

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28

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

TIFFANY BRINKLEY, on behalf of
herself and others similarly situated,

Plaintiff,

v.
MONTEREY FINANCIAL
SERVICES, INC.; DOE NO. 1
MONTEREY FINANCIAL
SERVICES, LLC DOES 1 through
100, inclusive,

Defendants.

CASE NO. 16cv1103-WQH-WVG
ORDER

HAYES, Judge:

The matters before the Court are the Motion to Remand filed by Plaintiff Tiffany Brinkley (“Plaintiff”) (ECF No. 12); the Motions to Strike filed by Defendant Monterey Financial Services, Inc. and Defendant Monterey Financial Services, LLC (“Defendants”) (ECF Nos. 37, 51); and the Motion to Strike filed by Plaintiff (ECF Nos. 40, 41).

I. Background

On October 15, 2013, Plaintiff commenced an action against Monterey Financial Services, Inc. in the Superior Court of the State of California for the County of San Diego by filing a Complaint. (ECF No. 1-3 at 2). On May 6, 2016, Defendants removed this action to federal district court pursuant to the Class Action Fairness Act (“CAFA”), 28 U.S.C. §§ 1332(d)(2), 1453(b). (ECF No. 1). On May 13, 2016,

1 Defendants filed a Motion to Dismiss pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure
2 12(b)(6) (ECF No. 7), and a Motion for Judgment on the Pleadings pursuant to Federal
3 Rule of Civil Procedure 12(c) (ECF No. 8).

4 On May 19, 2016, Plaintiff filed a motion to remand. (ECF No. 12). On June 6,
5 2016, Defendants filed a response. (ECF No. 15). On June 13, 2016, Plaintiff filed a
6 reply. (ECF No. 20). On September 15, 2016, the Court issued an order allowing “the
7 parties a period of 60 days to engage in limited jurisdictional discovery regarding the
8 amount in controversy requirement and the CAFA exceptions.” (ECF No. 21 at 11).
9 The Court ordered that “[t]he parties shall file any supplemental responses within 90
10 days of this Order, and any replies shall be filed within 14 days of any supplemental
11 response.” *Id.* at 11-12.

12 On December 14, 2016, Defendants filed a supplemental brief in response to
13 Plaintiff's motion to remand. (ECF No. 27). On December 14, 2016, Plaintiff filed a
14 supplemental brief in support of her motion to remand. (ECF No. 28). On December
15 28, 2016, Defendants filed a response to Plaintiff's supplemental brief. (ECF No. 36).
16 On December 28, 2016, Defendants filed a motion to strike the declaration of James R.
17 Lackritz, Ph.D. included in Plaintiff's supplemental brief. (ECF No. 37). On December
18 28, 2016, Plaintiff filed a response to Defendants' supplemental brief. (ECF No. 38).
19 On December 30, 2016, Plaintiff filed an amended notice of motion to strike
20 declarations of Chris Hughes submitted by Defendants, as well as to strike an exhibit
21 to Defendants' supplemental brief. (ECF No. 40). On January 3, 2017, Plaintiff filed
22 an amended memorandum in support of her amended notice of motion to strike. (ECF
23 No. 41). On January 3, 2017, Plaintiff filed a Motion to Strike Defendants' reply to
24 Plaintiff's supplemental brief, including an attached declaration and exhibits. (ECF No.
25 42).

26 On January 13, 2017, Defendants filed a response in opposition to the motion to
27 strike declarations of Chris Hughes and an exhibit to Defendants' supplemental brief.
28 (ECF No. 43). On January 13, 2017, Plaintiff filed a response in opposition to

1 Defendants' motion to strike the declaration of Dr. Lackritz. (ECF No. 44). On
2 January 20, 2017, Defendants filed a reply to their motion to strike the declaration of
3 Dr. Lackritz. (ECF No. 45). On January 23, 2017, Plaintiff filed a reply to her motion
4 to strike declarations of Chris Hughes and an exhibit to Defendants' supplemental brief.
5 (ECF No. 47).

6 On February 8, 2017, the Court issued an order granting in part and denying in
7 part Plaintiff's motion to strike Defendants' reply to Plaintiff's supplemental brief.
8 (ECF No. 49). The Court "allow[ed] Plaintiff to file a sur-reply to respond to any new
9 information and/or arguments made by Defendants in their reply to Plaintiff's
10 supplemental brief (ECF No. 36)." *Id.* at 4. On February 22, 2017, Plaintiff filed a
11 sur-reply (ECF No. 50) and a supplemental declaration by Dr. Lackritz (ECF No. 50-1).
12 On March 1, 2017, Defendants filed a motion to strike the supplemental declaration of
13 Dr. Lackritz. (ECF No. 51). On March 7, 2017, Plaintiff filed a response. (ECF No.
14 53). On March 9, 2017, Defendants filed a reply. (ECF No. 54).

15 **II. Motion to Strike Dr. Lackritz's February 17, 2017 Supplemental Declaration** 16 **(ECF No. 51)**

17 Defendants contend that Dr. Lackritz's supplemental declaration included in
18 Plaintiff's sur-reply (ECF No. 50-1) should be stricken because the Court did not allow
19 Plaintiff to file a supplemental declaration. Plaintiff contends that the Court's order did
20 not prohibit Plaintiff from filing a supplemental declaration.

21 "[T]he function of a 12(f) motion to strike is to avoid the expenditure of time and
22 money that must arise from litigating spurious issues by dispensing with those issues
23 prior to trial[.]" *Sidney-Vinsein v. A.H. Robins Co.*, 697 F.2d 880, 885 (9th Cir. 1983).
24 However, "there is a strong preference against motions to strike." *Rees v. PNC Bank,*
25 *N.A.*, 308 F.R.D. 266, 275 (N.D. Cal. 2015). In this case, the Court allowed Plaintiff
26 "to file a sur-reply to respond to any new information and/or arguments made by
27 Defendants in their reply to Plaintiff's supplemental brief." (ECF No. 49 at 4).
28 Defendants have not identified any prejudice that would result if the supplemental

1 declaration was not stricken. *See Hawn v. Exec. Jet. Mgmt., Inc.*, 615 F.3d 1151, 1161-
2 62 (9th Cir. 2010) (affirming district court’s denial of a motion to strike, in part because
3 “[the moving parties] have made no showing of prejudice”); *S.E.C. v. Sands*, 902 F.
4 Supp. 1149, 1165-66 (C.D. Cal. 1995) (“courts often require a showing of prejudice by
5 the moving party” before granting a motion to strike).

6 Defendants’ Motion to Strike the supplemental declaration (ECF No. 51) is
7 denied. *See Chaconas v. JP Morgan Chase Bank*, 713 F. Supp.2d 1180, 1190 (S.D.
8 Cal. 2010) (Hayes, J.) (“whether to grant a motion to strike lies within the sound
9 discretion of the district court . . . [and i]n exercising its discretion, the court views the
10 pleadings in the light most favorable to the non-moving party”) (citation omitted).

11 **III. Motion to Remand (ECF No. 12)**

12 **A. CAFA Home-State Exception**

13 **i. Contentions of the Parties¹**

14 Plaintiff contends that the home-state exception to CAFA applies to this case
15 because approximately 83.8% to 87.7% of the putative class members are citizens of
16 California. Plaintiff contends that an expert analysis of the most recent residential
17 addresses of persons on the class list is sufficient to establish that at least two-thirds of
18 the proposed class members are California citizens. Plaintiff contends that she may rely
19 on the presumption of “continuing domicile” to establish the citizenship of proposed
20 class members. (ECF No. 28 at 5). Plaintiff contends the analysis of the class list
21 conducted by her expert shows that the average continuous residency in California for
22 class members whose most recent address is in California ranges from 13.5 to 20.91
23 years. *Id.* at 6, ECF No. 50 at 7. Plaintiff contends that she has met her burden of
24 establishing domicile in this case by presenting the Court with the residential addresses
25 of proposed class members.

26
27 ¹ The Court previously reviewed the contentions of the parties made in Plaintiff’s
28 Motion to Remand (ECF No. 12), Defendants’ response in opposition (ECF No. 15),
and Plaintiff’s reply (ECF No. 20) in its September 15, 2016 order. (ECF No. 21). In
this order, the Court only reviews the contentions of the parties’ supplemental briefs
filed in response to the Court’s September 15, 2016 order. (ECF No. 21).

1 Defendants contend that Plaintiff has failed to meet her burden of establishing
2 that at least two-thirds of the proposed class members are citizens of California.
3 Defendants contend that the expert analysis submitted by Plaintiff included individuals
4 who fall outside of Plaintiff’s class definition, as defined in the complaint filed in state
5 court. Defendants contend that the expert analysis submitted by Plaintiff did not
6 account for proposed class members “who were merely ‘physically located’ in
7 California or Washington at the time of a call” with Defendants but who were not
8 citizens of California. (ECF No. 36 at 5) (citing ECF No. 1-3 at ¶ 26). Defendants
9 contend that the expert analysis submitted by Plaintiff did not account for United States
10 citizenship.

11 **ii. Applicable Law**

12 CAFA confers “original” federal diversity jurisdiction over proposed class
13 actions if “(1) the aggregate amount in controversy exceeds \$5,000,000, and (2) any
14 class member is a citizen of a state different from any defendant.” *Serrano v. 180*
15 *Connect, Inc.*, 478 F.3d 1018, 1020-21 (9th Cir. 2007) (citing 28 U.S.C. § 1332(d)(2)).
16 “However, Congress also provided exceptions allowing certain class actions that would
17 otherwise satisfy CAFA’s jurisdictional requirements to be remanded to state court.”
18 *Mondragon v. Capital One Auto Fin.*, 736 F.3d 880, 882 (9th Cir. 2013). When a
19 federal court’s jurisdiction is not based on the CAFA statute, courts impose a “[s]trong
20 presumption against removal jurisdiction . . . [and] the defendant always has the burden
21 of establishing that removal is proper.” *Gaus v. Miles, Inc.*, 980 F.2d 564, 568 (9th Cir.
22 1992) (citation omitted). However, when a party moves to remand pursuant to an
23 exception in a CAFA case, the burden shifts to “the party seeking remand . . . to prove
24 an exception to CAFA’s jurisdiction.” *Serrano*, 478 F.3d at 1021-22.

25 The home-state controversy exception to CAFA states that:

26 A district court shall decline to exercise jurisdiction under [CAFA] . . .
27 [where] two-thirds or more of the members of all proposed plaintiff
28 classes in the aggregate, and the primary defendants, are citizens of the
State in which the action was originally filed.

1 28 U.S.C. § 1332(d)(4)(B). The purpose of this exception is to ensure “that aggregate
2 actions with substantial ties to a particular state remain in the courts of that state” –
3 despite CAFA’s general objective of ensuring federal jurisdiction over class action
4 disputes. *Allen v. Boeing Co.*, 784 F.3d 625, 630 (9th Cir. 2015); *see Standard Fire Ins.*
5 *Co. v. Knowles*, 133 S. Ct. 1345, 1350 (2013) (“CAFA’s primary objective [is] ensuring
6 Federal court consideration of interstate cases of national importance.”) (citation
7 omitted). When considering whether a CAFA exception applies to an action in federal
8 court, citizenship is analyzed “as of the date of service by plaintiffs of an amended
9 pleading, motion, or other paper, indicating the existence of Federal jurisdiction.” 28
10 U.S.C. § 1332(d)(7). While CAFA’s home-state exception is not jurisdictional, a
11 federal court must remand the action to state court if it finds the requirements of the
12 exception have been satisfied. *See Visendi v. Bank of America, N.A.*, 733 F.3d 863, 869
13 n.3 (9th Cir. 2013) (finding that “the court . . . must decline to exercise [] jurisdiction”
14 over a matter if a CAFA exception applies). “A district court makes factual findings
15 regarding jurisdiction under a preponderance of the evidence standard.” *Mondragon*,
16 736 F.3d at 884.

17 **iii. Analysis**

18 Plaintiff bears the burden of establishing that (1) two-thirds or more of the
19 members of her proposed class, in the aggregate, are citizens of California; and (2)
20 Defendants are citizens of California. The parties do not dispute that Defendants are
21 citizens of California. *See* ECF No. 1-11 at 2; Hughes Decl. at ¶ 2 (“In October
22 Monterey underwent a legal conversion to a California limited liability company . . .
23 Monterey remains a California LLC with its sole member domiciled in California
24 today”).² Therefore, the Court’s analysis focuses solely on whether Plaintiff has met
25

26 ² Plaintiff filed a Motion to Strike (ECF Nos. 40, 41) two declarations of Chris
27 Hughes (ECF Nos. 1-11, 27-2) because Defendants refused to produce Hughes for a
28 noticed deposition. Under Rule 37(b)(2) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, the
Court may strike any pleading if a party’s officer “fails to obey an order to provide or
permit discovery[.]” Fed. R. Civ. P. 37(b)(2)(A)(iii). “Imposition of sanctions under
Rule 37(b), and the selection of the particular sanction, are matters left to the discretion

1 her burden to demonstrate that at least two-thirds of her proposed class members are
2 California citizens. The Court of Appeals has held that a district court’s order to
3 remand, pursuant to a CAFA exception, cannot “be based simply on a plaintiff’s
4 allegations, when they are challenged by the defendant.” *Mondragon*, 736 F.3d at 884.
5 However, Plaintiff’s burden of proof “should not be exceptionally difficult to bear[,]”
6 and the Court is “permitted to make reasonable inferences from facts in evidence . . .
7 in applying” the home-state exception to this case. *Id.* at 886.

8 In *Mondragon*, the Court of Appeals was presented with an appeal from the
9 district court’s order remanding an action to state court pursuant to CAFA’s
10 local-controversy exception.³ 736 F.3d at 881; *see* 28 U.S.C. § 1332(d)(4)(A). The
11 Court of Appeals concluded that the party with the burden of establishing citizenship
12 “may rely on the presumption of continuing domicile, which provides that, once
13 established, a person’s state of domicile continues unless rebutted with sufficient
14 evidence of change.” *Mondragon*, 736 F.3d at 885. District courts in this circuit have
15 found that, after *Mondragon*, providing a class list with recent residential addresses may
16 be sufficient to satisfy a CAFA exception – so long as at least two-thirds of the listed
17 addresses are in the same state. *See Walker v. Apple, Inc.*, Case No. 15-cv-1147 L
18 (BGS), 2015 WL 12699871, at *3-5 (S.D. Cal. Sept. 17, 2015) (Lorenz, J.) (providing
19 class list containing approximately 80% residential addresses in California led the court
20 to draw “reasonable . . . infer[ence] that most (more than two-thirds) of the purported
21 class members live and intend to remain in California.”); *Serrano v. Bay Bread LLC*,

22 _____
23 of the trial court.” *Liew v. Breen*, 640 F.2d 1046, 1050 (9th Cir. 1981). The Court
24 declines to strike the two Hughes declarations, and denies Plaintiff’s Motion to Strike
25 Plaintiff’s Motion to Strike as to Exhibit 1 to the Supplemental Declaration of Matthew
Orr (ECF No. 27-1 at 3-11).

26 ³ In *Mondragon*, the Court of Appeals analyzed the district court’s findings as to
27 the local-controversy exception, and not the home-state exception. 736 F.3d at 881-82.
28 The reasoning of the Court of Appeals is relevant to a home-state exception analysis.
See also Visendi, 733 F.3d 869 n.3 (finding the local-controversy and home-state
exceptions are “related”); *Allen*, 784 F.3d at 630 (considering the local-controversy and
home-state exceptions together).

1 Case No. 14–cv–01087–TEH, 2014 WL 4463843, at *3 (N.D. Cal. Sept. 10, 2014)
2 (finding the plaintiffs met their burden to establish CAFA exception by “produc[ing]
3 evidence that 99.7% of the putative class had a mailing address in California”).

4 Plaintiff relies on the purported class list provided by Defendants during
5 jurisdictional discovery, along with the expert analysis of Dr. Lackritz, to demonstrate
6 that at least two-thirds of the proposed class are California citizens. The parties do not
7 dispute that the list contains 152,141 persons in total. (ECF No. 28 at 5). The parties
8 also do not dispute that 133,496 out of the 152,141 persons on the list, or 87.7%, have
9 a residential address listed in California. *Id.* In response to Defendants’ argument that
10 the list contains individuals outside of Plaintiff’s proposed class definition, Plaintiff
11 instructed her expert to restrict his analysis to include only those individuals who fall
12 within the class definition. (ECF No. 50 at 6-7). Plaintiff contends – and Defendants
13 do not contend otherwise – that 57,950 out of 69,145 individuals on the narrowed-down
14 list, or 83.8%, contain a residential address listed in California. *Id.* at 6. Defendants do
15 not contest that more than two-thirds of the residential addresses on the class list are in
16 California – including the narrowed-down class list. The Court finds that Plaintiff “may
17 rely on the presumption of continuing domicile” set forth by the Court of Appeals in
18 *Mondragon*. 736 F.3d at 885. Based on this presumption, between 83.8% and 87.7%
19 of the proposed class members are domiciled in California “unless rebutted with
20 sufficient evidence of change.” *Id.*

21 Plaintiff’s presumption of continuing domicile is strengthened by her expert’s
22 analysis of additional evidence of voter registration information and up to the last ten
23 known addresses and dates of residency for 400 randomly-chosen individuals from the
24 class list. (ECF No. 28-25 at 2-3; Lackritz Decl. at ¶¶ 3, 7). Plaintiff filed under seal
25 a list of the 400 randomly-chosen individuals – and this list contains corresponding
26 historical addresses, phone numbers, property tax information, and voter registration
27
28

1 information. (ECF No. 29 at 1-2). *See also* ECF No. 33.⁴ The expert analysis
2 submitted by Plaintiff states that the average residency of proposed class members in
3 the sample with a California address on the list ranges from an average of 13.5 years to
4 20.91 years. (ECF No. 28-25 at 4, Lackritz Decl. at ¶ 11; ECF No. 50-1 at 4, Lackritz
5 Decl. at ¶ 10). Defendants have not submitted information to “rebut” Plaintiff’s
6 evidence “with sufficient evidence of change.” *Mondragon*, 736 F.3d at 885.

7 Rather, Defendants contend that Dr. Lackritz’s analysis is not relevant or
8 admissible under Federal Rule of Evidence 702. Under Rule 702, expert testimony is
9 relevant if it “logically advances a material aspect of the proposing party’s case.”
10 *Messick v. Novartis Pharms. Corp.*, 747 F.3d 1193, 1196 (9th Cir. 2014) (quoting
11 *Daubert v. Merrill Dow Pharms., Inc.*, 43 F.3d 1311, 1315 (9th Cir. 1995)). When
12 “facts are in dispute” over a federal court’s jurisdiction under CAFA, “district courts
13 [are required] to make factual findings before granting a motion to remand a matter to
14 state court.” *Mondragon*, 736 F.3d at 883.

15 On September 15, 2016, the Court permitted the parties “to engage in limited
16 jurisdictional discovery regarding the amount in controversy requirement and the CAFA
17 exceptions.” (ECF No. 21 at 11). The CAFA statute “does not say that remand can be
18 based simply on a plaintiff’s allegations, when they are challenged by the defendant.”
19 *Mondragon*, 736 F.3d at 884. Dr. Lackritz’s declaration was produced following the
20 period of jurisdictional discovery imposed by the Court, and the Court considers
21 information other than “[P]laintiff’s allegations” because Defendants have challenged
22 the application of CAFA exceptions to this case. *Id.* In *Mondragon*, the Court of
23 Appeals found that the residential addresses of class members were relevant to
24 establishing domicile. *Id.* at 885-86. The Court concludes that Dr. Lackritz’s
25 declarations are relevant because they “logically advance[] a material aspect of the

26
27 ⁴ Defendants provided Plaintiff with “a class list identifying 152,141 putative
28 class members, containing their most recent name, address, and telephone number and
the dates of the first and last recorded calls.” (ECF No. 28 at 4). While the list of 400
randomly-selected class members has been filed under seal in this case (ECF No. 33),
the list identifying 152,141 putative class members has not been filed in this case.

1 [Plaintiff's] case." *Messick*, 747 F.3d at 1196 (citation omitted).

2 Defendants further contend that Dr. Lackritz's declarations are inadmissible
3 because they are not sufficiently reliable under Rule 702. Dr. Lackritz states that he
4 generated his report and conclusions after "creat[ing] a sample of 400 people using a
5 random number generator in an Excel spreadsheet" based on the class list provided by
6 Defendants. (ECF Nos. 28 at 18; 28-25 at 2, Lackritz Decl. at ¶ 3; 50-1 at 2, Lackritz
7 Decl. at ¶ 3). Defendants do not challenge the methodology, techniques, or practices
8 used by Dr. Lackritz in performing his analysis. *See Daubert v. Merrell Dow Pharmas.,*
9 *Inc.*, 509 U.S. 579, 593 (1993). Defendants do not assert that the analysis lacks a
10 scientific basis or contains an unacceptable rate of error. *Id.* at 592, 594. Defendants
11 do not challenge the methodology used by Dr. Lackritz to choose the random sampling
12 or the procedures utilized by Dr. Lackritz in performing his analysis. The Court of
13 Appeals has held that a *Daubert* reliability analysis is concerned only with "the
14 soundness of [the expert's] methodology" and "not the correctness of the expert's
15 conclusions." *Stilwell v. Smith & Nephew, Inc.*, 482 F.3d 1187, 1192 (9th Cir. 2007)
16 (citation omitted). In *Rudebusch v. Hughes*, the Court of Appeals found that "the
17 propriety of controlling for particular variables in a[n] . . . analysis goes to weight rather
18 than admissibility." 313 F.3d 506, 516 (9th Cir. 2002). The Court concludes
19 Defendants' Motion to Strike Dr. Lackritz's declaration on reliability grounds is a
20 challenge that "go[es] to the weight, not the admissibility" of the declaration. *Kennedy*
21 *v. Collagen Corp.*, 161 F.3d 1226, 1230-31 (9th Cir. 1998).⁵ *See also American Dental*
22 *Ass'n v. Khorrami*, No. CV 02-3853-RSWL (RZx), 2006 WL 5105271, at *3 (C.D. Cal.
23 June 9, 2006) ("Because Plaintiff does not challenge the methodology [of an expert
24 report], its challenge to the conclusions alone is not a basis to preclude expert testimony
25 under either *Daubert* or Federal Rule of Evidence 702.").

26
27 ⁵ The Court denies both Defendants' Motion to Strike Dr. Lackritz's Declaration
28 (ECF No. 37) and Motion to Strike Dr. Lackritz's supplemental declaration on
relevancy and reliability grounds (ECF No. 51). The Court concludes that these
challenges address the weight, and not the admissibility of the declarations submitted
by Dr. Lackritz.

1 The Court finds that Defendants have not come forward with evidence rebutting
2 the reasonable inferences to be drawn from Plaintiff's evidence – including the
3 presumption of continuing domicile as permitted by the Court of Appeals in
4 *Mondragon*. The Court concludes that Plaintiff has presented evidence to demonstrate,
5 by a preponderance, that “greater than two-thirds of prospective class members were
6 citizens of California as of the date the case became removable[.]”⁶ *Mondragon*, 736
7 F.3d at 883. *See also Bey v. SolarWorld Indus. Am., Inc.*, 904 F. Supp.2d 1096, 1102
8 (D. Or. 2012) (“In determining whether the requirements of . . . the ‘home-state
9 controversy’ exception have been satisfied, it is permissible for a court to apply
10 common sense and reasonable inferences.”). The Court concludes that Plaintiff has met
11 her burden to demonstrate the home-state exception to CAFA applies to this matter.
12 Plaintiff's Motion to Remand (ECF No. 12) is granted.

13 **V. Conclusion**

14 IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Plaintiff's Motion to Remand (ECF No. 12) is
15 granted.

16 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Defendants' Motion to Strike Dr. Lackritz's
17 Declaration (ECF No. 37) is denied.

18 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Plaintiff's Motion to Strike (ECF Nos. 40, 41)
19 is denied as to the two Hughes declarations.

20 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Defendants' Motion to Strike the supplemental
21 declaration of Dr. Lackritz is denied. (ECF No. 51).

22 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Motion to Dismiss filed by Defendants
23

24 ⁶ Plaintiff's class list and analysis contains residential address information
25 through November 2015. *See* ECF No. 28 at 5. The Court determines citizenship of
26 the proposed class members as of “the date of service by plaintiffs of an amended
27 pleading, motion, or other paper, indicating the existence of Federal jurisdiction” –
28 which in this case was May 6, 2016, or the date of service of the Notice of Removal.
28 U.S.C. § 1332(d)(7); ECF No. 1-12; *see also Whiting v. Hertling Indus., Inc.*, No.
C-93-0217-DLJ, 1993 WL 69186, at *2-4 (N.D. Cal. Feb. 26, 1993) (finding the date
of service for notice of removal was the date defendant deposited the notice in the mail).
The Court draws a reasonable inference from the evidence that at least two-thirds of the
purported class members lived and intended to remain in California as of May 6, 2016.

1 (ECF No. 7) and the Motion for Judgment on the Pleadings filed by Defendants (ECF
2 No. 8) are denied without prejudice as moot.

3 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1447(c), this action
4 is remanded back to the Superior Court of California, County of San Diego, where it
5 was originally filed and assigned the case number 37-02013-00071119-CU-MC-NC.

6 DATED: March 23, 2017

7 
8 **WILLIAM Q. HAYES**
9 United States District Judge

10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28