Case No. BC526488

Amended Class Action Complaint

1 b S S S p

Plaintiff BRANDON HORTA ("Plaintiff"), by and through his attorneys, brings this action on behalf of himself and all other persons currently or formerly employed by TECHNICAL SOLUTIONS WEST LLC and DOES 1 through 10, inclusive ("Defendant" or "TECHNICAL SOLUTIONS"). Plaintiff hereby alleges, on information and belief, except for information based on personal knowledge, which allegations are likely to have evidentiary support after further investigation and discovery, as follows:

. I.

INTRODUCTION

- 1. This case arises from Defendant's failure to pay employees all compensable travel time wages and the requisite amount of straight-time, alternatively minimum wage, overtime and double-time wages for travel time between the office/shop and the job site, for wages that were improperly deducted by use of an automatic "30-minute" wage deduction for unprovided meal periods, failure to pay the overtime rate of pay for hours worked in excess of eight (8) hours per day, failure to pay the double-time wages rate of pay for hours worked in excess of twelve (12) hours per day, failure to authorize and permit compliant meal and rest periods (or failure to pay one hour of pay at the employee's regular rate of pay in lieu thereof), failure to reimburse employees for job-related business expenses, failure to provide correctly itemized and accurate wage statements, and failure to pay all wages owed at separation to separated employees.
- 2. This case is brought on behalf of certain California employees currently employed by, or formerly employed by, Defendant TECHNICAL SOLUTIONS WEST LLC, a New York Limited Liability Corporation, conducting business throughout California, and DOES 1 through 100. The proposed Plaintiff Class consists of non-exempt hourly technicians or tower employees and others similarly situated, employed in California by Defendant, who, during the period four years prior to filing the complaint through the time of trial, did not receive all straight time or alternatively minimum wages, overtime and double-time owed, properly calculated overtime and double-time wages, were not provided with meal or rest periods, had 30 minutes automatically deducted from hours worked for unprovided meal periods, were not fully reimbursed for all business related expenses incurred, were not provided with accurate wage statements, and were not paid all wages due

at termination.

3. Plaintiff sent notice to the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency (LWDA) and to TECHNICAL SOLUTIONS pursuant to the Private Attorney General Act of 2004 ("PAGA"). A copy of that notice is attached hereto as Exhibit "A" and is incorporated herein by this reference. As the LWDA or the Division of Labor Standards Enforcement (DLSE) has not taken action within the prescribed time-period, Plaintiff amends this Complaint to include allegations and remedies available under California Labor Code §§ 2699, et seq., in order to recover penalties as representative of the State of California. The PAGA provides: "Notwithstanding any other provisions of law, a Plaintiff may as a matter of right amend an existing complaint to add a cause of action arising under this part within 60 days of the time periods specified in this part." Plaintiff has complied with California Labor Code §2699 to act as a party representative for which recovery of penalties is now authorized as set forth in Labor Code §2699, et seq., as more fully set forth in the Ninth Cause of Action and the Prayer for relief below.

Π.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 4. Venue as to each Defendant is proper in this judicial district, pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure, section 395. Defendant conducts business and commits Labor Code violations in Los Angeles County, as well as Concord, California and each Defendant is within the jurisdiction of this Court for service of process purposes. The unlawful acts alleged have a direct effect on Plaintiff and those similarly situated within the State of California and Los Angeles County. Defendant employs numerous Class Members in Los Angeles County. There is no federal question at issue, as the issues herein are based solely on California statutes and law, including the Labor Code, IWC Wage Orders, Code of Civil Procedure, Civil Code, Business and Professions Code, and PAGA.
- 5. Further, Business and Professions Code, section 17203 provides that any person who engages in unfair competition may be enjoined in any court of competent jurisdiction. Business and Professions Code, section 17204 provides that any person acting on his or her own behalf may bring an action in a court of competent jurisdiction. Thus, the above entitled court maintains appropriate iurisdiction to hear this matter.

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III.

THE PARTIES

The Plaintiff

- 6. Plaintiff Brandon Horta is a resident of the State of California. At all relevant times herein, Plaintiff was employed by Defendant as a tower Technician, working out of Defendant's offices located in Los Angeles, California, and was employed by Defendant as a non-exempt employee from approximately September 2012 through July 2013.
- 7. Mr. Horta drove his personal vehicle initially for all work-related travel and was not fully reimbursed for his business miles driven. Mr. Horta was required to meet at the office prior to going to the job site. At the office, he would load materials and get information about the job site. then would typically transport other employees to the job site. He was not compensated for his travel time from the office to the job site. Horta often worked over eight hours in a day and at times more than twelve hours in a day. He was not paid at the appropriate overtime rate of pay for hours worked over eight in a day or twelve in a day. He was generally only paid for overtime when he exceeded forty hours in a week (although it did not include his wages for thirty minutes per day that was automatically deducted or for travel time that Defendant treated as non-compensable time). For example, within the first month of employment, Plaintiff worked 27 hours straight, but did not receive any double-time for that work. Horta was not informed that he was able to take an off-duty 30-minute meal period within the first five hours of a shift, nor that he was to record such a meal period in his time records, but the company regularly automatically deducted 30 minutes each day from his time records, ostensibly for a meal period taken. The company did not confirm with Mr. Horta that he in fact took a meal period, nor did it provide a mechanism for him to report that he did not take a 30-minute meal period. Mr. Horta was also not informed that he was able to take a 10minute rest period for every four hours or major fraction thereof worked. Mr. Horta did not take full 30-minute meal periods; rather, he would often eat quickly while working, or take a quick break to eat something and then go back to work. Mr. Horta does not believe that he was ever paid a premium payment of one hour of pay at the regular rate of pay for Technical Solution's failure to provide a meal or rest period.

