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**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
SOUTHERN DIVISION**

**PAWEL I. KMIEC, individually and on
behalf of all others similarly situated,**

Plaintiff,

v.

**POWERWAVE TECHNOLOGIES,
INC., et al.,**

Defendants.

Case No.: SACV 12-00222-CJC(JPRx)

**ORDER GRANTING PRELIMINARY
APPROVAL OF CLASS ACTION
SETTLEMENT**

I. INTRODUCTION

This is a consolidated securities class action brought on behalf of all persons who purchased or otherwise acquired Powerwave Technologies, Inc. (“Powerwave”) securities between October 28, 2010 and October 18, 2011 (collectively, “Plaintiffs”)

1 against Defendant Powerwave officers Ronald J. Buschur and Kevin T. Michaels. The
2 operative Second Amended Consolidated complaint (“SACC”) alleges violations of
3 § 10(b) and § 20(a) of the 1934 Securities Exchange Act and Rule 10b-5 based on
4 purportedly false and misleading statements related to demand for Powerwave’s
5 products, false and misleading statements regarding revenue forecasts, and improper
6 revenue recognition. (Dkt. No. 72 [“SACC”].) The parties have reached a settlement,
7 and Lead Plaintiff Government of Bermuda Contributory and Public Service
8 Superannuation Pension Plans (“Lead Plaintiff” or “Bermuda”) moves for an order (1)
9 conditionally certifying the class for settlement purposes pursuant to Federal Rule of
10 Civil Procedure 23(b)(3); (2) preliminarily approving the settlement; (3) appointing class
11 counsel, a class representative, and a claims administrator¹; (4) approving the proposed
12 class notice procedures; and (5) setting a final fairness hearing date. Defendants have not
13 opposed. For the following reason, Lead Plaintiff’s motion is GRANTED.²

14 15 **II. BACKGROUND**

16
17 According to the SACC, between 2010 and 2011, in a period when demand for
18 Powerwave products was steeply declining, Defendants “engaged in an accounting
19 scheme to artificially inflate [Powerwave’s] revenue and earnings,” and “hide the fact
20 that demand was not as strong as [D]efendants claimed.” (SACC ¶¶ 35–36.) Plaintiffs
21 allege that this scheme involved “(1) shipping ‘bulk orders’ of unsold and/or unsellable
22 inventory to resellers on a contingent basis whereby Powerwave would explicitly waive
23 payment, grant special extended payment terms, and/or grant rights to return the product
24 if it could not be sold, and (2) knowingly and deliberately shipping product that

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26
27 ¹ Proposed class counsel is current Lead Counsel: Robbins Geller Rudman & Down LLP. The
28 proposed class representative is Lead Plaintiff. The proposed class administrator is Gilardi & Co. LLC.
² Having read and considered the papers presented by the parties, the Court finds this matter appropriate
for disposition without a hearing. *See* Fed. R. Civ. P. 78; Local Rule 7-15. Accordingly, the hearing set
for December 7, 2015 at 1:30 p.m. is hereby vacated and off calendar.

1 Powerwave knew did not function with the promise to replace the defective products in a
2 later quarter.” (SACC ¶ 35.) According to the allegations in the SACC, Powerwave’s
3 practice of shipping unneeded bulk orders was unsustainable and resulted in one of
4 Powerwave’s major costumers, AT&T,³ accumulating too much inventory by the third
5 quarter of 2011 (“3Q11”), whereupon it stopped placing new purchase orders. (SACC
6 ¶ 57.) On October 18, 2011, Defendants “disclosed figures reflecting [Powerwave’s] true
7 financial condition.” (SACC ¶ 200.) Powerwave’s revenue for 3Q11 fell 50% short of
8 projections. (SACC ¶ 50.) During a conference call with investors, Mr. Buschur,
9 Powerwave’s CEO, acknowledged that the revenue decline was due, at least in part, to an
10 “inventory buildup” at North American customers. (SACC ¶ 71.) The following day,
11 Powerwave stock fell 40%, from \$1.46 per share to \$0.68 per share, and the company
12 eventually filed for bankruptcy on January 28, 2013. (SACC ¶ 6.)

