose of calculating settlement shares, notifying the Class Members of the Settlement, and tax reporting. The Claims Administrator shall run the Class Data list through the National Change of Address database, and will use the most recent address for each Class Member, either from Defendants' records or the National Change of Address database, when mailing the Class Notice. Within ten (10) days of receipt of the database from Defendants, the Claims Administrator will mail the Notice of Pendency of Class Action and Notice of Settlement Payment (collectively "Notice Packet") to the Class Members.
- b. Notice Packets returned to the Claims Administrator as non-delivered shall be resent to the forwarding address, if any, on the returned envelope and a Class Member who is re-mailed a Notice shall have at least thirty (30) days to respond to the Class Notice. If there are less than thirty (30) days remaining in the Response Deadline at the time a Notice is remailed, that Class Member shall be given (30) days from the date of the re-mailing to respond Upon completion of these steps by the Claims Administrator, the Parties shall be deemed to have satisfied their obligation to provide the Notice of Pendency of Class Action and Settlement to the affected

member of the Class. The affected Class Member shall remain a member of the Class and shall be bound by all the terms of the Stipulation of Settlement and the Court's Order and Final Judgment.

c. Class Counsel shall provide to the Court, at the time of the filing of the Final Approval Motion, a declaration by the Claims Administrator of due diligence and proof of mailing with regard to the mailing of the Notice Packets.

# RELEASE BY THE CLASS

27. Upon final approval of this Stipulation of Settlement by the Court, and except as to such rights or claims as may be created by this Stipulation of Settlement, the Settlement Class and each member of the Class who has not submitted a valid Request for Exclusion, fully releases and discharges Defendants, their present and former parent companies, subsidiaries, related or affiliated companies, shareholders, owners, officers, directors, employees, agents, attorneys, insurers, successors and assigns, and any individual or entity which could be jointly liable with Defendants, from any and all claims, debts, liabilities, demands, obligations, guarantees, costs, expenses, attorney's fees, damages, actions or causes of actions stated in the Complaint, actions or causes of action alleged, or which could have been alleged based on the facts set forth in the complaint during the Class Period. The release of PAGA claims is limited to facts and claims raised in Plaintiff's notice letter to the LWDA. This release shall become effective upon full payment of the Gross Fund Value. This release excludes the release of claims not permitted by law.

### RELEASED CLAIMS BY THE CLASS REPRESENTATIVE

28. Class Representatives hereby fully release and forever discharge Defendants and Defendants' respective present and former officers, directors, employees, shareholders, agents, trustees, representatives, attorneys, insurers, parent companies, subsidiaries, divisions, affiliates, predecessors, successors, assigns, and any individual or entity that could be jointly liable with Defendants, from any and all claims, causes of action, damages, wages, benefits, expenses, penalties, debts, liabilities, demands, obligations, attorney's fees, costs, and any other form of relief or remedy in law, equity, or whatever kind or nature, whether known or unknown, suspected

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Civil Code, all claims that they may have, known or unknown, suspected or unsuspected, in the Action and any claims arising out of or related to the Action are hereby released. § 1542 provides:

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.

30. Class Representatives expressly waive the provisions of § 1542 with full knowledge and with the specific intent to release all known or unknown, suspected or unsuspected claims arising on or before the Effective Date of the Settlement, and therefore specifically waives the provisions of any statute, rule, decision or other source of law of the United States or of any state of the United States or any subdivision of a state which prevents release of unknown claims.

# DUTIES OF THE PARTIES PRIOR TO COURT APPROVAL

31. The Parties shall promptly submit this Stipulation of Settlement to the Los Angeles County Superior Court in support of Plaintiffs' Motion for Preliminary Approval and determination by the Court as to its fairness, adequacy, and reasonableness. Promptly upon

execution of this Stipulation of Settlement, the Parties shall apply to the Court for the entry of an order substantially in the following form:

- a. Scheduling a fairness hearing on the question of whether the proposed settlement, including payment of attorney's fees and costs, and the Class Representatives' enhancement fee, should be finally approved as fair, reasonable and adequate as to the members of the Settlement Class;
  - b. Certifying the Settlement Class;
- c. Approving as to form and content the proposed Notice of Pendency of Class Action and Proposed Settlement;
  - d. Approving as to form and content the proposed Notice of Settlement Payment;
- e. Directing the mailing of the Notice of Pendency of Class Action and Notice of Settlement Payment, by first class U.S. mail to the Class Members;
- f. Preliminarily approving the settlement subject only to the objections of Class Members and final review by the Court; and
- g. Enjoining Class Representatives and all Class Members from filing or prosecuting any claims, suits or administrative proceedings (including filing claims with the California Division of Labor Standards Enforcement) regarding claims released by the Settlement unless and until such Class Members have filed a valid Request for Exclusion with the Claims Administrator.

