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HERRERA KENNEDY LLP
Shawn M. Kennedy (SBN 218472)
skennedy@herrerakennedy.com
Bret D. Hembd (SBN 272826)
bhembd@herrerakennedy.com
4590 MacArthur Blvd., Suite 500
Newport Beach, CA 92660
Tel: (949) 936-0900
Fax: (855) 969-2050

HERRERA KENNEDY LLP
Nicomedes Sy Herrera (SBN 275332)
nherrera@herrerakennedy.com
Laura E. Seidl (SBN 269891)
lseidl@herrerakennedy.com
1300 Clay Street, Suite 600
Oakland, CA 94612
Tel: (510) 422-4700
Fax: (855) 969-2050

LIEFF CABRASER HEIMANN &
BERNSTEIN, LLP
Rachel Geman (Pro Hac Vice)
rgeman@lchb.com
Rhea Ghosh (Pro Hac Vice)
rghosh@lchb.com
250 Hudson Street, 8th Floor
New York, NY 10013-1413
Tel: (212) 355-9500
Fax: (212) 355-9592

LIEFF CABRASER HEIMANN &
BERNSTEIN, LLP
Michael W. Sobol (SBN 194857)
msobol@lchb.com
Melissa Gardner (SBN 289096)
mgardner@lchb.com
275 Battery Street, 29th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94111-3339
Tel: (415) 956-1000
Fax: (415) 956-1008

BURNS CHAREST LLP
Warren T. Burns (Pro Hac Vice)
wburns@burnscharest.com
900 Jackson Street, Suite 500
Dallas, TX 75202
Tel: (469) 904-4550
Fax: (469) 444-5002

BURNS CHAREST LLP
Christopher J. Cormier (Pro Hac Vice)
ccormier@burnscharest.com
4725 Wisconsin Avenue, NW, Suite 200
Washington, DC 20016
Tel: (202) 577-3977
Fax: (469) 444-5002

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
OAKLAND DIVISION

IN RE PLAID INC. PRIVACY
LITIGATION

Master Docket No.: 4:20-cv-03056-DMR

THIS DOCUMENT RELATES TO:
ALL ACTIONS

**MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND
AUTHORITIES ISO PLAINTIFFS’
MOTION FOR PRELIMINARY
APPROVAL OF CLASS ACTION
SETTLEMENT**

Date: August 26, 2021
Time: 1:30 p.m.
Courtroom: 4
Judge: The Hon. Donna M. Ryu

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MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES¹

I. INTRODUCTION

After more than a year of hard-fought litigation and five months of arm’s-length settlement negotiations including two mediations with the Hon. Jay Gandhi (ret.) serving as mediator, Plaintiffs have reached an excellent settlement with Plaid that is fair, reasonable, and adequate, handily warranting preliminary approval.

This proposed nationwide class action settlement resolves claims against Plaid for invasion of privacy/intrusion into private affairs, unjust enrichment, deceit, and violations of California Constitution (Article I, Section I) and California’s Anti-Phishing Act of 2005 (“CAPA”), Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 22948 *et seq.* Plaid is a service used by a variety of mobile and web-based applications (“apps”)—such as apps that allow users to transfer money—to connect to app users’ financial accounts. Plaintiffs allege² that, in connection with this process, Plaid misled and violated the privacy of the proposed Class Members by obtaining data from their financial accounts without authorization, and by obtaining their bank login information through its user interface (known as “Plaid Link”) which Plaintiffs allege was designed to have the look and feel of the user’s own bank account login screen. *See* CAC ¶¶ 37-40.

The proposed Settlement provides substantial relief to the Class, including a non-reversionary \$58 million cash fund, and injunctive relief that addresses the complained-of conduct, including by requiring Plaid to maintain certain changes to the design of its standard interface, make more fulsome disclosures to consumers, and delete transactional banking data for consumers whose apps did not request that data. This injunctive relief will help ensure that Class members have informed control of their private financial data, and it will provide important protections for consumers across the country who increasingly rely on modern fintech apps to do business, transfer and invest funds, and otherwise manage their finances electronically. At the same time, the proposed Settlement will eliminate the risk and uncertainty of continued

¹ Unless otherwise noted, capitalized terms have the same meanings as in the Settlement Agreement (“Agreement”).

² For purposes of this Motion, references and discussion regarding Plaid’s conduct are based on the allegations in the Consolidated Amended Class Action Complaint (“CAC”) (Dkt. 61).

1 proceedings in this Court.

2 In light of the risks of continuing and protracted litigation—with its associated risks,
3 including the specter of no recovery for the proposed Class—the Agreement deserves preliminary
4 approval because it provides the immediate benefits of substantial monetary and injunctive relief.

5 **II. LITIGATION HISTORY**

6 **A. Procedural History**

7 On May 4, 2020, Plaintiffs James Cottle and Frederick Schoeneman commenced the
8 action *Cottle et al. v. Plaid Inc.*, No. 4:20-cv-03056-DMR (“Cottle Action”). On July 29, 2020,
9 the Court consolidated the Cottle Action with four related actions (collectively, the “Action”), and
10 appointed interim class counsel under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23(g). (Dkt. 51, 57.) On
11 August 5, 2020, consolidated Plaintiffs filed the CAC in the Action. (Dkt. 61.)

12 On September 14, 2020, Plaid filed a motion to dismiss the CAC. (Dkt. 78.) On April 30,
13 2021, the Court granted in part Plaid’s motion, dismissing with prejudice Plaintiffs’ claims for
14 declaratory and injunctive relief and their claims under the Stored Communications Act, 18
15 U.S.C. §§ 2701 *et seq.*; Unfair Competition Law, Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code §§ 17200 *et seq.*;
16 Computer Fraud and Abuse Act, 18 U.S.C. § 1030; and Computer Data and Access Fraud Act,
17 Cal. Penal Code § 502, and sustaining Plaintiffs’ invasion of privacy/intrusion into private affairs
18 and unjust enrichment claims for a nationwide class, as well as their deceit, California
19 Constitution, and CAPA claims for a California class. (Dkt. 125.)^s

20 **B. Discovery**

21 Plaintiffs sought and received significant discovery from Plaid both before and during
22 settlement discussions, then sought and received confirmatory discovery after reaching agreement
23 on settlement terms with Plaid. Class Counsel served—and Plaid responded to—57 document
24 requests, 21 interrogatories, and 51 requests for admissions. Kennedy Decl., ¶ 7. Plaintiffs also
25 commenced third-party discovery, having subpoenaed and started discussions with certain banks.
26 *Id.* Discovery issues were highly contested and resulted in numerous telephonic and written meet-
27 and-confers over the course of the Action. *Id.*, ¶¶ 5-9.

28 In response to formal and informal discovery requests, Plaid provided information,

1 internal documents, and data that shed light on the nature and function of Plaid’s software and
2 business practices during the class period, its finances, and the size and scope of the potential
3 class, among other things. *Id.*, ¶ 6. This allowed Class Counsel to negotiate a fully-informed
4 settlement that maximizes the financial recovery available to the Class and provides important
5 injunctive relief designed to remediate the practices underlying the alleged misconduct going
6 forward while avoiding litigation risks that were brought to light in the process.

7 **C. Settlement**

8 Between February and July 2021, the Parties engaged in lengthy and contentious arm’s-
9 length negotiations to resolve the claims in the Action. Kennedy Decl., ¶ 10. On February 16,
10 2021, the Parties engaged in a full-day mediation session with the Hon. Jay Gandhi (ret.). *Id.*,
11 ¶ 10. Prior to the mediation, the Parties prepared detailed mediation briefs outlining their
12 positions on the strengths and weaknesses of the case and participated in a technology tutorial
13 session with Judge Gandhi. *Id.* The Parties went into the mediation with substantially different
14 positions relating to appropriate settlement terms and did not resolve the Action at the initial
15 mediation. *Id.*, ¶ 11. For the next several months, while the Parties continued to litigate, they
16 continued to engage in the mediation process with Judge Gandhi, who helped bridge the gap
17 between the Parties’ positions. *Id.*, ¶ 12. These negotiations included another mediation session
18 on April 13, 2021. *Id.*, ¶ 13.

19 On June 7, 2021, Judge Gandhi made a mediator’s proposal for a class-wide settlement for
20 \$58 million subject to the parties’ negotiation and agreement of injunctive relief terms; that
21 recommendation was accepted by all Parties in a double-blind process on June 11, 2021. *Id.*, ¶ 14.
22 Over the next six weeks, the Parties negotiated the terms of a long-form settlement agreement,
23 including injunctive relief. *Id.* These negotiations ultimately resulted in the Agreement, which
24 was executed on July 30, 2021. *Id.*, ¶ 14, Ex. A.

25 **III. SUMMARY OF SETTLEMENT TERMS**

26 **A. Class Definition**

27 The Agreement provides for a settlement class (the “Class”) of all United States residents
28 who own or owned one or more “Financial Accounts” from January 1, 2013 to the date

1 preliminary approval of the Settlement is granted. “Financial Account” is defined to mean a
 2 financial institution account (1) that Plaid accessed using the user’s login credentials and
 3 connected to a mobile or web-based fintech application that enables payments (including ACH
 4 payments) or other money transfers or (2) for which a user provided financial account login
 5 credentials to Plaid through Plaid Link. *See* Kennedy Decl., Ex. A, ¶ 19.

6 **B. Monetary Relief**

7 Plaid has agreed to pay \$58,000,000 to create a non-reversionary Settlement Fund for the
 8 benefit of Class Members, who will receive a claims-made pro rata payment after the deduction
 9 of settlement-related costs, including the expenses of the settlement administrator and the costs of
 10 notice to the Class, any named plaintiff service awards, attorneys’ fee award and expense
 11 reimbursements, and any other costs approved by the Court. *Id.*, Ex. A, ¶¶ 71-78.