13
14 This action was originally filed in February 9, 2012. (Dkt. 1.) Bermuda was
15 appointed Lead Plaintiff on April 26, 2012, (Dkt. 35), and after motion practice, the
16 SACC was filed on June 14, 2013. (Dkt. 72.) The parties reached a settlement in
17 September 2015 and entered a stipulation to stay the case pending this motion. (Dkt.
18 193.)

20 **III. ANALYSIS**

21 22 **A. Class Certification Requirements**

23
24 Pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23, Lead Plaintiff seeks provisional
25 certification of a class for settlement purposes only. The proposed class is defined as
26
27

28 ³ AT&T purchased parts through a reseller called Team Alliance. (SACC ¶¶ 33–34.)

1 [A]ll Persons who, between October 28, 2010 and October 18, 2011,
2 inclusive, purchased or otherwise acquired the common stock of
3 Powerwave.
4

5 (the “Class Members”). (Dkt. 196 [“Settlement Agreement”] at 4.) When a plaintiff
6 seeks conditional class certification for purposes of settlement, the Court must ensure that
7 the requirements of Rule 23 are met as if the case were going to be fully litigated.
8 *Amchem Prods., Inc. v. Windsor*, 521 U.S. 591, 620 (1997); *Staton v. Boeing Co.*, 327
9 F.3d 938, 952–53 (9th Cir. 2003). Rule 23 contains two sets of requirements for
10 certification of a class. First, under Rule 23(a), all proposed classes must have sufficient
11 numerosity, commonality, typicality, and adequacy. Second, the party seeking
12 certification must show that the action falls within one of the three “types” of classes
13 described in the subsections of Rule 23(b). In this case, Lead Plaintiff seeks certification
14 pursuant to Rule 23(b)(3). The Court concludes that Lead Plaintiff has presented
15 sufficient evidence to show that the proposed class satisfies the requirements of Rule
16 23(a) and Rule 23(b)(3).
17

18 **1. Rule 23(a) Requirements**

19

20 Rule 23(a) contains four requirements applicable to all proposed classes: (1) the
21 class is so numerous that joinder of all members is impracticable (numerosity); (2) there
22 are questions of law or fact common to the class (commonality); (3) the claims or
23 defenses of the representative party are typical of the claims or defenses of the class
24 (typicality); and (4) the representative party will fairly and adequately protect the
25 interests of the absent class members (adequacy). Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(a).
26
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1 **i. Numerosity**

2
3 Rule 23(a)(1) requires that “the class is so numerous that joinder of all members is
4 impracticable.” It is unnecessary to state the exact number of class members when the
5 plaintiff’s allegations “plainly suffice” to meet the numerosity requirement. *Schwartz v.*
6 *Harp*, 108 F.R.D. 279, 281–82 (C.D. Cal. 1985). Here, Powerwave had between 133.1
7 and 158.4 million shares outstanding that were trading on the NASDAQ Stock Exchange
8 during the Class Period. (Dkt. 122-3 ¶ 29.) It is essentially certain that thousands of
9 individuals purchased and traded the stock. The numerosity requirement is therefore
10 easily satisfied. *See In re Cooper Cos. Inc. Secur. Litig.*, 254 F.R.D. 628, 634 (C.D. Cal.
11 2009) (finding the numerosity requirement met in a securities class action when 36
12 million shares were outstanding during the relevant time period).

