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8 STATE OF CALIFORNIA
9 AGRICULTURAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD
10 SALINAS REGIONAL OFFICE
11

12 In the Matter of:
13 CINAGRO FARMS, INC.,
14 Respondent,
15 And
16 MARISOL JIMENEZ,
17 Charging Party.

CASE NO. 2017-CE-008-SAL
RESPONDENT'S SUPPLEMENTAL BRIEF
IN RESPONSE TO THE ALRB'S ORDER
RE: MISCLASSIFICATION OF
EMPLOYEES
[Administrative Order No. 2022-01]

18 **I. Preliminary Statement**

19 Respondent, Cinagro Farms, Inc., respectfully files its Supplemental Brief in Response
20 to the ALRB's Order RE: Misclassification of Employees dated March 28, 2022. [Copy
21 attached]
22

23 The Agricultural Labor Relations Board ("ALRB" or "Board") issued Administrative
24 Order No. 2022-01, on March 28, 2022. The Order invites Briefs from Parties and interested
25 amici to consider whether the misclassification of agricultural employees, as independent
26 contractors, constitutes an unfair labor practice in violation of Section 1153, subdivision (a) of
27 the ALRA. The Order also seeks the scope of the remedies available to the Board in cases of
28

1 such a misclassification.

2 Respondent, Cinagro Farms, Inc., contends that an employer's stand-alone statement of
3 misclassification does not violate the ALRA for the following reasons: (1) it was not an issue
4 that was litigated in the underlying ULP hearing (Cinagro Farms, Inc., Case No. 2017-CE-008-
5 SAL); (2) such a misclassification statement does not violate the ALRA because in cases where
6 employees of a farm labor contractor are hired, they are deemed to be the statutory employees of
7 the grower who hires them; (3) misclassification of employees as "independent contractors" is
8 not, in fact, coercive and does not chill employee rights under the ALRA, as it does not prevent
9 employees from engaging in Section 1152 activities; (4) an employer's statement of
10 misclassification constitutes a statement of **legal opinion** protected under Section 1155 of the
11 ALRA; and (5) finding such a violation improperly shifts the burden of proof in unfair labor
12 practice cases under Section 1160.2 of the Act. [*Velox Express, Inc.* (2019) 368 NLRB No. 61]
13
14

15 First of all, the subject employees were all alleged to be "agricultural employees" in the
16 General Counsel's Complaint. [General Counsel's Complaint, Section 8]. Secondly, Respondent
17 admitted that they were "agricultural employees" in its Answer. [Respondent's Answer, Section
18 1] Third, both the General Counsel and Respondent stipulated that the workers were "agricultural
19 employees" in the Parties' Stipulations of Fact not in Dispute, Section 13. Therefore, at no time
20 was the legal status of the subject employees in issue as "independent contractors. Indeed, the
21 General Counsel's Complaint at Section 17 states: "Cinagro did not tell the discriminatees that
22 they would be classified as independent contractors." Nor was there any worker testimony to the
23 effect that they were informed they were "independent contractors". Therefore, there was no
24 statement by the employer, communicated to the workers, concerning any alleged
25 misclassification of these agricultural employees as "independent contractors". The foregoing
26 facts, standing alone, make the ALRB's request for supplemental briefing moot, as there was no
27
28

1 coercive statement directed at the employees.

2 Nevertheless, the ALRB is engaged in a furtive effort to demonstrate that an employer's
3 stand-alone statement misclassifying workers as "independent contractors" may constitute a
4 violation of the Section 1153(a) of the ALRA by seeking to reject the Trump Administration's
5 NLRB decision in *Velox Express, inc.* (2019) 368 NLRB No. 61 as applicable NLRA precedent.¹
6

7 The ALRB purports to extend its protective jurisdiction to farmworkers by arguing that
8 misclassification of employees as "independent contractors" is a serious violation of California
9 law and "presents important issues under the Act." [ALRB Order at p. 2] Without defining what
10 those important issues are under the ALRA, the ALRB goes on to request the following issues
11 be briefed:

- 12 1. Is the ALRB bound by Section 1148 to follow National Labor Relations
13 Board decision *Velox Express, Inc.* (2019) 368 NLRB No. 61?
- 14 2. If the ALRB is not bound to follow *Velox Express*, should the Board a rule
15 finding an agricultural employer's misclassification of agricultural employees
16 as independent contractors constitutes a per se violation of Section 1153,
17 subdivision (a)?
- 18 3. If the Board finds an agricultural employer willfully misclassified agricultural
19 employees as independent contractors, what is the scope of the Board's
20 authority to assess civil penalties pursuant to labor [Section 226.8], if any?
21

