1	Matthew J. Matern (State Bar No. 159798)			
2	mmatern@maternlawgroup.com Tagore O. Subramaniam (State Bar No. 280126)			
3	tagore@maternlawgroup.com Julia Z. Wells (State Bar No. 314242)			
4	jwells@maternlawgroup.com MATERN LAW GROUP, PC			
5	1230 Rosecrans Avenue, Suite 200			
6	Manhattan Beach, CA 90266 Telephone: (310) 531-1900			
7	Facsimile: (310) 531-1901			
8	Attorneys for Plaintiffs, individually, and on beh of others similarly situated	alf		
9	[Additional counsel listed on next page]			
10	SUPERIOR COURT OF T	HE STATE OF	F CALIFORNIA	
11	FOR THE COUNTY OF LOS			
12	DAVID MARTINEZ OLIVA, ANDREW	Case No. BC		
13	GREZLIK, and ANTON PETERSON; individually, and on behalf of others similarly-		aniel J. Buckley	
14	situated,	Department SS1		
15	Plaintiffs,	CLASS ACT	CION	
16	vs.	FIRST AMENDED STIPULATION OF CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT		
17	ROCK FISH, LLC, a California limited liability company; ROCK 'N FISH 2, LLC, a	Complaint:	April 18, 2017	
18	California limited liability company; THE ZISLIS GROUP, INC., a California	FAC: SAC:	August 7, 2017 November 30, 2017	
19	corporation and DOES 1 through 50, inclusive,	TAC: Trial Date:	May 9, 2019 None Set	
20 21	Defendants.			
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1	Matthew Oster (State Bar No. 190541)
2	moster@wrslawyers.com Eric Levinrad (State Bar No. 169025)
3	elevinrad@wrslawyers.com Michael Sigall (State Bar No. 305849)
4	msigall@wrslawyers.com WOLF, RIFKIN, SHAPIRO, SCHULMAN & RABKIN, LLP
5	11400 West Olympic Boulevard, 9 th Floor Los Angeles, California 90064-1582
6	Telephone: (310) 478-4100 Facsimile: (310) 479-1422
7	Attorneys for Defendant, ROCK FISH, LLC
8	John A. Strain, Esq. (State Bar No. 62927)
9	jstrain@ustaxlawyer.com Amber M. Ziegler, Esq. (State Bar No. 246442)
10	aziegler@ustaxlawyer.com LAW OFFICES OF JOHN A. STRAIN, A.P.C.
11	321 12th Street, Suite 101 Manhattan Beach, California 90266
	Telephone: (310) 802-1300 Facsimile: (310) 802-1344
12	
13	Romy Richards, Esq. (State Bar No. 321595) ZISLIS GROUP, INC.
14	321 12th Street, Suite 112 Manhattan Beach, CA 90266
15	Tel: (310) 546-7800 E-mail Address: romy@zislisgroup.com
16	Attorneys for Defendant ZISLIS GROUP, INC.
17	Walter M. Crandall, Esq. (State Bar No. 250976)
18	wmc@rc-attorneys.com ROBERTSON & CULVER, LLP
19	2601 Main Street, Suite 500 Irvine, CA 92614
20	Telephone: (714) 361-2111 Facsimile: (714) 361-2110
21	Attorney for Defendant ROCK N' FISH 2, LLC
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	FIRST AMENDED STIPULATION OF CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT

IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED, by and between Plaintiffs David Martinez Oliva, Anton Peterson, and Andrew Grezlik ("Plaintiffs"), individually and on behalf of others similarly situated, on the one hand, and Defendants Rock Fish, LLC, Rock'N Fish 2, LLC, Zislis Group, Inc., Michael Zislis, and David Zislis ("Defendants"), on the other hand, and subject to the approval of the Court, that the above-captioned action is hereby compromised and settled pursuant to the terms and conditions set forth in this First Amended Stipulation of Class Action Settlement ("Stipulation"), and that the Court shall make and enter judgment, subject to the continuing jurisdiction of the Court as set forth below, and subject to the definitions, recitals, and terms set forth herein which by this reference become an integral part of this Stipulation.

DEFINITIONS

- 1. "Action" means the putative class action entitled *Martinez Oliva, et al., v. Rock Fish, LLC, et al.*, Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. BC658207.
- "Class Counsel" means Matern Law Group, PC, including Matthew J. Matern, Tagore
 Subramaniam, and Julia Z. Wells.
- 3. "Class Counsel Award" means reasonable attorneys' fees for Class Counsel's litigation and resolution of this Action (not to exceed 33 1/3% of the Gross Settlement Amount), plus Class Counsel's expenses and costs reasonably incurred in connection with the Action.
- 4. "Settlement Class Information" means information regarding Settlement Class Members that Defendants shall in good faith compile from its records and shall be authorized by the Court to transmit in a secured manner to the Settlement Administrator. Settlement Class Information shall be transmitted in electronic form and shall include, to the extent reasonably available in Defendants' records: each Class Member's full name, last known address, Social Security Number, and total number of Compensable Workdays, as well as whether the Class Member previously agreed to a settlement agreement and the amount received.
- 5. "Settlement Class Members" means Plaintiffs and all current and former non-exempt employees who were employed by either Defendant Rock Fish, LLC, or Rock'N Fish 2, LLC at the restaurants located at 120 Manhattan Beach Blvd., Manhattan Beach, California 90266, and/or 800

West Olympic Blvd. A-160, Los Angeles, California 90015, during the time period from April 18, 2013 to November 23, 2019 (i.e., the Class Period).

