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**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
SAN JOSE DIVISION**

NATHAN GERGETZ,
Plaintiff,
v.
TELENAV, INC.,
Defendant.

Case No. 16-cv-04261-BLF

**ORDER GRANTING PLAINTIFF'S
MOTION FOR FINAL APPROVAL OF
CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT; AND
GRANTING IN PART PLAINTIFF'S
MOTION FOR ATTORNEYS' FEES,
EXPENSES, AND INCENTIVE AWARD**

[Re: ECF 73, 75]

On September 6, 2018, the Court heard (1) Plaintiff's Motion for Final Approval of Class Action Settlement and (2) Plaintiff's Motion for Award of Reasonable Attorneys' Fees and Expenses, and Incentive Award. For the reasons discussed below, the motion for final approval is GRANTED and the motion for attorneys' fees, expenses, and incentive award is GRANTED IN PART.

I. BACKGROUND

Plaintiff Nathan Gergetz filed this action on July 28, 2016, asserting violations of the Telephone Consumer Protection Act ("TCPA"), 47 U.S.C. § 227, on behalf of himself and others who received unsolicited text messages from Defendant Telenav, Inc. *See* Compl., ECF 1. The text messages originated from the Scout App, an application developed by Telenav for smart phones. The Scout App allows a user to coordinate plans with friends by, among other things, sending the user's friends text messages containing real time updates regarding the user's location. The app can send text messages to the user's contacts whether or not the recipients also have

1 downloaded the Scout App. Some text messages sent by the app contained marketing materials
2 from Telenav encouraging recipients to download the Scout App.

3 Gergetz asserts TCPA claims on behalf of two classes of individuals, the first comprised of
4 persons who received text messages from Telenav and the second comprised of persons who
5 continued to receive text messages from Telenav after replying to at least one text message with
6 the words STOP, END, CANCEL, or similar language. *See* Compl. ¶ 41.

7 In November 2016, Telenav filed a motion to dismiss the complaint under Federal Rule of
8 Civil Procedure 12(b)(6) or, alternatively, to stay the case pending a ruling by the Court of
9 Appeals for the D.C. Circuit in *ACA Int'l v. FCC*. *See* Def.'s Motion, ECF 24. Upon completion
10 of the briefing, the Court took the motion under submission without oral argument. *See* Order
11 Submitting Motion, ECF 30. Before the Court issued a ruling, however, the parties jointly
12 requested that the Court defer disposition of the motion and stay the case pending settlement
13 discussions. *See* Order Granting Parties' Request to Stay, ECF 43; Order Granting Parties'
14 Request to Defer Disposition of Pending Motion, ECF 47.

15 On November 2, 2017, the parties notified the Court that settlement had not yet been
16 reached. *See* Joint Status Update, ECF 56. The Court thereafter requested and received
17 supplemental briefing on Telenav's pending motion, and set the motion for hearing on December
18 21, 2017. *See* Minute Entry, ECF 57; Order Requesting Suppl. Briefing, ECF 58; Pl.'s Suppl.
19 Brief, ECF 59; Def.'s Suppl. Brief, ECF 60. On the scheduled hearing date, the parties appeared
20 and informed the Court that the case had settled. *See* Minute Entry, ECF 63. The Court
21 terminated Telenav's pending motion and set a preliminary approval hearing, which ultimately
22 went forward on April 27, 2018. *See* Order Terminating Motion, ECF 64; Minute Entry, ECF 68.

23 On April 30, 2018, the Court issued an order preliminarily approving the parties'
24 settlement agreement ("Agreement"). *See* Order Granting Motion for Preliminary Approval, ECF
25 70. The Agreement defines the Settlement Class as follows:

26 "Settlement Class" means all Persons who fall within one of [sic] Subclasses
27 defined below. For purposes of this definition, multiple owners or users of a single
28 cellular telephone are deemed to be a single member of the Settlement Class. The
Settlement Class is comprised [sic] of all Persons in the No Consent Subclass
and the Stop Subclass defined as:

1 The “No Consent Subclass”: All persons in the United States who during the Class
2 Period received at least one Download the Scout App Text Message.