12 Further, unclaimed funds (if any) will go through a second distribution. In the event that
 13 either the initial or secondary distributions are not economically feasible, Plaintiffs propose that
 14 the funds be distributed by *cy pres*, to Privacy Rights Clearinghouse (PRC) and Consumer
 15 Reports (CR). The work of these organizations has the requisite nexus to this action, the goals of
 16 the underlying statutes and claims, and the interests of this Class. *See Lane v. Facebook*, 696
 17 F.3d 811, 819-820 (9th Cir. 2012). Specifically:

18 **Privacy Rights Clearinghouse (PRC)**, is “a nonprofit organization protecting privacy for
 19 all by empowering individuals and advocating for positive change,” which “strive[s] to provide
 20 clarity on complex topics by publishing extensive educational materials.” PRC also amplifies
 21 voices often underrepresented in policy discussions in its work championing strong privacy
 22 protections, including in connection with financial privacy regulations.³

23 **Consumer Reports (CR)** has a ninety year history of testing products to provide
 24 consumers with unbiased information about the risks they face in the marketplace. In recent
 25 years, CR has expanded its efforts to the digital marketplace, evaluating the privacy implications
 26 of digital technologies to provide consumers with information about security and privacy risks

27 ³ <https://privacyrights.org/about>; *see also, e.g.*, <https://privacyrights.org/resources/using-peer-peer-payments-more-safely>; <https://privacyrights.org/resources/use-mobile-financial-services-consumers-comments-consumer-financial-protection-bureau>

1 and further corporate accountability. CR’s Digital Lab, an initiative addressing data privacy and
2 security issues faced by consumers in a marketplace fueled by personal data, enables CR to
3 design and implement tests to rate technology products, services, and platforms on their
4 collection, use, and protection of consumer data, and to educate and empower consumers and to
5 galvanize the industry to bring better, safer, products and services to market.⁴

6 **C. Injunctive Relief**

7 Plaid has agreed to implement meaningful business practice changes designed to
8 remediate alleged privacy violations, improve user control over their private login information
9 and financial data, and safeguard their privacy going forward. As detailed in the following
10 sections, Plaid has agreed to (1) delete certain data from its systems; (2) inform Class Members of
11 their ability to manage the connections made between their financial accounts and chosen
12 applications using Plaid and delete data stored in Plaid’s systems; (3) continue to include certain
13 disclosures and features in Plaid’s standard Link flow; (4) minimize the data Plaid stores;
14 (5) enhance disclosures in Plaid’s End User Privacy Policy about the categories of data Plaid
15 collects, how Plaid uses data, and privacy controls Plaid has made available to users; and
16 (6) continue to host a dedicated webpage with detailed information about Plaid’s security
17 practices. These requirements will apply for at least three years within the United States.

18 **1. Data Deletion from Plaid Systems**

19 Plaid will, within the applicable timeframes, delete data from its systems that was
20 retrieved as part of Plaid’s “Transactions” product—which can include information about
21 financial account activity, such as the amount, time, and place of deposits, withdrawals, transfers,
22 or purchases—for users that Plaid can reasonably determine did not connect an account to an
23 application that requested Transactions data. *See* Kennedy Decl., Ex. A, ¶ 63. Thus, if a consumer
24 exclusively connected an application (or applications) that did not ask Plaid to collect
25 Transactions data, but Plaid retrieved that data anyway, then Plaid will delete that data from its
26 systems.⁵

27 _____
28 ⁴ <https://digital-lab.consumerreports.org/>

⁵ The data will not be deleted if the user currently has an active connection to other applications that requested that Plaid retrieve that data.

1 In addition, Plaid will delete data from its systems for users that Plaid is aware it has no
2 valid means to authenticate with the bank. *Id.* This means, for example, if Plaid determines that
3 the password it obtained for a particular bank account has changed, or that the account has been
4 closed, Plaid will delete the associated account data from its systems.

5 **2. User Control Over Data Through Plaid Portal**

6 Plaid will provide a prominent reference and link to Plaid Portal (currently located at
7 my.plaid.com) on its website homepage (www.plaid.com) along with a plain-language
8 description of the user controls available on Plaid Portal. By creating a Plaid Portal account,
9 users, including Class Members, can view and manage the connections that have been made
10 between apps and their financial accounts using Plaid. Class Members can also delete their
11 financial data stored in Plaid's systems. *See* Kennedy Decl., Ex. A, ¶¶ 58-59.

12 Plaid will also make reasonable commercial efforts to send periodic email reminders to
13 Plaid Portal account holders generally describing the user controls available in Plaid Portal,
14 including, to the extent technically feasible, the ability to disconnect applications from financial
15 accounts, and delete financial data stored in Plaid's systems. *Id.*

16 **3. Clear Disclosures at the Time of Account Connection**

17 To ensure clarity on Plaid's role in the financial account connection process, and to ensure
18 that users clearly understand who they are sharing certain information with and for what
19 purposes, Plaid will ensure that its standard Link flow includes and/or continues to include the
20 following:

21 The credentials pane, meaning the pane where users enter their financial account
22 username and password, explains that the user's credentials are being "provided to Plaid."

23 The background color of the credential pane will not utilize the color scheme associated
24 with a specific financial institution for that financial institution.

25 The consent pane, meaning the pane where users agree to Plaid's End User Privacy Policy
26 and that Plaid will connect their application to their financial institution, continues to (a) refer
27 expressly to Plaid and explain that Plaid is used to link the user's accounts; (b) include a
28 conspicuous link to Plaid's End User Privacy Policy; and (c) require the user to agree to Plaid's

1 End User Privacy Policy by taking clear affirmative action (*e.g.*, by clicking “Continue”).

2 *See id.*, Ex. A, ¶ 56.

3 **4. Minimizing the Data Plaid Stores**

4 Plaid will minimize the data it stores from users’ financial accounts as follows:

5 With respect to data retrieved from users’ financial accounts, subject to certain limitations
6 such as for compliance with applicable law, Plaid will only store the categories of data for the
7 Plaid product(s) that the user’s application specifically requests from Plaid or that are necessary
8 for Plaid to offer its services, unless the user has expressly consented to the retrieval of additional
9 data fields.

10 Plaid will use its best efforts to continue to inform the applications that use Plaid about its
11 “/item/remove endpoint,” which is a means for those applications to inform Plaid that a user has
12 terminated their account with the application, which then terminates the application’s access to
13 data from Plaid and may lead to data deletion from Plaid’s systems (if such data is not actively
14 used by another application).

15 *See id.*, Ex. A, ¶¶ 60-62.

16 **5. Enhancing Disclosures About What Plaid Is and Does**

17 In addition to the disclosures and controls discussed above, Plaid will enhance its End
18 User Privacy Policy (EUPP) to provide more detailed information about Plaid’s data collection,
19 storage, use, sharing, and deletion practices. The enhanced EUPP will:

20 Provide more detail about the categories of personal information Plaid collects from users’
21 financial accounts for each Plaid generally available product, including a plain-language list of
22 the category or categories of personal information Plaid collects and a plain-language statement
23 of the general reasons it is collected.

24 Provide more detail about how Plaid uses data, including by providing, for each category
25 of personal information that Plaid collects about users, the categories of uses for which Plaid
26 collects the information and the categories of parties with whom Plaid shares personal
27 information (if any) (*e.g.*, the developer of the user’s application).

28 Provide a plain-language explanation of Plaid’s deletion and retention practices related to

1 personal information collected from users' financial accounts.

2 Provide a dedicated section explaining in plain-language terms the privacy controls Plaid
3 has made available to users (*e.g.*, "Privacy Control Section"), regardless of whether those controls
4 are guaranteed by any legal right.

5 *See id.*, Ex. A, ¶ 53.

6 **D. Notice and Settlement Administration Costs**

7 All settlement notice and administrative costs will be paid from the Settlement Fund,
8 except that in the event such costs exceed approximately \$5.5 million (which the Parties do not
9 presently anticipate), Plaid will pay for up to \$500,000 of such additional administrative costs
10 directly to the third-party administrator. *See id.*, ¶ 17 n.2. Class Members will be notified through
11 a program led by a highly experienced, well-regarded, third-party administrator, Angeion Group
12 LLC ("Angeion"), by the methods ordered by the Court. The proposed Notice Program, described
13 in the Declaration of Steven Weisbrot of Angeion, takes advantage of state-of-the-art notification
14 methods and is designed to reach an extremely high percentage of the Class under governing
15 standards. The content of the proposed Long Form Notice, which communicates Class Members'
16 rights and options under the Settlement in plain, easily understood language, is attached as
17 Exhibit C to the Settlement Agreement (Kennedy Decl. Ex. A).

18 **E. Attorneys' Fees and Costs, and Service Awards for Class Representatives**

19 Class Counsel will request attorneys' fees of no more than 25% of the \$58 million
20 Settlement Fund plus the reimbursement of actual, out-of-pocket expenses. A fee and expense
21 petition will be filed with the Court at least 35 days in advance of the objection deadline and the
22 Long Form Notice will inform the Class Members of the prospective fee and expense request.
23 Plaid may object to any fee and expense request if it so desires. Any reduction in Class Counsel's
24 requested fee would not revert to Plaid.

25 Class Counsel will also seek service awards for Class Representatives to be paid from the
26 Settlement Fund, in an amount up to \$5,000 each. *See* Kennedy Decl. Ex. A, ¶ 112. Each
27 proposed Class Representative has contributed to the prosecution of the Action, including by
28 providing information about their experiences for their complaints, participating in a thorough

1 vetting process undertaken by Class Counsel, preserving relevant documents and ESI, responding
 2 to discovery requests, staying informed about the litigation, and responding to Class Counsel’s
 3 requests for information. *See id.*, ¶ 26. Should the Court award less than any amount requested as
 4 a Service Award, the difference in the amount sought and the amount ultimately awarded shall
 5 remain in the Settlement Fund for the benefit of the Class. *See id.*, Ex. A, ¶ 113.

6 The Agreement is neither dependent nor conditioned upon the Court approving the
 7 aforementioned payments, nor upon the Court awarding the particular amounts sought. *See id.*,
 8 Ex. A, ¶ 114.

9 **F. Proposed Schedule of Events**

10 Consistent with the provisions of the Agreement, Plaintiffs propose the following
 11 schedule for the various Settlement-related events:

Event	Date
Deadline to substantially complete notice pursuant to Notice Plan (“Notice Date”)	70 days after entry of the Court’s Preliminary Approval Order or November 12, 2021, whichever is later
Deadline for Class Counsel’s motions for final approval and for attorneys’ fees, costs, and service awards	70 days after entry of the Court’s Preliminary Approval Order
Objection / Exclusion Deadline	35 days after Notice Date
Deadline for Parties to file a written response to any comment or objection filed by a Class Member	50 days after Notice Date
Claims Deadline	90 days after Notice Date
Final Approval Hearing	Not less than 160 days after entry of the Preliminary Approval Order, or as soon thereafter as is convenient for the Court

22 **IV. ARGUMENT**

23 The Ninth Circuit maintains a “strong judicial policy” that favors settlement, particularly
 24 “where complex class action litigation is concerned.” *In re Hyundai and Kia Fuel Econ. Litig.*,
 25 926 F.3d 539, 556 (9th Cir. 2019) (quotation omitted). In the preliminary approval context, the
 26 Court must determine whether it “will likely be able to” certify the class for settlement purposes
 27 and finally approve the proposed settlement as “fair, reasonable, and adequate.” Fed. R. Civ. P.
 28 23(e). The court need not ask whether the proposed settlement is ideal or the best possible; it

1 determines only whether the settlement is fair, free of collusion, and consistent with the named
 2 plaintiffs' fiduciary obligations to the class. *See Hanlon v. Chrysler Corp.*, 150 F.3d 1011, 1026-
 3 27 (9th Cir. 1998). "At the preliminary approval stage, the court's role is to assess whether the
 4 settlement falls within the range of possible approval." *Moreno v. Capital Bldg. Maint. &*
 5 *Cleaning Servs.*, No. 19-07087, 2021 WL 1788447, at *4 (N.D. Cal. May 5, 2021) (Ryu, J.)
 6 (quotation omitted).