- 6. "Class Notice" means the Notice of Class Action Settlement, substantially in the form attached hereto as "**Exhibit A**," including English and Spanish translations, which shall be subject to Court approval, and which the Settlement Administrator shall mail to each Class Member explaining the terms of this Stipulation and the Settlement.
 - 7. "Class Period" means the period from April 18, 2013 through November 23, 2019.
- 8. "Class Representative Service Award" means the amount that the Court authorizes to be paid to each respective Plaintiff, in addition to Plaintiffs' Individual Settlement Awards, in recognition of Plaintiffs' efforts and the risks in assisting with the prosecution of the Action.
- 9. "Compensable Workdays" means the total number of days during which a Class Member worked for any Defendant as a non-exempt employee at the restaurants located at 120 Manhattan Beach Blvd., Manhattan Beach, CA 90266, and/or 800 West Olympic Blvd. A-160, Los Angeles, CA 90015, during the Class Period, based on Defendants' records. Each Class Member's number of Compensable Workdays will be used to calculate the amount of his or her Individual Settlement Award.
- "Defendants" means Defendants Rock Fish, LLC ("Rock Fish MB"), Rock'N Fish 2,
 LLC ("Rock Fish LA Live"), Zislis Group, Inc., David Zislis, and Michael Zislis.
- 11. "Defense Counsel" means Matthew Oster, Eric Levinrad, and Michael Sigall of Wolf, Rifkin, Shapiro, Schulman & Rabkin, LLP; and John A. Strain and Amber M. Ziegler of Law Offices of John A. Strain, A.P.C.
- 12. "Effective Date" refers to the date by which the last of the following has occurred: (1) the Stipulation has been executed by all Parties, Class Counsel and Defense Counsel; (2) the Court has given preliminary approval to the Settlement; (3) the Class Notice has been sent to the Settlement Class Members, providing them with an opportunity to object to the terms of the Settlement; (4) the Court has held a Final Approval Hearing, entered a Final Order and Judgment, and approved the Stipulation, and no objections have been filed; or, if an objection has been filed, and (5) five business days after the period for filing any appeal, writ or other appellate proceeding opposing the Court's

Final Order and Judgment has elapsed without any appeal, writ or other appellate proceeding having been filed. For purposes of determining the Effective Date, the Parties 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.

- 13. "Employer's Share of Payroll Taxes" means Defendants' share of payroll taxes (including but not limited to FICA and FUTA) on the portion of the Individual Settlement Awards that constitutes wages, which is to be paid to the Settlement Administrator apart from and in addition to the Gross Settlement Amount.
- 14. "Final Approval Hearing" means the hearing to be conducted by the Court after Plaintiffs file an appropriate motion, and following appropriate notice to the Settlement Class Members, at which time Plaintiffs will request that the Court finally approve the fairness, reasonableness and adequacy of the terms and conditions of Settlement, enter the Final Order and Judgment, and take other appropriate action.
- 15. "Final Order and Judgment" means the order and judgment to be entered by the Court upon granting final approval of the Settlement and this Stipulation as binding upon the Parties and Participating Settlement Class Members.
- (\$400,000), inclusive of settlement payments already paid to putative Settlement Class Members, which Defendants have agreed to pay in order to resolve this Action, subject to approval by the Court. The Gross Settlement Amount includes all Individual Settlement Awards to Settlement Class Members, the Settlement Administration Costs, the Class Counsel Award, the Class Representative Service Awards, and the PAGA payment to the LWDA. The Gross Settlement Amount does not include the Employer's Share of Payroll Taxes, which shall be paid separately and apart from the Gross Settlement Amount. Defendants shall pay the Gross Settlement Amount less settlement payments already paid to the putative Settlement Class Members to the Settlement Administrator within fourteen (14) calendar days of the entry of an order granting final approval of the proposed settlement. Defendants' total liability in connection with this settlement shall be limited to the Gross Settlement Amount less settlement payments already paid to putative Settlement Class Members.

"Individual Settlement Award" means the amount payable from the Net Settlement

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Amount to each Class Member.

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including penalties under the PAGA which occurred during the Class Period, and expressly excluding claims for wrongful termination, unemployment insurance, disability, and workers' compensation, as well as claims outside of the Class Period. With regard to Settlement Class Members who accept any payment under this agreement, the released claims expressly include all claims under the Fair Labor Standards Act ("FLSA") for the Class Period. The released claims are limited to claims arising from work performed by employees at one or both of the restaurants located at 120 Manhattan Beach Blvd. and Manhattan Beach, California 90266 and/or 800 W Olympic Blvd A-160, Los Angeles, California 90015.

29. "Released Claims" with respect to Plaintiffs only means any and all claims, demands, rights, liabilities, debts, obligations, penalties, costs, expenses, attorneys' fees, damages, and/or causes, of any form whatsoever, whether known or unknown, unforeseen, unanticipated, unsuspected or latent, that have been or could have been asserted by Plaintiffs, or the heirs, successors and/or assigns of Plaintiffs, whether directly, indirectly, representatively, derivatively or in any other capacity, against Defendants or any of the other Released Parties, arising at any time prior to entry of the Final Order and Judgment.

In addition to the Released Claims, Plaintiffs also expressly waive all rights and benefits under the terms of section 1542 of the California Civil Code. Section 1542 reads as follows:

"A general release does not extend to claims that the creditor or releasing party does not know or suspect to exist in his or her favor at the time of executing the release and that, if known by him or her, would have materially affected his or her settlement with the debtor or released party."

Notwithstanding the provisions of section 1542, and for the purpose of implementing a full and complete release and discharge of all of their Released Claims, Plaintiffs expressly acknowledge that this Settlement is intended to include in its effect, without limitation, all Released Claims which Plaintiffs do not know or suspect to exist in their favor at the time of execution hereof, and that the Settlement contemplates the extinguishment of all such Released Claims.

30. "Released Parties" means Defendants and their present or former parents, subsidiaries, officers, directors, managers, members, principals, employees, partners, shareholders, owners, managing agents, and attorneys, and any other successors, assigns, heirs, or legal representatives.