3 The “Stop Subclass”: All persons in the United States who during the Class Period
4 received at least one additional message other than a message confirming an opt out
5 request, after replying STOP, QUIT, END, CANCEL or UNSUBSCRIBE to any
6 text message received from any Telenav Number.

7 Agreement ¶ II.35, Exh. C to Motion for Final Approval, ECF 75-3. The Class Period is July 28,
8 2012 to the present. Agreement ¶ II.7.

9 Telenav has agreed to provide a Settlement Fund in the amount of \$3.5 million.

10 Agreement ¶¶ II.38, III.1.a. The Settlement Fund will be used to pay all settlement administration
11 costs, any attorneys’ fees awarded by the Court, any incentive award granted by the Court, and
12 settlement checks issued to Class Members who submit valid claim forms. Agreement ¶ II.38. A
13 class member qualifies for payment from the Settlement Fund if his or her cellular telephone
14 number appears on a list maintained by Telenav of cellular telephone numbers that received text
15 messages from Telenav during the Class Period. Agreement ¶ III.1.c.

16 Each class member who submits a valid claim form will receive one or more “Award
17 Units.” Agreement ¶ III.1.d. Each No Consent Subclass member will receive 1 Award Unit, each
18 Stop Subclass member will receive 5 award units, and each person who is a member of both
19 subclasses will receive 6 award units. *Id.* The net Settlement Fund (after deduction of
20 administration costs, attorneys’ fees, and incentive award) will be divided by the total number of
21 Award Units. *Id.* Settlement checks will be issued to class members based on their total Award
22 Units, and the Settlement Administrator will make one attempt at re-mailing any returned checks.
23 *Id.* Any amounts remaining after payment of all administration costs, attorneys’ fees, incentive
24 award, and settlement checks will be donated to a *cy pres* recipient. *Id.*

25 Following preliminary approval of the Agreement, the Settlement Administrator provided
26 notice by postal mail, email, and internet banner ads. *See* Azari Decl. ¶ 13, Exh. D to Motion for
27 Final Approval, ECF 75-4. The Administrator estimates that there are approximately 200,000
28 class members. *See* Azari Decl. ¶¶ 15, 17. The Administrator sent postal mail notice to 145,984
 class members and email notice to 124,830 potential class members, which resulted in attempted
 notice to 145,984 unique potential class members. Azari Decl. ¶¶ 17-22. Banner ads and a

1 Settlement Website provided additional notice exposure. Azari Decl. ¶¶ 23-27. As of August 21,
2 2018, there had been 120,428 unique visitors to the Settlement Website. Azari Decl. ¶ 27. The
3 Administrator estimates that direct notice reached approximately 79.1% of the entire Settlement
4 Class, and opines that the notice provided was the best notice practicable under the circumstances
5 of the case. Azari Decl. ¶ 14. In addition to the notice given by the Administrator, Class Counsel
6 called potential class members to inform them of their rights under the settlement. Woodrow
7 Decl. ¶ 21, Exh. B to Motion for Final Approval, ECF 75-2. No class member has opted out of the
8 settlement and no class member has objected. Woodrow Decl. ¶ 23.

9 On September 6, the Court heard Plaintiff’s Motion for Final Approval of Class Action
10 Settlement, and Plaintiff’s Motion for Award of Reasonable Attorneys’ Fees and Expenses, and
11 Incentive Award. The Court indicated on the record that the final approval motion would be
12 granted and the attorneys’ fees motion would be granted in part.

13 **II. MOTION FOR FINAL APPROVAL OF CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT**

14 In order to grant final approval of the class action settlement, the Court must determine
15 that (a) the class meets the requirements for certification under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23,
16 and (b) the settlement reached on behalf of the class is fair, reasonable, and adequate. *See Staton*
17 *v. Boeing Co.*, 327 F.3d 938, 952 (9th Cir. 2003) (“Especially in the context of a case in which the
18 parties reach a settlement agreement prior to class certification, courts must peruse the proposed
19 compromise to ratify both the propriety of the certification and the fairness of the settlement.”).