# DUTIES OF THE PARTIES FOLLOWING FINAL COURT APPROVAL

- 32. Following final approval by the Court of the settlement provided for in this Stipulation of Settlement, Counsel for the Class will submit a proposed final order and judgment, which contains, among other things, provisions:
- a. Approving the Settlement, adjudging the terms thereof to be fair, reasonable and adequate, and directing consummation of its terms and provisions;
- b. Approving Class Counsel's application for an award of attorney's fees and costs; and
  - c. Approving the enhancement fee to the Class Representative.

### **PARTIES' AUTHORITY**

33. The signatories represent that they are fully authorized to enter into this Stipulation of Settlement and bind the Parties hereto to the terms and conditions thereof.

# MUTUAL FULL COOPERATION

- 34. The Parties agree to fully cooperate with each other to accomplish the terms of this Stipulation of Settlement, including but not limited to, execution of such documents and taking such other action as reasonably may be necessary to implement the terms of this Stipulation of Settlement. The Parties to this Stipulation of Settlement shall use their best efforts, including all efforts contemplated by this Stipulation of Settlement and any other efforts that may become necessary by order of the Court, or otherwise, to effectuate this Stipulation of Settlement and the terms set forth herein. As soon as practicable after execution of this Stipulation of Settlement, Class Counsel shall, with the assistance and cooperation of Defendants and their Counsel, take all necessary steps to secure the Court's Final Approval of this Stipulation of Settlement.
- 35. Defendants and their counsel agree that they will not attempt to encourage or discourage Class Members from participating in the settlement. Plaintiffs and their Counsel agree they will not attempt to encourage or discourage Class Members from participating in the settlement.

# NO PRIOR ASSIGNMENTS

36. The Parties and their Counsel represent, covenant, and warrant that they have not directly or indirectly, assigned, transferred, encumbered, or purported to assign, transfer, or encumber to any person or entity any portion of any liability, claim, demand, action, cause of action or rights herein released and discharged except as set forth herein.

#### **NO ADMISSION**

37. Nothing in this Stipulation of Settlement shall be construed to be or deemed an admission by Defendants of any liability, culpability, negligence, or wrongdoing toward the Class Representative, the Class Members, or any other person, and Defendants specifically disclaim any liability, culpability, negligence, or wrongdoing toward the Class Representative, the Class

Members, or any other person, and further deny that class certification or representative action treatment is appropriate. Each of the Parties has entered into this Stipulation of Settlement with the intention to avoid further disputes and litigation with the attendant inconvenience, expenses, and contingencies. This Stipulation of Settlement, any related court documents or orders, may not be cited or otherwise admitted as evidence of liability or that class certification or representative action treatment is appropriate. There has been no final determination by any Court as to the merits of the claims asserted by Plaintiffs against Defendants or as to whether a class should be certified, other than for settlement purposes only.

# **ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS**

38. In the event that one or more of the Parties to this Stipulation of Settlement institutes any legal action or other proceeding against any other Party or Parties to enforce the provisions of this Stipulation of Settlement or to declare rights and/or obligations under this Stipulation of Settlement, the successful Party or Parties shall be entitled to recover from the unsuccessful Party or Parties reasonable attorney's fees and costs, including expert witness fees incurred in connection with any enforcement actions.

#### **NOTICES**

39. Unless otherwise specifically provided herein, all notices, demands or other communications given hereunder shall be in writing and shall be deemed to have been duly given as of the third business day after mailing by United States registered or certified mail, return receipt requested, addressed as follows:

TO PLAINTIFFS AND THE SETTLEMENT TO DEFENDANTS: CLASSES:

Eric B. Kingsley, Esq. Michael L. Mallow eric@kingsleykingsley.com mmallow@shb.com Liane Katzenstein Ly, Esq., Mark D. Campbell liane@kingsleykingsley.com mdcampbell@shb.com Ari J. Stiller, Esq. (SBN 294676) Shook Hardy and Bacon L.L.P. ari@kingsleykingsley.com 2049 Century Park East, Suite 3000 Lyubov Lerner, Esq. (SBN 311762) luba@kingsleykingsley.com

Los Angeles, CA 90067 16133 Ventura Blvd., Suite 1200 Telephone: (424) 285-8330

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#### INTEGRATION CLAUSE

43. This Stipulation of Settlement contains the entire agreement between the Parties relating to the settlement and transaction contemplated hereby, and all prior or contemporaneous agreements, understandings, representations, and statements, whether oral or written and whether by a party or such party's legal counsel, are merged herein. No rights hereunder may be waived except in writing.

