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| 6 | IN THE UNITED STATES I | DISTRICT COURT FOR THE |
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| 8 | EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA | |
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| 10 | ELIAZAR SANCHEZ, et al., | 1:14-cv-797-AWI-MJS |
| 11 | Plaintiffs, | ORDER ADOPTING FINDINGS AND |
| 12 | V. | RECOMMENDATIONS IN FULL AND DENYING PLAINTIFFS' MOTION |
| 13 | FRITO-LAY, Inc., | FOR PRELIMINARY APPROVAL OF CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT |
| 14 | Defendant. | |
| 15 | / | (Docs. 9, 16) |
| 16 | The matter now pending before this Court is a wage and hour putative class action, filed | |
| 17 | on behalf of Frito-Lay maintenance mechanics, all alleged to have suffered multiple labor code | |
| 18 | violations. On December 11, 2014, Plaintiffs filed a motion seeking conditional class | |
| 19 | certification and preliminary approval settlement for a wage and hour class action. On August 5, | |
| 20 | 2015, the Magistrate Judge assigned to this matter issued Findings and Recommendations, | |
| 21 | recommending denial of class certification and providing a fourteen day period within which to | |
| 22 | submit objections. To date, no objections have been filed. | |
| 23 | In accordance with the provisions of 28 U.S.C. § 636 (b)(1)(C), this Court has conducted | |
| 24 | a de novo review of the case. Having carefully reviewed the entire file, the Court finds that the | |
| 25 | Findings and Recommendations are supported by the record and by proper analysis. | |
| 26 | The Court would highlight the Magistrate Judge's determination that Plaintiffs have | |
| 27 | failed to affirmatively demonstrate compliance with the Rule 23(a) requirements. See Amchem | |
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| 1 | Prods., Inc., v. Windsor, 521 U.S. 591, 620 (1997) (Courts must pay "undiluted, even | |
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| 2 | heightened, attention [to the Rule 23 considerations] in the settlement context."). Specifically, | |
| 3 | this Court agrees that Plaintiffs showing is inadequate as to both the commonality and typicality | |
| 4 | requirements. See Doc. 16 at 7-9. Plaintiffs' assumed violation rate is further illustrative of the | |
| 5 | inadequacy of Plaintiffs' submission; this Court cannot satisfy its obligation to determine the | |
| 6 | fairness of the settlement agreement on behalf of the absent putative class members without | |
| 7 | requiring proof of a violation rate based on something more than Plaintiffs' conclusion. Id. at 16. | |
| 8 | A full explanation of Defendant's relevant employment policies complimented by an explanation | |
| 9 | of <i>how</i> and <i>how often</i> they impacted the putative class members would likely go far to resolve | |
| 10 | those issues. | |
| 11 | For the reasons articulated above and in the Magistrate Judge's Findings and | |
| 12 | Recommendations, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that: | |
| 13 | 1. The Findings and Recommendations are ADOPTED in full; | |
| 14 | 2. Plaintiff's motion for conditional class certification and preliminary approval of | |
| 15 | class settlement is DENIED without prejudice. | |
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| 17 | IT IS SO ORDERED. | |
| 18 | Dated: August 26, 2015 SENIOR DISTRICT JUDGE | |
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