- 31. "Response Deadline" means the date that is forty-five (45) days after the Settlement Administrator mails the Notice Packets to Settlement Class Members, and the last date on which Settlement Class Members may submit a Notice of Objection, Exclusion Form (**Exhibit C**), or dispute regarding their Compensable Workdays/Individual Settlement Award to the Settlement Administrator.
- 32. "Settlement" means the final and complete disposition of the Action pursuant to this Stipulation.
- 33. "Settlement Administration Costs" means the reasonable costs and fees of administration of the Settlement to be paid from the Gross Settlement Amount, including but not limited to: (i) printing, mailing, and re-mailing (if necessary) of Notice Packets to Settlement Class Members; (ii) preparing and submitting to Settlement Class Members, the Parties, and government entities all appropriate tax filings and forms; (iii) computing the amount of and distributing Individual Settlement Awards, the Class Representative Service Award, the Class Counsel Award, and the PAGA payment to the LWDA; (iv) receiving and processing Notices of Objection, Exclusion Forms, and disputes from Settlement Class Members regarding Compensable Workdays; (v) establishing a Qualified Settlement Fund, as defined by the Internal Revenue Code; (vi) calculating and remitting to the appropriate government agencies all employer and employee payroll tax obligations arising from the Settlement; and (vii) and preparing and submitting filings required by law in connection with the payments required by the Settlement.
 - 34. "Settlement Administrator" means JND Legal Administration.

RECITALS

35. Procedural History. This Action was commenced on April 18, 2017 in the Superior Court of the State of California, County of Los Angeles. In the initial complaint, Plaintiff David Martinez Oliva asserted class claims based on Defendants' alleged (1) failure to provide required meal periods; (2) failure to provide required rest periods; (3) failure to pay overtime wages; (4) failure to pay minimum wages; (5) failure to pay all wages due to discharged and quitting employees; (6) failure to maintain required records; (7) failure to furnish accurate itemized wage statements; (8) failure to indemnify employees for necessary expenditures incurred in discharge of duties; and (9) unfair and

unlawful business practices. On August 7, 2017, Plaintiff David Martinez Oliva filed a First Amended Complaint, which added an additional representative cause of action for civil penalties under the Labor Code Private Attorneys General Act of 2004. On November 30, 2017, Plaintiff David Martinez Oliva filed a Second Amended Complaint, which added additional details regarding Defendants' alleged status as joint employers/alter egos/integrated enterprises. On May 3, 2019, Plaintiff David Martinez Oliva filed the operative Third Amended Complaint which, *inter alia*, added Plaintiffs Anton Peterson and Andrew Grezlik as additional named plaintiffs and class representatives.

- 36. <u>Settlement Negotiations</u>. On October 23, 2019, the Parties participated in a private mediation session with mediator Jeffrey Krivis. At the mediation, the Parties reached the terms of a proposed settlement, subject to the Parties entering into a more comprehensive written settlement agreement. Rock Fish MB and Rock Fish LA Live (both of which are restaurants) subsequently were forced to close for an indefinite period of time due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Parties then renegotiated the settlement to account for these new circumstances. The proposed settlement, if approved by the Court, would resolve this Action in its entirety.
- 37. Benefits of Settlement to Plaintiffs and the Settlement Class Members. Plaintiffs and Class Counsel recognize the expense and length of continued proceedings necessary to litigate the Action through trial and through any possible appeals. Plaintiffs have also taken into account the uncertainty and risks of the outcome of further litigation, and the difficulties and delays inherent in such litigation. Plaintiffs and Class Counsel are also aware of the burdens of proof necessary to establish liability for the claims asserted in the Action, both generally and in response to Defendants' defenses, and the difficulties in establishing damages, penalties, restitution and other relief sought in the Action. Plaintiffs and Class Counsel also have taken into account Defendants' agreement to enter into a settlement that confers substantial benefits upon the Settlement Class Members. Based on the foregoing, Plaintiffs and Class Counsel have determined that the Settlement set forth in this Stipulation is fair, adequate, and reasonable and is in the best interests of all Settlement Class Members.
- 38. <u>Defendants' Reasons for Settlement</u>. Even though Defendants contend that they are not liable for any of the claims alleged by Plaintiffs in the Action, Defendants have agreed to settle

the Action upon the terms set forth in this Stipulation in order to put to rest the claims alleged in this Action. Defendants have asserted, and continue to assert, that the claims asserted by Plaintiffs in the Action have no merit and do not give rise to any liability, damages, restitution, penalties or other payments. However, Defendants have concluded that further defense of the Action would be protracted and expensive for all Parties. Substantial amounts of Defendants' time, energy, and resources have been - and unless this Settlement is completed, shall continue to be - devoted to the defense of the claims asserted in this Action. Defendants have also taken into account the risks of further litigation in reaching its decision to enter into this Stipulation. This Stipulation is a compromise of disputed claims. Nothing contained in this Stipulation, no documents referred to herein, and no action taken to carry out this Stipulation, shall be construed or used as an admission by or against Defendants as to the merits or lack thereof of the claims asserted in the Action. Defendants contend that they have at all times complied with all applicable state, federal and local law.

TERMS OF SETTLEMENT

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:

- 39. <u>Binding Settlement</u>. This Settlement shall bind the Parties and all Settlement Class Members, subject to the terms and conditions hereof and the Court's approval.
- 40. <u>Tax Liability</u>. The Parties make no representations as to the tax treatment or legal effect of the payments specified herein, and Settlement Class Members are not relying on any statement or representation by the Parties, Class Counsel or Defense Counsel in this regard. Participating Settlement Class Members will be responsible for the payment of all taxes and penalties assessed on the payments specified herein, and shall hold the Parties, Class Counsel and Defense Counsel free and harmless from and against any claims resulting from treatment of such payments as non-taxable, including the treatment of such payments as not subject to withholding or deduction for payroll and employment taxes.
- 41. <u>Circular 230 Disclaimer</u>. The Parties acknowledge and agree that (1) no provision of this Stipulation, and no written communication or disclosure between or among the Parties, Class Counsel or Defense Counsel and other advisers, is or was intended to be, nor shall any such

communication or disclosure constitute or be construed or be relied upon as, tax advice within the meaning of United States Treasury Department Circular 230 (31 CFR Part 10, as amended); (2) the acknowledging party (a) has relied exclusively upon his, her, or its own, independent legal and tax counsel for advice (including tax advice) in connection with this Stipulation, (b) has not entered into this Stipulation based upon the recommendation of any other party or any attorney or advisor to any other party, and (c) is not entitled to rely upon any communication or disclosure by any attorney or adviser to any other party to avoid any tax penalty that may be imposed on the acknowledging party; and (3) no attorney or adviser to any other party has imposed any limitation that protects the confidentiality of any such attorney's or adviser's tax strategies (regardless of whether such limitation is legally binding) upon disclosure by the acknowledging party of the tax treatment or tax structure of any transaction, including any transaction contemplated by this Stipulation.