13
14 **ii. Commonality**

15
16 Rule 23(a)(2) requires that “there are questions of law or fact common to the
17 class.” “Commonality requires the plaintiff to demonstrate that the class members ‘have
18 suffered the same injury,’ [which] does not mean merely that they have all suffered a
19 violation of the same provision of law.” *Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. v. Dukes*, 131 S. Ct. 2541,
20 2551 (2011). The claims must depend upon a common contention that “is capable of
21 classwide resolution—which means that determination of its truth or falsity will resolve
22 an issue that is central to the validity of each one of the claims in one stroke.” *Id.* Even a
23 single common question satisfies the commonality requirement. *Id.* at 2556. The Court
24 finds that Lead Plaintiff has alleged a number of common questions of law and fact,
25 including (1) whether Defendants’ public representations violated the securities laws; (2)
26 whether those representations were material, false, and misleading; (3) whether
27 Defendants acted with the requisite mental state when making those statements; (4)
28 whether the price of Powerwave’s common stock was artificially inflated during the

1 Class Period; and (5) the amount of such inflation. The answers to these common
2 questions necessarily resolve all Class Members' claims in one stroke, so the
3 commonality requirement is met.

4 5 **iii. Typicality**

6
7 Rule 23(a)(3) requires that the "claims or defenses of the representative parties are
8 typical of the claims or defenses of the class." Representative claims are "typical" if they
9 are "reasonably coextensive with those of the absent class members; they need not be
10 substantially identical." *Hanlon v. Chrysler Corp.*, 150 F.3d 1011, 1020 (9th Cir. 1998).
11 Here, Lead Plaintiff's claims are identical to those of other Class Members, who all
12 suffered from the same course of conduct—Powerwave's alleged misleading statements
13 and subsequent inflation of the price of its stock. The typicality requirement is therefore
14 satisfied.

15 16 **iv. Adequacy**

17
18 Rule 23(a)(4) requires that "the representative parties will fairly and adequately
19 protect the interests of the class." This factor requires (1) a lack of conflicts of interest
20 between the proposed class and the proposed representative plaintiff, and (2)
21 representation by qualified and competent counsel that will prosecute the action
22 vigorously on behalf of the class. *Staton*, 327 F.3d at 957. The concern in the context of
23 a class action settlement is to ensure that there is no collusion between the defendant,
24 class counsel, and class representatives to pursue their own interests at the expense of the
25 interests of the rest of the members of the class. *Id.* at 958 n.12.

26
27 Counsel for Lead Plaintiff is experienced in litigating securities class actions and is
28 familiar with the facts underlying this case. *See Cooper*, 254 F.R.D. at 636 ("It is

1 undisputable that [current class counsel Robbins Geller] has extensive experience
2 prosecuting suits of this nature. Class counsel specializes in securities fraud actions and
3 achieved success as lead counsel in one of the largest and highest-profile securities cases
4 of the last decade, the *Enron* case.”); *see also Carpenters Pension Trust Fund of St. Louis*
5 *v. Barclays PLC*, 310 F.R.D. 69, 100 (S.D.N.Y. 2009) (“Courts within this Circuit have
6 repeatedly found Robbins Geller to be adequate and well-qualified for the purpose of
7 litigating class action lawsuits.”). Additionally, counsel for Lead Plaintiff has managed
8 more than three years of motion practice and discovery, leading to the current settlement.
9 Every indication is that they have done so capably and adequately.

10
11 Additionally, there is no evidence that Lead Plaintiff has any conflicts of interest
12 with other Class Members or that Lead Plaintiff has colluded with Defendants to produce
13 a settlement. Lead Plaintiff is a large, sophisticated institutional investor who has
14 monitored this litigation and become familiar with the facts and theories underlying the
15 class claims. Moreover, the Court already made a preliminary finding of adequacy when
16 it appointed Bermuda to be the Lead Plaintiff. (*See* Dkt. 35.) The adequacy requirement
17 is therefore met.

20 **2. Rule 23(b) Requirements**

21
22 In addition to the requirements of Rule 23(a), a proposed class must satisfy one of
23 the three requirements under Rule 23(b). Here, Lead Plaintiff seeks certification pursuant
24 to 23(b)(3), which allows certification if:

25
26 (3) the court finds that the questions of law or fact common to the
27 class members predominate over any questions affecting only
28 individual members, and that a class action is superior to other

1 available methods for fairly and efficiently adjudicating the
2 controversy. The matters pertinent to these findings include:

3 (A) the class members’ interests in individually controlling
4 the prosecution or defense of separate actions;

5 (B) the extent and nature of any litigation concerning the
6 controversy already begun by or against class members;

7 (C) the desirability or undesirability of concentrating the
8 litigation of the claims in the particular forum; and

9 (D) the likely difficulties in managing a class action.