20 **A. The Class Meets the Requirements for Certification under Rule 23**

21 A class action is maintainable only if it meets the four requirements of Rule 23(a):

- 22 (1) the class is so numerous that joinder of all members is
23 impracticable;
- 24 (2) there are questions of law or fact common to the class;
- 25 (3) the claims or defenses of the representative parties are
26 typical of the claims or defenses of the class; and
- 27 (4) the representative parties will fairly and adequately protect
28 the interests of the class.

28 Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(a). In a settlement-only certification context, the “specifications of the Rule –

1 those designed to protect absentees by blocking unwarranted or overbroad class definitions –
2 demand undiluted, even heightened, attention.” *Amchem Prods., Inc. v. Windsor*, 521 U.S. 591,
3 620 (1997).

4 In addition to satisfying the Rule 23(a) requirements, “parties seeking class certification
5 must show that the action is maintainable under Rule 23(b)(1), (2), or (3).” *Amchem*, 521 U.S. at
6 614. Gergetz seeks certification under Rule 23(b)(3), which requires that (1) “questions of law or
7 fact common to class members predominate over any questions affecting only individual
8 members” and (2) “a class action is superior to other available methods for fairly and efficiently
9 adjudicating the controversy.” Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(b)(3).

10 The Court concluded that these requirements were satisfied when it granted preliminary
11 approval of the class action settlement. *See* Order Granting Motion for Preliminary Approval,
12 ECF 70. The Court is not aware of any new facts which would alter that conclusion. However,
13 the Court reviews the Rule 23 requirements again briefly, as follows.

14 Turning first to the Rule 23(a) prerequisites, the Court has no difficulty in concluding that
15 because the class contains approximately 200,000 individuals, and approximately 2,000 claims
16 have been filed, joinder of all class members would be impracticable. *See* Azari Decl. ¶¶ 15, 17.
17 The commonality requirement is met because the key issue in the case is the same for all class
18 members – whether the text messages generated by Telenav and the Scout App violated the
19 TCPA. Gergetz’s claims are typical of those of both subclasses, as he received text messages
20 before and after sending “STOP” messages in response to texts. *See Hanlon*, 150 F.3d at 1020
21 (typicality requires only that the claims of the class representatives are “reasonably co-extensive
22 with those of absent class members”). Finally, to determine Plaintiffs’ adequacy, the Court “must
23 resolve two questions: (1) do the named plaintiffs and their counsel have any conflicts of interest
24 with other class members and (2) will the named plaintiffs and their counsel prosecute the action
25 vigorously on behalf of the class?” *Ellis v. Costco Wholesale Corp.*, 657 F.3d 970, 985 (9th Cir.
26 2011) (internal quotation marks and citation omitted). The Court has no reservations regarding the
27 abilities of Class Counsel or their zeal in representing the class, and the record discloses no
28 conflict of interest which would preclude Gergetz from acting as class representative.

1 With respect to Rule 23(b)(3), the “predominance inquiry tests whether proposed classes
2 are sufficiently cohesive to warrant adjudication by representation.” *Amchem*, 521 U.S. at 623.
3 The common question in this case – whether the text messages generated by Telenav and the
4 Scout App violated the TCPA – predominates. Given that commonality, and the number of class
5 members, the Court concludes that a class action is a superior mechanism for adjudicating the
6 claims at issue.

7 Accordingly, the Court concludes that the requirements of Rule 23 are met and thus that
8 certification of the class for settlement purposes is appropriate.

