

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: October 29, 2026

Fernandez Brothers, Inc. Pays \$25,045.00 to a Strawberry Harvester Denied Rehire and \$2,500 in Civil Penalties to Settle Complaint

Contact: Jessica Arciniega, Regional Director (831) 241-8493
Jessica.arciniega@alrb.ca.gov

SALINAS, Calif. – The California Agricultural Labor Relations Board (ALRB) today announced the resolution of a complaint against Fernandez Brothers, Inc., a strawberry grower located in Salinas, California. Fernandez Brothers, Inc. will pay \$25,045.00 to a strawberry harvester and \$2,500.00 in civil penalties to resolve a complaint alleging that the grower refused to rehire the worker in retaliation for concerns he raised on behalf of himself and his co-workers about being required to pick in strawberry furrows already harvested. The worker claimed that this caused him and his co-workers to earn less money as they were paid a piece rate for each completed box.

The ALRB filed a complaint against Fernandez Brothers, Inc. after its investigation found that the company violated the Agricultural Labor Relations Act (ALRA). In its settlement agreement with the ALRB, Fernandez Brothers, Inc. agreed to compensate the worker for \$25,045.00 in lost wages and payment in lieu of reinstatement and \$2,500 in civil penalties to the ALRB. The Company also agreed to respect the right of farmworkers to join together and speak up to seek improvements to working conditions without retaliation. ALRB agents will go to Fernandez Brothers, Inc.'s worksites to read a Notice to agricultural workers about their rights under the ALRA. This Notice will be posted at the ranches for 60 days and mailed to former employees.

The ALRB enforces the ALRA, which states that “it is the policy of the State of California to encourage and protect the right of agricultural employees to full freedom of association, self-organization, and designation of representatives of their own choosing, to negotiate the terms and conditions of their employment, and to be free from the interference, restraint, or coercion of employers of labor, or their agents, in the designation of such representatives of in self-organization or in other concerted activities for the purpose of collective bargaining or other mutual aid or protection.”

The ALRB is headquartered in Sacramento and maintains field offices in Salinas, Santa Maria, Santa Rosa, Oxnard, Visalia, and Indio. Those wishing to access ALRB services may call any ALRB office including the Salinas Office at (831) 769-8031, or a statewide toll-free phone number, (800) 449-3699. More information is available at www.alrb.ca.gov.