Edwin Aiwazian (SBN 232943) edwin@calljustice.com Superior Court of California 2 Arby Aiwazian (SBN 269827) County of Sacramento arby@calljustice.com 10/10/2023 Joanna Ghosh (SBN 272479) V. Aleman, Deputy joanna@calljustice.com Vartan Madoyan (SBN 279015) vartan@calljustice.com LAWYERS for JUSTICE, PC 410 West Arden Avenue, Suite 203 Glendale, California 91203 Telephone: (818) 265-1020 / Fax: (818) 265-1021 8 S. Emi Minne (SBN 253179) 9 emi@parkerminne.com Jill J. Parker (SBN 274230) 10 jill@parkerminne.com PARKER & MINNE, LLP 11 700 South Flower Street, Suite 1000 Los Angeles, California 90017 12 Telephone: (310) 882-6833 / Fax: (310) 889-0822 13 Attorneys for Plaintiffs 14 PAUL SCHWARTZENBERGER and ANTHONY PEREZ 15 SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA 16 FOR THE COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO 17 18 PAUL SCHWARTZENBERGER, ANTHONY Case No.: 34-2022-00319703-CU-OE-GDS 19 PEREZ, individually, and on behalf of other members of the general public similarly situated, Assigned for all purposes to the Honorable 20 Laurie Damrell, Dept. 28 Plaintiff. 21 VS. JOINT STIPULATION TO AMEND 22 COMPLAINT; [PROPOSED] ORDER BERGER STEEL CORPORATION, a California 23 corporation; and DOES 1 through 100, inclusive, 24 Complaint Filed: May 10, 2022 FAC Filed: June 8, 2022 Defendants. 25 Trial Date: Not set

JOINT STIPULATION TO AMEND COMPLAINT; FPROPOSED) ORDER

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## JOINT STIPULATION

Plaintiffs Paul Schwartzenberger and Anthony Perez ("Plaintiffs") and Defendant Berger Steel Corporation ("Defendant") (collectively, the "Parties"), by and through their respective counsel of record, hereby stipulate as follows:

- 1. The Parties have met and conferred regarding the filing of a Second Amended Complaint in this matter in order to add an additional cause of action for violation of California Labor Code § 2698, et seq. ("PAGA"). Based on the Parties' discussions, the Parties have agreed that Plaintiffs may file a Second Amended Complaint.
- 2. Plaintiffs' proposed Second Amended Complaint ("SAC") is attached hereto as "Exhibit 1". The SAC adds an additional representative cause of action for violation of PAGA and related allegations.
- The SAC shall be deemed filed and served on Defendant as of the date of the Court's 3. order permitting its filing.
- 4. Defendant shall file its Answer to the SAC within 14 calendar days of entry of the Court's Order approving this stipulation.
- The filing of the FAC is without prejudice to and does not waive Defendant's defenses 5. to the SAC.

IT IS SO STIPULATED.

Dated: October 4, 2023

PARKER & MINNE, LLP

By:

S. Emi Minne

Attorneys for Plaintiffs

Dated: October 3, 2023

SCHROEDER SCHAFF & LOW, INC.

By:

Jason Schaff Wendy A. Green Harjeet E. Gidha

Attorneys for Defendant

## [PROPOSED] ORDER

The Court, having received and reviewed the Joint Stipulation to Amend Complaint and the attached Proposed Second Amended Complaint, and finding good cause therefore, HEREBY ORDERS AS FOLLOWS:

- Plaintiffs Paul Schwartzenberger and Anthony Perez Eric Zaragoza are granted leave to file the Second Amended Complaint attached as "Exhibit 1" to the Parties' Joint Stipulation to Amend Complaint.
- 2. The Second Amended Complaint shall be deemed filed as of the date of entry of this Order.
- 3. The Second Amended Complaint shall be deemed served on Defendant Berger Steel Corporation as of the date of entry of this Order.
- 4. Defendant Berger Steel Corporation's Answer to the Second Amended Complaint shall be filed within fourteen (14) calendar days of entry of this Order.
- The filing of the Second Amended Complaint is without prejudice to and does not waive Defendant Berger Steel Corporation's defenses thereto.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Date: 10/10/2023

The Honorable Laurie Damrell Judge of the Superior Court

- 1		
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13	PAUL SCHWARTZENBERGER and ANTHONY PEREZ	
14		
15	SUPERIOR COURT OF T	HE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
16	FOR THE COUNT	Y OF SACRAMENTO
17		
18	PAUL SCHWARTZENBERGER,	Case No.: 34-2022-00319-703-CU-OE-GDS
	ANTHONY PEREZ, individually, and on behalf of other members of the general public	Assigned for all purposes to the Honorable
19	similarly situated;	Laurie Damrell, Dept. 28
20	Plaintiffs,	SECOND AMENDED CLASS ACTION
21	vs.	AND REPRESENTATIVE ACTION COMPLAINT
22	BERGER STEEL CORPORATION, a	(1) Violation of California Labor Code
23	California corporation; and DOES 1 through 100, inclusive,	§§ 510 and 1198 (Unpaid Overtime);
24	Defendants.	(2) Violation of California Labor Code
25	Detendants.	§§ 226.7 and 512(a) (Unpaid Meal Period Premiums);
1		(3) Violation of California Labor Code § 226.7 (Unpaid Rest Period
26		Premiums); (4) Violation of California Labor Code
27		§§ 1194, 1197, and 1197.1 (Unpaid
28		Minimum Wages); (5) Violation of California Labor Code