10 Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(b)(3).

11 The predominance requirement overlaps with Rule 23(a)(2)’s commonality
12 requirement, but is a more demanding inquiry. *Hanlon*, 150 F.3d at 1019. The “main
13 concern in the predominance inquiry . . . [is] the balance between individual and common
14 issues.” *In re Wells Fargo Home Mortg. Overtime Pay Litig.*, 571 F.3d 953, 959 (9th Cir.
15 2009). Here, the common issues predominate over any individual questions. Lead
16 Plaintiff has allegedly been harmed in precisely the same way every Class Member was
17 harmed: by purchasing Powerwave shares that were overvalued on account of certain
18 representations made by Powerwave. Indeed, the Supreme Court has observed that
19 “[p]redominance is a test readily met in certain cases alleging consumer or securities
20 fraud,” such as this one. *Amchem*, 521 U.S. at 625.

21 The Court also finds that proceeding as a class is superior to other methods of
22 resolving the issues presented by this case. A class action may be superior “[w]here
23 classwide litigation of common issues will reduce litigation costs and promote greater
24 efficiency.” *Valentino v. Carter-Wallace, Inc.*, 97 F.3d 1227, 1234 (9th Cir. 1996). It is
25 also superior when “no realistic alternative” to a class action exists. *Id.* at 1234–35.
26 “District courts have consistently recognized that the common liability issues involved in
27 securities fraud cases are ideally suited for resolution by way of a class action.” *Cooper*,
28

1 254 F.R.D. at 641; *see also Freedman v. Louisiana-Pacific Corp.*, 922 F. Supp. 377, 400
2 (D. Or. 1996) (“[C]ourts have consistently embraced the class action device as a superior
3 method of adjudicating federal securities fraud claims.”). Given the common issues
4 presented by all Class Members, adjudicating these claims on an individual basis for
5 many thousands of potential Class Members is unrealistic. Additionally, although the
6 Court foresees no management problems from litigating this dispute as a class action, the
7 Supreme Court has held that a district court “need not inquire whether the case, if tried,
8 would present intractable management problems” in a “settlement-only class
9 certification.” *Amchem*, 521 U.S. at 620. As a result, the superiority requirement is met.

11 **B. Fairness of the Proposed Settlement**

12
13 Plaintiff also seeks preliminary approval of the Settlement Agreement. Rule 23(e)
14 “requires the district court to determine whether a proposed settlement is fundamentally
15 fair, reasonable, and accurate.” *Staton*, 327 F.3d at 959 (quoting *Hanlon*, 150 F.3d at
16 1026). To determine whether this standard is met, a district court must consider a
17 number of factors, including “the strength of the plaintiffs’ case; the risk, expense,
18 complexity, and likely duration of further litigation; the risk of maintaining class action
19 status throughout the trial; the amount offered in settlement; the extent of discovery
20 completed, and the stage of the proceedings; the experience and views of counsel; . . . and
21 the reaction of the class members to the proposed settlement.” *Id.* (quoting *Molski v.*
22 *Gleich*, 318 F.3d 937, 953 (9th Cir. 2003)). At the preliminary approval stage, a full
23 “fairness hearing” is not required; rather, the inquiry is whether the settlement “appears to
24 be the product of serious, informed, non-collusive negotiations, has no obvious
25 deficiencies, does not improperly grant preferential treatment to class representatives or
26 segments of the class, and falls within the range of possible approval.” *In re Tableware*
27 *Antitrust Litig.*, 484 F. Supp. 2d 1078, 1079 (N.D. Cal. 2007).