22 As will be demonstrated hereafter, none of the foregoing issues have any application
23 under the Cinagro Farms case, as well as under the Agricultural Labor Relations Act. Therefore,
24 the Board should withdraw its **sua sponte** Administrative Order, as the agricultural workers of
25

26
27 ¹ The former NLRB General Counsel under the Biden Administration attempted to establish a general rule that such
28 statements violate Section 8(a)(1)[1153(a)] of the NLRA, but his position was overruled in *Velox*, supra. [See, NLRB
Advice Memo dated December 18, 2015 in Pacific Transportation, Inc. Case No. 21-CA-150875 (Region 21-Los
Angeles) at pages 8-12]

1 Cinagro were, as a matter of law, treated as statutory employees of Cinagro who directly retained
2 their services. [Section 1140.4(c)] These employees were never informed that the company
3 considered them as “independent contractors.” [General Counsel’s Complaint, Section 17]

4 **II. Factual Record in the Underlying Cinagro Farms, Inc. Case**

5 In Cinagro Farms, Inc., Chief Administrative Law Judge, Mark R. Soble, issued a
6 decision² finding that six agricultural employees of the employer, Cinagro Farms, Inc., had been
7 terminated from their employment for engaging in protected concerted activity. [IHED: at p. 64]
8 One of the grounds asserted as alleged protected concerted activities involved employee
9 complaints that their payroll checks were not accompanied by a wage statement showing tax
10 deductions. [IHED: p. 18-19]

11
12 At the outset of the hearing, parties agreed to the following procedural and substantive
13 facts:

- 14
- 15 1. General Counsel’s Complaint at Section 8, alleged that all six workers were
16 “statutory agricultural employees under the ALRA.”
 - 17 2. The employer’s Answer to the Complaint admitted that all six of the agricultural
18 employees were statutory agricultural employees under the ALRA. [Section
19 1.]
 - 20 3. Joint Parties’ Stipulation of Facts not in Dispute, at Section 13, stipulate that:
21 “At all material times, Cinagro employed Ms. Jimenez, Hector Vasquez, Maria
22 Duarte, Maria Santiago, Yolanda Antonio and Rigoberto Perez for agricultural
23 workers as defined in Section 1140.4(b) of the Act.” [Emphasis added]

24
25 Therefore, there is no dispute that the subject employees were not “independent
26 contractors.” At all times material in the proceeding, all six workers of the company were

27
28 ² The ALJ’s decision is currently before the ALRB on Exceptions. [8 CCR § 20282]

1 considered “agricultural employees.” There was no worker testimony that disputed their
2 employment status.

3 The employer’s accountant testified that she informed the owner that the failure to deduct
4 withholding taxes would mean that the employee’s were **treated** as if they were “vendors” or
5 “independent contractors”. The meaning of this was not communicated to the workers. [Hearing
6 Transcript, Volume 5, pages 127-129]
7

8 Nevertheless, the Board’s Order states: “The lack of deductions and information
9 accompanying the employees’ paychecks derives from Cinagro’s classification of the crew as
10 independent contractors, rather than employees. [Board’s Order at p. 2] The above conclusion
11 was derived from the testimony of the company’s accountant, Barbara Ito, in response to why
12 payroll taxes not deducted for these workers. The accountant considered them to be vendors or
13 independent contractors, rather than employees, only because the employer did not want them to
14 have tax deductions from their employee paychecks. [Id.] She did not explain to the owner what
15 the employees would need to do at the end of the year. Thus, they had no knowledge of their tax
16 status. [Id.] While this practice was troubling from a State and Federal taxation standpoint, it
17 should not be construed to mean that Cinagro considered them to be **bona fide** “independent
18 contractors.” Nor was this ever conveyed to the workers. Yet, the ALRB has precipitously taken
19 an erroneous leap to conclude that Cinagro might consider these workers as independent
20 contractors, thereby prompting its Administration Order No. 2022-01!
21

22 The significance of whether these six agricultural employees might considered as
23 independent contractors was never litigated in the proceeding nor was it likely to have been done
24 in light of the fact that all six employees were considered as bona fide agricultural workers of
25 Cinagro, not independent contractors. These employees were provided tools and equipment by
26 the employer; field sanitation units and water were provided by the employer; weekly paychecks
27

1 were provided in accordance with Labor Code Section 205; rest and meal periods were taken in
2 accordance with IWC Wage Order 14-2000; and supervision was provided by the employer.
3 None of these workers were provided with Forms 1099 which is an indicia of an independent
4 contractor relationship. Thus, Cinagro had complete control over the working conditions of these
5 workers, unlike in a usual independent contractor relationship.
6

7 It has long been established in **ARLB** precedent that issues not raised or litigated during
8 the underlying unfair labor practice proceeding cannot be relitigated later before the ALRB.
9 [F&P Growers Association (1984) 10 ALRB NO. 28 (Slip Opinion at p. 2, fn. 2); C. Mondavi &
10 Sons dba Charles Krug Wine (1977) 5 ALRB No. 53 (Slip Opinion at pp. 2-3)]

11 Nevertheless, in a good faith attempt to address the Board's misplaced concerns on the
12 issue of whether an employer's stand-alone misclassification of statutory employees as
13 "independent contractors" would rise to the level of a Labor Code Section 1153(a) violation,
14 Cinagro submits the following legal arguments.
15

16 **III. Legal Analysis**

17 **A. Is the ALRB bound by Section 1148 to follow the National Labor Relations** 18 **Board decision, *Velox Express, Inc.* (2019) 368 NLRB No. 61?**

19 Labor Code Section 1148 of the ALRA requires the Board to follow applicable NLRA
20 precedents. [See, e.g., *ALRB v. Superior Court (Pandol Bros.)* (1976) 36 Cal. 3d 392, 413]]
21 With respect to the matter of *Velox Express, Inc.*, the NLRB held that an employer's stand-alone
22 misclassification of statutory employees as "independent contractors", does not rise to the level
23 of a Section 8(a)(1) [Section 1153(a)] violation.
24

25 Prior to reaching its decision in *Velox, supra*, the NLRB sent out an invitation to all NLRB
26 practitioners, amici, and members of the public on February 15, 2018, requesting amicus briefs
27 on the issue of whether misclassification of an employee under the NLRA constitutes a violation
28

1 of Section 8(a)(1) of the NLRA. Like the ALRB Order, the NLRB asked the following question:
2 “Under what circumstances, if any, should the Board deem an employer’s act of misclassifying
3 statutory employees as independent contractors as a violation of Section 8(a)(1) of the Act.” The
4 NLRB received an over-whelming number of amicus briefs on this issue. [Velox, supra, at 368
5 NLRB No. 61, at fn.2] Thereafter, after an exhaustive legal analysis of the legal briefs of all the
6 amici, the NLRB issued its landmark opinion “...declining to hold that an employer’s
7 misclassification of its employees as independent contractors, standing alone, violates the Act...”
8 [referring to Section 8 (a)(1)]

9
10 The question before the ALRB, however, is whether *Velox* is “applicable” NLRA
11 precedent to be applied by the ALRB. In order to resolve this issue, it should be noted that unlike
12 the Agricultural Labor Relations Act, independent labor contractors under the National Labor
13 Relations Act are specifically excluded entirely as employees under the Act. [See, e.g., Section
14 2(3) of the NLRA]

15
16 On the other hand, under the ALRA, farm labor contractors, who are also independent
17 contractors in their own right, lose that independent classification when they are employed
18 directly by an agricultural employer. In such instances, the employees of the farm labor
19 contractors are deemed the employees of the agricultural employer who employs them for all
20 purposes under the Act. [See, e.g., Labor Code Section 1140.4(c); *Tenneco West, Inc.*)1977) 3
21 ALRB No. 92 (Slip Opinion, p. 5 and fn. 2)]

22
23 As the *Velox* decision indicates, Section 2(3) of the NLRA excludes independent
24 contractors from the definition of “employee” and thus from the Act’s coverage. [*Velox* at p. 9]
25 Moreover, the party asserting independent-contractor status has the burden of proving such
26 status. [See, e.g., *BKN, Inc.* 333 NLRB 143, 144 (2001)] Applying the common law agency test
27 found in *NLRB v. United Insurance Company of America*, 390 US 254, 256 (1968), the *Velox*
28

1 Board held that the drivers were employees under the Act, but there was no violation of Section
2 8(a)(1) of the Act for the employer's stand-alone misclassification of his statutory employees as
3 independent contractors. [Velox, supra, at 4, 11]

4 On the other hand, in Cinagro, the owner never asserted publicly that the six agricultural
5 harvest employees were independent contractors. Indeed, the entire evidentiary record proves
6 that they were, indeed, statutory **agricultural employees** under the Act. The Board in *Velox*
7 *Express, Inc.*, reached the correct conclusion on the status of the workers as statutory employees,
8 but the significant ruling in *Velox* was its determination that an employer's stand-alone statement
9 misclassifying statutory employees as independent contractors is not a violation of Section
10 8(a)(1) of the Act. As noted above, the only reason why the term "independent contractor" was
11 raised in the ALRB's Order is due to the assertion that the six agricultural workers were
12 considered as "vendors" or "independent contractors" by the employer's outside accountant in
13 her testimony. However, her opinion was never communicated to these workers! Nor did the
14 owner make such an assertion to the workers. [Transcript No. 5, at p. 127:15-21]

17 (i) **Velox is applicable legal precedent under Section 1148**

18 In *Velox*, the NLRB recognized three distinct arguments in support of its holding that an
19 employer's, stand-alone, misclassification of statutory employees as independent contractors
20 does not constitute a violation of the NLRA, and by extension the ALRA.

21 First, the NLRB ruled that the misclassification of employees as independent contractors
22 is not, in fact, coercive and does not chill employee right under the NLRA, as it does not prevent
23 employees from engaging in Section 7 (Section 1152) activities.

24 "It does not threaten with adverse consequences for [engaging in protected
25 activity] or promise them benefits if they refrain from doing so. Employees may well disagree
26 with their employer, take the position that they are employees and engage in union or other
27

1 protected activities. If the employer responds with threats, promises, interrogations, and so forth,
2 then it will have violated Section 8(a)(1), but not before.”

3 Secondly, the NLRB found that important policy concerns weigh against finding a stand-
4 alone misclassification violation. First, to form a legal opinion as to its workers’ status under the
5 Act, the employer is charged with the task of applying a complex common law agency test.
6 Reasonable minds can, and do, disagree about independent contractor status when presented with
7 the same factual circumstances. Also, once a classification decision is made by the employer it
8 **must** be communicated to its workers. An employer must communicate its belief that its workers
9 are independent contractors to satisfy this factor. Otherwise, if the Board were to establish a
10 stand-alone misclassification violation, it would penalize employers for taking this step whenever
11 the employer’s belief turns out to be mistaken.
12

13 Lastly, the Board agreed with the amici that a stand-alone statement of misclassification
14 would improperly shift the burden of proof in unfair labor practice cases. By way of example, a
15 General Counsel could simply **allege** employee status, and the employer would have the burden
16 of proving that the workers were independent contractors, which would effectively place on the
17 employer the burden of proof that it did not violate the Act. This would be contrary to Section
18 10(b) [Section 1160.2] of the Act. Each of the foregoing explanations of the *Velox* Board apply
19 equally under the ALRA.
20

21 All of the above explanations in *Velox* apply equally to the ARLA. Thus, having
22 demonstrated that *Velox* is, indeed, applicable legal precedent under Labor Code Section 1148,
23 Cinagro, contends that there is no need to further analyze the Board’s remaining questions.
24 Nevertheless, Cinagro will engage in this intellectual invitation.
25

26 **B. If the ALRB is not bound to follow *Velox Express*, should the Board adopt a**
27 **ruling finding an agricultural employer’s misclassification of agricultural employees as**
28

1 **independent contractors constitutes a per se violation of Section 1153(a)?**

2 Assuming, solely arguendo, that *Velox* may not be applicable precedent under Section
3 1148 of the Act, the express statutory language of the ALRA actually *prevents* an agricultural
4 employer from classifying workers as independent contractors, especially in the case of a farm
5 labor contractor’s employees.

6 Labor Code Section 1140.4(a), states in pertinent part: “(c) The term “agricultural
7 employer” ... shall exclude any person supplying agricultural workers to an employer, any farm
8 labor contractor as defined in Section 1682 and any person functioning in the capacity of a labor
9 contractor. The employer engaging such labor contractor or person shall be deemed the employer
10 for all purposes under this part. [Emphasis added]

11
12 Clearly, in drafting of the definition of the term “agricultural employer”, it was the intent
13 of the Legislature to require that agricultural employees of an independent farm labor contractor
14 are considered to be the agricultural workers of the employer hiring their services, in all respects,
15 under the Act. [Id.]