7 As outlined below, preliminary approval of the Agreement is easily warranted. The Court
 8 will likely be able to certify the settlement class at the final approval stage pursuant to Rule 23(a)
 9 and Rule 23(b)(3). The Court also will likely be able to finally approve the proposed
 10 Agreement—calling for a substantial monetary settlement and injunctive relief—as
 11 fundamentally fair, reasonable, and adequate. Thus, the Court should grant Plaintiffs' motion for
 12 preliminary approval of the class action settlement described herein and direct notice to the Class.

13 **A. The Court Will Be Able to Certify the Proposed Settlement Class**

14 Rule 23(e)(1) provides that preliminary approval should be granted (and notice
 15 disseminated) where the Court "will likely be able to" certify the class for settlement purposes.
 16 Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(e); *see also id.* 2018 Amendment Advisory Committee Notes. Class
 17 certification is a two-step process: first, Plaintiffs must establish numerosity, commonality,
 18 typicality, and adequacy under Rule 23(a). Second, Plaintiffs must establish that one of the bases
 19 for certification in Rule 23(b) is met.

20 "[I]n deciding whether to certify a settlement class, a district court must give heightened
 21 attention to the definition of the class or subclasses." *Carlotti v. ASUS Computer Int'l*, No. 18-
 22 03369, 2019 WL 6134910, at *17 (N.D. Cal. Nov. 19, 2019) (Ryu, J.) (quoting *In re Hyundai &*
 23 *Kia Fuel Econ. Litig.*, 926 F.3d 539, 556-57 (9th Cir. 2019)). "[T]he aspects of Rule 23(a) and
 24 (b) that are important to certifying a settlement class are those designed to protect absentees by
 25 blocking unwarranted or overbroad class definitions. The focus is on whether a proposed class
 26 has sufficient unity so that absent members can fairly be bound by decisions of class
 27 representatives." *Id.* (quoting *In re Hyundai*, 926 F.3d at 558).

28 Plaintiffs contend, and Plaid does not dispute for settlement purposes only, that the

1 proposed Class meets the requirements for class certification under Rule 23(a) and Rule 23(b)(3).

2 **1. The Requirements of Rule 23(a) Are Satisfied**

3 **a. Numerosity Is Satisfied**

4 The numerosity requirement is satisfied when the class is “so numerous that joinder of all
5 members is impracticable.” Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(a)(1). While there is no fixed rule, numerosity is
6 generally presumed when the potential number of class members reaches forty. *See Rannis v.*
7 *Recchia*, 380 F. App’x 646, 651 (9th Cir. 2010). Here, Class Members number in the tens of
8 millions and easily satisfy the numerosity requirement. *See Kennedy Decl.*, ¶ 25.

9 **b. Commonality Is Satisfied**

10 Rule 23(a)(2) requires that there be one or more questions common to the class. *See*
11 *Hanlon*, 150 F.3d at 1018. “The common question ‘must be of such a nature that it is capable of
12 classwide resolution—which means that determination of its truth or falsity will resolve an issue
13 that is central to the validity of each one of the claims in one stroke.’” *Carlotti*, 2019 WL
14 6134910, at *17 (quoting *Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. v. Dukes*, 564 U.S. 338, 350 (2011)).

15 Here, Plaintiffs readily meet this standard, as many significant common questions of law
16 and fact exist, including the following:

- 17 (1) Whether Plaid invaded reasonable expectations of privacy through improper,
18 illegal, or offensive conduct;
- 19 (2) Whether Plaid omitted or concealed material facts from Class Members that it had
20 a duty to disclose;
- 21 (3) Whether Plaid gave effective notice of its privacy policy under an objectively
22 reasonable consumer standard;
- 23 (4) Whether Plaid’s End User Privacy Policy discloses Plaid’s alleged conduct;
- 24 (5) Whether Plaid obtained consent to obtain, store, and use Class Members’ banking
25 credentials or private financial information;
- 26 (6) Whether Plaid’s software induced Class Members to provide “identifying
27 information” within the meaning of CAPA by representing itself to be a business,
28 without the authority or approval of the business; and
- (7) Whether Class Members were “adversely affected” within the meaning of CAPA
by Plaid’s collection of their financial institution login credentials or by Plaid’s
subsequent use of their login information to access, use and provide their private
banking data to Plaid’s clients.

1 All Class Members' claims will be resolved by answering these common legal questions.
 2 Indeed, Class Members' claims arise from a common course of alleged conduct: that Plaid
 3 allegedly obtained without permission their confidential login information through an interface
 4 that was designed to have the look and feel of the user's bank account login screen and that Plaid
 5 obtained more financial and other data than was authorized or needed by a user's application. *See*
 6 *In re Volkswagen "Clean Diesel" Mktg., Sales Practices, & Prods. Liab. Litig.*, No. 2672, 2017
 7 WL 672727, at *13 (N.D. Cal. Feb. 16, 2017) (finding commonality satisfied where the class
 8 representative claims "arise from Volkswagen's common course of conduct"). Thus,
 9 commonality is satisfied.

10 **c. Typicality Is Satisfied**

11 The typicality requirement is satisfied when the representative parties' claims are "typical
 12 of the claims or defenses of the class." Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(a)(3). Typicality "assure[s] that the
 13 interest of the named representative aligns with the interests of the class." *Wolin v. Jaguar Land*
 14 *Rover N. Am., LLC*, 617 F.3d 1168, 1175 (9th Cir. 2010) (citation and quotations omitted).
 15 "Under this 'permissive' rule, 'representative claims are "typical" if they are reasonably
 16 coextensive with those of absent class members; they need not be substantially identical.'" *In re*
 17 *Volkswagen*, 2017 WL 672727, at *13 (quoting *Parsons v. Ryan*, 754 F.3d 657, 685 (9th Cir.
 18 2014)).

19 Here, Plaintiffs' claims stem from the same course of conduct and pattern of alleged
 20 wrongdoing as the claims of the Class Members. Plaintiffs and the Class Members all had their
 21 confidential login information collected by Plaid by means of an interface that Plaintiffs allege
 22 improperly mimicked the look and feel of bank login screens, or had certain transactional
 23 information and data collected by Plaid without proper permission. Plaintiffs' claims are typical
 24 because they were subject to the same conduct as the other Class Members and are alleged to
 25 have suffered the same injury as a result. *See Volkswagen*, 2017 WL 672727, at *13.

26 **d. Adequacy of Representation Is Satisfied**

27 The adequate representation requirement is satisfied when the representative party is able
 28 to "fairly and adequately protect the interests of the class." Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(a)(4); *see also* Fed.

1 R. Civ. P. 23(g). “Courts engage in a dual inquiry to determine adequate representation and ask:
2 ‘(1) do the named plaintiffs and their counsel have any conflicts of interest with other class
3 members and (2) will the named plaintiffs and their counsel prosecute the action vigorously on
4 behalf of the class?’” *Carlotti*, 2019 WL 6134910, at *18 (quoting *Volkswagen*, 2017 WL
5 672820, at *7)). Both requirements are satisfied here.

6 First, Class Counsel have extensive experience litigating, trying and settling class actions,
7 including consumer cases, throughout the country. (*See* Dkt. 51-1, 51-2, & 51-3.) At the outset of
8 this action, the Court approved Class Counsel as Interim Co-Lead Counsel due to their
9 qualifications, experience, and commitment to the successful prosecution of this case. (*See* Dkt.
10 57.) Since then, Class Counsel have vigorously litigated the Action and had sufficient information
11 at their disposal before entering into settlement negotiations, allowing Class Counsel to
12 adequately assess the strengths and weaknesses of Plaintiffs’ case and balance the benefits of
13 settlement against the risks of further litigation. *See* Kennedy Decl., ¶ 26. Thus, Class Counsel
14 have fairly and adequately protected the interests of all Class Members and will continue to do so.

15 Second, Plaintiffs’ interests are aligned with, and are not antagonistic to, the interests of
16 the other Class Members. Specifically, Plaintiffs and the Class Members are equally interested in
17 obtaining relief for Plaid’s alleged statutory and common law violations, and for ensuring that
18 Plaid reforms its business practices. *See Hanlon*, 150 F.3d at 1021 (adequacy satisfied where
19 “each . . . plaintiff has the same problem”).

20 **2. Class Certification Is Appropriate Under Rule 23(b)(3)**

21 Rule 23(b)(3) requires the Court to find that (1) questions of law or fact common to class
22 members predominate over any questions affecting only individual members, and (2) a class
23 action is superior to other available methods for fairly and efficiently adjudicating the
24 controversy. *See* Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(b)(3). “Certification under Rule 23(b)(3) is appropriate
25 ‘whenever the actual interests of the parties can be served best by settling their differences in a
26 single action.’” *Carlotti*, 2019 WL 6134910, at *18 (quoting *Hanlon*, 150 F.3d at 1022).

1 **a. Common Questions of Law or Fact Predominate Over**
2 **Individual Issues**

3 Rule 23(b)(3) requires a finding that common issues of law or fact predominate over any
4 issues unique to individual class members. “The Ninth Circuit has noted that predominance is
5 ‘readily met’” in cases such as this alleging consumer fraud. *Id.* (quoting *In re Hyundai*, 926 F.3d
6 at 559); *see also McDonald v. Bass Pro Outdoor World, LLC*, No. 13-889, 2014 WL 3867522, at
7 *5 (S.D. Cal. Aug. 5, 2014) (standardized conduct and policy that violated statutory privacy rights
8 supported a finding of predominance in privacy class action).

9 Here, common questions of the kind noted above predominate because there are few, if
10 any, individualized factual issues, and because the core facts involve Plaid’s uniform conduct that
11 allegedly harmed all Class Members. Specifically, Plaintiffs allege that Plaid utilized an interface
12 embedded in certain fintech apps to collect their and the other Class Members’ private login
13 information, and this conduct uniformly injured Plaintiffs’ and the other Class Members’ legally
14 protected interests under CAPA and other state and federal statutes. Plaintiffs also allege that
15 Plaid uniformly injured Plaintiffs’ and the other Class Members’ protected privacy interests
16 through this conduct. Thus, Plaid engaged in the same alleged illegal conduct “in the same
17 manner against all Class Members.” *Hanlon*, 150 F.3d at 1022 (internal quotations omitted).