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9		§§ 201 and 202 (Final Wages Not Timely Paid);  (6) Violation of California Labor Code § 204 (Wages Not Timely Paid During Employment);  (7) Violation of California Labor Code § 226(a) (Non-Compliant Wage Statements);  (8) Violation of California Labor Code § 1174(d) (Failure To Keep Requisite Payroll Records);  (9) Violation of California Labor Code §§ 2800 and 2802 (Unreimbursed Business Expenses);  (10) Violation of California Business & Professions Code §§ 17200, et seq.  (11) Violation of Cal. Labor Code §§ 2698, et seq. (Private Attorneys General Act of 2004)
		DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL
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COMES NOW, Plaintiff PAUL SCHWARTZENBERGER ("Plaintiff SCHWARTZENBERGER") and Plaintiff ANTHONY PEREZ ("Plaintiff PEREZ") (collectively as "Plaintiffs") individually, on behalf of other members of the general public similarly situated, and as private attorneys general, and allege as follows:

# JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 1. Plaintiffs bring this actions against Defendant BERGER STEEL

  CORPORATION for California Labor Code violations, unfair business practices, and civil penalties stemming from Defendant's failure to pay overtime compensation, failure to provide meal periods, failure to authorize and permit rest periods, failure to pay minimum wage, failure to timely pay wages, failure to provide accurate wage statements, failure to maintain accurate time and payroll records, and failure to reimburse necessary business-related expenses.
- 2. Plaintiffs' first through tenth causes of action are brought as a class action pursuant to the California Code of Civil Procedure section 382. The monetary damages and restitution sought by Plaintiffs exceeds the minimal jurisdiction limits of the Superior Court and will be established according to proof at trial.
- 3. Plaintiff's eleventh cause of action is brought by Plaintiffs as a representative action pursuant to California Labor Code sections 2698, et seq. on behalf of themselves, the State of California, and all individuals who worked for Defendant in the State of California as hourly paid and/or non-exempt employees at any time during the period commencing on August 3, 2022, and ending on the date final judgment is entered ("Aggrieved Employees"). Plaintiffs are aggrieved employees against whom one or more of the alleged violations occurred.
- 4. This Court has jurisdiction over this action pursuant to the California

  Constitution, Article VI, Section 10, which grants the superior court "original jurisdiction in all other causes" except those given by statute to other courts. The statutes under which this action is brought do not specify any other basis for jurisdiction.
  - 5. This Court has jurisdiction over Defendant because, upon information and

belief, Defendant is a citizen of California, has sufficient minimum contacts in California, or otherwise intentionally avails itself of the California market so as to render the exercise of jurisdiction over it by California courts consistent with traditional notions of fair play and substantial justice.

6. Venue is proper in this Court because, upon information and belief, Defendant maintains offices, has agents, employs individuals, and/or transacts business in the State of California, County of Sacramento. At all relevant times, Defendant maintained its headquarters/"nerve center" within the State of California, County of Sacramento.

## **PARTIES**

- 7. Plaintiff PAUL SCHWARTZENBERGER is an individual residing in the State of California.
  - 8. Plaintiff ANTHONY PEREZ is an individual residing in the State of California.
- 9. Defendant BERGER STEEL CORPORATION, at all times herein mentioned, was and is, upon information and belief, a California corporation and, at all times herein mentioned, an employer whose employees are engaged throughout the State of California, including the County of Sacramento.
- 10. At all relevant times, Defendant BERGER STEEL CORPORATION were the "employer" of Plaintiffs within the meaning of all applicable California laws and statutes.
- 11. At all times herein relevant, Defendants BERGER STEEL CORPORATION and DOES 1 through 100, and each of them, were the agents, partners, joint venturers, joint employers, representatives, servants, employees, successors-in-interest, co-conspirators and/or assigns, each of the other, and at all times relevant hereto were acting within the course and scope of their authority as such agents, partners, joint venturers, joint employers, representatives, servants, employees, successors, co-conspirators and/or assigns, and all acts or omissions alleged herein were duly committed with the ratification, knowledge, permission, encouragement, authorization and/or consent of each defendant designated as a DOE herein.
- 12. The true names and capacities, whether corporate, associate, individual or otherwise, of defendants DOES 1 through 100, inclusive, are unknown to Plaintiffs who sue

said defendants by such fictitious names. Plaintiffs are informed and believe, and based on that information and belief allege, that each of the defendants designated as a DOE is legally responsible for the events and happenings referred to in this Complaint, and unlawfully caused the injuries and damages to Plaintiffs, the other class members, and the Aggrieved Employees as alleged in this Complaint. Plaintiffs will seek leave of court to amend this Complaint to show the true names and capacities when the same have been ascertained.

- 13. Defendant BERGER STEEL CORPORATION and DOES 1 through 100 will hereinafter collectively be referred to as "Defendants."
- 14. Plaintiffs further allege that Defendants directly or indirectly controlled or affected the working conditions, wages, working hours, and conditions of employment of Plaintiffs, the other class members, and the Aggrieved Employees so as to make each of said Defendants employers liable under the statutory provisions set forth herein.

## CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS

- 15. Plaintiffs bring their first through tenth causes of action on their own behalf and on behalf of all other members of the general public similarly situated, and, thus, seeks class certification under California Code of Civil Procedure section 382.
  - 16. The proposed class is defined as follows:
    All current and former hourly-paid or non-exempt employees who worked for any of the Defendants within the State of California at any time during the period May 10, 2018 to final judgment and who reside in California.