- 42. <u>Preliminary Approval of Settlement</u>. The Parties agree to work diligently and cooperatively to have this Settlement presented to the Court for preliminary approval. The Preliminary Approval Order shall provide for, among other things, conditional approval of a settlement class and the Notice Packet to be sent to Settlement Class Members, as specified herein. In order to effectuate the Settlement, the parties stipulate to class certification for settlement purposes, subject to the provisions of paragraph 45(e), below.
- 43. Release by Plaintiffs and Other Participating Settlement Class Members: Upon the Funding Date (as defined in paragraph 46(b), below) Plaintiffs and other Participating Settlement Class Members shall be deemed to have released their respective Released Claims against the Released Parties, subject to the provisions of paragraph 45, below.
- 44. It is acknowledged that this Settlement is made with respect to disputed claims and that Plaintiffs, and each Class Member who has not opted out, will be deemed to have acknowledged and agreed that California Labor Code § 206.5 is not applicable. That section provides:

"No employer shall require the execution of any release of any claim or right on account of wages due, or to become due, or made as an advance on wages to be earned, unless payment of such wages has been made. Any release required or executed in violation of this provision

of this section shall be null and void as between the employer and the employee and the violation of the provisions of this section shall be a misdemeanor."

Thus, subject to and in accordance with this Agreement, even if facts are hereafter discovered in addition to or different from those which are not known or believed to be true with respect to the subject matter of their respective Released Claims, Plaintiffs and each Class Member who has not validly opted out shall be deemed to have fully, finally, and forever settled and released any and all Released Claims alleged in or arising out of the facts alleged in the Third Amended Complaint, without regard to the subsequent discovery or existence of such different or additional facts. Upon the occurrence of the Funding Date, each and every Plaintiff and Class Member who has not validly opted out shall release any and all Released Claims alleged in or arising out of the facts alleged in the Third Amended Complaint against the Defendants and the Released Parties.

45. <u>Settlement Administration</u>.

- a. Within ten (10) calendar days of entry of the Preliminary Approval Order,
 Defendants shall provide the Settlement Administrator with the Settlement Class Information for
 purposes of mailing the Notice Packets to Settlement Class Members.
- i. Notice by First Class U.S. Mail. Within seven (7) calendar days after receiving the Settlement Class Information from Defendants, the Settlement Administrator shall mail copies of the Notice Packet (in both English and Spanish) to all Settlement Class Members via regular First Class U.S. Mail. Before mailing the Notice Packets to Settlement Class Members, the Settlement Administrator shall perform a search based on the National Change of Address Database maintained by the United States Postal Service to update and correct any known or identifiable address changes. The Settlement Administrator shall exercise its best judgment to determine the current mailing address for each Class Member. The address identified by the Settlement Administrator as the current mailing address shall be presumed to be the most current mailing address for each Class Member. The Parties agree that this proposed notice procedure constitutes the best notice practicable to Settlement Class Members and fully complies with due process.
- ii. <u>Undeliverable Notice Packets</u>. If any Notice Packet is returned to the Settlement Administrator as non-delivered on or before the Response Deadline, the Notice Packet

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Determination of Individual Settlement Awards. Defendants shall make the Net Settlement Amount available to the Settlement Administrator for payment to Participating Settlement Class Members. The Net Settlement Amount shall be divided among Settlement Class Members on a pro rata basis, based on each Participating Class Member's respective number of Compensable Workdays. The Individual Settlement Awards will be determined by dividing the Net Settlement Amount by the total number of Compensable Workdays for all Participating Settlement Class Members, resulting in the Workday Value (i.e., Net Settlement Amount ÷ Total Compensable Workdays = Workday Value). The Workday Value will then be multiplied by each Participating Class Member's respective number of Compensable Workdays; thereafter, the resulting product will then be reduced by (if applicable) the amount of any funds received by the Participating Class Member as part of a prior settlement, in order to yield the Participating Class Member's Individual Settlement Award. In determining each Class Member's Compensable Workdays, Defendants' workday data will be presumed to be correct, unless a Class Member proves otherwise by providing credible documentary evidence. Class Members who wish to submit a dispute regarding their Individual Settlement Award/Compensable Workdays may do so by submitting a

written dispute to the Settlement Administrator, postmarked no later than the Response Deadline, which must: (1) contain the Class Member's full name, address, dates of employment, and the last four digits of his or her Social Security number; (2) contain the case name and number; (3) be signed by the Class Member or his or her legal representative; (4) clearly and concisely state the reasons for the dispute, including by stating the Compensable Workdays that the Class Member contends to have worked, and providing any documents which support the Class Member's position; and (5) be mailed to the Settlement Administrator at the address set forth in the Notice Packet, postmarked no later than the Response Deadline. All disputes concerning Compensable Workdays will be resolved and decided by the Settlement Administrator. The Settlement Administrator shall determine the eligibility for, and the amounts of, each Individual Settlement Award under the terms of this Stipulation. The Settlement Administrator's determination of the eligibility for and amount of each Individual Settlement Award shall be binding upon the Class Member and the Parties, yet subject to review by Class Counsel, Defense Counsel and the Court.