# **BINDING ON ASSIGNS**

44. This Stipulation of Settlement shall be binding upon and inure to the benefit of the Parties hereto and their respective heirs, trustees, executors, administrators, successors and assigns.

# **CLASS COUNSEL SIGNATORIES**

45. It is agreed that because the members of the Class are so numerous, it is impossible or impractical to have each member of the Class execute this Stipulation of Settlement. The Notice of Pendency of Class Action and Proposed Settlement, Exhibit "1" hereto, will advise all Class Members of the binding nature of the release, and the release shall have the same force and effect as if this Stipulation of Settlement were executed by each Class Member.

#### **COUNTERPARTS**

46. This Stipulation of Settlement may be executed in counterparts, and when each party has signed and delivered at least one such counterpart, each counterpart shall be deemed an original, when taken together with other signed counterparts, shall constitute one Stipulation of Settlement, which shall be binding upon and effective as to all Parties.

# DEADLINES FALLING ON WEEKENDS OR HOLIDAYS

47. To the extent that any deadline set forth in this Settlement Agreement falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday, that deadline shall be continued until the following business day.

# **CONFIDENTIALITY**

- 48. The Parties and their Counsel agree that they will not issue any press releases, initiate any contact with the press, respond to any press inquiry or have any communication with the press about the fact, amount or terms of the settlement prior to preliminary approval. In addition, the Parties and their Counsel agree that they will not engage in any advertising or distribute any marketing materials relating to the settlement of this case prior to preliminary approval, including but not limited to any postings on any websites maintained by Class Counsel. CALIFORNIA LAW APPLIES
- 49. The rights and obligations of the Parties hereunder shall be construed and enforced in accordance with, and shall be governed by, the laws of the State of California, without regard to principles of conflict of laws.

#### **CURING PROVISION HELD INVALID**

50. If any provision of this Settlement or the application thereof is held invalid, the Parties shall, consistent with the Mutual Full Cooperation paragraph, meet and confer in an attempt to modify the Settlement so that such invalidation shall not affect other provisions or applications of this Settlement.

# **COURT JURISDICTION**

51. This Agreement shall be enforceable by the Court and the Court shall retain jurisdiction over the Parties and the Class Members to enforce the terms, conditions and obligations of this Agreement.

# EFFECT OF NON-APPROVAL

52. In the event that this Settlement does not gain approval of the Court, for any reason, all matters covered by this Settlement shall be null and void. In such event, nothing in this Stipulation or any draft thereof, or of any of the other related documents or draft thereof, or of the discussion, negotiation, documentation, or other part or aspect of the Parties' settlement discussions leading to the execution of this Stipulation shall have any effect, nor shall any such matter be admissible in evidence for any purpose in the Action or in any other proceeding or forum, nor shall any such matter be used or construed by or against any Party as a determination,

1	admission, or concession of any issue of law or	fact in this, or any other litigation or proceeding,	
2	and the Parties do not waive, and instead expressly reserve, their respective rights with respect to		
3	the prosecution and defense of the Action as if this Stipulation never existed.		
4	///		
5			
6	Dated: October 7, 2020	Respectfully submitted,	
7		SHOOK, HARDY & BACON L.L.P.	
8		M1-5/11	
9   10		By: Mark D. Campbell Attorneys for Defendants	
11		Sola Rentals, Inc. and Martin Muoto	
12	D . 1 I	D (6.11 1 2) 1	
13	Dated: June, 2020	Respectfully submitted,	
14		KINGSLEY & KINGSLEY, APC	
15			
16		By: Liane Katzenstein Ly	
17		Eric B. Kingsley, Esq.	
18		Attorneys For Plaintiffs	
19	Dated: June, 2020		
20			
21		By: Martin Muoto	
22		Representative for Defendants Sola Rentals, Inc., and on behalf of	
23	Dated: June, 2020	himself	
24			
25		By:	
26		By: Jose Mario Castro	
27			
28	12	24	