B. The Defendant

- 8. Defendant, TECHNICAL SOLUTIONS is a New York Limited Liability Corporation headquartered at 2030 Delaware Avenue, Des Moines, Iowa 50317, and is engaged in business in Los Angeles County and throughout California. Defendant also operates out of an office in Concord, California. Defendant provides cell tower construction and maintenance services in Northern and Southern California. During the class period, Defendant TECHNICAL SOLUTIONS employed Plaintiff and similarly situated persons as Plaintiff Class members within California and Los Angeles County. On information and belief, Defendant TECHNICAL SOLUTIONS is conducting business in good standing in California.
- 9. Plaintiff is unaware of the true names, capacities, relationships, and extent of participation in the conduct alleged herein, of the Defendants sued as DOES 1 through 100, but is informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that said Defendants are legally responsible for the wrongful conduct alleged herein, and therefore sues these Defendants by such fictitious names. Plaintiff will amend this complaint when their true names and capabilities are ascertained.
- 10. Plaintiff is informed and believes and, based thereon alleges, that each Defendant, directly or indirectly, or through agents or other persons, employed Plaintiff and other members of the class, and exercised control over their wages, hours, and working conditions. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that each Defendant acted in all respects pertinent to this action as the agent of the other Defendants, carried out a joint scheme, business plan or policy in all respects pertinent hereto, and the acts of each Defendant is legally attributable to the other Defendants.

IV.

GENERAL ALLEGATIONS

- 11. During all, or a portion, of the Class Period, Plaintiff and each member of the Plaintiff Class were employed by Defendant, in the State of California.
- 12. Defendant provides cell tower construction and maintenance services in Southern and Northern California. Upon information and belief, Plaintiff and members of the Plaintiff Class work in non-exempt, non-managerial positions, and have not, during the class period, been paid all straight time wages, alternatively minimum wages, or overtime wages for all hours worked, not been paid

overtime or double-time at the correct rate, have not been provided uninterrupted thirty-minute meal periods for work periods of at least five (5) hours or second uninterrupted thirty-minute meal periods for work period of at least ten (10) hours, and have not been permitted to take paid ten-minute rest periods for work periods of four (4) hours or major fractions, have had illegal wage deductions by automatic 30-minute deductions for unprovided meal period, and have not been reimbursed for all business related expenses, pursuant to the Labor Code, Industrial Welfare Commission Wage Order 16-2001 and other applicable Wage Orders.

- 13. During Plaintiff's employment with TECHNICAL SOLUTIONS, the company had in effect a standard policy that applied to all class members that (1) prevented the employees from using their own vehicles to travel directly from their home to the pre-designated work-site; (2) required loading and transport of work materials; (3) mandated that he and all similar employees meet at the office and then drive to the day's assigned work-site; (3) did not compensate employees for time worked while loading materials, travelling, and transporting passengers and materials; and (4) and required use of personal vehicles for a period of time and did not fully reimburse for all expenses related to driving.
- 14. Furthermore, Plaintiff and similarly situated employees often worked over eight (8) hours in a day, and at time worked more than twelve (12) hours in a day, but Defendant did not pay Plaintiff and similarly situated employees at the overtime rate when they worked over eight (8) hours in a day, nor did Defendant pay Plaintiff and similarly situated employees the double-time rate when they worked more than twelve (12) hours in a day. Instead, Defendant only paid the overtime rate of pay when employees worked more that forty (40) hours in a week.
- 15. During the California Class Period, the Defendant, by virtue of centralized and uniform pay policies failed to provide accurate, itemized wage statements to Plaintiff and similarly situated employees as required by Labor Code section 226.
- 16. During the class period, Defendant failed to pay all wages owed Plaintiff and similarly situated terminated employees as required by Labor Code section 203.
- 17. Business and Professions Code, section 17203 provides that any person who engages in unfair competition may be enjoined in any court of competent jurisdiction. Business and Professions

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- E. Rest Period Subclass: All members of the proposed Class who worked periods of four hours or major fraction thereof without a rest period of at least 10 minutes in length, and who were not paid compensation of one hour's pay at the employee's regular rate of pay for each such day that a rest period was not authorized or permitted.
- F. Reimbursement Subclass: All members of the proposed Class who were subject to a company practice of failing to fully reimburse for all business related expenses.
- G. <u>Waiting Time Subclass:</u> All members of the proposed Class who, within three years of the filing of the Complaint, were not paid all wages due at the time of their respective separation/termination from the company;
- H. <u>Wage Statement Subclass:</u> All members of the proposed Class who, within one year of the filing of the Complaint, were subject to a company practice of failing to accurately itemize wage statements;
- I. <u>UCL Subclass:</u> All members of the proposed Class who suffered damages as a result of being subject to Defendant's pay practices relating to travel time, failure to pay overtime/double-time for hours worked in excess of eight (8) in a day, forty (40) in a workweek, or twelve (12) in a day, automatic deduction of time related to meal periods that were not taken, failure to authorize and permit meal and rest periods and failure to fully reimburse for all business related expenses.
- 21. Plaintiff reserves the right under Rule 3.765(b), California Rules of Court, to amend or modify the Class description with greater specificity or further division into subclasses or limitation to particular issues.
- 22. This action has been brought and may be properly maintained as a class action under the provisions of California Code of Civil Procedure section 382 because there is a well-defined community of interest in the litigation and the proposed Class is easily ascertainable.

A. Numerosity

23. The members of the Class are so numerous that individual joinder of all of them as Plaintiffs is impracticable. While the exact number of the Class members is unknown to Plaintiff at this time, Plaintiff is informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that there are more than 100 Class members, who, at all relevant times, were employed in the State of California.

B. Commonality

- 24. There are questions of law and fact common to the Class that predominate over any questions affecting only individual Class Members. These common questions of law and fact include, without limitation:
 - a. Whether Defendant violates Labor Code section 204 by failing to pay all wages and overtime earned for mandatory, on-duty travel time;
 - b. Whether Defendant violates Labor Code sections 510 or 1194 by improperly failing to pay the applicable overtime rate of pay when an employee worked more than eight (8) hours in a workday, including travel time;
 - c. Whether Defendant violates Labor Code sections 510 or 1194 by improperly failing to pay the applicable overtime rate of pay when an employee worked more than twelve (12) hours in a workday, including travel time;
 - d. Whether Defendant violates Labor Code sections 510 or 1194 by automatically deducting thirty minutes of time, ostensibly for a meal period;
 - e. Whether Defendant violates Labor Code sections 226.7 and 512 by improperly failing to provide or authorize and permit meal and rest periods;
 - f. Whether Defendant violates Labor Code section 2802 by failing to fully reimburse for all business related expenses, including mileage;
 - g. Whether Defendant violates Labor Code section 226 by knowingly and intentionally failing to provide accurate itemized wage statements showing all hours worked at the appropriate and requisite rates of pay;
 - h. Whether Defendant violates Labor Code sections 201 and/or 202 by not paying Class Members who are no longer employed by Defendant all earned wages,

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1	of this controversy. Individual joinder of all Class Members is not practicable, and questions of law
2	and fact common to the Class predominate over questions affecting only individual Class members.
3	Each Class member has been damaged and is entitled to recovery by reason of Defendant's illegal
4	policy and/or practice of failing to pay straight, minimum, overtime and double-time wages,
5	reimburse employees for business related expenses and provide meal and rest periods. A Class action
6	will allow those similarly situated to litigate their claims in the most efficient and economical manner
7	for the parties and the judicial system. Plaintiff is unaware of any difficulties that are likely to be
8	encountered in the management of this action that would preclude its maintenance as a class action.
9	VI. CAUSES OF ACTION
10	FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

Failure to Pay Hourly Wages, alternatively Minimum Wages (On Behalf of Travel Time Subclass, Auto-Deduct Subclass)

- 28. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by this reference each of the foregoing paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.
- 29. By failure to pay straight time wages, as alleged above, Defendant willfully violated the provisions of Labor Code section 204. By failing to pay for all compensable travel time, including travel that occurs after the first location where the employee's presence is required by the employer, and all wages for the time that was wrongfully automatically deducted from employee's time entries, ostensibly for meal periods, Defendant willfully violated the provisions of Labor Code sections 204 and 1194.
- 30. California law requires employers, such as Defendant, to pay compensation to all non-exempt employees for all hours actually caused or suffered to work, including all travel time, excluding the employees' reasonable initial and final commute time. Defendant automatically deducted thirty minutes every work day ostensibly for a meal period even when employees did not enter a thirty-minute meal period in their time records.
- 31. Named Plaintiff and Travel Time and Auto-Deduct Subclass members were non-exempt employees entitled to be paid compensation for all hours worked.
- 32. Throughout the Class Period, Named Plaintiff and Travel Time and Auto-Deduct Subclass members worked hours without compensation at the appropriate hourly rate, or alternatively

33. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant's unlawful conduct, as set forth herein, Named Plaintiff and Travel Time and Auto-Deduct Subclass members have sustained damages, including loss of compensation for straight time worked on behalf of Defendant in an amount to be established at trial, prejudgment interest, and costs and attorney's fees, pursuant to statute and other applicable law.

SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION

Failure to Pay Overtime Wages (On Behalf of Travel Time Subclass, Auto-Deduct Subclass, Overtime Subclass)

- 34. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by this reference each of the foregoing paragraphs as if set forth herein.
- 35. By failing to compensate for travel time, automatically deducting thirty minutes for meal periods that were not taken, and failing to compensate at the overtime rate of pay for shifts that exceed eight (8) hours in a day or forty (40) hours in a workweek and the double-time rate of pay for shifts that exceed twelve (12) hours in a day, Defendant illegally failed to pay overtime wages, and in so doing, Defendant willfully violated the provisions of Labor Code sections 510 and 1194, IWC Wage Order 16-2001 and California Code of regulations, Title 8, section 11160(3).
- 36. California law requires employers, such as Defendant, to pay overtime compensation to all non-exempt employees for all hours worked over eight in a day or forty per week for overtime and over twelve in a day for double-time.
- 37. The Named Plaintiff, Travel Time, Auto-Deduct and Overtime Subclass members were non-exempt employees entitled to be paid compensation for all overtime worked. Plaintiff and Travel Time, Auto-Deduct and Overtime Subclass members, and each of them, regularly and consistently worked in excess of 8 hours per day, twelve hours per day and/or over 40 hours per work week. Simple reference to Defendant's time records and payroll records will demonstrate when Defendant failed to pay the appropriate overtime and double-time rates of pay. Additionally the records will show the automatic thirty minute deductions. Additionally, to the extent that travel time was not recorded, it can be determined based on the records that show amount of time spent at the job site, location of the job site, proximity of the job site to the office, and the number of hours the employee

By failing to authorize and permit rest periods, and by failing to provide compensation

for these rest periods, as alleged above, Defendant willfully violated the provisions of Labor Code

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44.

45. As a result of the unlawful acts of Defendant, Plaintiff and the Rest Period Subclass he seeks to represent have been deprived of rest periods, premium wages and/or other compensation in amounts to be determined at trial, and are entitled to recovery of such amounts, plus interest, attorney's fees, and costs.

46. Plaintiff and the Rest Period Subclass he seeks to represent request relief as described below.

FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION

Failure to Fully Reimburse Business Expenses (Brought On Behalf of the Reimbursement Subclass)

- 47. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by this reference each of the foregoing paragraphs as if set forth herein.
- 48. Pursuant to California Labor Code, section 2802, Defendant is required to fully reimburse Plaintiff and other similarly situated Class members for all out-of-pocket expenses incurred by them in the performance of their job duties. Plaintiff and the members of the class he seeks to represent were employed by Defendant as Technicians and incurred expenses in the performance of their job duties. In the performance of their job duties, Plaintiff and other members of the class he seeks to represent incurred expenses related to driving their personal vehicles for business related travel. Plaintiff was not fully reimbursed for these necessary business expenses incurred. For the four year period preceding the filing of this complaint, Plaintiff and other similarly situated Reimbursement Subclass members have been required to personally incur and pay for these expenses in the discharge of their employment duties, all without full reimbursement from Defendant.
- 49. As a proximate result of the aforementioned violations, Plaintiff and other similarly situated Reimbursement Subclass members have been damaged in an amount according to proof at the time of trial, but in an amount in excess of the minimum jurisdiction of this court.
- 50. Pursuant to Labor Code, sections 2802 and 2804, Plaintiff and other similarly situated Reimbursement Subclass members are entitled to recover from Defendant the full amount of the expenses they incurred in the performance of their job duties, plus interest, reasonable attorney's fees and costs of suit.

SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION Failure to Timely Pay Wages Due At Termination (On Behalf of the Waiting Time Subclass)

- 51. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by this reference each of the foregoing paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.
- 52. California Labor Code section 203 provides that if an employer willfully fails to timely pay wages, the employer must continue to pay the subject employee's wages until the back wages are paid in full or an action is commenced, up to a maximum of thirty days of wages.
- 53. All Waiting Time Claim Subclass members who ceased employment with Defendant are entitled to unpaid compensation, but to date have not received such compensation.
- 54. More than thirty days have passed since Plaintiff and members of the Waiting Time Subclass left Defendant's employment.
- 55. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and based thereupon alleges, that Defendant purposefully engaged in a common scheme and design to deprive employees of their full wages and benefits under California law by failing to pay for all travel time, improperly automatically deducting thirty minutes for a meal period without reference to whether employees actually took meal periods, and failing to pay all hours over eight (8) in a day and over forty (40) in a workweek at the overtime rate of pay and all hours over twelve (12) in a day at the double-time rate of pay.
- 56. As a consequence of Defendant's willful conduct in not paying compensation for all hours worked, the California Class Members whose employment ended during the class period are entitled to thirty days' wages under Labor Code section 203, together with interest thereon and attorney's fees and costs.

SEVENTH CAUSE OF ACTION Failure to Provide Itemized Employee Wage Statements (On Behalf of the Wage Statement Subclass)

- 57. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by this reference each of the foregoing paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.
- 58. Defendant knowingly and intentionally failed to provide timely, accurate, itemized wage statements including, inter alia, hours worked, to Plaintiff and Wage Statement Subclass members in accordance with Labor Code section 226(a) and applicable IWC Wage Orders. Such failure caused

injury to Plaintiff and Wage Statement Subclass members, by, among other things, impeding them from knowing the amount of wages to which they are and were lawfully entitled and under-reporting wages and hours for which pay was due and owing. At all times relevant herein, Defendant has failed to maintain appropriate records of hours worked by the Plaintiff and Wage Statement Subclass members as required under Labor Code section 1174(d).

59. Plaintiff and Wage Statement Subclass members are entitled to seek injunctive relief requiring Defendant to comply with Labor Code sections 226(a) and 1174(d), and further seek the amount provided under Labor Code sections 226(e) and 1174.5, including the greater of all actual damages or fifty dollars (\$50) for the initial pay period in which a violation occurs and one hundred dollars (\$100) per employee for each violation in a subsequent pay period.

EIGHTH CAUSE OF ACTION

Violation of the Unfair Competition Law (On Behalf of each Class Member and Subclass Member)

- 60. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by this reference each of the foregoing paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.
- owed, use the appropriate rate of overtime pay for shifts exceeding eight (8) hours of work per day and/or over forty (40) hours in a workweek and twelve (12) in a day, failure to authorize and permit meal and rest periods or pay appropriate compensation in lieu thereof, failure to fully reimburse for all business related expenses and constitute unlawful activity, acts and practices that are prohibited by Business and Professions Code sections 17200, et seq. The actions of Defendant described above constitute false, unfair, fraudulent and deceptive business practices, within the meaning of Business and Professions Code sections 17200, et seq. Defendant has violated multiple provisions of California law and applicable regulations and Orders of the IWC that have the same force and effect of a violation of law. This includes, without limitation California Labor Code Sections 201-203, 226.7, 512, 1194, and 2802 which serve as statutory predicates for which restitution is owed by Defendant, as well as Wage Order 16-2001, Section 1-2, and applicable regulations of the California Code of Regulations that relate to record keeping, overtime pay calculations, and failure to properly account for and pay for travel time that is unrelated to normal commute time.

- 62. Named Plaintiff is entitled to restitution and other equitable relief against such unlawful practices in order to prevent future damage, for which there is no adequate remedy at law, and to avoid a multiplicity of lawsuits.
- 63. As a result of these unlawful acts, Defendant has reaped and continues to reap unfair benefits and illegal profits at the expense of Plaintiff and the proposed Class and the proposed Subclasses he seeks to represent. Defendant should make restitution for these ill-gotten gains to restore to Plaintiff and the members of the UCL Subclass the wrongfully under-reimbursed amounts, underpaid wages and overtime pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 17203 and specific performance of payment of penalties ordered under Business and Professions Code section 17202.
- 64. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that Defendant is unjustly enriched through the acts described above and that he and the proposed Class have and continue to suffer irreparable prejudice by Defendant's unfair practices. Further, by engaging in such activities, Defendant is illegally operating at an advantage to other law abiding employers in the State of California and underpaying payroll and other applicable taxes that are collected by the State and local governmental entities in California.
- 65. The illegal conduct alleged herein is continuing, and there is no indication that Defendant will not continue such activity into the future. Plaintiff alleges that Defendant will continue to fail to pay all hourly and overtime wages, appropriate overtime rates of pay for shifts where overtime is clearly worked, fail to pay all wages due at termination, and fail to pay and avoid paying appropriate taxes, insurance, and unemployment withholdings.

NINTH CAUSE OF ACTION

Violations of the Private Attorneys General Act of 2004 ("PAGA") (Plaintiff, as a Representative of the General Public, on behalf of all aggrieved Employees)

- 66. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by this reference each of the foregoing paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.
- 67. Plaintiff, by virtue of his employment with TECHNICAL SOLUTIONS and the Defendant's failure to pay all wages, reimburse employee expenses, provide wage statements and wages due at termination, is an aggrieved employee with standing to bring an action under the PAGA. Plaintiff, by virtue of Exhibit "A" attached hereto, has satisfied all prerequisites to serve as a

representative of the general public to enforce California's labor laws, including, without limitation, the penalty provisions identified in Labor Code section 2699.5. Since the LWDA took no steps within the time period required to intervene and because TECHNICAL SOLUTIONS took no corrective action to remedy the allegations set forth above, Plaintiff HORTA, as a representative of the people of the State of California, will seek any and all penalties otherwise capable of being collected by the Labor Commission and/or the Department of Labor Standards Enforcement (DLSE). This includes, each of the following, as is set forth in Labor Code Section 2699.5, which states:

The provisions of subdivision (a) of Section 2699.3 apply to any alleged violation of the following provisions: subdivision (k) of Section 96, Sections 98.6, 201, 201.3, 201.5, 201.7, 202, 203, 203.1, 203.5, 204, 204a, 204b, 204.1, 204.2, 205, 205.5, 206, 206.5, 208, 209, and 212, subdivision (d) of Section 213, Sections 221, 222, 222.5, 223, and 224, subdivision (a) of Section 226, Sections 226.7. 227, 227.3, 230, 230.1, 230.2, 230.3, 230.4, 230.7, 230.8, and 231, subdivision (c) of Section 232, subdivision (c) of Section 232.5, Sections 233, 234, 351, 353, and 403, subdivision (b) of Section 404, Sections 432.2, 432.5, 432.7, 435, 450, 510, 511, 512, 513, 551, 552, 601, 602, 603, 604, 750, 751.8, 800, 850, 851, 851.5, 852, 921, 922, 923, 970, 973, 976, 1021, 1021.5, 1025, 1026, 1101, 1102, 1102.5, and 1153, subdivisions (c) and (d) of Section 1174, Sections 1194, 1197, 1197.1. 1197.5, and 1198, subdivision (b) of Section 1198.3, Sections 1199, 1199.5, 1290, 1292, 1293, 1293.1, 1294, 1294.1, 1294.5, 1296, 1297, 1298, 1301, 1308, 1308.1. 1308.7, 1309, 1309.5, 1391, 1391.1, 1391.2, 1392, 1683, and 1695, subdivision (a) of Section 1695.5, Sections 1695.55, 1695.6, 1695.7, 1695.8, 1695.9, 1696, 1696.5, 1696.6, 1697.1, 1700.25, 1700.26, 1700.31, 1700.32, 1700.40, and 1700.47, paragraphs (1), (2), and (3) of subdivision (a) of and subdivision (e) of Section 1701.4, subdivision (a) of Section 1701.5, Sections 1701.8, 1701.10, 1701.12, 1735, 1771, 1774, 1776, 1777.5, 1811, 1815, 2651, and 2673, subdivision (a) of Section 2673.1, Sections 2695.2, 2800, 2801, 2802, 2806, and 2810, subdivision (b) of Section 2929, and Sections 3095, 6310, 6311, and 6399.

68. Plaintiff is informed and believes that TECHINICAL SOLUTIONS has violated and continues to violate provisions of the California Labor Code and applicable Wage Orders related to the payment of straight-time, alternatively minimum wage, overtime and double-time wages, wages that were improperly deducted by use of an automatic "30-minute" wage deduction for unprovided meal periods, failure to authorize and permit compliant meal and rest periods (or failure to pay one hour of pay at the employee's regular rate of pay in lieu thereof), failure to reimburse employees for job-related business expenses, the failure to provide accurate itemized wage statements, and has and continues to knowingly and intentionally fail to pay all wage due in a timely fashion for all employees whose employment is or has been terminated during the class period. Despite mailing of Exhibit "A" at least 33 days prior to amending this complaint, no state agency has acknowledged or

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1	I.	Attorneys' fees and costs of suit, including expert fees and fees pursuant to California	
2	Labor Code	e sections 1194, California Code of Civil Procedure sections 1021.5, and other applicable	
3	state laws.		
4	J.	For an order that Defendant make restitution to Plaintiff and the California Class due to	
5	its unlawful	business practices, including unlawfully-collected compensation pursuant to California	
6	Business an	d Professions Code sections 17203 and 17204;	
7	K.	For penalties as provided, per violation, under the Private Attorneys General Act	
8	(PAGA) La	bor Code section 2699, et seq., and as provided by Labor Code Section 558, and	
9	distributed in accordance with the Act; and		
10	L.	Such other legal equitable relief as this Court deems necessary, just, equitable and	
11	proper.		
12			
13		COHELAN KHOURY & SINGER	
14	Dated: Nove	ember 14, 2013 By:	
15	Dated: Nov.	Kimberly D. Neilson	
16		Counsel for Plaintiff BRANDON HORTA and all others similarly situated	
17		DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL	
18	PLAINTIFF hereby demands a jury trial with respect to all issues triable of right by jury.		
19		COHELAN KHOURY & SINGER	
20		16-00/	
21	Dated: Nove	ember 14, 2013 By:	
22		Kimberly D\Neilson Counsel for Plaintiff BRANDON HORTA and all	
23		others similarly situated	
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EXHIBIT A

FILE COPY

COHELAN KHOURY & SINGER

A PARTNERSHIP OF PROFESSIONAL LAW CORPORATIONS

TIMOTHY D. COHELAN, * APLC ISAM C. KHOURY, APC DIANA M. KHOURY, APC MICHAEL D. SINGER, • APLC

(*Also admitted in the District of Columbia)
(*Also admitted in Colorado)