18 Moreover, the Class Members do not have a strong interest in bringing individual cases,
19 including because the maximum amount of recovery for an individual Class Member would likely
20 be a fraction of the cost of bringing a lawsuit, and there are no apparent individual issues to weigh
21 against the many common issues. *See Carlotti*, 2019 WL 6134910, at *18-19. Because Plaid’s
22 alleged conduct applies “to all of the Class Members’ claims” and Plaintiffs allege “a common
23 and unifying injury” as a result of Plaid’s alleged illegal conduct, the predominance requirement
24 is met. *Volkswagen*, 2017 WL 672727, at *14.

25 **b. Class Treatment Is a Superior Method of Adjudication**

26 Whether a class action is the superior method for the adjudication of claims “requires the
27 court to determine whether maintenance of [the] litigation as a class action is efficient and
28 whether it is fair.” *Wolin*, 617 F.3d at 1175-76. Specifically, “[a] class action is the superior

1 method for managing litigation if no realistic alternative exists.” *Valentino v. Carter-Wallace,*
2 *Inc.*, 97 F.3d 1227, 1234-35 (9th Cir. 1996). Furthermore, a class action is superior where, as
3 here, classwide litigation of common issues “reduce[s] litigation costs and promote[s] greater
4 efficiency.” *Id.* at 1234.

5 Here, there is no realistic alternative to a class action due to the size of the Class, and most
6 members would find the cost of litigating individual claims to be prohibitive, especially
7 considering the risk factors of the case. *See* Section IV.B.1.a, *infra*. If individual lawsuits were
8 asserted against Plaid, each Class Member “would be required to prove the same wrongful
9 conduct to establish liability and thus would offer the same evidence.” This would also leave
10 open “the possibility of inconsistent rulings and results.” *Volkswagen*, 2017 WL 672727, at *14.

11 Consequently, this Court “will likely be able to” certify the class for settlement purposes
12 under Rule 23(e).

13 **B. The Proposed Settlement Is Fundamentally Fair, Reasonable, and Adequate**

14 Preliminary approval is appropriate where the court “will likely be able to” finally
15 approve the settlement under Amended Rule 23(e)(2). Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(e); *see also id.* 2018
16 Amendment Advisory Committee Notes. In addition to the Rule 23(e)(2) factors, this Court has
17 stated that it will look to “the fairness factors set forth in *Churchill Vill., L.L.C. v. GE*, 361 F.3d
18 566, 575 (9th Cir. 2004),” as well as the Northern District of California’s Procedural Guidance
19 for Class Action Settlements, when deciding whether to grant preliminary approval of a class
20 settlement. *Carlotti*, 2019 WL 6134910, at *3. “The relative degree of importance to be attached
21 to any particular factor will depend upon . . . the unique facts and circumstances presented by
22 each individual case.” *Id.* (quoting *Officers for Justice v. Civil Serv. Comm’n of City & Cty. of*
23 *San Francisco*, 688 F.2d 615, 625 (9th Cir. 1982)). All of these factors strongly support the
24 proposed Settlement.

25 **1. The Churchill Factors Weigh In Favor of Approving the Settlement**

26 According to *Churchill*, a court should balance such factors as: “(1) the strength of the
27 plaintiffs’ case; (2) the risk, expense, complexity, and likely duration of further litigation; (3) the
28 risk of maintaining class action status throughout the trial; (4) the amount offered in settlement;

1 (5) the extent of discovery completed and the stage of the proceedings; (6) the experience and
 2 views of counsel; (7) the presence of a governmental participant; and (8) the reaction of the class
 3 members to the proposed settlement.” *Carlotti*, 2019 WL 6134910, at *3 (quoting *Churchill*, 361
 4 F.3d at 575).

5 **a. First Through Third Churchill Factors**

6 The first three *Churchill* factors “are addressed together and require the court to assess the
 7 plaintiff’s likelihood of success on the merits and the range of possible recovery versus the risks
 8 of continued litigation and maintaining class action status through the duration of the trial.” *Id.* at
 9 *4 (quotation omitted). “These factors weigh in favor of approving settlement when the defendant
 10 has ‘plausible defenses that could have ultimately left class members with a reduced or non-
 11 existent recovery.’” *Id.* (quoting *In re TracFone Unlimited Serv. Plan Litig.*, 112 F. Supp. 3d 993,
 12 999 (N.D. Cal. 2015)).

13 Although Plaintiffs are confident in the strength of their claims and their ability to
 14 ultimately prevail at trial, they nevertheless recognize that this novel litigation is inherently risky.
 15 Given the substantial recovery obtained for the Class, and the uncertainties that would accompany
 16 continued litigation, there is little question that the proposed Settlement provides an adequate
 17 remedy on behalf of the Class Members.

18 First, there are risks at class certification. Class certification (a practical, procedural
 19 decision) is not all or nothing, and thus in addition to the risk of a denial is the risk (or specter) of
 20 a smaller class. This is a large class affecting conduct over many years, implicating multiple apps
 21 and financial institutions. While Plaintiffs maintain that there is a core continuity of practices
 22 involving relatively simple issues, Plaid (like other defendants) would strenuously oppose class
 23 certification based on what it considers differences or changes, such as over time or between and
 24 among the apps or banks.

25 Second, there is a risk that Plaid might prevail in motion practice on merits issues,
 26 whether pre-trial, at trial, or on appeal, resulting in substantial delay or no relief for Class
 27 Members. Plaid also would raise multiple defenses to seek to avoid liability under the relatively-
 28 untested CAPA, including the filing of a motion for summary judgment on the grounds that the

1 statute targets only certain types of activity that does not apply to a business like Plaid, and that
 2 many or all Class Members were not adversely affected by its business practices and thus lacked
 3 standing and/or could not establish harm/damages. (*See generally* Dkt. 78, 111.)

4 Third, as to remedies, in the absence of a class-wide claim with attendant statutory
 5 damages such as Plaintiffs' CAPA claim (or their now-dismissed SCA claim), the value of the
 6 Class's claims would undoubtedly be impacted. While Plaintiffs believe they would prevail on
 7 any such motion, success is not guaranteed. *See Rodriguez v. W. Publi'g Corp.*, 563 F.3d 948,
 8 966 (9th Cir. 2009) (noting that the elimination of "[r]isk, expense, complexity, and likely
 9 duration of further litigation" weighed in favor of approving settlement). In addition, the parties
 10 would likely dispute appropriate restitution.

11 The above risks, and others, which could result in the Class getting no relief or
 12 significantly less relief, show that the Settlement is more than adequate when balanced against the
 13 proposed \$58 million recovery and the proposed injunctive relief.

14 **b. Fourth Churchill Factor: Amount of Class Recovery**

15 This factor favors approval. When considering the fourth *Churchill* factor (the amount of
 16 recovery offered in settlement), "it is well-settled law that a proposed settlement may be
 17 acceptable even though it amounts to only a fraction of the potential recovery that might
 18 be available to the class members at trial." *Carlotti*, 2019 WL 6134910, at *5 (quoting *Nat'l*
 19 *Rural Telecomms Coop. v. DIRECTV, Inc.*, 221 F.R.D. 523, 527 (C.D. Cal. 2004)). Indeed, the
 20 Court's assessment of the reasonableness of a negotiated settlement amount at this stage is
 21 "delicate balancing, gross approximations and rough justice." *Rodriguez*, 563 F.3d at 965
 22 (internal quotation marks omitted). "In reality, parties, counsel, mediators, and district judges
 23 naturally arrive at a reasonable range for settlement by considering the likelihood of a plaintiffs'
 24 or defense verdict, the potential recovery, and the chances of obtaining it, discounted to present
 25 value." *Id.* A district court is not required "to find a specific monetary value corresponding to
 26 each of the plaintiff class's statutory claims and compare the value of those claims to the
 27 proffered settlement award." *Lane v. Facebook, Inc.*, 696 F.3d at 823.

28 Here, the Agreement includes a very significant monetary recovery and robust injunctive

1 relief for the Class that falls well within the range of reasonableness. The monetary benefit alone
2 compares very favorably to what plaintiffs have obtained in other comparable privacy class
3 settlements. Moreover, the value of the numerous business practice changes provides additional
4 substantial value to the Class. *See, e.g., Lane*, 696 F.3d at 826 (in nationwide class action alleging
5 defendant gathered class members' personal information and online activities without consent in
6 violation of the Electronic Communications Privacy Act, the Computer Fraud and Abuse Act, the
7 Video Privacy Protection Act, and California's CLRA and Computer Crime Law, approving cy
8 pres-only fund of \$9.5 million and injunctive relief that ended the alleged misconduct); *Perkins v.*
9 *LinkedIn Corp.*, No. 13-04303, 2016 WL 613255, at *18 (N.D. Cal. Feb. 16, 2016) (in nationwide
10 class action alleging violations of California's UCL, common law right of publicity, and Civil
11 Code § 334, approving fund of \$13 million and injunctive relief terms consisting of improved
12 disclosures, provision of additional information about defendants' relevant practices, and
13 implementation of process where users could stop receiving unrequested communications); *In re*
14 *Google LLC Street View Electronic Comms. Litig.*, No. 10-md-021784, 2020 WL 1288377, at
15 *16 (N.D. Cal. Mar. 18, 2020) (in nationwide class action alleging violations of the Federal
16 Wiretap Act, California's wiretap statute, and California Business and Professions Code § 17200,
17 approving cy pres-only fund of \$13 million and injunctive relief consisting of defendant's
18 agreement to not collect the relevant data from class members without notice or consent for five
19 years); *In re Lenovo Adware Litig.*, No. 15-md-02624, 2019 WL 1791420, at *10 (N.D. Cal. Apr.
20 24, 2019) (in nationwide class action alleging violations of California's UCL, CLRA, Computer
21 Crime Law, Invasion of Privacy Act, the Computer Fraud and Abuse Act, and trespass, approving
22 \$8.3 million fund where defendant separately entered into consent decree with the FTC and
23 certain states to remedy the conduct at issue); *In re LinkedIn User Privacy Litig.*, 309 F.R.D. 573,
24 592 (N.D. Cal. 2015).(in nationwide class action alleging violations of California's UCL and
25 breach of contract, approving fund of \$1.25 million and injunctive relief to remedy the alleged
26 misconduct)

27 While Plaid faced potential liability for statutory damages of \$5,000 per violation of
28

1 CAPA plus common law privacy-related damages and restitution⁶, a “proposed settlement is not
 2 to be judged against a hypothetical or speculative measure of what might have been achieved.”
 3 *Young v. LG Chem Ltd.*, 783 F. App’x 727, 737 (9th Cir. 2019) (quoting *Linney v. Cellular*
 4 *Alaska P’ship*, 151 F.3d 1234, 1242 (9th Cir. 1998)). Bearing this reality in mind, courts
 5 frequently have approved settlements providing monetary relief to class members amounting to
 6 either small fractions of the total hypothetical damages available or nothing at all, particularly
 7 when rarely-tested statutory damages provisions, such as in this case, are involved. *See, e.g.*,
 8 *Lane*, 696 F.3d at 823-25 (approving cy pres settlement where class members asserting one of the
 9 statutory claims stood to recover possible statutory damages of \$2,000); *Perkins*, 2016 WL
 10 613255, at *18 (approving settlement where each class member submitting a valid claim form
 11 stood to receive about \$20 while the available statutory damages of \$750 per class member could
 12 have attached); *Google Street View*, 2020 WL 1288377, at *16 (approving cy pres settlement
 13 where each class member stood to recover up to \$10,000 in statutory damages); *Google Buzz*
 14 *Privacy*, 2011 WL 7460099, at *5 (approving cy pres settlement where each class member stood
 15 to recover up to \$10,000 in statutory damages under the SCA).

16 Through the months-long, arm’s-length negotiation process, helped by the extensive
 17 efforts of a highly-respected mediator, the Parties arrived at a reasonable settlement by
 18 considering, among other things, historical privacy class action settlements, the likelihood of
 19 recovery on Plaintiffs’ claims, and the potential size of the recovery. As related to Class Member
 20 recovery, Plaintiffs have been advised by the claims administration firm, that based on a variety
 21 of factors, including the notice program being implemented, the size of the class, the potential
 22 relief available to class members, and their review of data from similar cases, that the estimated
 23 claims rate in this matter is likely to be between 1% and 4%. *See* Section IV.B.1.b., *supra*.

24 c. **Fifth Churchill Factor: Extent of Discovery & Arm’s-Length**
 25 **Negotiations**

26 For the fifth *Churchill* factor (the extent of discovery completed and the stage of the
 27

28 ⁶ *See generally Davis v. Facebook, Inc. (In re Facebook Inc. Internet Tracking Litig.)*, 956 F.3d
 589, 599-601 (9th Cir. 2020).

1 proceedings), this Court has noted that “[c]lass settlements are presumed fair when they are
 2 reached following sufficient discovery and genuine arms-length negotiation.” *Carlotti*, 2019 WL
 3 6134910, at *6 (quotation and citation omitted). “[A]s long as the parties have sufficient
 4 information to make an informed decision about settlement, formal discovery is not a necessary
 5 ticket to the bargaining table.” *Id.* (quotations omitted).

6 During the course of the Action, Class Counsel sought and received extensive discovery
 7 from Plaid through formal written discovery requests and numerous informal document, data, and
 8 other information requests during settlement negotiations. *See* Kennedy Decl., ¶ 7. Plaid
 9 ultimately provided responses to 57 document requests, 21 interrogatories, and 51 requests for
 10 admissions. *Id.* Plaid produced over 12,000 pages of documents, including internal policies and
 11 procedures, agreements, correspondence, investigatory materials, client lists, and detailed
 12 financial information. *Id.*

13 In addition, a substantial portion of the investigation pertinent to the Action took place
 14 before the initial complaint was filed in the Cottle Action. *See Carlotti*, 2019 WL 6134910, at *7.
 15 Class Counsel spent months investigating Plaid’s software and business practices and engaged an
 16 expert to analyze various aspects of Plaid’s software before filing a detailed and thorough
 17 complaint. *See* Kennedy Decl., ¶ 4. Plaintiffs therefore had the necessary information to properly
 18 assess the value of the Class’s claims and the value of this Agreement to the Class. Based upon
 19 that analysis, and recognizing the substantial risks of continued litigation, Class Counsel
 20 reasonably concluded that this Settlement is in the best interest of the Class Members.

21 Importantly, the Settlement was the result of months of arm’s-length negotiations between
 22 experienced counsel in a process overseen by a highly-respected mediator, the Hon. Jay C.
 23 Gandhi (ret.). *Id.*, ¶¶ 10-17. That process included two separate, all-day mediation sessions and
 24 extended, tough negotiations following each session. *Id.* As a result, the proposed Settlement
 25 should be “presumed fair.” *Carlotti*, 2019 WL 6134910, at *6.

26 **d. Other Churchill Factors**

27 The sixth *Churchill* factor (the experience and views of counsel) likewise supports
 28 preliminary approval of the Proposed Settlement. As discussed above in Section IV.A.1.d, Class

1 Counsel, who have extensive experience litigating and settling consumer class actions throughout
 2 the country, have committed significant time, expertise, and resources to vigorously litigating this
 3 action. Based on their collective experience, Class Counsel concluded that the Settlement
 4 provides exceptional results for the Class while avoiding costs, delays and uncertainties of
 5 continued litigation. *See* Kennedy Decl., ¶¶ 18-23.

6 The final *Churchill* factors are either irrelevant to this action (presence of the government)
 7 or should be left to final approval process (reaction of class members). *See Carlotti*, 2019 WL
 8 6134910, at *7. On the latter factor, however, it is worth noting that all 11 named Plaintiffs
 9 support the Settlement. *See* Kennedy Decl., ¶ 26.

10 2. The Rule 23(e) Factors Support Approving the Settlement

11 Rule 23(e) requires the Court to consider whether:

- 12 (A) the class representatives and class counsel have adequately
 13 represented the class;
- 14 (B) the proposal was negotiated at arm's length;
- 15 (C) the relief provided for the class is adequate, taking into account:
- 16 (i) the costs, risks, and delay of trial and appeal;
- 17 (ii) the effectiveness of any proposed method of distributing
 18 relief to the class, including the method of processing class-
 19 member claims;
- 20 (iii) the terms of any proposed award of attorney's fees,
 21 including timing of payment; and
- 22 (iv) any agreement required to be identified under Rule
 23 23(e)(3); and
- 24 (D) the proposal treats class members equitably relative to each
 25 other.

26 *Carlotti*, 2019 WL 6134910, at *7-8 (quoting Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(e)). The Ninth Circuit has
 27 recognized, however, that judicial review “takes place in the shadow of the reality that rejection
 28 of a settlement creates not only delay but also a state of uncertainty on all sides, with whatever
 gains were potentially achieved for the putative class put at risk.” *Staton v. Boeing Co.*, 327 F.3d
 938, 952 (9th Cir. 2003).

Here, the proposed Settlement, negotiated by competent and experienced counsel who

1 vigorously represented the interests of the Class, satisfies Rule 23(e).

2 **a. The Class Representatives and Class Counsel Have Adequately**
 3 **Represented the Class**

4 Plaintiffs' interests are aligned with, and are not antagonistic to, the interests of the Class
 5 Members. *See* Section IV.A.1.d, *supra*. Each Class Representative has cooperated fully with
 6 Class Counsel in representing the proposed Class, staying informed about the case, keeping in
 7 touch with Class Counsel, and submitting information and providing formal discovery. *See*
 8 Kennedy Decl., ¶ 26. Class Counsel, by the same token, have vigorously represented the Class for
 9 well over a year and ultimately obtained significant monetary and injunctive relief. *See generally*
 10 Kennedy Decl., and Exhibits.

11 **b. The Agreement Was Negotiated at Arm's Length**

12 The Ninth Circuit "'put[s] a good deal of stock in the product of an arms-length, non-
 13 collusive, negotiated resolution' in approving a class action settlement." *Carlotti*, 2019 WL
 14 6134910, at *8 (quoting *Rodriguez*, 563 F.3d at 965). Courts consider three factors when looking
 15 for collusion or other conflicts of interest: "'(1) when counsel receive a disproportionate
 16 distribution of the settlement or when the class receives no monetary distribution but class
 17 counsel are amply rewarded'; (2) when the payment of attorneys' fees is 'separate and apart from
 18 class funds'; and (3) when the parties arrange for benefits that are not awarded to revert to the
 19 defendants rather than being added to the class fund.'" *Id.* (quoting *In re Bluetooth Headset*
 20 *Prods. Liab. Litig.*, 654 F.3d 935, 947 (9th Cir. 2011)).

21 None of these factors is present here. Each Class Member who submits a valid claim form
 22 will receive *pro rata* compensation from the Settlement Fund, and all Class Members will receive
 23 the benefit of valuable injunctive relief moving forward. Class Counsel anticipates seeking
 24 attorneys' fees of no more than the Ninth Circuit benchmark of 25% of the Settlement Fund plus
 25 reimbursement of actual, out-of-pocket expenses. *See* Section III.E, *supra*. There is no clear
 26 sailing provision. And no amount of the Settlement Fund will revert to Plaid. As a result, the
 27 Settlement is the "product of serious, informed, non-collusive negotiations." *Carlotti*, 2019 WL
 28 6134910, at *9 (quotation omitted).

1 c. **The Substantial Relief Provided for the Class Is Adequate and**
2 **Appropriate for This Case**

3 The Rule 23(e)(2)(C)(i)-(iv) factors show that the relief for the Class is fair, reasonable
4 and adequate, supporting the conclusion that the Court will likely grant final approval.

5 i. **The Costs, Risks, and Delay from Trial and Appeal**
6 **Show that the Recovery Contained in the Settlement Is**
7 **Adequate**

8 Notwithstanding Plaintiffs' confidence in the merits of their claims, continued prosecution
9 of this Action entails genuine and potentially case-dispositive risks at each stage of the litigation,
10 from class certification and summary judgment to trial and appeal. *See* Section IV.B.1.a, *supra*.
11 Compounding those risks are the substantial costs and potential for delay were Plaintiffs to
12 proceed to trial and perhaps appeal. This factor thus supports preliminary approval.

13 ii. **The Proposed Method of Distributing Relief on Behalf of**
14 **the Class Is Effective**

15 "Rule 23 requires the court to consider 'the effectiveness of any proposed method of
16 distributing relief to the class, including the method of processing class-member claims.'" *Carlotti*, 2019 WL 6134910, at *9 (quoting Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(e)(2)(C)(ii)). "[N]otice must be
17 reasonably calculated, under all the circumstances, to apprise interested parties of the pendency of
18 the action and afford them an opportunity to present their objections." *Id.* (quotations
19 omitted). "[T]he court must direct to class members the best notice that is practicable under the
20 circumstances, including individual notice to all members who can be identified through
21 reasonable effort." Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(c)(2)(B).

22 As detailed below and in the accompanying Weisbrot Declaration, Angeion has designed
23 a detailed and comprehensive Notice Program that provides the best notice to Class Members that
24 is practicable under the circumstances, including by providing individual direct notice to all
25 reasonably identifiable Class Members via email or mail, combined with a strategic media
26 campaign comprised of state-of-the-art digital advertising, social media advertising, search engine
27 marketing, sponsored listings on two leading class action settlement websites and engagement on
28 social media.

Direct Notice

1 Pursuant to the Notice Program, Angeion will provide direct notice by sending individual
2 notice via email or mail to all potential Class Members whose direct contact information (*i.e.*,
3 email address or mailing address) has been identified by Plaid through its records. *See* Weisbrot
4 Decl., ¶ 15. Angeion will employ a number of methods to ensure that email notice is made
5 available to as many Class Members as possible, including by linking to operative documents,
6 updating email addresses, and re-sending emails that erroneously failed to deliver due to sensitive
7 servers. *See id.*, ¶¶ 16-20. It also will target Class Members whose email notice could not be
8 delivered through a custom social media campaign utilizing Facebook and Instagram. *See id.*,
9 ¶ 21. Angeion also will send a postcard notice via first-class U.S. mail, postage pre-paid, to Class
10 Members who did not have an email address, but for whom Plaid was able to identify a mailing
11 address. *See id.*, ¶ 22. It will attempt to re-send notices returned by the USPS with or without
12 forwarding addresses. *See id.*, ¶¶ 23-25. This direct notice campaign applies to about 2/3 of all
13 Class Members. *See* Kennedy Decl., ¶ 24; Weisbrot Decl., ¶ 14.

Media Notice

Programmatic Display Advertising

14 Angeion also will provide media notice to Class Members using a form of internet
15 advertising known as programmatic display advertising, which is the leading method of buying
16 digital advertisements in the U.S. Weisbrot Decl., ¶ 27. Using the settlement Class definition,
17 Angeion designed this media notice campaign to arrive at an appropriate Target Audience. *See*
18 *id.*, ¶¶ 28-29. It will use a variety of targeting methods and software to maximize the success of
19 this campaign. *See id.*, ¶¶ 30-34.

Social Media Notice

20 The Notice Program also includes a sophisticated social media campaign designed to
21 leverage the characteristics of the Target Audience. *See id.*, ¶¶ 35-38. This campaign will use a
22 mix of Facebook and Instagram ads, again employing a variety of methods to maximize exposure
23 to Class Members. *See id.*, ¶¶ 36-37. Together, the social media campaign and programmatic
24 display advertising portions of the Notice Program are designed to deliver approximately 326
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1 million impressions. *See id.*, ¶ 38.

2 Other Digital and Social Media

3 The Notice Program also includes a paid search campaign to help drive Class Members
4 who are actively searching for information about the Settlement to the dedicated Settlement
5 Website. *See id.*, ¶ 39. Angeion also will cause the Settlement to be listed and promoted through
6 two leading class action settlement websites, www.topclassactions.com and www.classaction.org.
7 *See id.*, ¶¶ 40-41. It also will monitor public Twitter traffic for discussion of the settlement and
8 will provide information or respond to questions via Twitter on an ad hoc basis as appropriate.
9 *See id.*, ¶ 42.

10 Reach and Frequency

11 Together, the digital media and social media portions of the Notice Program are designed
12 to deliver an approximate 80.40% reach with an average frequency of 3.62 times each. This reach
13 is separate and apart from the direct notice efforts, sponsored listings, engagement on social
14 media, dedicated website and toll-free telephone line, all of which are difficult to measure in
15 terms of reach percentage but will nonetheless provide awareness and diffuse news of the
16 Settlement to Class Members. *See id.*, ¶ 46. This reach percentage and the number of exposure
17 opportunities meet or exceed the guidelines as set forth in the Federal Judicial Center’s Judges’
18 Class Action Notice and Claims Process Checklist and Plain Language Guide. *See id.*, ¶ 45.

19 Response Mechanisms

20 Under the Notice Program, Angeion will also create a case-specific website where Class
21 Members can view general information about this class action Settlement, review relevant Court
22 documents, and view important dates and deadlines pertinent to the Settlement. The website will
23 be user-friendly and make it easy for Class Members to find information about the case, including
24 a customized video which will be displayed on the website. The website will also have a “Contact
25 Us” page where Class Members can send an email with any additional questions to a dedicated
26 email address. Likewise, Class Members will be able to submit a Claim Form directly via the
27 website. *See id.*, ¶ 43.

28 In addition, Angeion will implement a toll-free hotline devoted to the Action to further

1 apprise Class Members of the rights and options pursuant to the Settlement. The toll-free hotline
 2 will utilize an interactive voice response system to provide Class Members with responses to
 3 frequently asked questions and provide essential information regarding the Settlement. This
 4 hotline will be accessible 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. *See id.*, ¶ 44.

5 **The Notice Contents Are Clear and Provide the Best Practicable Notice**

6 The proposed Notice forms used by Angeion are designed to be “noticed,” reviewed, and
 7 understood by Class Members. The notice’s design follows the principles embodied in the
 8 Federal Judicial Center’s illustrative “model” notices posted at www.fjc.gov. The notice forms
 9 contain plain-language summaries of key information about the rights and options of Class
 10 Members pursuant to the Settlement. *See id.*, ¶ 47.

11 Moreover, the contents of the proposed Long Form Notice satisfy the requirements of
 12 Rule 23(c)(2)(B) because the notice “clearly and concisely” states:

13 (i) the nature of the action; (ii) the definition of the class certified;
 14 (iii) the class claims, issues, or defenses; (iv) that a class member
 15 may enter an appearance through an attorney if the member so
 16 desires; (v) that the court will exclude from the class any member
 who requests exclusion; (vi) the time and manner for requesting
 exclusion; and (vii) the binding effect of a class judgment on
 members under Rule 23(c)(3).

17 *Volkswagen*, 2017 WL 672727, at *20 (quoting Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(c)(2)(B)). *See generally*
 18 Kennedy Decl., Ex. C (Long Form Notice) to Ex. A (Settlement Agreement). The Long Form
 19 Notice “provide[s] a summary of the Settlement and clearly explain[s] how Class Members may
 20 object to or opt out of the Settlement, as well as how Class Members may address the Court at the
 21 final approval hearing.” *Volkswagen*, 2017 WL 672727, at *20 (“Notice is satisfactory if it
 22 generally describes the terms of the settlement in sufficient detail to alert those with adverse
 23 viewpoints to investigate and to come forward and be heard.”) *Id.* (quoting *Churchill*, 361 F.3d at
 24 575); *see generally* Kennedy Decl., Ex. C to Ex. A.

25 In sum, the Notice Plan represents a cross section of media specifically chosen by the
 26 Notice Administrator to target likely Class Members and attain a wide and cost-effective reach.
 27 The format and language of the Long Form Notice has been drafted so that it is in plain language,
 28 is easy to read, and will be readily understood by the Class Members. This satisfies the

1 requirements of Rule 23 and due process.

2 The Notice Program will be overseen by a highly qualified and experienced class action
 3 notice and claims administrator in Angeion. Its President, Steven Weisbrot, believes the proposed
 4 Notice Program is “the best notice that is practicable under the circumstances and fully comports
 5 with due process and Rule 23.” *See* Weisbrot Decl., ¶ 50. As a result, this factor favors
 6 preliminary approval. *See Carlotti*, 2019 WL 6134910, at *9-10 (approving notice program
 7 designed by Mr. Weisbrot that was expected to reach 76.75% of the target audience with an
 8 average frequency of 3.03 times). Plaintiffs request that the Court direct that the Notice Program
 9 described herein be effectuated.

10 **The Reasonable Claims Process**

11 The proposed Settlement also includes a reasonable process for Class Members to make
 12 claims, opt out of the Class, or object to the Settlement. Using plain language, the Long Form
 13 Notice informs Class Members that:

- 14 • They are entitled to claim a cash payment under the Settlement by filing a claim
 15 form online through the Settlement Website or receiving and mailing a paper form;
- 16 • They are entitled to object to any aspect of the Settlement by filing an objection in
 17 writing; and
- 18 • They may exclude themselves from the Settlement by sending a letter by mail to
 19 the Settlement Administrator.

20 *See* Kennedy Decl., Ex. C to Ex. A at 1-2. Class Members who receive direct notice (expected to
 21 be two out of every three Class Members) will be provided with a claim number that allows these
 22 Class Members to submit a claim through a streamlined process that requires very minimal
 23 information; other claimants will be able to file a claim by providing basic information to verify
 24 they are potential Class Members. *See id.*, Ex. A (Claim Form) to Ex. A (Settlement Agreement).
 25 This claims process is reasonable and will not be burdensome to Class Members. *See Carlotti*,
 26 2019 WL 6134910, at *11.

27 **iii. Any Award of Attorneys’ Fees Will Not Prevent the 28 Court from Finding that the Relief Provided to the Class Is Adequate**

As stated above, Class Counsel anticipates a request for attorneys’ fees of no more than

1 25% of the \$58 million Settlement Fund plus reimbursement of expenses. *See* Section ____,
 2 *supra*. Because the relief obtained for the Class is substantial by any metric, a request for
 3 attorney’s fees in this amount is justified. *See O’Connor v. Uber Techs., Inc.*, No. 13-03826, 2019
 4 WL 1437101, at *14 (N.D. Cal. Mar. 29, 2019) (“In determining whether an attorneys’ fee award
 5 is justified, the Court must evaluate the results obtained on behalf of the class.”).

6 **iv. There Are No Other Agreements Required to Be**
 7 **Identified Under Rule 23(e)(3)**

8 Pursuant to Rule 23(e)(3), there are no other agreements that would modify any term of
 9 the Agreement.⁷

10 **d. The Agreement Treats Class Members Equitably Relative to**
 11 **Each Other**

12 The Proposed Settlement is designed to benefit all Class Members by providing equal
 13 access to a Settlement Fund and providing meaningful injunctive relief. *See* Section III.B., *supra*.

14 **3. The Northern District’s Procedural Guidance Weighs In Favor of**
 15 **Approving the Settlement**

16 This Court has indicated that it will consider, for purposes of preliminary approval of a
 17 class action settlement, the Northern District of California’s procedural guidance for the
 18 settlement of class actions (“Guidelines”), although they do not carry the weight of law. *Carlotti*,
 19 2019 WL 6134910, at *13. The Guidelines likewise support preliminary approval.

20 **a. Identity of Settlement Class**

21 “The Guidelines require the parties to state ‘any differences between the settlement class
 22 and the class proposed in the operative complaint and an explanation as to why the differences are
 23 appropriate in the instant case.’” *Id.* (quoting Guideline § 1(a)).

24 The Settlement Class differs from the proposed litigation classes in the CAC in several
 25 ways. The CAC defined the proposed litigation classes as follows:

26
 27
 28 ⁷ Plaintiffs have an agreement, subject to Court approval, to retain Angeion to serve as the Notice Administrator. Plaintiffs do not understand this type of agreement to be the subject of Rule 23(e)(3)’s disclosure requirement.

1 A nationwide class consisting of all natural persons whose accounts
2 at a financial institution were accessed by Plaid using login
3 credentials obtained through Plaid’s software incorporated in a
4 mobile or web-based fintech app that enables payments (including
5 ACH payments) or other money transfers, at the time such persons
6 resided in the United States, from January 1, 2013 to the present
7 (the “Nationwide Class”); and

8 A California class consisting of all natural persons whose accounts
9 at a financial institution Plaid accessed using login credentials
10 obtained through Plaid’s software incorporated in a mobile or web-
11 based fintech app that enables payments (including ACH payments)
12 or other money transfers, at the time such persons resided in the
13 State of California, from January 1, 2013 to the present (the
14 “California Class”).

15 CAC, ¶¶ 247-48.

16 The Agreement provides for the following settlement Class:

17 [A]ll natural persons who reside in the United States and who own
18 or owned one or more Financial Accounts at the time such persons
19 resided in the United States from January 1, 2013 to date
20 preliminary approval of the settlement is granted.

21 Kennedy Decl., Ex. A, ¶ 19. “Financial Account” is defined as:

22 [A] financial institution account (1) that Plaid accessed using the
23 user’s login credentials and connected to a mobile or web-based
24 fintech application that enables payments (including ACH
25 payments) or other money transfers or (2) for which a user provided
26 financial account login credentials to Plaid through Plaid Link.
27 Notwithstanding the foregoing, a Financial Account does not
28 include an account that was connected, or for which credentials
were provided, exclusively through an OAuth Process or Managed
OAuth Process.

29 *Id.*, ¶ 32. Managed OAuth Process means a process through which Plaid obtains login credentials
30 in order to secure an access token pursuant to a formal agreement with the applicable financial
31 institution and does not store those login credentials; OAuth Process means a process through
32 which Plaid redirects an end user to the financial institution’s domain to enter their login
33 credentials and does not obtain login credentials for the end user. *Id.*, ¶¶ 33, 38.

34 Certain differences between the proposed litigation classes and the Settlement Class
35 reflect Class Counsel’s determination, based upon information learned through formal and
36 informal discovery, that (1) certain challenged aspects of Plaid’s interface and conduct apply to
37 the users of a broader set of fintech apps and services than those enabling payments and money
38

1 transfers; and (2) the “OAuth Process” and “Managed OAuth Process” that Plaid employed with
 2 certain financial institutions at certain points in time should be excluded from the Class. *See*
 3 Kennedy Decl., ¶ 23. The Settlement Class is thus broader in that it includes a broader group of
 4 users who provided credentials to Plaid and narrower in that it excludes users who connected to
 5 their accounts, or provided their credentials, using a different process than what was alleged in the
 6 CAC.

7 The other difference between the proposed litigation classes and the Settlement Class is
 8 that the CAC included claims on behalf of both a nationwide class and a California class, while
 9 the Agreement includes only a single nationwide class. This change reflects Class Counsel’s
 10 determination, based upon information learned through discovery as well as a thorough analysis
 11 of the relevant caselaw and underlying Constitutional principles, that Plaid’s business practices
 12 justify application of CAPA to a nationwide class of app users.⁸

13 The Ninth Circuit has recognized, and its lower district courts have affirmed, that
 14 plaintiffs can achieve class certification for violations of California laws on behalf of foreign
 15 residents where (1) the defendant is based in California and the relevant misconduct originated or
 16 primarily occurred in California, (2) such that there are sufficient aggregate contacts with
 17 California for each class member and thus that applying California law would not offend due
 18 process, and (3) the interests of the foreign states do not outweigh the interests of California in
 19 having its law applied. *Mazza v. Am. Honda Motor Co.*, 666 F.3d 581, 589-91 (9th Cir. 2012).

20 Extraterritorial application of CAPA to a nationwide class is appropriate here because
 21 Plaid’s headquarters are in California, all its key decisionmakers are based there, and the
 22 decisions and acts related to the practices at issue occurred in California. California thus has
 23 sufficient contacts with Class Members across the country. Finally, there is no valid reason that
 24 the laws of foreign states, who have no interest in protecting a foreign defendant but do have an
 25

26 ⁸ As to the common-law claims, Plaintiffs alleged that they properly could be pursued by the
 27 nationwide class based on the Due Process Clause and the Full Faith and Credit Clause of the
 28 U.S. Constitution in light of California’s significant contacts to the claims of all class members,
 California’s strong and overriding interest in regulating Plaid’s conduct, and California’s choice
 of law rules. (CAC, ¶¶ 236-38.) This also is relevant to the analysis of the potential extraterritorial
 application of the California statutory claims.

1 obvious interest in affording their own residents the ability to achieve the maximum protection
2 and compensation possible, should apply instead. CAPA itself contains no limitation regarding its
3 application to non-California residents (*see, e.g.*, § 22948.3, stating that any adversely affected
4 “individual” may bring an action), and the legislative history of the statute strongly suggests that
5 the Legislature was concerned with phishing originating in California, rather than solely targeting
6 residents of the State. (Dkt. 108-7, at 3, statement from Bill author expressing concern that “15%
7 of all phishing scams **originate in California**”) (emphasis added).

8 Accordingly, Plaintiffs’ CAPA claims should apply extraterritorially, and should be
9 included for settlement purposes on behalf of a nationwide class. *See Chavez v. Blue Sky Natural*
10 *Beverage Co.*, 268 F.R.D. 365, 379 (N.D. Cal. 2010) (certifying nationwide class under
11 California’s UCL, False Advertising Act, CLRA, and common law fraud, deceit and/or
12 misrepresentation: “Defendants are headquartered in California and their misconduct allegedly
13 originated in California. With such significant contacts between California and the claims
14 asserted by the class, application of the California consumer protection laws would not be
15 arbitrary or unfair to defendants.”); *Norwest Mortgage, Inc. v. Superior Ct.*, 72 Cal. App. 4th 214,
16 224-25 (1999) (“state statutory remedies may be invoked by out-of-state parties when they are
17 harmed by wrongful conduct occurring in California”) (citing *Diamond Multimedia Sys., Inc. v.*
18 *Superior Ct.*, 19 Cal. 4th 1036 (1999)); *see also In re Qualcomm Antitrust Litig.*, 328 F.R.D. 280,
19 312-15 (N.D. Cal. 2018) (certifying nationwide class asserting claims under California’s
20 Cartwright Act because the sole defendant was based in the state, the relevant misconduct
21 occurred largely within the state, and “other states do not have an interest in barring their own
22 citizens from recovering damages” from a foreign defendant whose misconduct occurred largely
23 if not exclusively outside of those states).

24 **b. Release of Claims**

25 “The Guidelines require the court to look at ‘any differences between the claims to be
26 released and the claims certified for class treatment and an explanation as to why the differences
27 are appropriate in the instant case.’” *Carlotti*, 2019 WL 6134910, at *14 (quoting Guideline §
28 1(d)).

1 The Agreement provides that Plaintiffs and Class members will release “Plaid and any and
2 all of its present or former predecessors, successors, assigns, parents, subsidiaries, affiliates,
3 directors, officers, employees, agents, representatives, and attorneys, and any and all of the
4 parents’, subsidiaries’, and affiliates’ present and former predecessors, successors, assigns,
5 directors, officers, employees, agents, representatives, and attorneys” from “any and all actions,
6 causes of action, claims, demands, liabilities, obligations, damages (including, without limitation,
7 punitive, exemplary and multiple damages), penalties, sanctions, losses, debts, contracts,
8 agreements, attorneys’ fees, costs, expenses, and rights of any nature and description whatsoever,
9 whether based on federal, state, or local statutes, common law, regulations, rules or any other law
10 of the United States or foreign jurisdiction, known or unknown, fixed or contingent, suspected or
11 unsuspected, in law or in equity, arising from or related to allegations in the Action that were
12 asserted or could have been asserted in the Action.” *See* Kennedy Decl., Ex. A, ¶ 45.

13 The released claims differ from the claims asserted in the CAC insofar as the Release
14 applies to claims arising out of or relating to the allegations in the CAC that could have been, but
15 were not, asserted against the Released Parties. The scope of the Release is consistent with
16 governing standards in this Circuit. *See e.g., In re Anthem, Inc. Data Breach Litig.*, 327 F.R.D.
17 299, 327 (N.D. Cal. 2018) (approving class settlement release of claims “related to or arising
18 from any of the facts alleged in any of the Actions”); *Custom LED, LLC v. eBay, Inc.*, No. 12-
19 350, 2013 WL 6114379, at *4 (N.D. Cal. Nov. 20, 2013) (approving release of claims “arising out
20 of or relating in any way to any of the legal, factual, or other allegations made in the Action, or
21 any legal theories that could have been raised based on the allegations of the Action.”). *See also*
22 *Hesse v. Sprint Corp.*, 598 F.3d 581, 590 (9th Cir. 2010) (claims appropriately included in scope
23 of release can include any claim “based on the identical factual predicate as that underlying the
24 claims in the settled class action”); *Class Plaintiffs v. City of Seattle*, 955 F.2d 1268, 1287 (9th
25 Cir. 1992) (same, noting that released claims need not have been asserted or necessarily
26 presentable in the underlying class action).

27 **c. Class Recovery**

28 “The Guidelines require parties to explain “[t]he anticipated class recovery under the

1 settlement, the potential class recovery if plaintiffs had fully prevailed on each of their claims,
 2 and an explanation of the factors bearing on the amount of the compromise.” *Carlotti*, 2019 WL
 3 6134910, at *14 (quoting Guideline § 1(e)). The \$58 million Settlement Fund and meaningful
 4 injunctive relief represents an excellent recovery for the Class. *See* Section IV.B.1.b., *supra*.

5 **d. Allocation Plan**

6 “The parties should explain ‘the proposed allocation plan for the settlement fund.’”
 7 *Carlotti*, 2019 WL 6134910, at *14 (quoting Guideline § 1(f)). The Agreement provides for a fair
 8 and equal allocation of the Settlement Fund among all Class Members submitting valid claim
 9 forms. *See* Section III.B., *supra*.

10 **e. Submission of Claim Forms**

11 “If there is a claim form, the parties should provide ‘an estimate of the number and/or
 12 percentage of class members who are expected to submit a claim in light of the experience of the
 13 selected claims administrator and/or counsel from other recent settlements of similar cases, the
 14 identity of the examples used for the estimate, and the reason for the selection of those
 15 examples.’” *Carlotti*, 2019 WL 6134910, at *14 (quoting Guideline § 1(g)). Based upon
 16 discussions with Angeion, Class Counsel estimates that 1-4% of Class Members will submit a
 17 claim.