1 Having reviewed the negotiation process and substantive terms of the Settlement
2 Agreement, the Court finds no obvious deficiencies or grounds to doubt its fairness. The
3 parties did not settle until after more than three years of litigation, substantial discovery,
4 and a private mediation session before a neutral mediator. (See Dkt. 195 at 8–9.) There
5 is no evidence of collusion during the parties’ settlement negotiations, and indeed, “[t]he
6 assistance of an experienced mediator in the settlement process confirms that the
7 settlement is non-collusive.” *Satchell v. Fed. Express Corp.*, No. C03-2659 SI, 2007 WL
8 1114010, at *4 (N.D. Cal. Apr. 13, 2007).

9
10 Moreover, the Court finds that the benefits provided to the proposed settlement
11 class appropriately balance the risks of continued litigation. Lead Plaintiff and the Class
12 Members’ path to recovery was not without significant obstacles. Defendants vigorously
13 argued that the representations made by Powerwave were not false or did not otherwise
14 violate the Exchange Act. Additionally, Lead Plaintiff and the class faced a difficult task
15 of proving up causation and damages given the uncertain effect on stock price of
16 corrective disclosures made by Defendants partway through the class period. (Dkt. 194
17 at 12.) Trial no doubt would have included a great deal of expert testimony on these
18 complex and difficult questions. And an appeal would have been virtually certain,
19 whatever the result at trial. Further litigation entails significant risks for all involved
20 parties, including the risk that Class Members would recover nothing at all. *See In re*
21 *Portal Software, Inc. Sec. Litig.*, No. C-03-5138 VRW, 2007 WL 4171201, at *3 (N.D.
22 Cal. Nov. 26, 2007) (“Additional consideration of increased expenses of fact and expert
23 discovery and the inherent risks of proceeding to summary judgment, trial and appeal
24 also support the settlement.”). Accordingly, the relative strength of the Class Members’
25 claims, combined with the risk of obtaining and maintaining class status and the likely
26 duration of further litigation, all weigh in favor of granting preliminary approval of the
27 Settlement Agreement.

1 In light of such risks, the substantive terms of the Settlement Agreement are
2 reasonable. The settlement provides for a Settlement Amount of \$8,200,000.00.
3 (Settlement Agreement ¶ 1.21.) The Settlement Agreement define the Net Settlement
4 Fund (“NSF”) as the Settlement Amount less any attorneys’ fees (up to 30% of the
5 Settlement Amount, or \$2,460,000.00), attorneys’ expenses (up to \$1,500,000.00),
6 interest, an incentive award to Lead Plaintiff (\$5,500.00), notice and administration
7 expenses, (up to \$175,000.00), taxes, and other Court-approved deductions. (*Id.* ¶ 1.15;
8 2.8; Exh. A-1 at 2.) The parties have not provided the Court with a full estimate of what
9 the NSF will be if their requests for deductions are granted, but the proposed notice
10 documents indicate that the per-share award will drop from \$0.06 to \$0.03, (*Id.* Exh. A-1
11 at 8), and from this the Court deduces that the NSF will be approximately \$4,100,000.00.
12 That fund will be distributed on a pro rata basis to Class Members who submit valid
13 claims, based on the number of shares owned per Class Member and how long those
14 shares were owned. The parties estimate that the average distribution, pre-deductions,
15 will be \$0.06 per share. (*Id.* Exh. A-1 at 8.) No distributions of less than \$10.00 will be
16 made. If there is a balance remaining in the NSF after an initial distribution, Lead
17 Counsel will reallocate that balance among those Class Members who submitted a claim
18 until the amount left in the NSF is *de minimis*, whereupon it will be given to an
19 appropriate non-profit organization. (*Id.* ¶ 5.10.) The formula for distributing the NSF is
20 fair, as it will compensate Class Members according to how many shares they owned and
21 for how long—or, in other words, according to how much they were harmed by
22 Defendants’ alleged activities.