- iv. <u>Disputes Regarding Administration of Settlement</u>. Any dispute not resolved by the Settlement Administrator concerning the administration of the Settlement shall be resolved by the Court.
- b. Objections and Exclusions. The Class Notice shall state that Participating Settlement Class Members may object to the Settlement by submitting a written objection ("Notice of Objection") to the Settlement Administrator, or by appearing at the Final Approval Hearing and requesting to be heard regarding his or her objection. The Notice of Objection must: (1) contain the Class Member's full name, address, dates of employment, and the last four digits of his or her Social Security number; (2) contain the case name and number; (3) be signed by the Class Member or his or her legal representative; (4) clearly and concisely state each specific objection and any legal and factual support for the objection; (5) indicate whether the Class Member intends to appear at the Final Approval Hearing; (6) be mailed to the Settlement Administrator at the address set forth in the Notice Packet, postmarked no later than the Response Deadline; and (6) if the Class Member is represented by Counsel, contain the name and contact information of his or her counsel. The Class Notice shall also state that Settlement Class Members who wish to exclude themselves from the settlement shall

submit an Exclusion Form by the Response Deadline. Subject to review by Class Counsel, Defense Counsel and the Court, the date of the postmark on the return mailing envelope on the Notice of Objection/Exclusion Form shall be the exclusive means used to determine whether a Class Member has timely submitted a Notice of Objection/Exclusion Form. Settlement Class Members who fail to timely object to the Settlement in the manner specified herein, or to raise such objections at the Final Approval Hearing, shall be deemed to have waived any objections and shall be foreclosed from making any objections (whether by appeal or otherwise) to the Settlement. Settlement Class Members who fail to timely submit an Exclusion Form to the Settlement Administrator will be deemed Participating Settlement Class Members and will be bound by the Settlement, if approved by the Court. At no time shall the Parties or their counsel seek to solicit or otherwise encourage Settlement Class Members to submit a Notice of Objection or an Exclusion Form, or from filing an appeal from the Final Order and Judgment.

- c. <u>Monitoring and Reviewing Settlement Administration</u>. The Parties have the right to monitor and review the administration of the Settlement to verify that the monies allocated under the Settlement are distributed in the correct amounts, as provided for in this Stipulation.
- d. <u>Best Efforts</u>. The Parties agree to use their best efforts to carry out the terms of this Settlement.
- e. <u>Excessive Exclusions</u>. If more than ten percent (10%) of the potential Settlement Class Members timely file written requests for exclusion from the Settlement Class, then either Party may terminate this Class Settlement Agreement by providing notice of termination to counsel and the Court in writing within seven (7) days after service of the Settlement Administrator's written report described in paragraph 47 below. In the event of any such termination, the Settlement Class shall be decertified and this proceeding shall return to its status as it was immediately before this Class Settlement Agreement was executed as if this Class Settlement Agreement never existed, *nunc pro tunc*.
- 46. Funding and Allocation of Gross Settlement Amount. Settlement Class Members shall not be required to submit a claim in order to receive a share of the Net Settlement Amount, and no portion of the Gross Settlement Amount shall revert to Defendants or result in an unpaid residue. The

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Gross Settlement Amount shall be funded by Rock Fish MB and Rock Fish LA Live as set forth in paragraph 46, but no other party shall have any obligation whatsoever to fund any part of the Gross Settlement Amount.

- <u>Initial Escrow.</u> Within fourteen (14) calendar days after the full execution of a. this Agreement, defendants Rock Fish MB and Rock Fish LA Live shall, collectively, deposit the sum of One Hundred Seventy-Five Thousand Dollars (\$175,000) into an escrow account jointly established by class and defense counsel. The escrow instructions shall require the escrow officer, among other things, to release the escrow funds only upon order of the court or joint written agreement of both defense and class counsel. The escrow instructions also shall require the escrow officer to pay the entire escrow amount to the Settlement Administrator within fourteen (14) calendar days after the entry of the Final Order and Judgment. If the Settlement is not finally approved by the Court in full, or is terminated, rescinded, canceled or fails to become effective for any reason, or if the Effective Date does not occur, then the entire escrow amount shall be returned to Rock Fish MB and Rock Fish LA Live.
- b. Joint and Several Funding. Within fourteen (14) calendar days after the entry of the Final Order and Judgment (i.e., the "Funding Date"), Rock Fish MB and Rock Fish LA Live shall, collectively, deposit the sum of Seventy-Five Thousand Dollars (\$75,000), (inclusive of settlement payments already paid to putative Settlement Class Members) with the Settlement Administrator. This shall be a joint and several obligation of Rock Fish MB and Rock Fish LA Live. In the event Rock Fish MB and Rock Fish LA Live are unable to complete this funding, the releases contained herein shall become ineffective as to Rock Fish MB and Rock Fish LA Live, but shall remain effective as to all other Released Parties. If the Settlement is not finally approved by the Court in full, or is terminated, rescinded, canceled or fails to become effective for any reason, or if the Effective Date does not occur, then this deposit will not be required.
- Several Funding of Rock Fish MB. Within fourteen (14) calendar days after c. the entry of the Final Order and Judgment (i.e., the Funding Date), Rock Fish MB shall deposit the additional sum of Seventy-Five Thousand Dollars (\$75,000) with the Settlement Administrator. This shall be a several obligation of Rock Fish MB. Neither Rock Fish LA Live nor any other party shall

have any obligation whatsoever for this funding. In the event Rock Fish MB is unable to complete this funding, the releases contained herein shall become ineffective as to Rock Fish MB, but shall remain effective as to all other Released Parties. If the Settlement is not finally approved by the Court in full, or is terminated, rescinded, canceled or fails to become effective for any reason, or if the Effective Date does not occur, then this deposit will not be required

