1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	THE RESTIS LAW FIRM, P.C. William R. Restis, Esq. (SBN 246823) 402 West Broadway, Suite 1520 San Diego, California 92101 +1.619.270.8383 +1.619.752.1552 william@restislaw.com  Attorneys for Plaintiff and the Proposed Settlement [Additional Counsel Listed On Signature Page]	ELECTRONICALLY FILED Superior Court of California, County of San Diego 12/05/2018 at 03:55:00 PM Clerk of the Superior Court By Tamara Parra, Deputy Clerk  ent Class
10	SUPERIOR COURT FOR T	HE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
11	COUNTY O	F SAN DIEGO
12	<b>KARL BECK</b> , individually and on behalf of all other similarly situated California residents,	Case No: 37-2017-00037524-CU-BT-CTL
13	Plaintiff,	CLASS ACTION
14	V.	
15 16 17 18	POINT LOMA PATIENTS CONSUMER COOPERATIVE CORPORATION, A California Corporation, ADAM KNOPF, an Individual, JUSTUS H. HENKES IV, an Individual, 419 CONSULTING INC., a California Corporation, GOLDEN STATE GREENS LLC, a California LLC, FAR WEST MANAGEMENT, LLC, a California LLC,	DECLARATION OF WILLIAM R. RESTIS IN SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFF'S MOTION FOR PRELIMINARY APPROVAL OF CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT  Date: January 4, 2019 Time: 9:00 a.m. Judge: Hon. Joel R. Wohlfeil
19 20	FAR WEST OPERATING, LLC, a California LLC, FAR WEST STAFFING, LLC, a California LLC, and DOES 1-50,	Ctrm: C-73
21		
22	Defendants.	
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DECLARATION OF WILLIAM R. RESTIS ISO PLAINTIFF'S MOT. PRELIMINARY APPROVAL

CASE NO: 37-2017-00037524-CU-BT-CTL

- 1. I am managing member of the law firm of THE RESTIS LAW FIRM, P.C. ("RLF"), counsel for Plaintiff and proposed Class Representative Karl Beck ("Plaintiff" or "Beck"), and the proposed Class Members in the above captioned case. I have personal knowledge of the matters set forth herein, based on my active participation in all material aspects of this litigation. If called upon, I could and would testify competently to the facts herein based upon my personal involvement in this case. I submit this declaration in support of Plaintiff's Motion for Preliminary Approval of Class Action Settlement filed concurrently herewith.
- 2. Plaintiff and proposed Class Representative Beck seeks preliminary approval of a class action settlement with defendants Point Loma Patients Consumer Cooperative Corporation (the "PLPCC"), 419 Consulting Inc., Golden State Greens LLC, Far West Management, LLC, Far West Operating, LLC, Far West Staffing, LLC, Adam Knopf and Justus Henkes, IV (collectively "Defendants") that provides the same relief sought by Plaintiff's class action Complaint ("SAC"). A true and correct copy of the Settlement Agreement is attached hereto as Exhibit "1".

## A. Settlement Negotiations

I, William R. Restis, hereby declare as follows:

- 3. While the case was actively proceeding, the parties engaged in multiple rounds of settlement negotiations. On May 17, 2018, the parties engaged in mediation before Judge Pressman, formerly of the San Diego Superior Court. During the May 17<sup>th</sup> mediation, the parties discussed and agreed on a general structure for a proposed class settlement that formed the basis for the Settlement now proposed to the Court. After the parties generally agreed on the structure of a class settlement, they began to discuss the value of a common fund.
- 4. Defendants provided financial statements to Judge Pressman, which the Judge represented to me that he reviewed. Defendants communicated (through Judge Pressman) aggregated numbers from their financial statements for Plaintiff's consideration during the May 17<sup>th</sup> mediation.
- 5. Judge Pressman represented to me that based on the documentation he had seen, and based on his understanding of *alter ego* principles, he believed proving unlawful profits would be extremely difficult. Based on Judge Pressman's review of Defendants' financial statements, he

recommended that Plaintiff accept a class settlement that was approximately 38% less than the current proposed Settlement. Despite these efforts, the parties were unable to resolve the litigation.