18 **f. Reversions**

19 “[I]n light of Ninth Circuit case law disfavoring reversions,’ the parties should state
 20 ‘whether and under what circumstances money originally designated for class recovery will revert
 21 to any defendant, the potential amount or range of amounts of any such reversion, and an
 22 explanation as to why a reversion is appropriate in the instant case.’” *Carlotti*, 2019 WL 6134910,
 23 at *14 (quoting Guideline § 1(h)). As discussed above, no portion of the Settlement Fund will
 24 revert to Plaid.

25 **g. Settlement Administrator**

26 “In the motion for preliminary approval, the parties should identify the proposed
 27 settlement administrator, the settlement administrator selection process, how many settlement
 28 administrators submitted proposals, what methods of notice and claims payment were proposed,

1 and the lead class counsel’s firms’ history of engagements with the settlement administrator over
2 the last two years. The parties should also address the anticipated administrative costs, the
3 reasonableness of those costs in relation to the value of the settlement, and who will pay the
4 costs.” *Carlotti*, 2019 WL 6134910, at *15 (quoting Guideline § 2).

5 Class Counsel chose Angeion as the settlement administrator after a competitive selection
6 process involving the solicitation of proposals from three well-known and experienced settlement
7 administration firms. Kennedy Decl., ¶ 27. The choice of Angeion was driven by the experience
8 of its principals, the sophisticated and tailored nature of its proposal (especially for reaching Class
9 Members through digital media), and the overall cost-effectiveness of its proposal. *Id.*

10 The settlement administration costs will be paid directly from the Settlement Fund, except
11 that in the event such costs exceed approximately \$5.5 million (which the Parties do not
12 anticipate), Plaid has agreed to pay for up to \$500,000 of such additional administrative costs
13 directly to the Class Administrator. See Kennedy Decl., ¶ 17 n.2.

14 Class Counsel have worked with Angeion in the past as it administered the settlements in
15 the following cases:

16 a. Angeion currently serves as the claims administrator in *Fiat Chrysler*
17 *Dodge Jeep Ecodiesel Litigation*, 17-MD-02777-EMC;

18 b. Angeion served as settlement administrator in three related cases alleging
19 violation of child privacy laws by online game and app producers, including *McDonald, et al. v.*
20 *Kiloo Aps, et al.*, Case No. 17-4344 (N.D. Cal.);

21 c. Angeion served as settlement administrator in a TCPA class
22 action, *Grogan et al. v. Aaron’s Inc.*, Case No. 18-02821 (N.D. Ga.);

23 d. Angeion served as settlement administrator in a class action lawsuit
24 involving claims of unlawful conspiracy to fix, raise, maintain, and stabilize the of prices of
25 promotional products, *Kjessler v. Zaappaaz, Inc., et al.*, No. 18-0430 (S.D. Tex.); and

26 e. Angeion is the proposed settlement administrator (motion for preliminary
27 approval pending) in a series of consumer protection class actions against an electronic health
28 record software developer, *Altamonte Pediatric Associates, P.A. v. Greenway Health, LLC*, No.

1 20-00604 (M.D. Fla.); *Pulmonary Associates of Charleston PLLC, et al. v. Greenway Health,*
 2 *LLC, et al.*, No. 19-00167 (N.D. Ga.), and *Valley Ob-Gyn Clinic, P.C. v. Greenway Health, LLC,*
 3 *et al.*, No. 20-00220 (N.D. Ga.).

4 Angeion is also the proposed settlement administrator (motion for preliminary approval
 5 pending) in a consumer protection class action against Tesla, *Rasmussen v. Tesla, Inc.*, 19-04596
 6 (N.D. Cal.).

7 Appointment of Angeion is appropriate as settlement administrator because Class Counsel
 8 believes it will adequately and professionally discharge its duties. Kennedy Decl., ¶ 29.

9 **h. Notice**

10 The Guidelines provide that the parties ““should ensure that the class notice is easily
 11 understandable, taking into account any special concerns about the education level or language
 12 needs of the class members”” and “list certain information that should appear in the notice, such
 13 as (1) contact information for class counsel; (2) website address for the settlement site; and (3)
 14 information on how to access the case docket on PACER.” *Carlotti*, 2019 WL 6134910, at *15
 15 (quoting Guideline § 3). “In addition, “[t]he notice distribution plan should rely on U.S. mail,
 16 email, and/or social media as appropriate to achieve the best notice that is practicable under the
 17 circumstances, consistent with Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23(c)(2).” *Id.*

18 The Notice Program appropriately relies upon a combination of U.S. mail, email, and
 19 social media to achieve the best notice practicable under the circumstances. *See* Section
 20 IV.B.2.c.ii., *supra*. The information required by Guideline § 3 is listed in both the Long Form
 21 Notice and the email notice. The postcard to be sent to some Class Members pursuant to the
 22 Notice Program directs recipients to the settlement website, which also contains the required
 23 information.

24 **i. Opt-Outs**

25 ““The notice should instruct class members who wish to opt out of the settlement to send a
 26 letter, setting forth their name and information needed to be properly identified and to opt out of
 27 the settlement, to the settlement administrator and/or the person or entity designated to receive opt
 28 outs. It should require only the information needed to opt out of the settlement and no extraneous

1 information. The notice should clearly advise class members of the deadline, methods to opt out,
2 and the consequences of opting out.” *Carlotti*, 2019 WL 6134910, at *15 (quoting Guideline
3 § 4).

4 Here, the proposed Long Form Notice contains all the required instructions, and the email
5 and postcard notices refer recipients to the settlement website, which also contains the Long Form
6 Notice.

7 **j. Objections**

8 ““The notice should instruct class members who wish to object to the settlement to send
9 their written objections only to the court. All objections will be scanned into the electronic case
10 docket and the parties will receive electronic notices of filings. The notice should make clear that
11 the court can only approve or deny the settlement and cannot change the terms of the settlement.
12 The notice should clearly advise class members of the deadline for submission of any
13 objections.” *Carlotti*, 2019 WL 6134910, at *16 (quoting Guideline § 5).

14 Here, the proposed Long Form Notice contains all the required information, and the email
15 and postcard notices provide the objection date and refer recipients to the settlement website,
16 which also contains the required information.

17 **k. Attorneys’ Fees**

18 Class Counsel anticipate seeking attorneys’ fees of no more than 25% of the \$58 million
19 Settlement Fund and reimbursement of expenses. *See* Section III.E, *supra*.

20 **l. Incentive Awards**

21 Class Counsel will seek service awards for Class Representatives in an amount up to
22 \$5,000 each. ““The request of \$5,000 is reasonable as that amount is the presumptive incentive
23 award in [the Northern District of California].” *Carlotti*, 2019 WL 6134910, at *16 (quoting *In*
24 *re Chrysler-Dodge-Jeep EcoDiesel Mktg., Sales Practices, & Prods. Liab. Litig.*, No. 17-md-
25 02777, 2019 WL 536661, at *9 (N.D. Cal. Feb. 11, 2019)).

26 **m. CAFA Notice**

27 ““The parties should address whether CAFA notice is required and, if so, when it will be
28 given.” *Id.* (quoting Guidelines § 10). The Agreement provides that, “[i]n coordination with the

1 Settlement Administrator, Plaid will provide CAFA Notice of the settlement to the appropriate
 2 federal and state officials not later than ten (10) calendar days after the Agreement is filed with
 3 the Court.” Kennedy Decl., Ex. A, ¶ 72.

4 **n. Past Distributions**

5 Pursuant to the Guidelines, Plaintiffs provide information regarding a selection of their
 6 past experience, results, and distributions in comparable class settlements. *See Carlotti*, 2019 WL
 7 6134910, at *16-17 (quoting Guidelines ¶ 11); Kennedy Decl., ¶ 3, Ex. B. As these materials
 8 establish, Class Counsel are seasoned and well-regarded litigators familiar with the settlement
 9 procedures involved in complex class actions. *Id.* Counsel have successfully negotiated
 10 settlements funds similar those anticipated in this case in a wide range of cases, including cases
 11 involving complex consumer protection, financial practices, and data privacy claims. *Id.*

12 The Settlement now before the Court will utilize similar notice and outreach methods and
 13 claim administration for Class Members as those employed Class Counsel in prior cases. *Id.*
 14 Therefore, Class counsel is able to reasonably predict with confidence that the much of the funds
 15 available to Class Members will be paid out in this case, and to the extent any money remains
 16 after the Class is paid, it will be directed towards the interests of the Class and the causes
 17 advanced in this litigation. *Id.*

18 **V. CONCLUSION**

19 For the foregoing reasons, Plaintiffs respectfully request that the Court grant Plaintiffs’
 20 Motion for Preliminary Approval of Class Action Settlement and enter an order consistent with
 21 the proposed form filed herewith.

22 Dated: August 5, 2021

Respectfully submitted,

HERRERA KENNEDY LLP

24 By: /s/ Shawn Kennedy
 25 Shawn M. Kennedy

26 Shawn M. Kennedy (SBN 218472)
 skennedy@herrerakennedy.com
 27 Bret D. Hembd (SBN 272826)
 bhembd@herrerakennedy.com
 28 4590 MacArthur Blvd., Suite 500
 Newport Beach, CA 92660

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Telephone: (949) 936-0900
Fax: (855) 969-2050

HERRERA KENNEDY LLP
Nicomedes Sy Herrera (SBN 275332)
nherrera@herrerakennedy.com
Laura E. Seidl (SBN 269891)
lseidl@herrerakennedy.com
1300 Clay Street, Suite 600
Oakland, CA 94612
Telephone: (510) 422-4700
Fax: (855) 969-2050

By: /s/ Rachel Geman
Rachel Geman

LIEFF CABRASER HEIMANN &
BERNSTEIN, LLP
Rachel Geman (*Pro Hac Vice*)
rgeman@lchb.com
Rhea Ghosh (*Pro Hac Vice*)
rghosh@lchb.com
250 Hudson Street, 8th Floor
New York, NY 10013-1413
Tel: (212) 355-9500
Fax: (212) 355-9592

LIEFF CABRASER HEIMANN &
BERNSTEIN, LLP
Michael W. Sobol (SBN 194857)
msobol@lchb.com
Melissa Gardner (SBN 289096)
mgardner@lchb.com
275 Battery Street, 29th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94111-3339
Tel: (415) 956-1000
Fax: (415) 956-1008

BURNS CHAREST LLP

By: /s/ Christopher Cormier
Christopher J. Cormier

Christopher J. Cormier (*Pro Hac Vice*)
ccormier@burnscharest.com
4725 Wisconsin Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20016
Tel: (202) 577-3977
Fax: (469) 444-5002

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BURNS CHAREST LLP
Warren T. Burns (*Pro Hac Vice*)
wburns@burnscharest.com
900 Jackson Street, Suite 500
Dallas, TX 75202
Tel: (469) 904-4550
Fax: (469) 444-5002

Interim Co-Lead Class Counsel