9 **B. The Settlement is Fundamentally Fair, Adequate, and Reasonable**

10 Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23(e) provides that “[t]he claims, issues, or defenses of a
11 certified class may be settled, voluntarily dismissed, or compromised only with the court’s
12 approval.” Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(e). “Adequate notice is critical to court approval of a class
13 settlement under Rule 23(e).” *Hanlon v. Chrysler Corp.*, 150 F.3d 1011, 1025 (9th Cir. 1998).
14 Moreover, “[a] district court’s approval of a class-action settlement must be accompanied by a
15 finding that the settlement is ‘fair, reasonable, and adequate.’” *Lane v. Facebook, Inc.*, 696 F.3d
16 811, 818 (9th Cir. 2012) (quoting Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(e)). “[A] district court’s only role in
17 reviewing the substance of that settlement is to ensure that it is fair, adequate, and free from
18 collusion.” *Id.* (internal quotation marks and citation omitted). In making that determination, the
19 district court is guided by an eight-factor test articulated by the Ninth Circuit in *Hanlon v.*
20 *Chrysler Corp* (“*Hanlon* factors”). *Id.* Those factors include:

21 the strength of the plaintiffs’ case; the risk, expense, complexity, and likely
22 duration of further litigation; the risk of maintaining class action status throughout
23 the trial; the amount offered in settlement; the extent of discovery completed and
24 the stage of the proceedings; the experience and views of counsel; the presence of a
governmental participant; and the reaction of the class members to the proposed
settlement.

25 *Hanlon*, 150 F.3d at 1026-27; *see also Lane*, 696 F.3d at 819 (discussing *Hanlon* factors).

26 “Additionally, when (as here) the settlement takes place before formal class certification,
27 settlement approval requires a ‘higher standard of fairness.’” *Lane*, 696 F.3d at 819 (quoting
28 *Hanlon*, 150 F.3d at 1026).

1 **1. Notice was Adequate**

2 The Court previously approved Gergetz’s plan for providing notice to the class when it
3 granted preliminary approval of the class action settlement. *See* Order Granting Preliminary
4 Approval of Class Action Settlement, ECF 70. Prior to granting preliminary approval, the Court
5 examined carefully the proposed class notice and notice plan, and determined that they complied
6 with Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23 and Due Process. *Id.* ¶ 7. Gergetz provides declarations
7 of counsel and the Administrator describing implementation of the notice plan. *See* Woodrow
8 Decl., Exh. B to Motion for Final Approval, ECF 75-2; Azari Decl., Exh. D to Motion for Final
9 Approval, ECF 75-4. The Court has summarized the key portions of those declarations in section
10 I, above. Based on those declarations, it appears that at least 79.1% of all class members received
11 notice through direct postal mail, email, banner ads, and the Settlement Website. *See* Woodrow
12 Decl. ¶ 21; Azari Decl. ¶¶ 13-27. “[N]otice plans estimated to reach a minimum of 70 percent are
13 constitutional and comply with Rule 23.” *Edwards v. Nat’l Milk Producers Fed’n*, No. 11-CV-
14 04766-JSW, 2017 WL 3623734, at *4 (N.D. Cal. June 26, 2017). The Court is satisfied that the
15 class members were provided with the best notice practicable under the circumstances, and that
16 such notice was adequate.

17 **2. Presumption of Correctness**

18 Before discussing the *Hanlon* factors, the Court notes that “[a] presumption of correctness
19 is said to ‘attach to a class settlement reached in arm’s-length negotiations between experienced
20 capable counsel after meaningful discovery.’” *In re Heritage Bond Litig.*, No. 02-ML-1475 DT,
21 2005 WL 1594403, at *9 (C.D. Cal. June 10, 2005) (quoting *Manuel for Complex Litigation*
22 (Third) § 30.42 (1995)). The settlement in this case was the result of arms-length negotiations
23 between experienced counsel with the aid of a respected mediator. *See* Woodrow Decl. ¶¶ 7-15.
24 While there was little formal discovery, Gergetz’s counsel has submitted a declaration describing
25 the pre-suit investigation and informal discovery which was conducted. Woodrow Decl. ¶¶ 3-6, 8-
26 10.

27 The Court therefore concludes that on this record a presumption of correctness applies to
28 the class action settlement.