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

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October 7, 2013

JEFF GERACI A
J. JASON HILL†
KIMBERLY D. NEILSON

(† Also admitted in Illinois) (Δ Of Counsel)

NOTICE OF LABOR CODE VIOLATIONS PURSUANT TO LABOR CODE SECTION 2699,3

To: California Labor and Workforce Development Agency and Technical Solutions West LLC

From: Brandon Horta on behalf of himself and all current and former technicians of Technical Solutions West LLC

Factual Statement

Technical Solutions West provides cell tower construction and maintenance services in Northern and Southern California. Brandon Horta was formerly employed by Technical Solutions West LLC as a non-exempt technician from approximately September 2012 through July 2013. Horta gives notice of his intent to bring a cause of action for violation of the Private Attorneys General Act of 2004 ("PAGA") for failure by Technical Solutions West LLC to comply with California's wage and hour requirements.

When Mr. Horta first started employment with the company, he drove his personal vehicle (a V-8 Chevy truck) for all work-related travel. Later the company purchased a fleet of trucks, and he was issued a work vehicle. The managers had two gas cards for the entire Southern California operation. The company would, at times, fill up his truck with gas. Mr. Horta believes that he was not fully reimbursed for all of his business-related mileage as the filling up of his tank did not cover all of the gas necessary for business related driving, nor did account for the wear and tear and insurance on his truck.

It was Mr. Horta's understanding that Technical Solutions generally required employees to report to the office every day prior to going to the job site. Mr. Horta was regularly required to meet at the office prior to going to the job site, and his travel time from the office to the job site was not compensated. Mr. Horta often worked over eight hours in a day and at times worked more than twelve hours in a day. But Technical Solutions West LLC did not pay him at the overtime rate when he worked more than eight hours in a day, nor did it pay him the double-time rate when he worked more than twelve hours in a day. Instead, it calculated and paid him overtime only when he worked more than 40 hours in a week. For example, within the first month of employment, Mr. Horta worked 27 hours straight, but did not receive any double-time for that work, and did not receive overtime starting at eight hours, he only received overtime when his weekly hours were in excess of 40. He spoke to his

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project manager about the fact that he was not paid at the double-time rate for hours worked in excess of 12. The response provided to Mr. Horta was that those rules do not apply to them. At some point after Horta started working for Technical Solutions West LLC, the company started to compensate him at the appropriate overtime and double-time rates of pay.

Once the company obtained the work truck fleet, no one was allowed to take the work truck home. The technicians would have to drive their personal vehicles to the shop to pick up the truck, load the materials and take the truck to the job site. Plaintiff served as a foreman. He believes that as a foreman there was a period of time during which he did not get paid for the drive time from the shop to the first job site. At some point after Horta started working for Technical Solutions West LLC, Horta believes the company started to compensate him for that drive-time from the shop to the first job site.

Mr. Horta was not informed that he was able to take an off-duty 30-minute meal period within the first five hours of a shift, nor that he was to record such a meal period in his time records, but the company regularly automatically deducted 30 minutes each day from his time records, ostensibly for a meal period taken. The company did not confirm with Mr. Horta that he in fact took a meal period, nor did it provide a mechanism for him to report that he did not take a 30-minute meal period. Mr. Horta was also not informed that he was able to take a 10-minute rest period for every four hours or major fraction thereof worked. Mr. Horta did not take full 30-minute meal periods; rather, he would often eat quickly while working, or take a quick break to eat something and then go back to work. Mr. Horta does not believe that he was ever paid premium payment of one hour of pay at the regular rate of pay for Technical Solution's failure to provide a meal or rest period.

Theories of Labor Code Violations and Remedies

Claimant Brandon Horta and others employed by Technical Solutions West LLC as technicians were entitled to (1) minimum, straight-time, overtime and double-time wages for travel time between the office/shop and the job site and for auto-deduction of 30 minutes ostensibly for meal periods that were not taken under IWC Wage Order 16-2001, sections 3 and 5, Labor Code sections 204, 510 and 1194; (2) compensation at the overtime rate of pay for hours worked in excess of eight hours in a day under IWC Wage Order 16-2001, sections 3 and 5, Labor Code sections 204, 510 and 1194; (3) compensation at the double-time rate of pay for hours worked in excess of twelve hours in a day under IWC Wage Order 16-2001, sections 3 and 5, Labor Code sections 204, 510; (4) expense reimbursement for business related expenses related to business miles under Labor Code section 2802; (5) meal periods within the first five hours of work, and second meal periods for shifts greater than twelve hours, or compensation in lieu thereof under IWC Wage Order 16-2001, section 10, Labor Code sections 226.7 and 512; (6) rest periods for every four hours worked or compensation in lieu thereof under IWC Wage Order 16-2001, section 11, Labor Code section 226.7; (7) payment of all wages due at termination pursuant to Labor Code sections 201-203; and (8) correctly itemized and accurate wage statements under Labor Code section 226, as well as all available penalties as set forth in Labor Code Section 2699(f).