Subclass A: All class members who received overtime compensation at a rate lower than their respective regular rate of pay because Defendants failed to include all shift differential pay/non-discretionary bonuses/non-discretionary performance pay in the calculation of the regular rate of pay for overtime pay purposes.

- **Subclass B**: All class members who were required by Defendants to stay on Defendants' premises for rest breaks.
- 17. Plaintiffs reserve the right to establish additional subclasses as appropriate.

- 18. The class is ascertainable and there is a well-defined community of interest in the litigation:
  - a. Numerosity: The class members are so numerous that joinder of all class members is impracticable. The membership of the entire class is unknown to Plaintiffs at this time; however, the class is estimated to be greater than fifty (50) individuals and the identity of such membership is readily ascertainable by inspection of Defendants' employment records.
  - b. <u>Typicality</u>: Plaintiffs' claims are typical of all other class members' as demonstrated herein. Plaintiffs will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the other class members with whom they a well-defined community of interest.
  - c. Adequacy: Plaintiffs will fairly and adequately protect the interests of each class member, with whom they have a well-defined community of interest and typicality of claims, as demonstrated herein. Plaintiffs have no interest that is antagonistic to the other class members. Plaintiffs' attorneys, the proposed class counsel, are versed in the rules governing class action discovery, certification, and settlement. Plaintiffs have incurred, and during the pendency of this action will continue to incur, costs and attorneys' fees, that have been, are, and will be necessarily expended for the prosecution of this action for the substantial benefit of each class member.
  - d. <u>Superiority</u>: A class action is superior to other available methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of this litigation because individual joinder of all class members is impractical.
  - e. <u>Public Policy Considerations</u>: Certification of this lawsuit as a class action will advance public policy objectives. Employers of this great state violate employment and labor laws every day. Current employees are often afraid to assert their rights out of fear of direct or indirect

retaliation. However, class actions provide the class members who are not named in the complaint anonymity that allows for the vindication of their rights.

- 19. There are common questions of law and fact as to the class members that predominate over questions affecting only individual members. The following common questions of law or fact, among others, exist as to the members of the class:
  - a. Whether Defendants' failure to pay wages, without abatement or reduction, in accordance with the California Labor Code, was willful;
  - b. Whether Defendants' had a corporate policy and practice of failing to pay their hourly-paid or non-exempt employees within the State of California for all hours worked and missed (short, late, interrupted, and/or missed altogether) meal periods and rest breaks in violation of California law;
  - c. Whether Defendants required Plaintiffs and the other class members to work over eight (8) hours per day and/or over forty (40) hours per week and failed to pay the legally required overtime compensation to Plaintiffs and the other class members;
  - d. Whether Defendants deprived Plaintiffs and the other class members of meal and/or rest periods or required Plaintiffs and the other class members to work during meal and/or rest periods without compensation;
  - e. Whether Defendants failed to pay minimum wages to Plaintiffs and the other class members for all hours worked;
  - f. Whether Defendants failed to pay all wages due to Plaintiffs and the other class members within the required time upon their discharge or resignation;
  - g. Whether Defendants failed to timely pay all wages due to Plaintiffs and the other class members during their employment;
  - h. Whether Defendants complied with wage reporting as required by the

Plaintiffs', the other class members', and the Aggrieved Employees' employment, and to supervise their daily employment activities.

- 25. Defendants exercised sufficient authority over the terms and conditions of Plaintiffs', the other class members', and the Aggrieved Employees' employment for them to be joint employers of Plaintiffs, the other class members, and the Aggrieved Employees.
- 26. Defendants directly hired and paid wages and benefits to Plaintiffs, the other class members, and the Aggrieved Employees.
- 27. Defendants continue to employ hourly-paid or non-exempt employees within the State of California.
- 28. Plaintiffs, the other class members, and the Aggrieved Employees worked over eight (8) hours in a day, and/or forty (40) hours in a week during their employment with Defendants.
- 29. Plaintiffs are informed and believe, and based thereon allege, that Defendants engaged in a pattern and practice of wage abuse against their hourly-paid or non-exempt employees within the State of California. This pattern and practice involved, *inter alia*, failing to pay them for all regular and/or overtime wages earned and for missed meal periods and rest breaks in violation of California law.
- 30. Plaintiffs are informed and believe, and based thereon allege, that Defendants knew or should have known that Plaintiffs, the other class members, and the Aggrieved Employees were entitled to receive certain wages for overtime compensation and that they were not receiving accurate overtime compensation for all overtime hours worked.
- 31. Plaintiffs are informed and believe, and based thereon allege, that Defendants failed to use the shift differential pay/commissions/non-discretionary bonuses/non-discretionary performance pay to calculate the regular rate of pay used to calculate the overtime rate for the payment of overtime wages where Plaintiffs, the other class members, and the Aggrieved Employees earned shift differential pay/non-discretionary bonuses/non-discretionary performance pay and overtime wages in the same workweek.
  - 32. Plaintiffs are informed and believe, and based thereon allege, that Defendants

failed to provide Plaintiffs, the other class members, and the Aggrieved Employees all required rest and meal periods during the relevant time period as required under the Industrial Welfare Commission Wage Orders and thus they are entitled to any and all applicable penalties.