- d. <u>Several Funding of Rock Fish LA Live</u>. Within fourteen (14) calendar days after the entry of the Final Order and Judgment (i.e., the Funding Date), Rock Fish LA Live shall deposit the additional sum of Seventy-Five Thousand Dollars (\$75,000) with the Settlement Administrator. This shall be a several obligation of Rock Fish LA Live. Neither Rock Fish MB nor any other party shall have any obligation whatsoever for this funding. In the event Rock Fish LA Live is unable to complete this funding, the releases contained herein shall become ineffective as to Rock Fish LA Live, but shall remain effective as to all other Released Parties. If the Settlement is not finally approved by the Court in full, or is terminated, rescinded, canceled or fails to become effective for any reason, or if the Effective Date does not occur, then this deposit will not be required
- e. <u>Individual Settlement Awards</u>. Individual Settlement Awards shall be paid from the Net Settlement Amount pursuant to the formula set forth herein. The Individual Settlement Awards shall be mailed by the Settlement Administrator by regular First Class U.S. Mail to each Participating Class Member's last known mailing address within ten (10) calendar days after the later of the Effective Date or the date on which Defendants have completed payment of the entire Gross Settlement Amount. Prior to mailing the Individual Settlement Awards, the Settlement Administrator shall perform a search based on the National Change of Address Database maintained by the United States Postal Service to update and correct any known or identifiable address changes.
- i. Individual Settlement Award payments shall be made by check and shall be made payable to each Participating Class Member as set forth in this Stipulation. Checks for Individual Settlement Awards shall include a notation indicating that the cashing of the check constitutes an affirmative opt-in to the release of FLSA claims.
- ii. For tax purposes, each Individual Settlement Award shall be allocated as follows: 1/3 wages, subject to all applicable tax withholdings (the "wage portion"); 1/3 as non-

wage penalties, not subject to payroll tax withholdings; and 1/3 as non-wage interest, not subject to payroll tax withholdings. The Settlement Administrator shall issue an IRS Form W-2 to each Participating Class Member for the wage portion of his or her Individual Settlement Award. The Settlement Administrator shall issue an IRS Form 1099 to each Participating Class Member for the portion of his or her Individual Settlement Award that is allocated as non-wage penalties and interest.

Administrator by Rock Fish MB and/or Rock Fish LA Live in addition to the Gross Settlement Amount. The payment of such Payroll Taxes shall be the several liability of the entity which is listed as the employer of record for the applicable Class Member for whom such Payroll Taxes relate. The Settlement Administrator shall calculate the amount of the Employer's Share of Payroll Taxes and shall remit and report the applicable portions of the payroll tax payment to the appropriate taxing authorities in a timely manner.

iv. If any Individual Settlement Award check remains uncashed after one hundred and eighty (180) calendar days from the date the check is issued, such check(s) will be voided by the Settlement Administrator. Thereafter, the funds represented by any uncashed or undeliverable checks shall be distributed in accordance with California Code of Civil Procedure section 384, subject to approval by the Court, to Children's Hospital Los Angeles, a Los Angeles non-profit organization with a mission to create hope and build healthier futures for children. The Parties agree that this disposition results in no "unpaid residue" under California Civil Procedure Code § 384, as the entire Net Settlement Amount will be paid out by Defendants, whether or not all Participating Class Members cash their Individual Settlement Award checks. Therefore, Defendants will not be required to pay any interest on said amount.

v. All monies received by Participating Settlement Class Members under the Settlement which are attributable to wages shall constitute income to such Participating Settlement Class Members solely in the year in which such monies actually are received by the Participating Settlement Class Members. It is expressly understood and agreed that the receipt of Individual Settlement Awards shall not entitle any Participating Class Member to additional compensation or benefits under any collective bargaining agreement or under any bonus, contest or other compensation

or benefit plan or agreement in place during the period covered by the Settlement, nor shall it entitle any Participating Class Member to any increased pension and/or retirement, or other deferred compensation benefits. It is the intent of the Parties that Individual Settlement Awards provided for in this Stipulation are the sole payments to be made by Defendants to Participating Settlement Class Members in connection with this Settlement, with the exception of Plaintiff, and that Participating Settlement Class Members are not entitled to any new or additional compensation or benefits as a result of having received the Individual Settlement Awards. Furthermore, the receipt of Individual Settlement Awards by Participating Settlement Class Members shall not, and does not, by itself establish any general, special, or joint employment relationship between and among the Participating Class Member(s) and/or the Defendants.

f. <u>Class Representative Service Awards</u>. Subject to Court approval, Plaintiffs David Martinez Oliva, Anton Peterson, and Andrew Grezlik shall each be paid a Class Representative Service Award not to exceed Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00), subject to approval by the Court, for their time and effort in bringing and presenting the Action and for releasing their Released Claims, which Defendants shall not oppose. The Class Representative Service Awards shall be paid to Plaintiffs from the Gross Settlement Amount within ten (10) calendar days after the later of the Effective Date or the date on which Defendants have completed payment of the entire Gross Settlement Amount. The Settlement Administrator shall issue an IRS Form 1099 to each Plaintiff for his Class Representative Service Award. Each Plaintiff will be solely and legally responsible to pay any and all applicable taxes on his respective Class Representative Service Award and will hold harmless Defendants, Class Counsel and Defense Counsel from any claim or liability for taxes, penalties, or interest arising as a result of payment of the Class Representative Service Award. The Class Representative Service Award will be paid to Plaintiffs in addition to any Individual Settlement Award to which Plaintiffs are otherwise entitled under this Stipulation. Any amount requested by Plaintiffs for the Class Representative Service Award and not awarded by the Court shall become part of the Net Settlement Amount and will be distributed to Participating Settlement Class Members as part of their Individual Settlement Awards.