1 **3. *Hanlon* Factors**

2 Turning to the *Hanlon* factors, the Court first considers the strength of the plaintiff’s case,
3 weighing the likelihood of success on the merits and the range of possible recovery (factor 1).
4 While Gergetz’s TCPA claims certainly appear viable on their face, Telenav raised a variety of
5 defenses, including that the equipment used in generating the text messages did not qualify as an
6 automatic telephone dialing system as required under the statute. *See* 47 U.S.C.A. § 227(b)(1)(A).
7 Thus while the TCPA provides for \$500 for each violation, which potentially could be trebled, it is
8 not clear that Gergetz would have prevailed had the case proceeded. With respect to the risk,
9 expense, complexity, and duration of litigation (factor 2), Gergetz would have faced significant
10 hurdles, including defense motions to dismiss and motions for summary judgment, and opposition
11 to class certification. Litigation likely would have been protracted, because although the case was
12 filed in 2016, the pleadings have not yet been settled.

13 Given the common questions of fact and law in this case, it is likely that the subclasses
14 would have been certified had the case progressed (factor 3). However, Gergetz would have been
15 at risk of a decertification motion by Telenav later in the litigation.

16 The settlement recovery is substantial for a TCPA case (factor 4). In his motion papers,
17 Gergetz estimated that each Award Unit would be worth approximately \$900, and at the hearing
18 his counsel revised that amount downward slightly to \$810. Thus under the terms of the
19 Agreement, each class member who submits a valid claim will receive at least \$810, and some
20 may receive as much as \$4,860. Gergetz provides a chart listing the recoveries resulting from
21 other TCPA settlements, which range between \$20 and \$200. Given those figures, the recovery
22 obtained under this settlement is exceptionally good.

23 Little formal discovery had been completed at the time of settlement, and the case is in its
24 early stages (factor 5). However, Gergetz’s counsel conducted pre-suit investigation and informal
25 discovery, and the case has been pending for two years. Woodrow Decl. ¶¶ 3-6, 8-10. The Court
26 is satisfied that the parties are sufficiently familiar with the issues in the case to have informed
27 opinions regarding its strengths and weaknesses (factor 6). Class Counsel specialize in litigation
28 of consumer class actions, including TCPA cases, and Telenav is represented by a well-respected

1 law firm. Their views that the settlement is a good one is entitled to significant weight. *See In re*
2 *Omnivision Techs., Inc.*, 559 F. Supp. 2d 1036, 1043 (N.D. Cal. 2008).

3 There is no government participant (factor 7). However, the class reaction to the
4 settlement is favorable (factor 8). There was not a single opt-out or objection. Woodrow Decl. ¶
5 23.

6 Based on the foregoing reasons, and after considering the record as a whole as guided by
7 the *Hanlon* factors, the Court finds that notice of the proposed settlement was adequate, the
8 settlement is not the result of collusion, and the settlement is fair, adequate and reasonable.

9 Plaintiff's Motion for Final Approval of Class Action Settlement is GRANTED.

10 **III. MOTION FOR ATTORNEYS' FEES, EXPENSES, AND INCENTIVE AWARD**

11 Gergetz seeks an award of attorneys' fees totaling \$1,155,000, reimbursement of litigation
12 expenses in the amount of \$9,539.28, and an incentive award of \$5,000.

13 **A. Attorneys' Fees and Expenses**

14 **1. Legal Standard**

15 "While attorneys' fees and costs may be awarded in a certified class action where so
16 authorized by law or the parties' agreement, Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(h), courts have an independent
17 obligation to ensure that the award, like the settlement itself, is reasonable, even if the parties have
18 already agreed to an amount." *In re Bluetooth Headset Prods. Liab. Litig.*, 654 F.3d 935, 941 (9th
19 Cir. 2011). "Where a settlement produces a common fund for the benefit of the entire class," as
20 here, "courts have discretion to employ either the lodestar method or the percentage-of-recovery
21 method" to determine the reasonableness of attorneys' fees. *Id.* at 942.

