

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, WAGE AND HOUR DIVISION
AND
THE ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

This Agreement is made and entered into by and between The United States Department of Labor's Wage and Hour Division (hereinafter referred to as "WHD" or "Department") and the Office of the Attorney General of the State of California (hereinafter referred to as "CAAG"), together collectively referred to as "the agencies" or "the parties."

With the specific and mutual goals of sharing resources and enhancing enforcement and sharing information consistent with applicable law, the parties agree to enter into this partnership.

THEREFORE, IT IS MUTUALLY AGREED THAT:

Purpose

The parties recognize the value of establishing a collaborative relationship to promote compliance with laws of common concern to the state of California. The parties are forming this partnership to more effectively and efficiently communicate and cooperate on areas of common interest including sharing training materials, conducting joint investigations and sharing information as appropriate.

Agency Responsibilities

WHD is responsible for administering and enforcing a wide range of labor laws, including the Fair Labor Standards Act, the Family and Medical Leave Act, the Migrant and Seasonal Agricultural Worker Protection Act, worker protections provided in several temporary visa programs, and the prevailing wage requirements of the Davis-Bacon and Related Acts and the Service Contract Act. Nothing in this agreement limits the WHD's enforcement of these and other statutes.

As California's chief law enforcement officer, the CAAG serves as the guardian of the legal rights of the citizen of California. Among other duties, the CAAG investigates violations of state labor, tax, and workers' compensation laws, and brings civil and criminal prosecutions against employers who have violated these laws.

Contacts

- The parties will designate a contact person responsible for coordinating the partnership activities. The parties will notify each other in the event of the separation or long-term absence of their contact persons.

- The parties will designate a representative to meet annually to review areas of mutual concern and the terms and conditions of the partnership.

Enforcement

Where appropriate and to the extent allowable under law,

- The parties may conduct joint investigations periodically in the State of California, if opportunity provides.
- The parties may coordinate their respective enforcement activities and assist each other with enforcement.
- The parties may make referrals of potential violations of each other's statutes.

Effect of Agreement

- This agreement does not authorize the expenditure or reimbursement of any funds. Nothing in this agreement obligates the parties to expend appropriations or enter into any contract or other obligation.
- By entering into this agreement, the parties do not imply an endorsement or promotion by either party of the policies, programs, or services of the other.
- Nothing in this agreement is intended to diminish or otherwise affect the authority of either party to implement its respective statutory functions.
- This agreement contains all the terms and conditions agreed upon by the parties. No other understandings, oral or otherwise, regarding the subject matter of this agreement shall be deemed to exist or be binding upon the parties. This agreement is not intended to confer any right upon any private person or other third party.
- Nothing in this agreement will be interpreted as limiting, superseding, or otherwise affecting the parties' normal operations. This agreement also does not limit or restrict the parties from participating in similar activities or arrangement with other entities.
- This agreement will be executed in full compliance with the Privacy Act of 1974, and any other applicable federal and state laws including the California Public Records Act (Cal. Gov. Code § 6250, et seq.).

Exchange of Information

It is the policy of WHD to cooperate with other government agencies to the fullest extent possible under the law, subject to the general limitation that any such cooperation must be consistent with the WHD's own statutory obligations and enforcement efforts. It is WHD's view that an exchange of information in cases in which both entities are proceeding on basically the same matter is to our mutual benefit. There is a need for WHD to provide information to other law enforcement bodies without making a public disclosure or waiving the privilege of otherwise protected material.

- Exchange of such information pursuant to this agreement is not a public disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. 552 or the California Public Records Act, Cal. Gov. Code §6250, et seq..
- Confidential information means information that may be exempt from disclosure to the public or other unauthorized persons under state and federal statutes. Confidential information may include: the identities of persons who have given information to the parties in confidence or under circumstances in which confidentiality can be implied; any employee statements in WHD's enforcement files that were obtained under these conditions; internal opinions and recommendations of federal or state personnel, including (but not limited to) investigators and supervisors; information or records covered by the attorney-client privilege and the attorney work-product privilege; personal information protected by any relevant law or regulation; individually identifiable health information; and confidential business information and trade secrets.
- When confidential information is exchanged it shall be used and accessed only for the limited purposes of carrying out activities pursuant to this agreement as described herein. The information shall not be duplicated or re-disclosed without the written authority of the party providing the information (hereinafter the "donor agency"), or a court order, or as required by law, including the Public Records Act.
- In the event that there is a public proceeding, such as a trial, in which confidential information may be used or testimony of WHD's employees sought, the WHD requires that CAAG notify WHD.
- Should either party receive a request or subpoena that would, fairly construed, seek production of privileged information that it received pursuant to this Agreement, the party receiving such a request or subpoena shall take reasonable measures consistent with applicable law, including but not limited to asserting the common interest privilege, to preclude or restrict the production of such information for ten (10) business days, and shall promptly notify the donor agency that such a request or subpoena has been received, so that the donor agency may file any appropriate objections or motions, or take any other appropriate steps, to preclude or condition the production of such information.
- Neither party shall have authority to waive any applicable privilege or doctrine on behalf of the other party, nor shall any waiver of an applicable privilege or doctrine by the conduct of one party be construed to apply to the other party.
- For information security purposes, information (including paper-based documents and electronic information such as emails and CDs) exchanged pursuant to this Agreement remains the responsibility of the donor agency while in transit. The parties agree to establish a communication protocol for notifying each party's designated contact person when information is sent to or received from that party, including information on the form of the transfer and the media type and quantity (when appropriate). A party expecting to receive information will notify the donor agency if the information is not received as of the next business date following the agreed upon delivery date.
- For information security purposes, after a party receives information from the donor agency, the donor agency retains no responsibility for any security incidents, inadvertent disclosure, or the physical and information technology safeguards in place for protecting that information by the party that received it.

- However, in the event that the party receiving the information experiences a security incident or disaster that results in the suspected or confirmed inadvertent disclosure of the data exchanged pursuant to this Agreement, the party experiencing the incident or disaster will send formal written notification to the donor agency's designated contact person within 3 days after detection of the incident or disaster. The written notification will describe the security incident or disaster in detail including what data exchanged pursuant to this Agreement may have been inadvertently disclosed.
- At the conclusion of an investigation and prosecution by either party, the receiving party will return or destroy any and all confidential information to the donor agency, except as required by law, including the Records Retention Act.

Subject to the foregoing constraints:

- The parties agree to exchange information on laws and regulations of common concern to the agencies, to the extent practicable.
- The parties may establish a methodology for exchanging investigative leads, complaints, and referrals of possible violations, to the extent allowable by law and policy.
- The parties may exchange information (statistical data) on the incidence of violations in specific industries and geographic areas, if possible.

Resolution of Disagreements

- Disputes arising under this Agreement will be resolved informally by discussions between Agency Points of Contact, or other officials designated by each party.

Period of Agreement

- This agreement becomes effective upon the signing of both parties, and will expire 3 years from the effective date. This agreement may be modified in writing by mutual consent of both parties. The agreement may be cancelled by either party by giving thirty (30) days advance written notice prior to the date of cancellation. Renewal of the agreement may be accomplished by written agreement of the parties.

This agreement is effective as of the 21 day of July, 2015.

United States Department of Labor
Department of Resources
Wage and Hour Division

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