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<u>Class Counsel Award</u>. Subject to Court approval, Class Counsel will seek an award of reasonable attorneys' fees in an amount not to exceed one-third (1/3) of the Gross Settlement Amount, or One Hundred Thirty Three Thousand Three Hundred Thirty Three Dollars (\$133,333) and to be paid solely from the Gross Settlement Amount. In addition, Class Counsel will also seek an award of litigation costs and expenses associated with Class Counsel's prosecution of the Action in an amount not to exceed Sixty Thousand Dollars (\$60,000), and to be paid solely from the Gross Settlement Amount. In the event the Court awards Class Counsel less than \$133,333 in attorneys' fees and/or less than \$60,000 in costs, any amounts for which no approval is granted will become part of the Net Settlement Amount to be distributed to Settlement Class Members as part of their Individual Settlement Awards. Class Counsel shall be paid any Court-awarded attorneys' fees and costs within ten (10) calendar days after the later of the Effective Date or the date on which Defendants have completed payment of the entire Gross Settlement Amount. Class Counsel will be solely and legally responsible to pay all applicable taxes on the Class Counsel Award. The Settlement Administrator will issue an IRS Form 1099 to Class Counsel for the Class Counsel Award. Class Counsel will provide the Settlement Administrator with a completed IRS Form W-9 in order for the Settlement Administrator to process the Class Counsel Award. This Settlement is not conditioned upon the Court awarding Class Counsel any particular amount of attorneys' fees or costs. This Settlement is not conditioned upon the Court awarding Class Counsel any particular amount of attorneys' fees or costs, however, Plaintiff does not waive any appellate rights, including but not limited to with respect to the Court's determination as to the Class Representative Service Award and/or the Class Counsel Award.

Settlement Administration Costs. The settlement administration fees and expenses, which are estimated not to exceed Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000), shall be paid from the Gross Settlement Amount. Prior to Plaintiffs' filing of a motion for final approval, the Settlement Administrator will provide the Parties with a statement detailing the Settlement Administration Costs to date. The Parties agree to cooperate in the Settlement Administration process and to make all reasonable efforts to control and minimize Settlement Administration Costs. One-half (1/2) of the Settlement Administration Costs shall be paid to the Settlement Administrator within ten (10) calendar days after the later of the Effective Date or the date on which Defendants have completed payment of

- The Parties each represent they do not have any financial interest in the Settlement Administrator or otherwise have a relationship with the Settlement Administrator that could create a conflict of interest.
- ii. The Settlement Administrator shall keep the Parties timely apprised of the performance of all settlement administrator responsibilities required by the Settlement. The Settlement Administrator shall be authorized to establish a Qualified Settlement Fund ("QSF") pursuant to IRS rules and regulations in which the Gross Settlement Amount shall be placed and from which payments required by the Settlement shall be made.
- i. <u>Payment to the LWDA</u>. Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) from the Gross Settlement Amount shall be allocated to penalties under PAGA, of which Seven Thousand and Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$7,500.00), representing seventy-five percent (75%) of the PAGA penalties, shall be paid by the Settlement Administrator directly to the LWDA. The remaining Two Thousand and Five Hundred Dollars (\$2,500.00), representing twenty-five percent (25%) of the PAGA penalties, will be part of the Net Settlement Amount and will be distributed to Settlement Class Members as part of their Individual Settlement Awards. The payment to the LWDA shall be made within ten (10) calendar days after the later of the Effective Date or the date on which Defendants have completed payment of the entire Gross Settlement Amount.
- 47. Total Workdays. In the event that the total Compensable Workdays exceeds 250,000, Plaintiffs shall have, in their sole discretion, the option to terminate the Settlement. If Plaintiffs choose to exercise their option to terminate the Settlement, Plaintiffs will provide written notice to Defendants no more than seven (7) calendar days after the Response Deadline and the Parties shall proceed in all respects as if this Agreement had not been executed.

- 48. <u>Final Settlement Approval Hearing and Entry of Final Order and Judgment</u>. Upon expiration of the Response Deadline, a Final Approval Hearing will be conducted to determine whether to grant final approval of the Settlement, including determining the amounts properly payable for: (i) the Class Counsel Award; (ii) the Class Representative Service Awards; (iii) Settlement Administration Costs; and (iv) the PAGA payment to the LWDA. Within five (5) business days of the Response Deadline, the Settlement Administrator shall provide a written report or declaration to the Parties describing the process and results of the administration of the Settlement to date, which report or declaration shall be filed by Plaintiffs with the Court prior to the Final Approval Hearing. If the Court grants final approval of the Settlement, the Settlement Administrator shall post notice of final judgment on its website within seven (7) calendar days of entry of the Final Order and Judgment.
- Approval Order; (ii) the Court does not grant final approval the Settlement; (iii) the Court does not enter the Final Order and Judgment; or (iv) the Settlement does not become final for any other reason, this Stipulation shall be rendered null and void, any order or judgment entered by the Court in furtherance of this Settlement shall be treated as void from the beginning and this Stipulation and any documents related to it shall not be used by any Class Member or Class Counsel to support any claim or request for class certification in the Action, and shall not be used in any other civil, criminal or administrative action against Defendants or any of the other Released Parties. In the event an appeal is filed from the Court's Final Order and Judgment, or any other appellate review is sought, administration of the Settlement shall be stayed pending final resolution of the appeal or other appellate review.
- 50. No Admission by Defendants. Defendants deny all claims alleged in this Action and deny all wrongdoing whatsoever by Defendants. Neither this Stipulation, nor any of its terms and conditions, nor any of the negotiations connected with it, is a concession or admission, and none shall be used against Defendants as an admission or indication with respect to any claim of any fault, concession, or omission by Defendants. The Parties further agree that this Stipulation will not be admissible in this or any other proceeding as evidence that Defendants are liable to Plaintiffs or any Class Member, other than according to the terms of this Stipulation.