16
17 Therefore, because of this unique language in the ALRA, a farm labor contractor’s
18 employees cannot be considered to be “independent contractors” because, as a matter of law,
19 they are deemed to be the agricultural employees of the employer who hires their services even
20 if the employer intentionally attempts to misclassify them. Such a willful misclassification would
21 have no legal effect, as explained in *Velox, supra*, as it is not coercive, nor does it chill employee
22 rights under Section 1152 of the ALRA.

23
24 Here, Cinagro Farms, did not attempt to classify its six harvest employees as independent
25 contractors. Having stipulated with the General Counsel and agreed that they were agricultural
26 employees, there were no reason under which Cinagro Farms could have designated them to be
27 “independent contractors”. Rather, the company merely failed to take required withholding taxes

1 from its employees' paychecks. This action did not convert these agricultural workers into
2 "independent contractors", nor was there any public statement to that effect by the employer.

3
4 Once again, there are no conceivable circumstances under which an agricultural employer
5 who hires a farm labor contractor could conclude or misclassify these statutory agricultural
6 workers as "independent contractors".

7 In the case of direct-hire employees who perform agricultural functions as defined in
8 Section 1140.4(a); IWC Wage Order 14-2001, Section 2, as statutory "agricultural employees",
9 their status as an employee is generally undisputed. It is difficult to envision what limited
10 circumstances could arise that would force an agricultural employer to misclassify field
11 employees as "independent contractors" unless the employees presented themselves to the
12 employer as independent contractors. [See, e.g., S.G. Borello & Sons, Inc. v. Department of
13 Industrial Relations 48 Cal. 3rd 361 (1989); see also, Milky Way Dairy (2003) 29 ALRB No. 4
14 (applying S.G. Borello to determine whether secondary agricultural employees were independent
15 contractors or employees.)]

16 In light of the substantial control over wages and working conditions exhibited by
17 Cinagro in the present case, and most importantly the stipulation of the parties and acceptance of
18 the subject workers as "agricultural employees"³ and the failure of the General Counsel to litigate
19 the issue by merely amending the Complaint, the classification status of the subject workers
20 cannot not be misconstrued. Thus, a misclassification statement, standing alone, on their status
21 as independent contractors could not be coercive and chill the exercise of their rights under
22 Section 1152 of the ALRA.

23
24 **C. If the Board finds an agricultural employer willfully misclassified**
25 **agricultural employees as independent contractors, what is the scope of the Board's**
26 **authority to assess civil penalties pursuant to Section 226.8 if any.**

27
28 ³ See facts at page 2, lines 15-27 and page 3, line 1.

1 The answer to the above question quite simply is that there are no civil penalties provided
2 under the Agricultural Labor Relations Act for such violations. The ALRB lacks subject matter
3 jurisdiction to award civil penalties for violations of the Act. Labor Code Section 226.8 referred
4 to in the Board's Order arises under the jurisdiction of the Division of Labor Standards
5 Enforcement (Labor Commissioner and the Labor Workforce Development Agency). These
6 agencies are Legislatively mandated to deal with violations of the California Labor Code. Private
7 civil actions can also be processed under the California Labor Code and the Private Attorney
8 General Act of 2004 to obtain wage penalties for agricultural workers and statutory attorney's
9 fees. [See, Labor Code Sections 2699.3; Section 218.5]

11 The only alternative, if any, to obtain civil penalties for misclassification of employees
12 would be for the General Counsel's office to refer agricultural workers who have experienced
13 such violations of the Labor Code to the DLSE or LWDA, after their discovery during the
14 ALRBS's investigation of an unfair labor practice charge. Those administrative agencies have
15 subject matter jurisdiction to deal with such remedies, as do the California courts!

17 In the present case, the employees' complaints about the employer's failure to make
18 statutory tax withholding deductions from each of the six employees' weekly paychecks
19 constituted protected concerted activities under the Act. Thus, an employer's retaliation or
20 discrimination based upon employees' engaging in such protected activity can only be remedied
21 under the ALRA in terms of a "cease and desist order", or a reinstatement and backpay order, if
22 employees are terminated from their employment. Otherwise, the ALRB is without subject
23 matter jurisdiction to address the imposition of civil penalties. Clearly, the ALRB is precluded
24 from imposing "punitive" remedies, such as civil penalties, under the ALRA. [See, e.g., Virginia
25 Electric & Power Co. v. ALRB (1943) 319 U.S. 533, 540 (a Board's order is invalid when it is
26 shown to be a "patent attempt to achieve ends other than those which can fairly be said to
27

1 effectuate the policies of the Act.”)]

2 Moreover, the ALRB lacks the authority to award compensatory damages to the affected
3 employees. [See, e.g., UFW v. ALRB (1995) 41 Cal. App. 4th 303, citing to Peralta Community
4 College Dist. v. FEHA (1990) 52 Cal. 3d. 40, 51]

5 As an ancillary issue, it should be noted that the failure to take statutory payroll
6 deductions in February of 2017 up until the employees’ loss of employment on March 3, 2017,
7 is beyond the statute of limitations for the DLSE or the LWDA to consider. [See, California
8 Civil Code of Procedure, Section 338(a) (an action upon the liability created by statute other than
9 a penalty or a forfeiture is three years).] Therefore, no remedy at law currently exists with regard
10 to the issues raised in the Board’s Question No. 3 above for the employees in the Cinagro
11 litigation before the Board.
12

13 **IV. Conclusion**

14 For all the foregoing reasons, Cinagro Farms, respectfully submits that Board is without
15 jurisdiction to take any action under Questions No. 1, 2 and 3 above.
16

17 DATED: May 26, 2022

18 Respectfully submitted,

19 BY: 

20 Robert P. Roy
21 Michael P. Roy
22 Attorneys for Respondent
23 Cinagro Farms, Inc.
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25
26
27
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STATE OF CALIFORNIA

AGRICULTURAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD

CINAGRO FARMS, INC.,)	Case No. 2017-CE-008-SAL
)	
Respondent,)	ORDER REQUESTING
)	SUPPLEMENTAL BRIEFING
and)	RE: MISCLASSIFICATION OF
)	EMPLOYEES
MARISOL JIMENEZ,)	
)	
Charging Party.)	Administrative Order No. 2022-01
)	
)	(March 28, 2022)
)	

ORDER

The Agricultural Labor Relations Board (ALRB or Board) has decided to invite briefs from the parties and interested amici to consider whether the misclassification of agricultural employees as independent contractors constitutes an unfair labor practice in violation of section 1153, subdivision (a) of the Agricultural Labor Relations Act (ALRA or Act) and the scope of the remedies available to the Board in cases of misclassification.¹

This case is before the Board on exceptions filed by both the General Counsel and respondent Cinagro Farms, Inc. (Cinagro) to the decision and recommended order issued by Chief Administrative Law Judge Mark R. Soble (ALJ). Insofar as is relevant here, the ALJ concluded Cinagro violated section 1153, subdivision (a) by terminating a

¹ The Act is codified at Labor Code section 1140 et seq. Subsequent statutory citations are to the Labor Code unless otherwise indicated.

crew of workers for engaging in concerted activity protected under the Act. Specifically, the employees complained to Cinagro about their paychecks not including proper paystubs after Cinagro directly hired the employees. The employees' paychecks lacked various statutorily required information and deductions, such as taxes and social security. (See § 226.) The lack of deductions and information accompanying the employees' paychecks derives from Cinagro's classification of the crew as independent contractors rather than employees. Indeed, the record evidences a practice by Cinagro of misclassifying agricultural employees as independent contractors from at least the time of the underlying events at issue in this case, beginning in 2016, to the time of the hearing before the ALJ in February 2021.

Misclassification of employees as independent contractors is a serious violation of California law and presents important issues under our Act. Accordingly, the parties and any interested amici are invited to file briefs addressing the following questions:

- (1) Is the ALRB bound by section 1148 to follow the National Labor Relations Board decision, *Velox Express, Inc.* (2019) 368 NLRB No. 61?
- (2) If the ALRB is not bound to follow *Velox Express*, should the Board adopt a rule finding an agricultural employer's misclassification of agricultural employees as independent contractors constitutes a per se violation of section 1153, subdivision (a)?
- (3) If the Board finds an agricultural employer willfully misclassified agricultural employees as independent contractors, what is the scope of the Board's authority to assess civil penalties pursuant to section 226.8, if any?

The parties and any interested amici shall file briefs not exceeding 20 pages in length on or before May 27, 2022. The parties (but not amici) may file responsive briefs not exceeding 30 pages in length no later than June 13, 2022. No other briefs will be

accepted. Motions for extensions of time will not be granted absent extraordinary circumstances. All briefs shall be filed with the Board electronically pursuant to Board regulation 20169 (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 8, § 20169). The parties and amici are reminded to serve all case participants. The Board will make available on its website information regarding this case and a list of case participants.

DATED: March 28, 2022

Victoria Hassid, Chair

Isadore Hall, III, Member

Barry D. Broad, Member

Ralph Lightstone, Member

Cinthia N. Flores, Member

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA
AGRICULTURAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD**

PROOF OF SERVICE
(Code Civ. Proc., §§ 1013a, 1013b, 2015.5.)

Case Name: CINAGRO FARMS, INC., and,
MARISOL JIMENEZ.

Case No.: Case No. 2017-CE-008-SAL

I am a citizen of the United States and am employed in the County of Sacramento. I am over the age of 18 years and not a party to the within entitled action. My business address is 1325 J Street, Suite 1900-B, Sacramento, California 95814.

On March 28, 2022, I served the within **ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 2022-01** on the parties in the above-entitled action as follows:

- **By Email** to the parties pursuant to Board regulation 20169 (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 8, §20169) from my business email address lori.miller@alrb.ca.gov:

Robert P. Roy Rob-VCAA@PacBell.net

General Counsel

Michael P. Roy Mike-VCAA@PacBell.net

Ventura County Agricultural Association

916 West Ventura Boulevard

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Gabriela Correa

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ALRB Oxnard Sub-Regional Office

1901 N. Rice Avenue, Suite 300

Oxnard, CA 93030-7912

- **By Certified Mail** by placing a true copy thereof enclosed in a sealed envelope with postage thereon fully prepaid, with return receipt requested, in the United States mail at Sacramento, California, addressed as follows:

Marisol Jimenez

508 North Hill Street, #10

Oxnard, CA 93033

Certified Mail No.: 7021 0950 0001 2191 1627

Executed on March 28, 2022, at Sacramento, California. I certify under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Lori A. Miller
Lori A. Miller
Legal Secretary

1 **PROOF OF SERVICE**

2 I, Aggie Salanoa, declare as follows:

3 I am a citizen of the United States, employed in the County of Ventura, State of
4 California. I am over the age of 18 years and not a party to the within action; my business address
is: 916 W. Ventura Blvd., Camarillo, CA 93010.

5 On May 26, 2022, I served the attached:

6 **RESPONDENT'S SUPPLEMENTAL BRIEF IN RESPONSE TO THE ALRB'S ORDER**
7 **RE: MISCLASSIFICATION OF EMPLOYEES**
8 **[Administrative Order No. 2022-01]**
[Case No. 2017-CE-008-SAL]

9 **By Electronic File:** The above referenced documents were "e-filed" today to the following
10 parties at the listed e-file address; and

11 **By Certified Mail:** The above-referenced documents were mailed to the specified parties in said
12 action, by placing a true copy thereof enclosed in a sealed envelope with postage thereon fully
prepaid, in the United States mail at Camarillo, California; and

13 **By Electronic Mail:** The above-referenced documents were e-mailed, as noted, to the following
14 parties at the listed e-mail addresses.

15 **DISTRIBUTION LIST**

16 Santiago Avila-Gomez Executive Secretary Agricultural Labor Relations Board 1325 J Street, Suite 1900 Sacramento, CA 95814 E-File: Efile@alrb.ca.gov	17 Julia Montgomery, General Counsel Agricultural Labor Relations Board 1325 J Street, Suite 1900A Sacramento, CA 95814 E-Mail: julia.montgomery@alrb.ca.gov
18 Mark R. Soble Administrative Law Judge Agricultural Labor Relations Board 1325 J Street, Suite 1900 Sacramento, CA 95814 E-Mail: mark.soble@alrb.ca.gov	19 Tony Dighera Cinagro Farms, Inc. 1547 Riverside Avenue Fillmore, CA 93015 E-Mail: tdighera@yahoo.com
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I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on May 27, 2022, at Camarillo, California.



Aggie Salanoa