- 6. On July 30, 2018, the parties conducted a second mediation with Judge Pressman. During that mediation, based on the recommendation of Judge Pressman, the parties executed a settlement term sheet containing the major elements of the proposed Settlement. Although neither Plaintiff nor myself had yet viewed Defendants' financial statements, they had been disclosed to, and reviewed by Judge Pressman who recommended the Settlement (and communicated in part to me).
- 7. Accordingly, the Settlement terms were expressly conditioned on Plaintiff's ability to conduct confirmatory discovery to ensure that the Settlement terms are "fair, reasonable and adequate" as claimed by Defendants and Judge Pressman. The term sheet included a list of materials recommended and approved by Judge Pressman, that I could promptly review to either substantiate the claims made by Defendants during mediation, or withdraw from the Settlement.
- 8. After signing the settlement term sheet on July 30, 2018, I continued to negotiate for a full and complete review of Defendants' finances to verify the adequacy of the Settlement terms, and satisfy one of the goals of the litigation an audit for the benefit of PLPCC members. After approximately two months of negotiation, Defendants agreed that I could have unrestricted access to Defendants' books and records, provided the materials were provided for "attorneys eyes only," and provided that I not keep any copies of the materials reviewed.
- 9. Prior to signing Settlement Agreement, on September 24, 2018, I met with counsel for defendants Matthew Dart and Tamara Leetham, as well as defendant Henkes (telephonically) at the offices of Austin Legal Group. During this meeting, which lasted approximately four hours, I was provided unrestricted access to financial statements and information related to all Defendants. Mr. Henkes (the accountant for Defendants) answered each of my inquiries concerning the income, expenses, and balance sheet of the Defendants. Mr. Henkes' candid disclosure went far beyond what the parties agreed to (at the recommendation of Judge Pressman) at the July 30, 2018 mediation.
- 10. During the September 24<sup>th</sup> due diligence session, I reviewed both consolidated and deconstructed financial statements covering the entire Class Period. The information I reviewed

  CASE NO: 37-2017-00037524-CU-BT-CTL

included the PLPCC's income statements, balance sheets, and cash flow statements. I also reviewed the sales reports generated from the PLPCC's 420soft point-of-sale software that was the subject of Plaintiff's June 28, 2018 subpoena. I compared the expenses from the PLPCC's profit and loss statements to the income of the other defendants, as well as expenses incurred by the other Defendants.

- 11. Based on this review, I learned that the Settlement's consideration (\$830,0000) represents approximately **57%** the total potentially recoverable funds (\$1,461,000) if Plaintiff were to successfully certify a class and prevail at trial. Defendants' income net of expenses represented less than 5% of the PLPCC's total gross revenue during the class period.
- 12. As a result of this due diligence review, I am well informed, and have concluded that the proposed Settlement is "fair, reasonable, and adequate."
- 13. Even after the parties reached a settlement in principal, the adversarial process continued through two months of negotiations concerning a final settlement agreement, and thereafter with continued adversarial negotiation of the finer points of the Settlement, as well as issues relating to Notice, and settlement administration. The parties executed the final Settlement Agreement on November 26, 2018.

#### B. Attorneys' Fees and Litigation Expenses, and Incentive Award

- 14. RLF undertook this action on a contingent-fee basis, assuming significant risk that the action would yield no recovery and leave RLF uncompensated. From the initial inspection and CLRA demand made on Defendants in July 2016, RLF has not been compensated for *any* time or expenses incurred.
- 15. I understood RLF was embarking on a complex and expensive litigation with no guarantee of ever being compensated for the investment of time and money this case would require. In undertaking the responsibility of representing the class, RLF was obliged to ensure that sufficient resources were dedicated to the prosecution of this litigation and that funds were available to compensate staff and to cover the considerable costs that a case such as this requires. With an average lag time of several years for class cases to conclude, the financial burden on contingent-fee counsel is *far* greater than on a firm that is paid on an ongoing basis. That is especially true in this case,

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which has been ongoing for more than a year.

- 16. As such, RLF intends to request an award of attorneys' fees and reimbursement of litigation costs that does not exceed \$200,000.
- 17. At the Final Approval Hearing, RLF will ask the Court to award fees based upon the value of the benefits achieved in the proposed Settlement and will present time and expense declarations to allow for a cross-check under the lodestar/multiplier method. At the time of filing for preliminary approval, RLF's fee and cost lodestar exceeds \$350,000, giving RLF a current lodestar multiplier of approximately 0.57. Based on my past experience in class action litigation, I expect that RLF will incur at least another 20 hours of attorney and paralegal time, further reducing RLF's lodestar multiplier.