- 51. <u>No Publicity</u>. No Party, nor Class Counsel, nor Defense Counsel, shall issue any press release or otherwise publicize this settlement (including, but not limited to, web pages, social media and other electronic means), or purposely cause another to do so.
- 52. <u>Exhibits and Headings</u>. The terms of this Stipulation include the terms set forth in any attached Exhibits, which are incorporated by this reference as though fully set forth herein. The Exhibits to this Stipulation are an integral part of the Settlement. The descriptive headings of any paragraphs or sections of this Stipulation are inserted for convenience of reference only.
- 53. <u>Interim Stay of Proceedings</u>. The Parties agree to stay all proceedings in the Action, subject to necessary compliance with the Court's orders, except such proceedings necessary to implement and complete the Settlement, in abeyance pending the Final Approval Hearing to be conducted by the Court. The Parties further agree that, pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure § 583.330(a), the five-year period specified in Code of Civil Procedure § 583.310 shall be tolled for the time period beginning on October 23, 2019 (i.e., the mediation date) and ending on the Effective Date of this Stipulation or the date of a final order denying approval of this Stipulation.
- 54. <u>Amendment or Modification</u>. This Stipulation may be amended or modified by a written instrument signed by counsel for all Parties or their successors-in-interest.
- 55. Entire Agreement. This Stipulation and any attached Exhibits constitute the entire agreement between the Parties, and no oral or written representations, warranties, or inducements have been made to Plaintiffs or Defendants concerning this Stipulation or its Exhibits other than the representations, warranties, and covenants contained and memorialized in this Stipulation and its Exhibits. No other prior or contemporaneous written or oral agreements may be deemed binding on the Parties.
- 56. Authorization to Enter Into Settlement Agreement. Class Counsel and Defense Counsel warrant and represent they are expressly authorized by the Parties whom they represent to negotiate this Stipulation and to take all appropriate actions required or permitted to be taken by such Parties pursuant to this Stipulation to effectuate its terms, and to execute any other documents required to effectuate the terms of this Stipulation. The Parties and their counsel shall cooperate with each other and use their best efforts to effect the implementation of the Settlement. In the event that the

Parties are unable to reach agreement on the form or content of any document needed to implement the Settlement, or on any supplemental provisions that may become necessary to effectuate the terms of this Settlement, the Parties may seek the assistance of the Court and/or mediator Jeffrey Krivis to resolve such disagreement. The person signing this Stipulation on behalf of Defendants represents and warrants that he/she is authorized to sign this Stipulation on behalf of Defendants. Plaintiffs represent and warrant that they are authorized to sign this Stipulation and that they have not assigned any claim, or part of a claim, covered by this Settlement to a third-party. The Parties have cooperated in the drafting and preparation of this Stipulation. Hence, in any construction made of this Stipulation, the same shall not be construed against any of the Parties.

- 57. <u>Binding on Successors and Assigns</u>. This Stipulation shall be binding upon, and inure to the benefit of, the successors and assigns of the Parties.
- 58. <u>California Law Governs</u>. All terms of this Stipulation and the Exhibits hereto shall be governed by and interpreted according to the laws of the State of California, without giving effect to any law that would cause the laws of any jurisdiction other than the State of California to be applied.
- 59. <u>Counterparts</u>. This Stipulation may be executed in one or more counterparts. All executed counterparts and each of them shall be deemed to be one and the same instrument.
- 60. This Settlement is Fair, Adequate and Reasonable. Class Counsel submits that this Settlement is a fair, adequate, and reasonable settlement of the Action, and that the Parties have arrived at this Settlement after extensive arm's-length negotiations, taking into account all relevant factors, present and potential.
- 61. <u>Jurisdiction of the Court</u>. Following entry of the Final Order and Judgment, the Court shall retain jurisdiction with respect to the interpretation, implementation, and enforcement of the terms of this Stipulation and all orders and judgments entered in connection therewith, and the Parties, Class Counsel and Defense Counsel submit to the jurisdiction of the Court for purposes of interpreting, implementing, and enforcing the Settlement embodied in this Stipulation and all orders and judgments entered in connection therewith.
- 62. <u>Invalidity of Any Provision</u>. Before declaring any term or provision of this Stipulation invalid, the Parties request that the Court first attempt to construe the terms or provisions valid to the

1	fullest extent possible consistent with applicable precedents so as to define all provisions of the		
2	Stipulation as valid and enforceable.		
3	63. Binding Nature of Notice of Class Action Settlement. It is agreed that because		
4	Settlement Class Members are so numerous, it is impossible or impractical to have each Class Members		
5	execute the Stipulation. The Class Notice shall advise all Settlement Class Members of the bindi		
6	nature of the Settlement, and the release of Released Claims and shall have the same force and eff		
7	as if this Stipulation were executed by each Class Member.		
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9	Dated:, 2021		
10	By: PLAINTIFF DATE MARTINEZ OLIVA,		
11	individually, and on behalf of other aggrieved employees, and on behalf of others similarly		
12	situated		
13	Dated:, 2021		
14	Dvv		
15	By:		
16	employees, and on behalf of others similarly situated		
17	Dated:, 2021		
18	By:		
19	By:		
20	employees, and on behalf of others similarly situated		
21	Situated		
22	Dated: January 26, 2021 Defendant Rock Fish, LLC		
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7	as if this Stipulation were executed by each Class Member.		
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9	Dated:, 2021		
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11	individually, and on behalf of other aggrieved employees, and on behalf of others similarly		
12	situated		
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14	By: Auton Peterson		
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7	as if this Stipulation were executed by each	Class Member.	
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11		individually, and on behalf of other aggrieved employees, and on behalf of others similarly	
12		situated	
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16	January 27	employees, and on behalf of others similarly situated	
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19		PLAINTY FOR PRINT GREZLIK, individually, and on behalf of other aggrieved	
20		employees, and on behalf of others similarly situated	
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4	DATED:	January 29, 2021	MATERN LAW GROUP, PC
5			By All
6			Matthew J. Matern Tagore O. Subramaniam
7			Julia Z. Wells
8			Attorneys for Plaintiffs
9	DATED:	January 27, 2021	WOLF, RIFKIN, SHAPIRO, SCHULMAN & RABKIN, LLP
11			
12			By
13			Matthew Oster Eric Levinrad
14			Attorneys for Defendant Rock Fish, LLC
15			
16	DATED:	January 27 , 2021	LAW OFFICES OF JOHN A. STRAIN, A.P.C.
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19			By <u>Amber Ziegler</u> Amber M. Ziegler
20			John A. Strain
21			Attorneys for Defendants Zislis Group, Inc. and Rock'N Fish 2, LLC
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		FIRST AMENDED STIPUL	-27- ATION OF CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT