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8 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

9 CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

10 LILIANA GONZALEZ,

11 Plaintiff,

12 v.

13 COSTCO WHOLESALE
CORPORATION; et al.,

14
15 Defendants.
16
17

Case No. 5:21-cv-01140-JGB-KKx

18 **STIPULATED PROTECTIVE
ORDER**

19 Judge: Jesus G. Bernal
Courtroom: 1

20 1. A. PURPOSES AND LIMITATIONS

21 Discovery in this action is likely to involve production of confidential,
 22 proprietary, or private information for which special protection from public
 23 disclosure and from use for any purpose other than prosecuting this litigation may
 24 be warranted. Accordingly, the parties hereby stipulate to and petition the Court to
 25 enter the following Stipulated Protective Order. The parties acknowledge that this
 26 Order does not confer blanket protections on all disclosures or responses to
 27 discovery and that the protection it affords from public disclosure and use extends
 28 only to the limited information or items that are entitled to confidential treatment
 under the applicable legal principles. The parties further acknowledge, as set forth
 in Section 12.3, below, that this Stipulated Protective Order does not entitle them

1 to file confidential information under seal; Civil Local Rule 79-5 sets forth the
2 procedures that must be followed and the standards that will be applied when a
3 party seeks permission from the court to file material under seal.

4 B. GOOD CAUSE STATEMENT

5 The documents and information to be exchanged throughout the course of
6 the litigation between the parties may contain trade secret or other confidential
7 research, technical, cost, price, marketing or other commercial information, as is
8 contemplated by Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(c)(1)(G).

9 This action is likely to involve trade secrets, customer valuable research,
10 development, commercial, financial, technical and/or proprietary information for
11 which special protection from public disclosure and from use for any purpose other
12 than prosecution of this action is warranted. Additional information is to include
13 company specific proprietary information related to Defendant's policies and
14 procedures involving cleaning practices, maintenance, and repair. Such
15 confidential and proprietary materials and information consist of, among other
16 things, confidential business or financial information, information regarding
17 confidential business practices, or other confidential research, development, or
18 commercial information (including information implicating privacy rights of third
19 parties), information otherwise generally unavailable to the public, or which may
20 be privileged or otherwise protected from disclosure under state or federal statutes,
21 court rules, case decisions, or common law. Accordingly, to expedite the flow of
22 information, to facilitate the prompt resolution of disputes over confidentiality of
23 discovery materials, to adequately protect information the parties are entitled to
24 keep confidential, to ensure that the parties are permitted reasonable necessary uses
25 of such material in preparation for and in the conduct of trial, to address their
26 handling at the end of the litigation, and serve the ends of justice, a protective order
27 for such information is justified in this matter. It is the intent of the parties that
28 information will not be designated as confidential for tactical reasons and that

nothing be so designated without a good faith belief that it has been maintained in a confidential, non-public manner, and there is good cause why it should not be part of the public record of this case.

2. DEFINITIONS

2.1 Action: this pending federal law suit.

2.2 Challenging Party: a Party or Non-Party that challenges the designation of information or items under this Order.

2.3 “CONFIDENTIAL” Information or Items: information (regardless of how it is generated, stored or maintained) or tangible things that qualify for protection under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(c), and as specified above in the Good Cause Statement.

2.4 Counsel: Outside Counsel of Record and House Counsel (as well as their support staff).

2.5 Designating Party: a Party or Non-Party that designates information or items that it produces in disclosures or in responses to discovery as “CONFIDENTIAL.”

2.6 Disclosure or Discovery Material: all items or information, regardless of the medium or manner in which it is generated, stored, or maintained (including, among other things, testimony, transcripts, and tangible things), that are produced or generated in disclosures or responses to discovery in this matter.

2.7 Expert: a person with specialized knowledge or experience in a matter pertinent to the litigation who has been retained by a Party or its counsel to serve as an expert witness or as a consultant in this Action.

2.8 House Counsel: attorneys who are employees of a party to this Action. House Counsel does not include Outside Counsel of Record or any other outside counsel.

2.9 Non-Party: any natural person, partnership, corporation, association, or other legal entity not named as a Party to this action.

1 2.10 Outside Counsel of Record: attorneys who are not employees of a
2 party to this Action but are retained to represent or advise a party to this Action
3 and have appeared in this Action on behalf of that party or are affiliated with a law
4 firm which has appeared on behalf of that party, and includes support staff.

5 2.11 Party: any party to this Action, including all of its officers, directors,
6 employees, consultants, retained experts, and Outside Counsel of Record (and their
7 support staffs).

8 2.12 Producing Party: a Party or Non-Party that produces Disclosure or
9 Discovery Material in this Action.

10 2.13 Professional Vendors: persons or entities that provide litigation
11 support services (e.g., photocopying, videotaping, translating, preparing exhibits or
12 demonstrations, and organizing, storing, or retrieving data in any form or medium)
13 and their employees and subcontractors.

14 2.14 Protected Material: any Disclosure or Discovery Material that is
15 designated as “CONFIDENTIAL.”

16 2.15 Receiving Party: a Party that receives Disclosure or Discovery
17 Material from a Producing Party.

18 3. SCOPE

19 The protections conferred by this Stipulation and Order cover not only
20 Protected Material (as defined above), but also (1) any information copied or
21 extracted from Protected Material; (2) all copies, excerpts, summaries, or
22 compilations of Protected Material; and (3) any testimony, conversations, or
23 presentations by Parties or their Counsel that might reveal Protected Material.

24 Any use of Protected Material at trial shall be governed by the orders of the
25 trial judge. This Order does not govern the use of Protected Material at trial.

26 4. DURATION

27 Even after final disposition of this litigation, the confidentiality obligations
28 imposed by this Order shall remain in effect until a Designating Party agrees

1 otherwise in writing or a court order otherwise directs. Final disposition shall be
2 deemed to be the later of (1) dismissal of all claims and defenses in this Action,
3 with or without prejudice; and (2) final judgment herein after the completion and
4 exhaustion of all appeals, rehearings, remands, trials, or reviews of this Action,
5 including the time limits for filing any motions or applications for extension of
6 time pursuant to applicable law.

7 5. DESIGNATING PROTECTED MATERIAL

8 5.1 Exercise of Restraint and Care in Designating Material for Protection

9 Each Party or Non-Party that designates information or items for protection
10 under this Order must take care to limit any such designation to specific material
11 that qualifies under the appropriate standards. The Designating Party must
12 designate for protection only those parts of material, documents, items, or oral or
13 written communications that qualify so that other portions of the material,
14 documents, items, or communications for which protection is not warranted are not
15 swept unjustifiably within the ambit of this Order.

16 Mass, indiscriminate, or routinized designations are prohibited. Designations
17 that are shown to be clearly unjustified or that have been made for an improper
18 purpose (e.g., to unnecessarily encumber the case development process or to
19 impose unnecessary expenses and burdens on other parties) may expose the
20 Designating Party to sanctions.

21 If it comes to a Designating Party's attention that information or items that it
22 designated for protection do not qualify for protection, that Designating Party must
23 promptly notify all other Parties that it is withdrawing the inapplicable designation.

24 5.2 Manner and Timing of Designations. Except as otherwise provided in
25 this Order (see, e.g., second paragraph of section 5.2(a) below), or as otherwise
26 stipulated or ordered, Disclosure or Discovery Material that qualifies for protection
27 under this Order must be clearly so designated before the material is disclosed or
28 produced.

1 Designation in conformity with this Order requires:

2 (a) for information in documentary form (e.g., paper or electronic
3 documents, but excluding transcripts of depositions or other pretrial or trial
4 proceedings), that the Producing Party affix at a minimum, the legend
5 “CONFIDENTIAL” (hereinafter “CONFIDENTIAL legend”), to each page that
6 contains protected material. If only a portion or portions of the material on a page
7 qualifies for protection, the Producing Party also must clearly identify the
8 protected portion(s) (e.g., by making appropriate markings in the margins).

9 A Party or Non-Party that makes original documents available for inspection
10 need not designate them for protection until after the inspecting Party has indicated
11 which documents it would like copied and produced. During the inspection and
12 before the designation, all of the material made available for inspection shall be
13 deemed “CONFIDENTIAL.” After the inspecting Party has identified the
14 documents it wants copied and produced, the Producing Party must determine
15 which documents, or portions thereof, qualify for protection under this Order.
16 Then, before producing the specified documents, the Producing Party must affix
17 the “CONFIDENTIAL legend” to each page that contains Protected Material. If
18 only a portion or portions of the material on a page qualifies for protection, the
19 Producing Party also must clearly identify the protected portion(s) (e.g., by making
20 appropriate markings in the margins).

21 (b) for testimony given in depositions that the Designating Party identify
22 the Disclosure or Discovery Material on the record, before the close of the
23 deposition all protected testimony.

24 (c) for information produced in some form other than documentary and
25 for any other tangible items, that the Producing Party affix in a prominent place on
26 the exterior of the container or containers in which the information is stored the
27 legend “CONFIDENTIAL.” If only a portion or portions of the information

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warrants protection, the Producing Party, to the extent practicable, shall identify the protected portion(s).

5.3 Inadvertent Failures to Designate. If timely corrected, an inadvertent failure to designate qualified information or items does not, standing alone, waive the Designating Party's right to secure protection under this Order for such material. Upon timely correction of a designation, the Receiving Party must make reasonable efforts to assure that the material is treated in accordance with the provisions of this Order.

6. CHALLENGING CONFIDENTIALITY DESIGNATIONS

6.1 Timing of Challenges. Any Party or Non-Party may challenge a designation of confidentiality at any time that is consistent with the Court's Scheduling Order.

6.2 Meet and Confer. The Challenging Party shall initiate the dispute resolution process under Local Rule 37.1 et seq.

6.3 The burden of persuasion in any such challenge proceeding shall be on the Designating Party. Frivolous challenges, and those made for an improper purpose (e.g., to harass or impose unnecessary expenses and burdens on other parties) may expose the Challenging Party to sanctions. Unless the Designating Party has waived or withdrawn the confidentiality designation, all parties shall continue to afford the material in question the level of protection to which it is entitled under the Producing Party's designation until the Court rules on the challenge.

7. ACCESS TO AND USE OF PROTECTED MATERIAL

7.1 Basic Principles. A Receiving Party may use Protected Material that is disclosed or produced by another Party or by a Non-Party in connection with this Action only for prosecuting, defending, or attempting to settle this Action. Such Protected Material may be disclosed only to the categories of persons and under the conditions described in this Order. When the Action has been terminated, a

1 Receiving Party must comply with the provisions of section 13 below (FINAL
2 DISPOSITION).

3 Protected Material must be stored and maintained by a Receiving Party at a
4 location and in a secure manner that ensures that access is limited to the persons
5 authorized under this Order.

6 7.2 Disclosure of “CONFIDENTIAL” Information or Items. Unless
7 otherwise ordered by the court or permitted in writing by the Designating Party, a
8 Receiving Party may disclose any information or item designated
9 “CONFIDENTIAL” only to:

10 (a) the Receiving Party’s Outside Counsel of Record in this Action, as
11 well as employees of said Outside Counsel of Record to whom it is reasonably
12 necessary to disclose the information for this Action;

13 (b) the officers, directors, and employees (including House Counsel) of
14 the Receiving Party to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary for this Action;

15 (c) Experts (as defined in this Order) of the Receiving Party to whom
16 disclosure is reasonably necessary for this Action and who have signed the
17 “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound” (Exhibit A);

18 (d) the court and its personnel;

19 (e) court reporters and their staff;

20 (f) professional jury or trial consultants, mock jurors, and Professional
21 Vendors to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary for this Action and who have
22 signed the “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound” (Exhibit A);

23 (g) the author or recipient of a document containing the information or a
24 custodian or other person who otherwise possessed or knew the information;

25 (h) during their depositions, witnesses ,and attorneys for witnesses, in the
26 Action to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary provided: (1) the deposing
27 party requests that the witness sign the form attached as Exhibit 1 hereto; and (2)
28 they will not be permitted to keep any confidential information unless they sign the

1 “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound” (Exhibit A), unless otherwise
2 agreed by the Designating Party or ordered by the court. Pages of transcribed
3 deposition testimony or exhibits to depositions that reveal Protected Material may
4 be separately bound by the court reporter and may not be disclosed to anyone
5 except as permitted under this Stipulated Protective Order; and

6 (i) any mediator or settlement officer, and their supporting personnel,
7 mutually agreed upon by any of the parties engaged in settlement discussions.

8 8. PROTECTED MATERIAL SUBPOENAED OR ORDERED PRODUCED
9 IN OTHER LITIGATION

10 If a Party is served with a subpoena or a court order issued in other litigation
11 that compels disclosure of any information or items designated in this Action as
12 “CONFIDENTIAL,” that Party must:

13 (a) promptly notify in writing the Designating Party. Such notification
14 shall include a copy of the subpoena or court order;

15 (b) promptly notify in writing the party who caused the subpoena or order
16 to issue in the other litigation that some or all of the material covered by the
17 subpoena or order is subject to this Protective Order. Such notification shall
18 include a copy of this Stipulated Protective Order; and

19 (c) cooperate with respect to all reasonable procedures sought to be
20 pursued by the Designating Party whose Protected Material may be affected.

21 If the Designating Party timely seeks a protective order, the Party served
22 with the subpoena or court order shall not produce any information designated in
23 this action as “CONFIDENTIAL” before a determination by the court from which
24 the subpoena or order issued, unless the Party has obtained the Designating Party’s
25 permission. The Designating Party shall bear the burden and expense of seeking
26 protection in that court of its confidential material and nothing in these provisions
27 should be construed as authorizing or encouraging a Receiving Party in this Action
28 to disobey a lawful directive from another court.

1 9. A NON-PARTY’S PROTECTED MATERIAL SOUGHT TO BE
2 PRODUCED IN THIS LITIGATION

3 (a) The terms of this Order are applicable to information produced by a
4 Non-Party in this Action and designated as “CONFIDENTIAL.” Such information
5 produced by Non-Parties in connection with this litigation is protected by the
6 remedies and relief provided by this Order. Nothing in these provisions should be
7 construed as prohibiting a Non-Party from seeking additional protections.

8 (b) In the event that a Party is required, by a valid discovery request, to
9 produce a Non-Party’s confidential information in its possession, and the Party is
10 subject to an agreement with the Non-Party not to produce the Non-Party’s
11 confidential information, then the Party shall:

12 (1) promptly notify in writing the Requesting Party and the Non-Party
13 that some or all of the information requested is subject to a confidentiality
14 agreement with a Non-Party;

15 (2) promptly provide the Non-Party with a copy of the Stipulated
16 Protective Order in this Action, the relevant discovery request(s), and a reasonably
17 specific description of the information requested; and

18 (3) make the information requested available for inspection by the
19 Non-Party, if requested.

20 (c) If the Non-Party fails to seek a protective order from this court within
21 14 days of receiving the notice and accompanying information, the Receiving
22 Party may produce the Non-Party’s confidential information responsive to the
23 discovery request. If the Non-Party timely seeks a protective order, the Receiving
24 Party shall not produce any information in its possession or control that is subject
25 to the confidentiality agreement with the Non-Party before a determination by the
26 court. Absent a court order to the contrary, the Non-Party shall bear the burden and
27 expense of seeking protection in this court of its Protected Material.

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10. UNAUTHORIZED DISCLOSURE OF PROTECTED MATERIAL

If a Receiving Party learns that, by inadvertence or otherwise, it has disclosed Protected Material to any person or in any circumstance not authorized under this Stipulated Protective Order, the Receiving Party must immediately (a) notify in writing the Designating Party of the unauthorized disclosures, (b) use its best efforts to retrieve all unauthorized copies of the Protected Material, (c) inform the person or persons to whom unauthorized disclosures were made of all the terms of this Order, and (d) request such person or persons to execute the “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound” that is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

11. INADVERTENT PRODUCTION OF PRIVILEGED OR OTHERWISE PROTECTED MATERIAL

When a Producing Party gives notice to Receiving Parties that certain inadvertently produced material is subject to a claim of privilege or other protection, the obligations of the Receiving Parties are those set forth in Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(b)(5)(B). This provision is not intended to modify whatever procedure may be established in an e-discovery order that provides for production without prior privilege review. Pursuant to Federal Rule of Evidence 502(d) and (e), insofar as the parties reach an agreement on the effect of disclosure of a communication or information covered by the attorney-client privilege or work product protection, the parties may incorporate their agreement in the stipulated protective order submitted to the court.

12. MISCELLANEOUS

12.1 Right to Further Relief. Nothing in this Order abridges the right of any person to seek its modification by the Court in the future.

12.2 Right to Assert Other Objections. By stipulating to the entry of this Protective Order no Party waives any right it otherwise would have to object to disclosing or producing any information or item on any ground not addressed in

1 this Stipulated Protective Order. Similarly, no Party waives any right to object on
2 any ground to use in evidence of any of the material covered by this Protective
3 Order.

4 12.3 Filing Protected Material. A Party that seeks to file under seal any
5 Protected Material must comply with Civil Local Rule 79-5. Protected Material
6 may only be filed under seal pursuant to a court order authorizing the sealing of the
7 specific Protected Material at issue. If a Party's request to file Protected Material
8 under seal is denied by the court, then the Receiving Party may file the information
9 in the public record unless otherwise instructed by the court.

10 13. FINAL DISPOSITION

11 After the final disposition of this Action, as defined in paragraph 4, within
12 60 days of a written request by the Designating Party, each Receiving Party must
13 return all Protected Material to the Producing Party or destroy such material. As
14 used in this subdivision, “all Protected Material” includes all copies, abstracts,
15 compilations, summaries, and any other format reproducing or capturing any of the
16 Protected Material. Whether the Protected Material is returned or destroyed, the
17 Receiving Party must submit a written certification to the Producing Party (and, if
18 not the same person or entity, to the Designating Party) by the 60 day deadline that
19 (1) identifies (by category, where appropriate) all the Protected Material that was
20 returned or destroyed and (2) affirms that the Receiving Party has not retained any
21 copies, abstracts, compilations, summaries or any other format reproducing or
22 capturing any of the Protected Material. Notwithstanding this provision, Counsel
23 are entitled to retain an archival copy of all pleadings, motion papers, trial,
24 deposition, and hearing transcripts, legal memoranda, correspondence, deposition
25 and trial exhibits, expert reports, attorney work product, and consultant and expert
26 work product, even if such materials contain Protected Material. Any such archival
27 copies that contain or constitute Protected Material remain subject to this
28 Protective Order as set forth in Section 4 (DURATION).

1 14. Any violation of this Order may be punished by any and all appropriate
2 measures including, without limitation, contempt proceedings and/or monetary
3 sanctions.

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5 IT IS SO STIPULATED, THROUGH COUNSEL OF RECORD.

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7 Dated: July 26, 2022

LAW OFFICES OF JONATHAN EBRAHIMIAN

8
9 By: /s/ Jonathan Ebrahiman
Jonathan Ebrahiman, Esq.
Attorneys for Plaintiff
10 LILIANA GONZALEZ

11
12 Dated: July 26, 2022

TYSON & MENDES, LLP

13
14 By: /s/ Kristi Blackwell
Kristi Blackwell, Esq.
Terra M. Affourtit, Esq.
Attorneys for Defendant
15 COSTCO WHOLESALE
16 CORPORATION

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18 FOR GOOD CAUSE SHOWN, IT IS SO ORDERED.

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20 DATED: July 29, 2022

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24 Honorable Kenly Kiya Kato
United States Magistrate Judge
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1 EXHIBIT A

2 ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND AGREEMENT TO BE BOUND

3 I, _____ [print or type full name], of
4 _____ [print or type full address], declare under penalty of perjury
5 that I have read in its entirety and understand the Stipulated Protective Order that
6 was issued by the United States District Court for the Central District of California
7 on [date] in the case of _____ **[LILIANA GONZALEZ v. COSTCO**
8 **WHOLESALE CORPORATION (CASE NO.: 5:21-cv-01140-JGB-KK)]**. I
9 agree to comply with and to be bound by all the terms of this Stipulated Protective
10 Order and I understand and acknowledge that failure to so comply could expose
11 me to sanctions and punishment in the nature of contempt. I solemnly promise that
12 I will not disclose in any manner any information or item that is subject to this
13 Stipulated Protective Order to any person or entity except in strict compliance with
14 the provisions of this Order.

15 I further agree to submit to the jurisdiction of the United States District Court for
16 the Central District of California for the purpose of enforcing the terms of this
17 Stipulated Protective Order, even if such enforcement proceedings occur after
18 termination of this action. I hereby appoint _____ [print
19 or type full name] of _____ [print or
20 type full address and telephone number] as my California agent for service of
21 process in connection with this action or any proceedings related to enforcement of
22 this Stipulated Protective Order.

23 Date: _____

24 City and State where sworn and signed: _____

25
26 Printed name: _____

27
28 Signature: _____

1 **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

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3 I hereby certify that on July 28, 2022, I electronically filed the
4 **STIPULATED PROTECTIVE ORDER** with the Clerk of the Court using the
5 CM/ECF system which will send notification of such filing electronically to
6 registered counsel.

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8 Respectfully submitted,
9 LINDA ROMO

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