- 33. Plaintiffs are informed and believe, and based thereon allege, that Defendants knew or should have known that Plaintiffs, the other class members, and the Aggrieved Employees were entitled to receive all meal periods or payment of one additional hour of pay at Plaintiffs', the other class members', and the Aggrieved Employees' regular rate of pay when a meal period was missed, and they did not receive all meal periods or payment of one additional hour of pay at Plaintiffs', the other class members', and the Aggrieved Employees' regular rate of pay when a meal period was missed.
- 34. Plaintiffs are informed and believe, and based thereon allege, that Defendants knew or should have known that Plaintiffs, the other class members, and the Aggrieved Employees were entitled to receive all rest periods or payment of one additional hour of pay at Plaintiffs', the other class members', and the Aggrieved Employees' regular rate of pay when a rest period was missed, and they did not receive all rest periods or payment of one additional hour of pay at Plaintiffs', the other class members', and the Aggrieved Employees' regular rate of pay when a rest period was missed.
- 35. Plaintiffs are informed and believe, and based thereon allege, that Defendants required Plaintiffs, the other class members, and the Aggrieved Employees to remain on Defendants' premises during purported rest periods, thereby failing to relieve them of all employer control.
- 36. Plaintiffs are informed and believe, and based thereon allege, that Defendants knew or should have known that Plaintiffs, the other class members, and the Aggrieved Employees were entitled to receive at least minimum wages for compensation and that they were not receiving at least minimum wages for all hours worked.
- 37. Plaintiffs are informed and believe, and based thereon allege, that Défendants knew or should have known that Plaintiffs, the other class members, and the Aggrieved Employees were entitled to receive all wages owed to them upon discharge or resignation,

including overtime and minimum wages and meal and rest period premiums, and they did not, in fact, receive all such wages owed to them at the time of their discharge or resignation.

- 38. Plaintiffs are informed and believe, and based thereon allege, that Defendants knew or should have known that Plaintiffs, the other class members, and the Aggrieved Employees were entitled to receive all wages owed to them during their employment.

  Plaintiffs, the other class members, and the Aggrieved Employees did not receive payment of all wages, including overtime and minimum wages and meal and rest period premiums, within any time permissible under California Labor Code section 204.
- 39. Plaintiffs are informed and believe, and based thereon allege, that Defendants knew or should have known that Plaintiffs, the other class members, and the Aggrieved Employees were entitled to receive complete and accurate wage statements in accordance with California law, but, in fact, they did not receive complete and accurate wage statements from Defendants. The deficiencies included, *inter alia*, the failure to include the total number of hours worked by Plaintiffs, the other class members, and the Aggrieved Employees.
- 40. Plaintiffs are informed and believe, and based thereon allege, that Defendants knew or should have known that Defendants had to keep complete and accurate payroll records for Plaintiffs, the other class members, and the Aggrieved Employees in accordance with California law, but, in fact, did not keep complete and accurate payroll records.
- 41. Plaintiffs are informed and believe, and based thereon allege, that Defendants knew or should have known that Plaintiffs, the other class members, and the Aggrieved Employees were entitled to reimbursement for necessary business-related expenses.
- 42. Plaintiffs are informed and believe, and based thereon allege, that Defendants knew or should have known that they had a duty to compensate Plaintiffs, the other class members, and the Aggrieved Employees pursuant to California law, and that Defendants had the financial ability to pay such compensation, but willfully, knowingly, and intentionally failed to do so, and falsely represented to Plaintiffs, the other class members, and the Aggrieved Employees that they were properly denied wages, all in order to increase Defendants' profits.

- 43. During the relevant time period, Defendants failed to pay overtime wages to Plaintiffs, the other class members, and the Aggrieved Employees for all overtime hours worked. Plaintiffs, the other class members, and the Aggrieved Employees were required to work more than eight (8) hours per day and/or forty (40) hours per week without overtime compensation for all overtime hours worked.
- 44. During the relevant time period, Defendants failed to use the shift differential pay /non-discretionary bonuses/non-discretionary performance pay to calculate the regular rate of pay used to calculate the overtime rate for the payment of overtime wages where Plaintiffs, the other class members, and the Aggrieved Employees earned shift differential pay/commissions/non-discretionary bonuses/non-discretionary performance pay and overtime wages in the same
- 45. During the relevant time period, Defendants failed to provide all requisite uninterrupted meal and rest periods to Plaintiffs, the other class members, and the Aggrieved Employees.
- 46. During the relevant time period, Defendants required Plaintiffs, the other class members, and the Aggrieved Employees to remain on Defendants' premises during purported rest periods, thereby failing to relieve them of all employer control.
- 47. During the relevant time period, Defendants failed to pay Plaintiffs, the other class members, and the Aggrieved Employees at least minimum wages for all hours worked.
- 48. During the relevant time period, Defendants failed to pay Plaintiffs, the other class members, and the Aggrieved Employees all wages owed to them upon discharge or resignation.
- 49. During the relevant time period, Defendants failed to pay Plaintiffs, the other class members, and the Aggrieved Employees all wages within any time permissible under California law, including, *inter alia*, California Labor Code section 204.
- 50. During the relevant time period, Defendants failed to provide complete or accurate wage statements to Plaintiffs, the other class members, and the Aggrieved Employees.
  - 51. During the relevant time period, Defendants failed to keep complete or accurate

payroll records for Plaintiffs and the other class members.

- 52. During the relevant time period, Defendants failed to reimburse Plaintiffs, the other class members, and the Aggrieved Employees for all necessary business-related expenses and costs.
- 53. During the relevant time period, Defendants failed to properly compensate Plaintiffs, the other class members, and the Aggrieved Employees pursuant to California law in order to increase Defendants' profits.
- 54. California Labor Code section 218 states that nothing in Article 1 of the Labor Code shall limit the right of any wage claimant to "sue directly . . . for any wages or penalty due to him [or her] under this article."

## FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

(Violation of California Labor Code §§ 510 and 1198)

- 55. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference the allegations contained in Paragraphs 1 through 54, and each and every part thereof with the same force and effect as though fully set forth herein.
- 56. California Labor Code section 1198 and the applicable Industrial Welfare Commission ("IWC") Wage Order provide that it is unlawful to employ persons without compensating them at a rate of pay either time-and-one-half or two-times that person's regular rate of pay, depending on the number of hours worked by the person on a daily or weekly basis.
- 57. Specifically, the applicable IWC Wage Order provides that Defendants are and were required to pay Plaintiffs and the other class members employed by Defendants, and working more than eight (8) hours in a day or more than forty (40) hours in a workweek, at the rate of time-and-one-half for all hours worked in excess of eight (8) hours in a day or more than forty (40) hours in a workweek.
- 58. The applicable IWC Wage Order further provides that Defendants are and were required to pay Plaintiffs and the other class members overtime compensation at a rate of two

times their regular rate of pay for all hours worked in excess of twelve (12) hours in a day.

- 59. California Labor Code section 510 codifies the right to overtime compensation at one-and-one-half times the regular hourly rate for hours worked in excess of eight (8) hours in a day or forty (40) hours in a week or for the first eight (8) hours worked on the seventh day of work, and to overtime compensation at twice the regular hourly rate for hours worked in excess of twelve (12) hours in a day or in excess of eight (8) hours in a day on the seventh day of work.
- 60. During the relevant time period, Plaintiffs and the other class members worked in excess of eight (8) hours in a day, and/or in excess of forty (40) hours in a week.
- 61. During the relevant time period, Defendants intentionally and willfully failed to pay overtime wages owed to Plaintiffs and the other class members.
- 62. Defendants' failure to pay Plaintiffs and the other class members the unpaid balance of overtime compensation, as required by California laws, violates the provisions of California Labor Code sections 510 and 1198, and is therefore unlawful.
- 63. Pursuant to California Labor Code section 1194, Plaintiffs and the other class members are entitled to recover unpaid overtime compensation, as well as interest, costs, and attorneys' fees.

#### SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION

(Violation of California Labor Code §§ 226.7 and 512(a))

- 64. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference the allegations contained in paragraphs 1 through 63, and each and every part thereof with the same force and effect as though fully set forth herein.
- 65. At all relevant times, the IWC Order and California Labor Code sections 226.7 and 512(a) were applicable to Plaintiffs' and the other class members' employment by Defendants.
- 66. At all relevant times, California Labor Code section 226.7 provides that no employer shall require an employee to work during any meal or rest period mandated by an

applicable order of the California IWC.

- 67. At all relevant times, the applicable IWC Wage Order and California Labor Code section 512(a) provide that an employer may not require, cause or permit an employee to work for a work period of more than five (5) hours per day without providing the employee with a meal period of not less than thirty (30) minutes, except that if the total work period per day of the employee is no more than six (6) hours, the meal period may be waived by mutual consent of both the employer and employee.
- 68. At all relevant times, the applicable IWC Wage Order and California Labor Code section 512(a) further provide that an employer may not require, cause or permit an employee to work for a work period of more than ten (10) hours per day without providing the employee with a second uninterrupted meal period of not less than thirty (30) minutes, except that if the total hours worked is no more than twelve (12) hours, the second meal period may be waived by mutual consent of the employer and the employee only if the first meal period was not waived.
- 69. During the relevant time period, Plaintiffs and the other class members who were scheduled to work for a period of time no longer than six (6) hours, and who did not waive their legally-mandated meal periods by mutual consent, were required to work for periods longer than five (5) hours without an uninterrupted meal period of not less than thirty (30) minutes and/or rest period.
- 70. During the relevant time period, Plaintiffs and the other class members who were scheduled to work for a period of time in excess of six (6) hours were required to work for periods longer than five (5) hours without an uninterrupted meal period of not less than thirty (30) minutes and/or rest period.
- 71. During the relevant time period, Defendants intentionally and willfully required Plaintiffs and the other class members to work during meal periods and failed to compensate Plaintiffs and the other class members the full meal period premium for work performed during meal periods.
  - 72. During the relevant time period, Defendants failed to pay Plaintiffs and the other

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class members the full meal period premium due pursuant to California Labor Code section

- Defendants' conduct violates applicable IWC Wage Order and California Labor Code sections 226.7 and 512(a).
- Pursuant to applicable IWC Wage Order and California Labor Code section 226.7(b), Plaintiffs and the other class members are entitled to recover from Defendants one additional hour of pay at the employee's regular rate of compensation for each work day that the meal or rest period is not provided.

## THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION

(Violation of California Labor Code § 226.7)

- Plaintiffs incorporate by reference the allegations contained in paragraphs 1 through 74, and each and every part thereof with the same force and effect as though fully set
- At all times herein set forth, the applicable IWC Wage Order and California Labor Code section 226.7 were applicable to Plaintiffs' and the other class members' employment by Defendants.
- At all relevant times, California Labor Code section 226.7 provides that no employer shall require an employee to work during any rest period mandated by an applicable order of the California IWC.
- At all relevant times, the applicable IWC Wage Order provides that "[e]very employer shall authorize and permit all employees to take rest periods, which insofar as practicable shall be in the middle of each work period" and that the "rest period time shall be based on the total hours worked daily at the rate of ten (10) minutes net rest time per four (4) hours or major fraction thereof" unless the total daily work time is less than three and one-half
- During the relevant time period, Defendants required Plaintiffs and other class members to work four (4) or more hours without authorizing or permitting a ten (10) minute

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wage as required violates California Labor Code sections 1194, 1197, and 1197.1. Pursuant to

those sections Plaintiffs and the other class members are entitled to recover the unpaid balance

of their minimum wage compensation as well as interest, costs, and attorney's fees, and liquidated damages in an amount equal to the wages unlawfully unpaid and interest thereon.