22 Under the percentage-of-recovery method, the attorneys are awarded fees in the amount of
23 a percentage of the common fund recovered for the class. *Bluetooth*, 654 at 942. Courts applying
24 this method "typically calculate 25% of the fund as the benchmark for a reasonable fee award,
25 providing adequate explanation in the record of any special circumstances justifying a departure."
26 *Id.* (internal quotation marks omitted). However, "[t]he benchmark percentage should be adjusted,
27 or replaced by a lodestar calculation, when special circumstances indicate that the percentage
28 recovery would be either too small or too large in light of the hours devoted to the case or other

1 relevant factors.” *Six (6) Mexican Workers v. Arizona Citrus Growers*, 904 F.3d 1301, 1311 (9th
2 Cir. 2011). Relevant factors to a determination of the percentage ultimately awarded include: “(1)
3 the results achieved; (2) the risk of litigation; (3) the skill required and quality of work; (4) the
4 contingent nature of the fee and the financial burden carried by the plaintiffs; and (5) awards made
5 in similar cases.” *Tarlecki v. bebe Stores, Inc.*, No. C 05–1777 MHP, 2009 WL 3720872, at *4
6 (N.D. Cal. Nov. 3, 2009).

7 Under the lodestar method, attorneys’ fees are “calculated by multiplying the number of
8 hours the prevailing party reasonably expended on the litigation (as supported by adequate
9 documentation) by a reasonable hourly rate for the region and for the experience of the lawyer.”
10 *Bluetooth*, 654 F.3d at 941. This amount may be increased or decreased by a multiplier that
11 reflects factors such as “the quality of representation, the benefit obtained for the class, the
12 complexity and novelty of the issues presented, and the risk of nonpayment.” *Id.* at 942.

13 In common fund cases, a lodestar calculation may provide a cross-check on the
14 reasonableness of a percentage award. *Vizcaino v. Microsoft Corp.*, 290 F.3d 1043, 1050 (9th Cir.
15 2002). Where the attorneys’ investment in the case “is minimal, as in the case of an early
16 settlement, the lodestar calculation may convince a court that a lower percentage is reasonable.”
17 *Id.* “Similarly, the lodestar calculation can be helpful in suggesting a higher percentage when
18 litigation has been protracted.” *Id.* Thus even when the primary basis of the fee award is the
19 percentage method, “the lodestar may provide a useful perspective on the reasonableness of a
20 given percentage award.” *Id.* “The lodestar cross-check calculation need entail neither
21 mathematical precision nor bean counting. . . . [courts] may rely on summaries submitted by the
22 attorneys and need not review actual billing records.” *Covillo v. Specialtys Cafe*, No. C-11-
23 00594-DMR, 2014 WL 954516, at *6 (N.D. Cal. Mar. 6, 2014) (internal quotation marks and
24 citation omitted).

25 An attorney is also entitled to “recover as part of the award of attorney’s fees those out-of-
26 pocket expenses that would normally be charged to a fee paying client.” *Harris v. Marhoefer*, 24
27 F.3d 16, 19 (9th Cir. 1994) (internal quotation marks and citation omitted).

28

1 **2. Discussion**

2 Plaintiff seeks an award of attorneys’ fees totaling \$1,155,000, which represents 33% of
3 the \$3.5 million gross Settlement Fund, as well as litigation expenses in the amount of \$9,539.28.

4 Addressing expenses first, the Court has no hesitation in approving an award in the
5 requested amount of \$9,539.28. Class Counsel have submitted an itemized list of expenses and a
6 declaration statement that all of the expenses were necessary to prosecution of this litigation. *See*
7 Woodrow Decl. ¶¶ 27-28 and Exh. 1. The Court has reviewed the list and finds the expenses to be
8 reasonable.

