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6 **United States District Court**  
7 **Central District of California**  
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9 RAINOLDO GOODING and NADEEN  
10 GOODING, on behalf of themselves and  
all others similarly situated,

11 Plaintiffs,

12 v.

13 VITA-MIX CORPORATION and KELLY  
14 SERVICES, INC.,

15 Defendants

Case No. 2:16-cv-03898-ODW(JEMx)

**ORDER GRANTING MOTION FOR  
FINAL APPROVAL OF CLASS  
SETTLEMENT [66] AND MOTION  
FOR ATTORNEYS' FEES [65]**

16 **I. INTRODUCTION**

17 This is a wage-and-hour class action suit against Defendants Vita-Mix  
18 Corporation ("Vita-Mix") and Kelly Services, Inc. ("Kelly Services") (collectively,  
19 "Defendants"). Named Plaintiffs and proposed class members work for, or worked in  
20 the past for, Vita-Mix, and they allege that Vita-Mix misclassified their employee  
21 designations and failed to pay them overtime wages and other benefits. (*See generally*  
22 *Compl.*, ECF No. 1.) In 2017, the parties reached a settlement on behalf of the class,  
23 and the Court preliminarily approved the settlement and certified the class. (Order,  
24 ECF No. 59.) Plaintiffs now move for final approval of the class settlement, and  
25 attorney's fees, among other costs. (ECF Nos. 65, 66.) Defendants do not oppose,  
26 and no class members submitted written objections. (ECF Nos. 67, 68.) At the  
27 hearing, Randall Pittman appeared in person and objected to the settlement. For the  
28 reasons discussed below, the Court **OVERRULES** Pittman's objection, **GRANTS** the

1 motion for final approval, and **GRANTS** the motion for attorneys’ fees. (ECF Nos.  
2 65, 66.)

## 3 **II. BACKGROUND & PROCEDURAL HISTORY**

4 The Court previously set forth the factual background, class definitions, and  
5 settlement terms in its Order preliminarily approving the settlement, and incorporates  
6 that discussion here by reference. (Order, ECF No. 59.) Below, the Court addresses  
7 matters that have changed, or that were not addressed in the Court’s preliminary  
8 approval order.

### 9 **A. First Amended Complaint**

10 As part of its Order preliminarily approving the settlement, the Court granted  
11 Plaintiffs leave to file a First Amended Complaint (“FAC”). (Order 6–7, ECF No.  
12 59.) In their FAC, Plaintiffs allege claims under the California Labor Code, the Fair  
13 Labor Standards Act (“FLSA”), the Private Attorneys General Act (“PAGA”), and the  
14 California Business and Professional Code.<sup>1</sup>

### 15 **B. Settlement Terms**

16 The parties originally estimated that there were 1,150 members in the proposed  
17 class (across all three sub-classes). The finalized mailing list contained 1,055 class  
18 members, including 857 Rule 23 class members and 198 FLSA class members. (Decl.  
19 Tin Nguyen (“Nguyen Decl.”) ¶ 5, ECF No. 65-4.) And, after addressing opt-outs and  
20 FLSA opt-ins, there are 952 total participating class members, including 97 FLSA  
21 members, and 855 Rule 23 members. (Supp. Decl. Tarus Dancy (“Supp. Dancy  
22 Decl.”) ¶¶ 8–9, ECF No. 66-2.) The Court addresses the notice process in more detail  
23 below.

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25 <sup>1</sup> The specific causes of action are: failure to pay overtime wages (under various state laws); FLSA  
26 violations (29 U.S.C. §§ 201 *et seq.*); minimum wage violations (under various state laws); meal  
27 period violations (Cal. Labor Code §§ 226.7, 512, 558); rest period violations (Cal. Labor Code  
28 §§ 226.7, 516, 558); waiting time penalties (Cal. Labor Code §§ 201–203); unlawful deductions  
(Cal. Labor Code § 221, *et seq.*); wage statement penalties (Cal. Labor Code § 226, *et seq.*); civil  
penalties under PAGA (Cal. Labor Code § 2698, *et seq.*); and unfair competition (Cal Bus. & Prof.  
Code §§ 17200, *et seq.*). (*See generally* First Am. Compl., ECF No. 64.)