23
24 Lead Counsel apparently intends to seek a 30% fee. Notably, this is more than the
25 25% that the Ninth Circuit has set as the benchmark for common fund cases. *Torrisi v.*
26 *Tucson Electric Power Co.*, 8 F.3d 1370, 1376 (9th Cir. 1993). Likewise, the desired
27 incentive award of \$5,500.00 for Lead Plaintiff may be excessive where the per-share
28 recovery is so small. *See In re Toys R Us-Delaware, Inc.—Fair & Accurate Credit*

1 *Transactions Act Litig.*, 295 F.R.D. 438, 470 (C.D. Cal. 2014) (explaining that California
2 district courts typically approve incentive awards between \$3,000.00 and \$5,000.00).
3 Furthermore, the actual amount awarded by the Court to Lead Counsel and Lead Plaintiff
4 will affect the amount of relief afforded to the settlement class, as they directly detract
5 from the NSF. (*See* Settlement Agreement ¶ 1.15.) The Court will expect Class Counsel
6 to explain and provide detailed evidence as to why a 30% attorneys' fees award and
7 \$5,500.00 named plaintiff's incentive award is fair and just. Additionally, the Court
8 notes that Lead Counsel evidently expects to seek significant reimbursement for
9 attorneys' expenses—as much as \$1,500,000.00, or more than 18% of the total
10 Settlement Amount. This is an extremely high figure that significantly reduces the award
11 to Class Members. Accordingly, at the final approval stage, the Court will insist on a
12 detailed explanation for why it should award Lead Counsel's proposed expenses (not to
13 exceed \$1,500,000.00), as well as whatever administration costs the parties ultimately
14 seek (which they estimate to be as high as \$175,000.00—another high figure). Although
15 the Court has serious concerns regarding the proposed attorneys' fees and expenses, it
16 nonetheless finds that the Settlement Agreement is appropriate for preliminary approval,
17 pending a full fairness hearing. As discussed above, the settlement eliminates the
18 significant risk of non-recovery in continuing litigation. Moreover, none of the signs
19 flagged by the Ninth Circuit—such as where the class receives no monetary distribution
20 or where the fees not awarded revert to defendants—are present here. *See id.* at 947. The
21 Court will make its final decision on the fairness and adequacy of the settlement after the
22 parties have addressed the Court's concerns identified herein and after Class Members
23 have had an opportunity to object.

24 25 **C. Approval of Class Counsel and Representative**

26
27 Lead Plaintiff moves to appoint Lead Counsel as class counsel for the Class.
28 When appointing class counsel, the Court must consider the work performed by counsel

1 thus far in the action, counsel’s experience in handling class actions and complex
2 litigation, counsel’s knowledge of the applicable law, and the resources that counsel will
3 commit to representing the class. *See* Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(g)(1)(A). Here, as the Court has
4 already reviewed, Lead Counsel has significant experience litigating complex class
5 actions, including in the securities context. *See supra* at III.A.1.iv. Additionally, Lead
6 Counsel has capably managed this litigation since its appointment as Lead Counsel in
7 2012. The Court is satisfied that Lead Counsel will continue to adequately represent the
8 interests of the class. Bermuda also seeks appointment as the representative of the
9 proposed settlement class. Representation is “adequate” where the representative’s
10 interests are not antagonistic to those of absent class members, there is a sharing of
11 interests between representatives and absentees, and the action does not appear to be
12 collusive. *In re N. Dist. of Cal., Dalkon Shield IUD Liab. Prod. Litig.*, 693 F.2d 847, 855
13 (9th Cir. 1982). “In addition, the class representative must have a sufficient interest in
14 the outcome of the case to ensure vigorous advocacy.” *Ferrari v. Gisch*, 225 F.R.D. 599
15 (C.D. Cal. 2004) (*citing Riordan v. Smith Barney*, 113 F.R.D. 60, 64 (N.D. Ill. 1986)).
16 Here, the Court finds that the interests of the named plaintiff are aligned with those of the
17 absent class members and the action does not appear to be collusive. As explained
18 above, Bermuda is an adequate representative of the class. *See supra* at III.A.1.iv.
19 Accordingly, Lead Plaintiff will be appointed as the class representative. Gilardi is
20 appointed Claim Administrator. *See In re Am. Apparel S’holder Litig.*, No. CV 10-06352
21 MMM, 2014 WL 10212865, at *6 (C.D. Cal. July 28, 2014) (“The court is satisfied that
22 [Gilardi’s] efforts were effective in providing notice of the settlement to potential class
23 members.”).