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Claimant Horta and other technicians were at all times entitled to wages for their travel time for all travel that occurred after the first location where the employee's presence is required by the employer, and wages for the time that was wrongfully automatically deducted from employees' time entries, ostensibly for meal periods. At all times Claimant Horta and other technicians were entitled to wages at the appropriate overtime rate of pay for hours worked in excess of eight in a day and appropriate double-time rate of pay for hours worked in excess of twelve in a day.

Technical Solutions West LLC failed to authorize or permit meal periods for Claimant and all other similarly situated technician employees as required by Labor Code sections 226.7 and 512, and Industrial Welfare Commission Wage Orders 16-2001(10). Therefore, Claimants are entitled to recover wages and/or penalties as provided by Labor Code Section 558 and applicable IWC Wage Orders. Furthermore, since Technical Solutions West LLC required Horta and others similarly situated to work during their meal period in violation of Labor Code Section 226.7(a), Claimants seek wages of one additional hour of pay as permitted by Labor Code Section 226.7(b) as well as all available penalties as set forth in Labor Code Section 2699(f).

These aggrieved employees were also entitled rest breaks. Technical Solutions West LLC failed to authorize or permit rest breaks for claimant and all other similarly situated technician employees as required by Labor Code sections 226.7 and 512, and IWC Wage Orders. Claimants are entitled to recover wages and/or penalties as provided by Labor Code section 558 and applicable IWC Wage Orders. Furthermore, since Technical Solutions West LLC required its technicians to work during rest periods in violation of Labor Code section 226.7(a), Claimants seek wages of one additional hour of pay as permitted by Labor Code section 226.7(b) as well as all available penalties as set forth in Labor Code Section 2699(f).

Technical Solutions West LLC's uniform failure to properly pay for travel time that occurred after the first location where the employee's presence is required, properly pay overtime and double-time wages, authorize and permit rest and meal periods to Horta and other technician employees during their workday without payment of an additional one-hour's wage per day per type of violation to said Claimants at their regular rate of pay, and uniform improper automatic deduction of time ostensibly for meal periods not taken, violates Labor Code sections 201-203, 204, 204(b), 226, 226, 7, 510, 512, 558, 1194, such that penalties are recoverable as set forth in Labor Code section 210, 226, 558, 2699, et seq.

Claimants are entitled to recover unpaid wages, with interest, and are entitled to an award of attorney's fees as permitted by Labor Code sections 218.5, 1194, and other penalties, as permitted.

Plaintiff will file a proposed class action lawsuit and if, after 33 days has elapsed the LWDA does not take action or declines to intervene, Horta will amend the Complaint to add a cause of action for violations of PAGA and proceed as a representative action, as permitted by law.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

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Very truly yours,

COHELAN KROURY & SINGER

Kimberly D. Neilson

VIA CERTIFIED U.S. MAIL WITH RETURN RECEIPT

Marty Morgenstern, Secretary California Labor and Workforce Development Agency 800 Capitol Mall, Suite 5000 MIC-55 Sacramento, CA 95814

Technical Solutions West LLC 2030 Delaware Ave Des Moine, IA 50317

Technical Solutions West LLC c/o John Fye, Agent for Service of Process 693 Downing Dr. Galt, CA 95632

CERTIFIED MAIL RECEIPT 3439 32 Postage Certified Fee 3.10 000 **Postmark** Return Receipt Fee (Endorsement Required) Here Restricted Delivery Fee (Endorsement Regulred) 1640 <u>و.9</u> Total Postage & Fees Sent To Technical Solution West LLC 7012 2030 Delaware Ave Des Moine, 1A 50317 PS Form 3800, August 2006 U.S. Postal Service™ CERTIFIED MAIL RECEIPT 9040 (Domestic Mail Only; No Insurance Coverage Provided) 3439 . (96 Postage 3.10 Certified Fee 0002 Postmark Return Receipt Fes (Endorsement Required) 2.65 Here Restricted Delivery Fee (Endorsement Required) 1640 Total Postage & Fees \$ Q.31 Marty Morgenstern 거미가라 or PO Box No. 800 Capital Mall, Ste. 5000 MIC-5. Sacramento, CA 95814 U.S. Postal Service™ CERTIFIED MAIL RECEIPT (Domestic Mail Only; No Insurance Coverage Provided) 3439 .32 Postage 3.10 Certified Fee Postmark Return Receipt Fee (Endorsement Required) 2.55 Here Restricted Delivery Fee (Endorsement Required) **16**40 4.97 \$ Total Postage & Fees Tech Solutions 7012 clo: John Fye Street, Apt. No. or PO Box No. 3 Downing Dr.

Galt, CA 95632

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PS Form 3800, August 2006

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