9 However, the Court finds that the request for fees totaling 33% of the gross Settlement
10 Fund is slightly overreaching. Using the percentage-of-recovery method, the Court starts at the
11 25% benchmark. *See Bluetooth*, 654 at 942. The Court is persuaded that the benchmark should
12 be increased based on the exceptional results achieved, the risk of litigation, the fine quality of
13 Class Counsel’s work, and the contingent nature of the fee. *See Tarlecki*, 2009 WL 3720872, at
14 *4. For those reasons, the Court concludes that an increase to 30% of the gross Settlement Fund is
15 warranted, for an award of fees in the amount of \$1,050,000.

16 A lodestar cross-check confirms the reasonableness of an increase in the percentage-of-
17 recovery from the 25% benchmark to 30%. Class Counsel represents that the total lodestar from
18 the inception of the case to the filing of the attorneys’ fees motion is \$383,102. Woodrow Decl. ¶
19 22. However, Class Counsel expected to expend an additional \$10,000 to \$15,000 in the final
20 approval process. Woodrow Decl. ¶ 24. Moreover, it appears that the hourly rates charged by
21 Class Counsel were below market in this area. Under these circumstances, the Court concludes
22 that the appropriate lodestar is approximately \$400,000. Application of a multiplier of 2.625
23 would result in a fee award of \$1,050,000. “Multipliers of 1 to 4 are commonly found to be
24 appropriate in common fund cases.” *Aboudi v. T-Mobile USA, Inc.*, No. 12-CV-2169 BTM NLS,
25 2015 WL 4923602, at *7 (S.D. Cal. Aug. 18, 2015). Thus a multiplier of 2.625 is within the range
26 of reasonableness. The Court finds it appropriate to apply a multiplier of 2.625 in light of the facts
27 that Class Counsel accepted this case on a contingency basis, had to forego other work to litigate
28 this case, and achieved a truly excellent result for the class.

1 Plaintiff's motion for attorneys' fees and expenses is GRANTED IN PART. Plaintiff is
2 awarded expenses in the amount of \$9,539.28 and attorneys' fees in the amount of \$1,050,000.

3 **B. Incentive Award**

4 Gergetz requests an incentive award in the amount of \$5,000. Incentive awards "are
5 discretionary . . . and are intended to compensate class representatives for work done on behalf of
6 the class, to make up for financial or reputational risk undertaken in bringing the action, and,
7 sometimes, to recognize their willingness to act as a private attorney general." *Rodriguez v. W.*
8 *Publ'g Corp.*, 563 F.3d 948, 958-59 (9th Cir. 2009) (internal citation omitted).

9 "Incentive awards typically range from \$2,000 to \$10,000." *Bellinghausen v. Tractor*
10 *Supply Co.*, 306 F.R.D. 245, 267 (N.D. Cal. 2015). Gergetz's participation in the case was
11 essential to obtaining the substantial monetary recovery which will be enjoyed by each class
12 member who presents a valid claim. *See* Woodrow Decl. ¶¶ 3-6. An incentive award in the
13 amount of \$5,000 is proportional to the class members' recoveries, which will range between
14 approximately \$800 and \$4,800. *See Willner v. Manpower Inc.*, No. 11-CV-02846-JST, 2015 WL
15 3863625, at *9 (N.D. Cal. June 22, 2015) (district court must "consider the proportionality
16 between the incentive payment and the range of class members' settlement awards.").

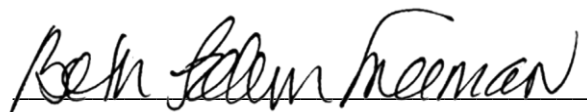
17 The Court concludes that the requested \$5,000 incentive award is appropriate in this case.

18 **IV. ORDER**

19 For the reasons discussed above,

- 20 (1) Plaintiff's Motion for Final Approval of Class Action Settlement is GRANTED;
21 and
22 (2) Plaintiff's Motion for Award of Reasonable Attorneys' Fees and Expenses, and
23 Incentive Award is GRANTED IN PART. Plaintiff is awarded attorneys' fees in
24 the amount of \$1,050,000, expenses in the amount of \$9,539.28, and an incentive
25 award in the amount of \$5,000.

26
27 Dated: September 27, 2018

28 
BETH LABSON FREEMAN
United States District Judge