- 88. Pursuant to California Labor Code section 1197.1, Plaintiffs and the other class members are entitled to recover a penalty of \$100.00 for the initial failure to timely pay each employee minimum wages, and \$250.00 for each subsequent failure to pay each employee minimum wages.
- 89. Pursuant to California Labor Code section 1194.2, Plaintiffs and the other class members are entitled to recover liquidated damages in an amount equal to the wages unlawfully unpaid and interest thereon.

#### FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION

(Violation of California Labor Code §§ 201 and 202)

- 90. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference the allegations contained in paragraphs 1 through 89, and each and every part thereof with the same force and effect as though fully set forth herein.
- 91. At all relevant times herein set forth, California Labor Code sections 201 and 202 provide that if an employer discharges an employee, the wages earned and unpaid at the time of discharge are due and payable immediately, and if an employee quits his or her employment, his or her wages shall become due and payable not later than seventy-two (72) hours thereafter, unless the employee has given seventy-two (72) hours' notice of his or her intention to quit, in which case the employee is entitled to his or her wages at the time of quitting.
- 92. During the relevant time period, Defendants intentionally and willfully failed to pay Plaintiffs and the other class members who are no longer employed by Defendants their wages, earned and unpaid, within seventy-two (72) hours of their leaving Defendants' employ.
- 93. Defendants' failure to pay Plaintiffs and the other class members who are no longer employed by Defendants' their wages, earned and unpaid, within seventy-two (72) hours of their leaving Defendants' employ, is in violation of California Labor Code sections

201 and 202.

- 94. California Labor Code section 203 provides that if an employer willfully fails to pay wages owed, in accordance with sections 201 and 202, then the wages of the employee shall continue as a penalty from the due date thereof at the same rate until paid or until an action is commenced; but the wages shall not continue for more than thirty (30) days.
- 95. Plaintiffs and the other class members are entitled to recover from Defendants the statutory penalty wages for each day they were not paid, up to a thirty (30) day maximum pursuant to California Labor Code section 203.

## SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION

(Violation of California Labor Code § 204)

- 96. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference the allegations contained in paragraphs 1 through 95, and each and every part thereof with the same force and effect as though fully set forth herein.
- 97. At all times herein set forth, California Labor Code section 204 provides that all wages earned by any person in any employment between the 1st and 15th days, inclusive, of any calendar month, other than those wages due upon termination of an employee, are due and payable between the 16th and the 26th day of the month during which the labor was performed.
- 98. At all times herein set forth, California Labor Code section 204 provides that all wages earned by any person in any employment between the 16th and the last day, inclusive, of any calendar month, other than those wages due upon termination of an employee, are due and payable between the 1st and the 10th day of the following month.
- 99. At all times herein set forth, California Labor Code section 204 provides that all wages earned for labor in excess of the normal work period shall be paid no later than the payday for the next regular payroll period.
- 100. During the relevant time period, Defendants intentionally and willfully failed to pay Plaintiffs and the other class members all wages due to them, within any time period

permissible under California Labor Code section 204.

101. Plaintiffs and the other class members are entitled to recover all remedies available for violations of California Labor Code section 204.

# SEVENTH CAUSE OF ACTION

(Violation of California Labor Code § 226(a))

- 102. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference the allegations contained in paragraphs 1 through 101, and each and every part thereof with the same force and effect as though fully set forth herein.
- provides that every employer shall furnish each of his or her employees an accurate itemized statement in writing showing (1) gross wages earned, (2) total hours worked by the employee, (3) the number of piece-rate units earned and any applicable piece rate if the employee is paid on a piece-rate basis, (4) all deductions, provided that all deductions made on written orders of the employee may be aggregated and shown as one item, (5) net wages earned, (6) the inclusive dates of the period for which the employee is paid, (7) the name of the employee and his or her social security number, (8) the name and address of the legal entity that is the employer, and (9) all applicable hourly rates in effect during the pay period and the corresponding number of hours worked at each hourly rate by the employee. The deductions made from payments of wages shall be recorded in ink or other indelible form, properly dated, showing the month, day, and year, and a copy of the statement or a record of the deductions shall be kept on file by the employer for at least three years at the place of employment or at a central location within the State of California.
- 104. Defendants have intentionally and willfully failed to provide Plaintiffs and the other class members with complete and accurate wage statements. The deficiencies include, but are not limited to: the failure to include the total number of hours worked by Plaintiffs and the other class members.
  - 105. As a result of Defendants' violation of California Labor Code section 226(a),

Plaintiffs and the other class members have suffered injury and damage to their statutorilyprotected rights.

- 106. More specifically, Plaintiffs and the other class members have been injured by Defendants' intentional and willful violation of California Labor Code section 226(a) because they were denied both their legal right to receive, and their protected interest in receiving, accurate and itemized wage statements pursuant to California Labor Code section 226(a).
- 107. Plaintiffs and the other class members are entitled to recover from Defendants the greater of their actual damages caused by Defendants' failure to comply with California Labor Code section 226(a), or an aggregate penalty not exceeding four thousand dollars per employee.
- 108. Plaintiffs and the other class members are also entitled to injunctive relief to ensure compliance with this section, pursuant to California Labor Code section 226(h).

# **EIGHTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

(Violation of California Labor Code § 1174(d))

- 109. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference the allegations contained in paragraphs 1 through 108, and each and every part thereof with the same force and effect as though fully set forth herein.
- 110. Pursuant to California Labor Code section 1174(d), an employer shall keep, at a central location in the state or at the plants or establishments at which employees are employed, payroll records showing the hours worked daily by and the wages paid to, and the number of piece-rate units earned by and any applicable piece rate paid to, employees employed at the respective plants or establishments. These records shall be kept in accordance with rules established for this purpose by the commission, but in any case shall be kept on file for not less than two years.
- 111. Defendants have intentionally and willfully failed to keep accurate and complete payroll records showing the hours worked daily and the wages paid, to Plaintiffs and the other class members.

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#### TENTH CAUSE OF ACTION

(Violation of California Business & Professions Code §§ 17200, et seq.)
(Against BERGER STEEL CORPORATION and DOES 1 through 100)

- 119. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference the allegations contained in paragraphs 1 through 118, and each and every part thereof with the same force and effect as though fully set forth herein.
- 120. Defendants' conduct, as alleged herein, has been, and continues to be, unfair, unlawful and harmful to Plaintiffs, other class members, to the general public, and Defendants' competitors. Accordingly, Plaintiffs seek to enforce important rights affecting the public interest within the meaning of Code of Civil Procedure section 1021.5.
- 121. Defendants' activities as alleged herein are violations of California law, and constitute unlawful business acts and practices in violation of California Business & Professions Code section 17200, et seq.
- may be predicated on the violation of any state or federal law. In this instant case, Defendants' policies and practices of requiring employees, including Plaintiffs and the other class members, to work overtime without paying them proper compensation violate California Labor Code sections 510 and 1198. Additionally, Defendants' policies and practices of requiring employees, including Plaintiffs and the other class members, to work through their meal and rest periods without paying them proper compensation violate California Labor Code sections 226.7 and 512(a). Defendants' policies and practices of failing to pay minimum wages violate California Labor Code sections 1194, 1197, and 1197.1. Moreover, Defendants' policies and practices of failing to timely pay wages to Plaintiffs and the other class members violate California Labor Code sections 201, 202 and 204. Defendants also violated California Labor Code sections 226(a), 1174(d), 2800 and 2802.
- 123. As a result of the herein described violations of California law, Defendants unlawfully gained an unfair advantage over other businesses.

- 124. Plaintiffs and the other class members have been personally injured by Defendants' unlawful business acts and practices as alleged herein, including but not necessarily limited to the loss of money and/or property.
- 125. Pursuant to California Business & Professions Code sections 17200, et seq., Plaintiffs and the other class members are entitled to restitution of the wages withheld and retained by Defendants during a period that commences May 10, 2018; an award of attorneys' fees pursuant to California Code of Civil procedure section 1021.5 and other applicable laws; and an award of costs.

## ELEVENTH CAUSE OF ACTION

(Violation of California Labor Code §§ 2698, et seq.)

- 126. Plaintiffs incorporates by reference the allegations contained in paragraphs 1 through 125, and each and every part thereof with the same force and effect as though fully set forth herein.
- 127. Plaintiffs bring their eleventh cause of action as a representative action on behalf of themselves, the State of California, and other Aggrieved Employees in the capacity as a private attorney general pursuant to Labor Code Sections 2698, et seq. ("PAGA").
- 128. PAGA specifically provides for a private right of action to recover civil penalties for violations of the Labor Code as follows: "Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any provision of this code that provides for a civil penalty to be assessed and collected by the Labor and Workforce Development Agency or any of its departments, divisions, commissions, boards, agencies, or employees, for a violation of this code, may, as an alternative, be recovered through a civil action brought by an aggrieved employee on behalf of himself or herself and other current or former employees pursuant to the procedures specified in Section 2699.3." Cal. Lab. Code § 2699(a).
- 129. Plaintiffs were employed by Defendants and the Labor Code violations alleged herein were committed against them during their employment with Defendants. Accordingly, Plaintiffs are "aggrieved employees" under PAGA.

- 130. As set forth in detail herein, during all times relevant to this Action, Defendants have routinely subjected Plaintiffs and Aggrieved Employees to violations of the California Labor Codes by:
  - a. Failing to pay Plaintiffs and the Aggrieved Employees all earned minimum wage compensation in violation of Labor Code §§ 1194 and 1198 et seq.
  - b. Failing to pay Plaintiffs and the Aggrieved Employees all earned overtime compensation in violation of Labor Code §§ 204, 510, 1194, and 1198 et seq.
  - c. Failing to provide legally required meal periods to Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees, and failing to pay Plaintiffs and the Aggrieved Employees an additional hour of premium pay for meal period violations in violation of Labor Code §§ 226.7 and 512.
  - d. Failing to provide authorize and permit Plaintiffs and the Aggrieved Employees to take duty-free rest periods, and failing to pay Plaintiffs and the Aggrieved Employees an additional hour of premium pay for rest period violations in violation of Labor Code §§ 226.7 and 512.
  - e. Failing to timely pay Plaintiffs and the Aggrieved Employees all wages at the end of their employment in violation of Labor Code § 203.
  - f. Failing to timely pay Plaintiffs and the Aggrieved Employees all wages owed during employment in violation of Labor Code § 204.
  - g. Failing to furnish Plaintiffs and the Aggrieved Employees with complete, accurate, itemized wage statements in violation of Labor Code § 226.
  - h. Failing to maintain accurate records relating to Plaintiffs and the Aggrieved Employees' work periods, meal periods, total daily hours, hours per pay period, total wages and compensation, and applicable pay rates in violation of Labor Code § 1174(d) and the applicable IWC Wage Order.
  - i. Failing to reimburse Plaintiffs and the Aggrieved Employees for necessary business-related expenses in violation of Labor Code §§ 2800 and 2802.
  - 131. Pursuant to California Labor Code sections 2699 and 2699.5, Plaintiffs,

individually and on behalf of the State of California and the Aggrieved Employees, request and are entitled to recover civil penalties against Defendants for the Labor Code violations described above, including civil penalties under California Labor Code sections 2699, 558, 210, 226, 226.3, 1174.5 and 1197.1, penalties under the applicable IWC Wage Order, and any and all additional penalties and sums as provided by the California Labor Code and/or other statutes. The exact amount of applicable penalties is in an amount to be shown according to proof at trial.

132. Plaintiffs have exhausted their administrative remedies pursuant to Labor Code § 2699.3. On August 3, 2023, Plaintiffs, through their counsel of record, by online filing with the Labor and Workforce Development Agency ("LWDA") and by certified mail to the Defendants, notified Defendants and the LWDA of the specific provisions of the Labor Code and IWC Wage Orders that Defendants have violated, including the facts and theories to support the violations, and of Plaintiff's intent to bring a claim for civil penalties under PAGA. Plaintiffs also paid the filing fee required under Labor Code § 2699.3. As of the filing of this Complaint, the Labor and Workforce Development Agency have not indicated that it intends to investigate the violations discussed in the notice. Accordingly, Plaintiffs may commence a civil action to recover penalties for himself and other Aggrieved Employees pursuant to Labor Code § 2699.

133. Plaintiffs were compelled to retain the services of counsel to file this court action to protect their interests and the Aggrieved Employees, and to assess and collect the civil penalties owed by Defendants. Plaintiffs therefore seek an award of reasonable attorneys' fees and costs pursuant to Labor Code § 2699(g)(1), and any other applicable statute.

#### DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

Plaintiffs, individually, and on behalf of other members of the general public similarly situated, request a trial by jury.

#### PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs, individually, and on behalf of other members of the general public similarly situated, pray for relief and judgment against Defendants, jointly and severally, as follows:

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#### **Class Certification**

- 1. That this action be certified as a class action;
- 2. That Plaintiffs be appointed as the representative of the Class;
- 3. That counsel for Plaintiffs be appointed as Class Counsel; and
- That Defendants provide to Class Counsel immediately the names and most current/last known contact information (address, e-mail and telephone numbers) of all class members.

## As to the First Cause of Action

- 5. That the Court declare, adjudge and decree that Defendants violated California Labor Code sections 510 and 1198 and applicable IWC Wage Orders by willfully failing to pay all overtime wages due to Plaintiffs and the other class members;
- 6. For general unpaid wages at overtime wage rates and such general and special damages as may be appropriate;
- 7. For pre-judgment interest on any unpaid overtime compensation commencing from the date such amounts were due:
- For reasonable attorneys' fees and costs of suit incurred herein pursuant to
   California Labor Code section 1194; and
  - 9. For such other and further relief as the Court may deem just and proper.

#### As to the Second Cause of Action

- 10. That the Court declare, adjudge and decree that Defendants violated California Labor Code sections 226.7 and 512 and applicable IWC Wage Orders by willfully failing to provide all meal periods (including second meal periods) to Plaintiffs and the other class members;
- That the Court make an award to Plaintiffs and the other class members of one
   hour of pay at each employee's regular rate of compensation for each workday that a meal period was not provided;
- 12. For all actual, consequential, and incidental losses and damages, according to proof;

Business and Professions Code sections 17200, et seq. by failing to provide Plaintiffs and the other class members all overtime compensation due to them, failing to provide all meal and rest periods to Plaintiffs and the other class members, failing to pay at least minimum wages to Plaintiffs and the other class members, failing to pay Plaintiffs' and the other class members' wages timely as required by California Labor Code section 201, 202 and 204 and by violating California Labor Code sections 226(a), 1174(d), 2800 and 2802.

- 54. For restitution of unpaid wages to Plaintiffs and all the other class members and all pre-judgment interest from the day such amounts were due and payable;
- 55. For the appointment of a receiver to receive, manage and distribute any and all funds disgorged from Defendants and determined to have been wrongfully acquired by Defendants as a result of violation of California Business and Professions Code sections 17200, et seq.;
- 56. For reasonable attorneys' fees and costs of suit incurred herein pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure section 1021.5;
- 57. For injunctive relief to ensure compliance with this section, pursuant to California Business and Professions Code sections 17200, et seq.; and
  - 58. For such other and further relief as the Court may deem just and proper.

# As to the Eleventh Cause of Action

- 59. For statutory attorneys' fees and costs pursuant to 2699(g)(1) of California Labor Code;
- 60. For the imposition of civil penalties pursuant to California Labor Code §§ 2699, 558, 210, 226, 226.3, 1174.5 and 1197.1, and all other penalties allowed by the California Labor Code and/or other applicable statutes; and
  - 61. For such other relief as the Court deems just and proper.

Dated: October 4, 2023

PARKER & MINNE, LLP

By:\_\_

S. Emi Minne Attorneys for Plaintiffs

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