1           **1. Settlement Fund**

2           The parties’ settlement provides for a maximum, non-reversionary settlement  
3 amount of \$1,600,000 to resolve Plaintiffs’ claims on a class and collective basis. The  
4 “non-reversionary” aspect of the settlement means that if portions of the amount  
5 designated for costs such as attorneys’ fees and incentive awards aren’t granted, the  
6 settlement amount will remain unchanged (meaning that more money would go to the  
7 class members). With fees and costs as requested, on average, class members will  
8 receive \$1,155.46, which is about \$200 more than originally estimated. (Supp. Dancy  
9 Decl. ¶ 9.) The highest payment to a single class member is estimated at \$11,977.88.  
10 (*Id.*) The Court previously approved the method of calculation. (Order 11, ECF No.  
11 59.)

12           **2. Class Notice**

13           The parties’ Settlement Agreement outlines in detail how notice shall be given  
14 to potential class members. The parties proposed that the CPT Group, an experienced  
15 class action settlement administrator, oversee and administer the class settlement.  
16 (Settlement Agreement (“SA”) ¶ 49, ECF No. 54-1.) Plaintiffs submitted two  
17 proposed Notices of Pending Class, Collective, and Representative Action Settlement:  
18 a Rule 23 Notice (to be sent to the California and Non-California sub-classes), and an  
19 FLSA Notice (to be sent to the FLSA sub-class). (*Id.* Exs. B-1 and B-2.) The  
20 Declaration of Tin Nguyen sets forth the notice process in detail:

- 21           (1) Transmission of Information to Settlement Administrator: Defendant Vita-  
22           Mix provided the settlement administrator (CPT Group) with a list of class  
23           members, including social security numbers.<sup>2</sup>  
24           (2) Mail: The settlement administrator updated the address list using a National  
25           Change of Address search and mailed and e-mailed a notice packet to all  
26           class members. The Settlement Agreement also outlines methods for finding  
27           class members whose mail is returned as undeliverable. (Nguyen Decl. ¶¶ 5,  
28           7, 9.)

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28           <sup>2</sup> This information is readily available because class members worked for Vita-Mix and provided personal information to the company for purposes of employment.

1 (3) Website: Within this same time period, the settlement administrator set up an  
2 informational website containing the Settlement Agreement, Notice, and  
3 Claim Form. (*Id.* ¶ 8.)

4 (4) Calculation of Payment: The claims administrator calculated the individual  
5 settlement payments in accordance with the methodology discussed in the  
6 Settlement Agreement, and the Court’s preliminary approval order, relating  
7 to the number of workweeks each class member worked for Defendants.

### 8 **3. Requesting Exclusion and Objecting**

9 The Settlement Agreement also provides procedures for requesting exclusion  
10 from and objecting to the class settlement. (*See id.* ¶¶ 70, 71.) It provides: “Any  
11 objection must be in writing and must be accompanied by any documentary or other  
12 evidence and any factual or legal arguments that the objecting Participating Class  
13 Member intends to rely upon in making the objection.” (*Id.* ¶ 70.) Despite the  
14 direction that “objections must be in writing,” the notice itself provides that “You may  
15 also appear at the Final Approval Hearing, either in person or through your own  
16 attorney.” (Nguyen Decl. ¶¶ 7, 9, Exs. A, B, ECF No. 65-4.)

## 17 **III. CLASS CERTIFICATION**

18 The Court previously found that the class merited certification, and nothing has  
19 changed since the Court conditionally certified the class. Class certification is  
20 appropriate only if each of the four requirements of Rule 23(a) and at least one of the  
21 requirements of Rule 23(b) are met. Under Rule 23(a), the plaintiff must show that:  
22 “(1) the class is so numerous that joinder of all members is impracticable; (2) there are  
23 questions of law and fact common to the class; (3) the claims or defenses of the  
24 representative parties are typical of the claims or defenses of the class; and (4) the  
25 representative parties will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the class.”  
26 Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(a).

27 Next, the proposed class must meet at least one of the requirements of Rule  
28 23(b)(3): (1) “questions of law or fact common to class members predominate over  
any questions affecting only individual members,” and/or (2) a class action is  
“superior to other available methods for fairly and efficiently adjudicating the

1 controversy.” Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(b)(3).

2 **A. Rule 23(a) Requirements**

3 The proposed class meets all four of the Rule 23(a) requirements. First, the 855  
4 confirmed class members represent a sufficiently numerous class. While no “exact  
5 numerical cut-off is required” for the numerosity requirement, “numerosity is  
6 presumed where the plaintiff class contains forty or more members.” *In re Cooper*  
7 *Cos. Inc. Sec. Litig.*, 254 F.R.D. 628, 634 (C.D. Cal. 2009). Thus, this class easily  
8 meets the requirement.

9 Next, the claims of potential class members demonstrate common questions of  
10 fact and law. Issues across all sub-classes include: whether Defendants failed to pay  
11 class members overtime wages; whether Defendants failed to provide meal and rest  
12 breaks; etc. The named Plaintiffs in this action also meet the typicality requirement  
13 because their claims arise out of the same circumstances as those of the other class  
14 members. Finally, named Plaintiffs and their counsel satisfy the adequacy  
15 requirement for representing absent class members because counsel is experienced,  
16 and the class representatives have no discernable conflicts of interest. These findings  
17 are bolstered by the fact that there were no written objections to the settlement, (Supp.  
18 Dancy Decl. ¶¶ 5–6), and only one objection lodged at the hearing.

19 **B. Rule 23(b)(3) Requirements**

20 The proposed class satisfies the requirement that it be “sufficiently cohesive to  
21 warrant adjudication by representation.” *Hanlon v. Chrysler Corp.*, 150 F.3d 1011,  
22 1022 (9th Cir. 1998). All members in this relatively small class were subject to  
23 Defendants’ policy of classifying Demonstrators/Sales Representatives as “exempt,”  
24 and as such, Plaintiffs demonstrate that this common factor predominates over any  
25 individualized issues in this case. Second, class resolution is superior because of the  
26 similarity of claims and modes of proof. Therefore, the Court confirms its prior  
27 finding that this putative class warrants certification for settlement purposes.

1                                   **IV. ANALYSIS OF SETTLEMENT**

2           The Court previously found that the settlement was fair, adequate, and  
3 reasonable in its preliminary approval order. (Order 3–6, ECF No. 59.) The Motion  
4 for Final Approval confirms the Court’s preliminary finding that the terms were  
5 reasonable and that notice would satisfy due process.

6           **A. Settlement Terms**

7           In determining whether a proposed class action settlement is “fair, reasonable,  
8 and adequate,” this Court may consider some or all of the following factors: (1) the  
9 strength of the plaintiffs’ case; (2) the risk, expense, complexity, and likely duration of  
10 further litigation; (3) the risk of maintaining class action status throughout trial; (4) the  
11 amount offered in settlement; (5) the extent of discovery completed and the stage of  
12 the proceedings; (6) the experience and views of counsel; (7) the presence of a  
13 governmental participant; and (8) the reaction of the class members to the proposed  
14 settlement. *See Rodriguez v. West Publishing Corp.*, 563 F.3d 948, 963 (9th Cir.  
15 2009). The settlement is appropriate when analyzing these factors because:

16           (1) Strength of Plaintiffs’ Case:

- 17           a. Defendants contend that they properly classified class members as  
18 exempt because most of their activities took place away from their place  
19 of business, at places like Costco. (Mot. for Final App. 5.) They also  
20 argue that class certification would be difficult absent settlement because  
21 the Ninth Circuit has previously rejected a similar theory of uniform  
22 misclassification of employees. *See Vinole v. Countrywide Home Loans,*  
23 *Inc.*, 571 F.3d 935 (9th Cir. 2009).
- 24           b. With respect to meal and rest breaks, Defendants contend that because  
25 class members typically worked at places like Costco, that it was  
26 incumbent upon them to schedule their own meal and rest breaks. (Mot.  
27 for Final App. 6.) This individualized work schedule would also  
28 preclude class certification, Defendants argue. (*Id.*)
- c. Defendants also contend that reductions of commissions from sales are  
not considered “deductions” of previously earned wages since they are a  
condition precedent to earning the commissions. Thus, they were not  
unlawful.
- d. Finally, Defendants argue they have strong defenses to the waiting time  
penalties and the penalties associated with Plaintiffs’ PAGA claims

1 because Defendants thought they were adequately compensating the  
2 class. In this sense, Plaintiffs could not demonstrate the violations were  
3 willful. (*Id.* at 7–8.)

4 e. Under these circumstances, Plaintiffs appear to be settling disputed  
5 claims, which favors approving the settlement. “In most situations,  
6 unless the settlement is clearly inadequate, its acceptance and approval  
7 are preferable to lengthy and expensive litigation with uncertain results.”  
8 *Nat’l Rural Telecomm. Coop. v. DIRECTV, Inc.*, 221 F.R.D. 523, 526  
9 (C.D. Cal. 2004).

10 (2) Risk/Expense of Litigation & Status of Proceedings: the parties engaged in  
11 significant informal discovery leading up to mediation. Without settlement, the  
12 cost of continuing to litigate this class action would be great because of  
13 continued discovery and motion practice. This factor weighs in favor of  
14 approving the settlement.

15 (3) Risk of Maintaining Class Action Status: as set forth above, Defendants  
16 contend there were individual issues that could have precluded certification.

17 (4) Amount of Settlement vs. Plaintiffs’ Claims: \$1.6 million is reasonable given  
18 the risk of continued litigation, and also taking into account the relatively high  
19 average payout per individual in excess of \$1,000.

20 (5) Experience of Class Counsel: Class counsel present declarations supporting  
21 their fee motion establishing that they have decades of experience in  
22 prosecuting and defending employment class actions, and have been appointed  
23 class counsel on several other occasions. (Haines Decl. ISO Mot. for Atty. Fees  
24 ¶¶ 2-8, ECF No. 65-1; Korobkin Decl. ¶¶ 2–4, ECF No. 65-2; Crouch Decl.  
25 ¶¶ 5-7, 20-21, 36, ECF No. 65-3.) This also weighs in favor of approving the  
26 settlement.

27 (6) Presence of Government Participant: the California Labor & Workforce  
28 Development Agency (“CLWDA”) is aware of this settlement and has not  
objected.

(7) Reaction of Class Members: only 2 Rule 23 class members opted out of the  
settlement, and there is only one objector, as described further below. (Supp.  
Dancy Decl. ¶¶ 6–7.)

On balance, these factors weigh in favor of approving the settlement under a  
Rule 23 analysis, and under the FLSA. *Rodriguez*, 563 F.3d at 963; *Lynn’s Food  
Store, Inc. v. United States*, 679 F.2d 1350, 1353–54 (11th Cir. 1982) (holding that  
court may approve FLSA settlement where it determines that such a settlement is “a  
fair and reasonable resolution of a bond fide dispute over FLSA provisions.”).

1 **B. Sufficiency of Notice**

2 In order to find that notice to absent class members is sufficient, the Court must  
3 analyze both the type and content of the notice.

4 **1. Type of Notice**

5 Under Rule 23(c)(2)(B), “the court must direct to class members the best notice  
6 that is practicable under the circumstances, including individual notice to all members  
7 who can be identified through reasonable effort.” The Ninth Circuit has approved  
8 individual notice to class members via e-mail. *See In re Online DVD-Rental Antitrust*  
9 *Litig.*, 779 F.3d 934, 946 (9th Cir. 2015). It has also approved notice via a  
10 combination of short-form and long-form settlement notices. *Id.*; *see also Spann v.*  
11 *J.C. Penney Corp.*, 314 F.R.D. 312, 331 (C.D. Cal. 2016) (approving e-mail and  
12 postcard notice, each of which directed the class member to a long-form notice).

13 On September 26, 2017 and October 6, 2017, CPT mailed Rule 23 or FLSA  
14 Notice Packets to all 1,055 potential Class Members. (Nguyen Decl. ¶¶ 5, 7, 9 & Exs.  
15 A–B.) The mailing addresses contained in the class lists were processed and updated  
16 using the National Change of Address Database (“NCOA”) maintained by the U.S.  
17 Postal Service. (*Id.* ¶ 6.)

18 In October 2017, CPT discovered that it had erroneously mailed FLSA Notices  
19 to 544 Rule 23 Class Members. On October 6, 2017, CPT mailed Rule 23 Notices to  
20 each of those Rule 23 Class Members, and extended their response deadline to  
21 December 5, 2017 (60 days from the October 6, 2017 mailing). (*Id.* ¶ 9.)

22 If a mailed Notice Packet was returned to CPT without a forwarding address,  
23 CPT performed a “skip trace” using Accurint, an address database. (Supp. Dancy  
24 Decl. ¶ 3.) As of December 20, 2017, CPT re-mailed a total of 197 Notice Packets as  
25 a result of new addresses located via “skip trace,” forwarding addresses provided by  
26 the Post Office, or requests from Class Members. (*Id.* ¶ 4.) Only 9 Notice Packets  
27 were undeliverable. (*Id.*) However, each of these undeliverable Notice Packets was  
28 e-mailed to the respective Class Member at their last known e-mail address, provided



1 by Defendants. (*Id.*)

2 CPT also created a website for the purpose of allowing FLSA Class members to  
3 submit FLSA Opt-In Forms and allowing Class Members to view documents  
4 pertaining to the case, including the Settlement Agreement, Notices, and other  
5 documents, along with CPT’s contact information. (*Id.* ¶ 8.) Accordingly, the Court  
6 finds this notice process satisfies due process.

7 **2. Content of Notice**

8 The Court previously analyzed and approved the notice. (Order 14, ECF No.  
9 59.) Overall, the notice procedure and content are adequate, and do not preclude final  
10 approval of the settlement.

11 **C. Objector Randall Pittman**

12 Federal Rule of Civil Procedures 23 provides that “any class member may  
13 object to the [settlement] proposal if it requires court approval....” Here, the class  
14 notice provided that class members could submit a written objection, or appear at the  
15 final approval hearing. (Nguyen Decl. ¶¶ 7, 9, Exs. A, B, ECF No. 65-4.) No written  
16 objections were filed. (Supp. Dancy Decl. ¶ 6.) At the hearing, Randall Pittman  
17 appeared, unrepresented, and claimed he was an employee of Kelly Services. Kelly  
18 Services is the staffing company that placed many of the absent class members with  
19 Vita-Mix for employment. (FAC ¶ 12.) However, Pittman admitted that he had never  
20 been placed with Vita-Mix, through Kelly Services.

21 Pittman objected because he claimed the amount of settlement funds being  
22 contributed to the CLWDA is not sufficient. He claims that the contribution is not  
23 large enough to allow him to use the services of the CLWDA in the future, at some  
24 undisclosed date. In response to questioning from the Court, Pittman confirmed that,  
25 while he was an employee of Kelly Services, he was never placed with Vita-Mix.  
26 Accordingly, Pittman is not a member of the class, or any of its sub-classes, which is  
27 limited to “covered positions.” (Preliminary Approval Order 3, ECF No. 59.) A  
28 “covered position” includes the positions of Sales Representative or Demonstrator.

1 (*Id.*) Pittman did not present any evidence or argument establishing that he is a  
2 member of the class, and thus, by the plain language of Rule 23, he does not have  
3 standing to assert his objection. Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(e)(5) (“Any *class member* may  
4 object....”) (emphasis added).

5 Even if Pittman were a class member, he provided no reason that the settlement  
6 is not fair, adequate, or reasonable. His claim regarding the CLWDA is refuted by the  
7 fact that it receives a payment from the settlement fund in connection with Plaintiffs’  
8 PAGA claim, and that the CLWDA did not lodge any objection. (Haines Decl. ¶ 31,  
9 ECF No. 54-1.) Accordingly, the Court **OVERRULES** Pittman’s objection on the  
10 grounds that he is not a member of the class, and thus does not have standing to  
11 challenge the settlement.

12 **V. MOTION FOR FEES, COSTS, INCENTIVE AWARDS, AND**  
13 **SETTLEMENT ADMINISTRATOR FEES**

14 **A. Attorneys’ Fees**

15 Class counsel seeks 25% of the common settlement fund (\$1.6 million), which  
16 totals \$400,000. “While attorneys’ fees and costs may be awarded in a certified class  
17 action where so authorized by law or the parties’ agreement, courts have an  
18 independent obligation to ensure that the award, like the settlement itself, is  
19 reasonable, even if the parties have already agreed to an amount.” *In re Bluetooth*  
20 *Headset Prod. Liab. Litig.*, 654 F.3d 935, 941 (9th Cir. 2011). “Where a settlement  
21 produces a common fund for the benefit of the entire class, courts have discretion to  
22 employ either the lodestar method or the percentage-of-recovery method.” *Id.* at 942.  
23 “[T]he lodestar method produces an award that *roughly* approximates the fee that the  
24 prevailing attorney would have received if he or she had been representing a paying  
25 client who was billed by the hour in a comparable case.” *Perdue v. Kenny A. ex rel.*  
26 *Winn*, 559 U.S. 542, 551 (2010).

27 In the Ninth Circuit, contingency fee recovery is typically in the range of 20%  
28 to 33 1/3 % of the total settlement value, with 25% considered a benchmark. *See In re*

1 *Bluetooth*, 654 F.3d at 941.

2 Because the benefit to the class is easily quantified in  
3 common-fund settlements, we have allowed courts to award  
4 attorneys a percentage of the common fund in lieu of the  
5 often more time-consuming task of calculating the lodestar.  
6 Applying this calculation method, courts typically calculate  
7 25% of the fund as the ‘benchmark’ for a reasonable fee  
8 award, providing adequate explanation in the record of any  
9 ‘special circumstances’ justifying a departure.

10 *Id.* at 942. Courts may also “cross-check” the percentage-of-the-fund approach under  
11 circumstances where the fees seem suspect. *See id.* at 944. Thus, under the  
12 percentage method, class counsel’s fee request meets the benchmark. It is further  
13 justified by the discussion above regarding the strength of Plaintiffs’ case, the  
14 challenges counsel faced in negotiating this settlement, and the fact that there is only  
15 one objector.

16 The Court also cross-checks the percentage method by applying the lodestar  
17 calculation. The lodestar method calculates a fee award by multiplying hours worked,  
18 by hourly rate, and typically provides a multiplier that takes into account risk endured  
19 by class counsel. *Fischer v. SJB-P.D. Inc.*, 214 F.3d 1115, 1119 (9th Cir. 2000).  
20 Here, class counsel submits declarations that establish:

Name	Rate <sup>3</sup>	Hours	Lodestar
Paul K. Haines	\$600	176.7	\$106,020.00
Tuvia Korobkin	\$500	192.3	\$96,150.00
John H. Crouch	\$350	206.0	\$72,100.00
Christine A. Hopkins	\$300	2.8	\$840.00
Paralegals (HLG)	\$175	15.2	\$2,660.00
Paralegals	\$75	8.3	\$622.50

27 <sup>3</sup> There are rate differences between Crouch and Haines, who have relatively similar experience, and  
28 tenure. Class counsel explains that the rate differential is due to the market rates in their respective  
geographic locations.

(Kilgore)			
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>601.3</b>	<b>\$278,392.50</b>

(Haines Decl. ¶¶ 10–13; Crouch Decl. ¶¶ 29, 34; Korobkin Decl. ¶¶ 5–6.)

**1. Hours**

The approximately 600 hours spent by class counsel reaching this settlement included: researching and drafting motions for preliminary and final approval and motion for fees, drafting stipulations and proposed orders, overseeing the notice process and interacting with class members who had questions, reviewing Court orders and filing the First Amended Complaint, analyzing class-wide data provided by Defendants to create a damages model to use at mediation, negotiating settlement and participating in, and preparing for, mediation, and discussing case strategy with co-counsel. (Haines Decl. ¶ 14.)

“[I]t is well established that ‘[t]he lodestar cross-check calculation need entail neither mathematical precision nor bean counting ... [courts] may rely on summaries submitted by the attorneys and need not review actual billing records.’” *Bellinghausen v. Tractor Supply Co.*, 306 F.R.D. 245, 264 (N.D. Cal. 2015) (quoting *Covillo v. Specialtys Cafe*, No. C–11–00594 DMR, 2014 WL 954516, at \*6 (N.D. Cal. Mar. 6, 2014)). Here, class counsel’s declarations set forth the details of how they spent their time, and the tasks all seem reasonably necessary. The tasks do not indicate that the work was duplicative, either. Accordingly, while the number of hours may be a bit high given the relatively quick settlement, the Court cannot find that they are unreasonable, especially when being used as a cross-check for the percentage method of fee calculation.

**2. Rate & Lodestar Multiplier**

In evaluating rates, courts take into account the reasonable rates for the specific geographic area and type of practice. *See Chalmers v. City of Los Angeles*, 796 F.2d 1205, 1210–11 (9th Cir. 1986). Here, class counsel sets forth several opinions from courts in this district awarding them fees at the rates requested here. *See, e.g., Prado v. Warehouse Demo Servs., Inc.*, No. CV14–3170 JFW (Ex), ECF Nos. 141, 143

1 (C.D. Cal. 2015). Thus, these rates appear reasonable.

2 Courts typically award a multiplier in a lodestar calculation that takes into  
3 account the risk contingency fee attorneys endure. *In re Wash. Pub. Power Supply*  
4 *Sys. Sec. Litig.*, 19 F.3d 1291, 1300 (9th Cir. 1994) (“[C]ourts have routinely  
5 enhanced the lodestar to reflect the risk of non-payment in common fund cases.”).  
6 Here, the lodestar multiplier is approximately 1.4 (\$278,392.50 x 1.44 = \$400,885.20).  
7 The Ninth Circuit routinely upholds higher lodestar multipliers. *See Vizcaino v.*  
8 *Microsoft Corp.*, 290 F.3d 1043, 1050 (9th Cir. 2002) (upholding multiplier of 3.65,  
9 and noting that range between 1 and 4 is typically appropriate). Accordingly, taking  
10 into account the potential risk, and the amount of work expended by class counsel, the  
11 Court awards the 25% contingency fee, which is also confirmed as appropriate by the  
12 lodestar cross-check.

13 **B. Litigation Expenses & Settlement Administrator Fees**

14 Class counsel seeks approximately \$12,000 in litigation expenses, and an award  
15 of \$20,000 to the settlement administrator. (Mot. for Atty. Fees 22.) Class counsel’s  
16 litigation fees appear reasonable in relation to the settlement amount, and included  
17 mediation fees, copying costs, travel expenses, filing and messenger fees, and  
18 research. (*Id.* at 22–23.) The reasonableness of the costs are further confirmed by the  
19 fact that the only objector did not address these costs, and that class counsel initially  
20 requested up to \$20,000 for reimbursement of costs. (Nguyen Decl. ¶ 15.)

21 The settlement administrator’s fee of \$20,000 on a \$1.6 million settlement also  
22 appears reasonable. After deducting all fees, costs, and incentive awards, the common  
23 fund for the class still exceeds \$1 million. (Mot. for Atty. Fees 4.)

24 **C. Incentive Awards**

25 Class counsel requests an incentive award of \$5,000 for each class  
26 representative. (*Id.* at 23.) Each class representative estimates that they spent in  
27 excess of 40 hours meeting with class counsel and assisting in the litigation. (R.  
28 Gooding Decl. ¶¶ 41–44, N. Gooding Decl. ¶¶ 40–43.) “Generally, in the Ninth  
Circuit, a \$5,000 incentive award is presumed reasonable.” *Bravo v. Gale Triangle*,

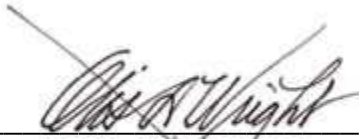
1 *Inc.*, No. CV 16-03347 BRO (GJXx), 2017 WL 708766, at \*18 (C.D. Cal. Feb. 16,  
2 2017) (citing *Harris v. Vector Mktg. Corp.*, No. C-08-5198 EMC, 2012 WL 381202,  
3 at \*7 (N.D. Cal. Feb. 6, 2012)). Accordingly, the Court approves this incentive award.

4 **VI. CONCLUSION**

5 For the reasons discussed above, the Court **GRANTS** Plaintiffs' motion for  
6 final approval. (ECF No. 66.) The also Court **OVERRULES** Pittman's objection,  
7 and **GRANTS** Plaintiffs' motion for attorneys' fees. (ECF No. 65.) Within seven  
8 days of this Order being docketed, class counsel shall submit a revised proposed final  
9 judgment consistent with this Order, and addressing Pittman's overruled objection.

10  
11 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

12  
13 January 25, 2018

14  
15 

16 **OTIS D. WRIGHT, II**  
17 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE**