

## NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF WAKE BEFORE THE COMMISSIONER OF INSURANCE

IN THE MATTER OF THE LICENSURE OF PACIFIC SECURED EQUITIES, INC. NPN: 1622836 VOLUNTARY SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

NOW COME, the PACIFIC SECURED EQUITIES, INC. (hereinafter "PACIFIC") and the Agent Services Division of the N.C. Department of Insurance (hereinafter "Agent Services Division"), and hereby voluntarily and knowingly enter into the following Voluntary Settlement Agreement (hereinafter "this Agreement").

WHEREAS, the Agent Services Division has the authority and responsibility for enforcement of the insurance laws of this State, and for regulating and licensing insurance agents and business entities that sell, solicit, or negotiate insurance contracts; and

WHEREAS, PACIFIC, domiciled in California, currently holds a non-resident Corporation (Business Entity) License with the Department; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina General Statute § 58-33-31(b)(2) requires business entities to designate a licensed producer (DRLP), who is a natural person, responsible for the business entity's compliance with the insurance laws and administrative rules of this State and orders of the Commissioner; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina General Statute § 58-33-32(k) requires producers to report to the Commissioner any administrative action taken against the producer in another state or by another government agency in this State, including enforcement actions taken against the producer by the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA), within 30 days after the final disposition of the matter; and

WHEREAS, the Texas Department of Insurance and PACIFIC entered into a Consent Order, effective February 7, 2025, wherein PACIFIC was fined in the amount of \$2,500.00 for its failure to timely file its annual third party administrator report for calendar year 2022, as required by Texas insurance law; and

WHEREAS, the Nevada Division of Insurance penalized PACIFIC, effective February 10, 2025, wherein PACIFIC was fined in the amount of \$2,000.00 for failing to timely renew its certificate of registration as an administrator to the Nevada Division of Insurance, as required by Nevada insurance law; and

WHEREAS, PACIFIC failed to report the State of Texas's Division of Insurance administrative action taken against its license within 30 days after the final disposition of those matters as required by North Carolina General Statute § 58-33-32(k), and therefore was in violation thereof; and

WHEREAS, PACIFIC failed to report the State of Nevada's Division of Insurance administrative action taken against its license within 30 days after the final disposition of those matters as required by North Carolina General Statute § 58-33-32(k), and therefore was in violation thereof; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina General Statute § 58-33-46(a)(2) provides that the Commissioner may place on probation, suspend, revoke, or refuse to issue or renew any license issued under Article 58 of the General Statutes of North Carolina for violating any insurance law of this or any other state, violating any administrative rule, subpoena, or order of the Commissioner or of another state's regulator; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina General Statute § 58-2-70 provides that whenever the Commissioner has reason to believe that any person has violated any law that would subject the license or certification of that person to suspension or revocation, the Commissioner is authorized, in lieu of a hearing, to negotiate a mutually acceptable agreement as to the status of the person's license or certificate or to any civil penalty or restitution; and

WHEREAS, PACIFIC has agreed to settle, compromise, and resolve the matters referenced in this Agreement on behalf of itself, and the Agent Services Division has agreed not to pursue additional penalties, sanctions, remedies, or restitution based on these matters against PACIFIC; and

**WHEREAS**, the parties to this Agreement mutually wish to resolve this matter by consent before the Agent Services Division initiates an administrative hearing and have reached a mutually agreeable resolution of this matter as set out in this Agreement.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, in exchange for the consideration and promises and agreements set out herein, PACIFIC and the Agent Services Division hereby agree to the following:

- 1. Immediately upon the signing of this Agreement, PACIFIC shall pay a civil penalty of \$500.00 to the Department. The form of payment shall be by certified check, cashier's check, or money order. The check or money order for the payment of this civil penalty shall be payable to the "North Carolina Department of Insurance." PACIFIC shall remit the civil penalty by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the Agent Services Division along with a copy of this signed Agreement. The civil penalty and the signed Agreement must be received by the Agent Services Division no later than <u>August 1, 2025</u>. The civil penalty shall be subject to disbursement in accordance with the provisions of Article IX, Section 7 of the North Carolina Constitution for the benefit of public schools.
- 2. This Agreement does not in any way affect the Agent Services Division's disciplinary power in any future examination of PACIFIC or in any other complaints involving PACIFIC.
- PACIFIC enters into this Agreement, on behalf of itself, freely and voluntarily and with the knowledge of its right to have an administrative hearing on this matter. PACIFIC understands it may consult with an attorney prior to entering into this Agreement.

- 4. The parties to this Agreement agree that this Agreement shall have the full force and effect of an Order of the Commissioner. PACIFIC understands that N.C.G.S. § 58-33-46(a)(2) provides that a producer's license or business entity's license may be revoked for violating an Order of the Commissioner.
- 5. This Agreement, when finalized, will be a public record and will <u>not</u> be held confidential by the Agent Services Division. Following the execution of this Agreement, all licenses issued by the Agent Services Division to PACIFIC shall reflect that Regulatory Action has been taken against it. The Agent Services Division is free to disclose the contents of this Agreement with third parties upon request or pursuant to any law or policy providing for such disclosure. The Agent Services Division, upon request, will provide a copy of a voluntary settlement agreement to any company that has appointed the licensee.
- The parties have read and understand this Agreement and agree to abide by the terms and conditions stated herein.
- 7. Be aware that if a state or federal regulator other than the Agent Services Division has issued an occupational or professional license to your business entity, that regulator may require you to report this administrative action to it. The Agent Services Division cannot give you legal advice as to the specific reporting requirements of other state or federal regulators.

PACIFIC SECURED EQUITIES, INC. NPN: 1622836

NC. Department of Insurance Agent Services Division

By: Jodi Ellington Chief Financial Officer	By: Joe Wall Deputy Commissioner
Date:July 02, 2025	Date: 7 9 2425