1	admission, or concession of any issue of law or fact in this, or any other litigation or proceeding,				
2	and the Parties do not waive, and instead expressly reserve, their respective rights with respect to				
3	the prosecution and defense of the Action as if this Stipulation never existed.				
4	111				
5					
6	Dated: June, 2020	Respectfully submitted,			
7		SHOOK, HARDY & BACON L.L.P.			
8					
9		By:			
10	,	Mark D. Campbell Attorneys for Defendants			
11		Sola Rentals, Inc. and Martin Muoto			
12					
13	Dated: June, 202●	Respectfully submitted,			
14		KINGSLEY & KINGSLEY, APC			
15		4.6			
16		By: Liane Katzenstein Ly			
17	i:	Eric B. Kingsley, Esq.			
18		Attorneys For Plaintiffs			
19	Dated: June, 2020				
20					
21		By:			
22		`Representative for Defendants Sola Rentals, Inc., and on behalf of			
23	Dated: October 14, 2020	himself			
24	8				
25		By: Jose M. Castro			
26		Jose Mario Castro			
27					

and the Parties do not waive, and instead expressly reserve, their respective rights with restate the prosecution and defense of the Action as if this Stipulation never existed.  ///  Dated: June, 2020 Respectfully submitted, SHOOK, HARDY & BACON L.L.P.  By:	spect to	
Dated: June, 2020  Respectfully submitted, SHOOK, HARDY & BACON L.L.P.  By:  Mark D. Campbell Attorneys for Defendants Sola Rentals, Inc. and Martin Muoto  Dated: June, 2020  Respectfully submitted, KINGSLEY & KINGSLEY, APC  By:  Liane Katzenstein Ly Eric B. Kingsley, Esq.		
Dated: June, 2020  Respectfully submitted, SHOOK, HARDY & BACON L.L.P.  By:  Mark D. Campbell Attorneys for Defendants Sola Rentals, Inc. and Martin Muoto  Dated: June, 2020  Respectfully submitted, KINGSLEY & KINGSLEY, APC  By:  Liane Katzenstein Ly Eric B. Kingsley, Esq.		
By:  Dated: June, 2020  Respectfully submitted, SHOOK, HARDY & BACON L.L.P.  By:  Mark D. Campbell Attorneys for Defendants Sola Rentals, Inc. and Martin Muoto  Respectfully submitted, KINGSLEY & KINGSLEY, APC  By:  Liane Katzenstein Ly Eric B. Kingsley, Esq.		
SHOOK, HARDY & BACON L.L.P.  By:  Mark D. Campbell Attorneys for Defendants Sola Rentals, Inc. and Martin Muoto  Dated: June, 2020  Respectfully submitted, KINGSLEY & KINGSLEY, APC  By:  Liane Katzenstein Ly Eric B. Kingsley, Esq.		
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By:    Mark D. Campbell   Attorneys for Defendants   Sola Rentals, Inc. and Martin   Muoto	SHOOK, HARDY & BACON L.L.P.	
Mark D. Campbell Attorneys for Defendants Sola Rentals, Inc. and Martin Muoto  12 13 Dated: June, 2020 Respectfully submitted, KINGSLEY & KINGSLEY, APC  15 16 17  By: Liane Katzenstein Ly Eric B. Kingsley, Esq.		
Mark D. Campbell Attorneys for Defendants Sola Rentals, Inc. and Martin Muoto  Dated: June, 2020  Respectfully submitted, KINGSLEY & KINGSLEY, APC  By: Liane Katzenstein Ly Eric B. Kingsley, Esq.		
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Dated: June, 2020  Respectfully submitted,  KINGSLEY & KINGSLEY, APC  By:  Liane Katzenstein Ly Eric B. Kingsley, Esq.		
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Liane Katzenstein Ly Eric B. Kingsley, Esq.		
Eric B. Kingsley, Esq.		
Attorneys For Plaintiffs		
18 Attorneys For Plaintiffs		
18 October 7, 2020 Attorneys For Plaintiffs  19 Dated: June 2020		
20		
21 By: Plut		
Martin Muoto Representative for Defendants S	Sola	
Rentals, Inc., and on behalf of himself		
24 Dated: June, 2020		
25		
26 By:		
27		
28 JOINT STIPULATION OF SETTLEMENT AND RELEASE BETWEEN PLAINTIFFS AND DEFEN	DANTS	
1" = "1" "4843-5954-4001 V1" "" 4843-5954-4001 V1 4840-4582-5997 V1		

Dated: October 14, 2020

By:

Breth Alexander Ponce