24 25 **D. Notice of the Proposed Settlement**

26
27 Finally, Lead Plaintiff seeks approval of the proposed form and manner of notice
28 of the settlement to be sent to Class Members. Rule 23(c)(2)(B) provides that for Rule

1 23(b)(3) classes, as here, the Court “must direct to class members the best notice that is
2 practicable under the circumstances, including individual notice to all members who can
3 be identified through reasonable effort.” The notification procedure outlined in the
4 Settlement Agreement satisfies that standard. (*See* Settlement Agreement Exh. A ¶ 7–8.)
5

6 At some point after the entry of this Order (the parties do not say), the Claims
7 Administrator will mail the Notice and Proof of Claim form by First-Class Mail to all
8 Class Members who can be identified with reasonable effort, as well as post the form on
9 its website and post a Summary Notice in *Investor’s Business Daily* and the *Business*
10 *Wire*. (*Id.*)⁴ The Claim Form and Class Notice adequately explain the terms of the
11 settlement. The notice must “clearly and concisely state, in plain, easily understood
12 language: (i) the nature of the action; (ii) the definition of the class certified; (iii) the class
13 claims, issues or defenses; (iv) that the class member may enter an appearance through an
14 attorney if the member so desires; (v) that the court will exclude from the class any
15 member who requests exclusion; (vi) the time and manner for requesting exclusion; and
16 (vii) the binding effect of a class judgment on members under Rule 23(c)(3).” Fed. R.
17 Civ. P. 23(c)(2)(B). The Class Notice form provides clear information about the
18 definition of the class and nature of the action, a summary of the terms of the proposed
19 settlement, the terms of the released claims, the process of objecting to the settlement,
20 and the consequences of inaction. (*See* Settlement Agreement Exh. A-1.) The Claim
21 Form that is to be provided along with the Class Notice is similarly acceptable. (*Id.* Exh.
22 A-2.) Class Members will have 90 days after the notice is mailed to either submit the
23 Claim Form or request exclusion. Finally, the notice materials comply with the special
24 requirements found in the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act, which requires that,
25 among other things, the notice materials inform class members of the amount of the
26

27 ⁴ Many of the details of the parties’ notice procedure are contained only in a proposed order filed by
28 Lead Plaintiff, and not in either the Settlement Agreement or the Notice of Claim. The Court presumes
that the parties agree to the procedures in the proposed order, (Dkt. 196 Exh. A), and orders that notice
be administered according to those procedures.

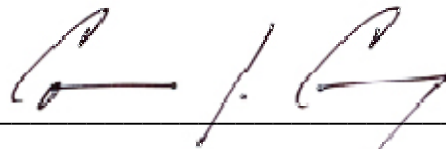
1 settlement in the aggregate and per-share basis, whether the parties disagree on the
2 amount, the amount of desired attorneys' fees, contact information for counsel, and an
3 explanation for the settlement. 15 U.S.C. §78u-4(a)(7)(A)–(F).

4
5 As the notice procedure comports with Rule 23(c)(2)(B), the Court directs that
6 notice be distributed to Class Members according to the terms and timeline provided in
7 the Settlement Agreement and attendant exhibits.

8
9 **IV. CONCLUSION**

10
11 For the foregoing reasons, the Court GRANTS provisional certification of the class
12 for settlement purposes only; GRANTS preliminary approval of the settlement;
13 APPROVES the appointment of Lead Counsel as Class Counsel; APPROVES Lead
14 Plaintiff to be the class representative; APPROVES Gilardi to be the Claim
15 Administrator; and APPROVES of the proposed distribution of notice to the class.
16 Notice shall be distributed to class members by **February 1, 2016**. The final approval
17 hearing shall be held on **Monday, July 11, 2016 at 1:30 p.m.**

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19
20 DATED: December 4, 2015



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22 CORMAC J. CARNEY
23 UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE
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28