## C. The Uncertainty of Continued Litigation Favors Settlement

- 18. Having reviewed the strengths and weaknesses of this litigation, I remain confident about the strength of Plaintiff's claims. Nonetheless, I recognize that Defendants have factual and legal defenses that, if successful, could potentially defeat or substantially impair the value of the lawsuit. For example, Plaintiff could potentially be unable to establish that he and other PLPCC patrons are cooperative "members" entitled to patronage distributions at all. See RoA # 20, at p.8 (arguing that Plaintiff is a mere "associate member" under the PLPCC bylaws and is explicitly not entitled to patronage distributions) citing CAL. CORP. CODE § 12454 ("Nothing in this chapter prohibits additional restrictions ... patronage distributions, by provision in a corporation's articles or bylaws or agreement entered into by the corporation.") and CAL. CORP. CODE § 12420(a) ("...a corporation may issue memberships having different rights, privileges, preferences, restrictions, or conditions, as provided in its articles or bylaws.")
- 19. In addition, Plaintiff may not be able to "pierce the corporate veil" between the PLPCC and the other corporate defendants with which Plaintiff and other PLPCC patrons lack privity. Id., at p 6 (arguing that Plaintiff cannot establish alter ego liability against defendants other than the PLPCC). And at the time of settlement, the Court had denied Plaintiff the detailed discovery necessary to conduct an independent audit of Defendants' finances, and prove Plaintiff's case. See RoA ## 158, 163 (denying Plaintiff's motions to compel inspection requests intended to reconstruct

1	Defendants' financial statements). Finally, although I am confident that this case is readily amenable
2	to certification, class certification is always a major risk.
3	D. Qualifications of Counsel
4	20. I have extensive experience prosecuting and defending class action litigation. A true
5	and correct copy of my legal <i>curriculum vitae</i> is attached hereto as Exhibit 2.
6	21. I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the
7	foregoing is true and correct.
8	Executed on December 5, 2018 in San Diego, California.
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10	William R. Restis
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	- 5 - CASE No: 37-2017-00037524-CU-BT-CT

DECLARATION OF WILLIAM R. RESTIS ISO PLAINTIFF'S MOT. PRELIMINARY APPROVAL

# EXHIBIT 1

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8	SUPERIOR COURT OF T	THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
9		OF SAN DIEGO
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11	KARL BECK, individually and on behalf	CASE NO. 37-2017-00037524-CU-BT-CTL
12	of all other similarly situated California residents,	CLASS ACTION
13	Plaintiff,	STIPULATION AND AGREEMENT OF
14	VS.	SETTLEMENT
15	POINT LOMA PATIENTS CONSUMER	
16	COOPERATIVE CORPORATION, a California corporation, ADAM KNOPF, an	
7	individual, JUSTUS H. HENKES IV, an individual, 419 CONSULTING INC, a	
8	California corporation, GOLDEN STATE GREENS LLC, a California LLC, FAR	
9	WEST MANAGEMENT LLC, a California LLC, FAR WEST	
20	OPERATING, LLC, a California LLC, FAR WEST STAFFING LLC, a California	
21	LLC, and DOES 1-50;	
22	Defendants.	
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	STIPULATION AND	1 SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

It is hereby stipulated and agreed by and between the undersigned Parties, subject to Court approval, that settlement of this action shall be effectuated pursuant to the terms and conditions set for in this Settlement Agreement.

#### SECTION 1 – PREAMBLE

- 1. WHEREAS Karl Beck ("Plaintiff") is the named plaintiff in this action entitled Karl Beck, individually and on behalf of all other similarly situated California residents, Plaintiff, v. Point Loma Patients Consumer Cooperative Corporation, a California corporation; Adam Knopf, an individual; Justus H. Henkes IV, an individual; 419 Consulting Inc., a California corporation; Golden State Greens LLC, a California LLC; Far West Management, LLC a California LLC; Far West Operating, LLC, a California, LLC; Far West Staffing, LLC, a California LLC; and DOES 1 through 50, inclusive, Defendants (collectively all defendants referred to as "Defendants"), case number 37-2017-00037524-CU-BT-CTL, commenced on or about October 6, 2017 (the "Action");
- 2. WHEREAS Plaintiff filed a Complaint for damages and restitution against all Defendants for (1) Production Of Records Pursuant To Corporations Code §§ 12603-12607; (2) Violation Of The Unfair Competition Law ("UCL") (Business and Professions Code § 17200 et seq.); (3) Violation Of The Consumer Legal Remedies Act ("CLRA") (Civil Code § 1770 et seq.); (4) Conversion; and (5) Unjust Enrichment.
- 3. WHEREAS Plaintiff alleges that as a member patron of defendant Point Loma Patients Consumer Cooperative, he was entitled to certain patron distributions which Defendants diverted for their own use and benefit in violation of the UCL, the CLRA, and California's common law doctrine of conversion.
- 4. WHEREAS the Action seeks monetary and equitable remedies on behalf of Plaintiff and a class of similarly situated persons;
- 5. WHEREAS the Parties have negotiated this Settlement at arms-length with the assistance and oversight of Honorable Joel Pressman (Ret.), and have had a full and fair opportunity to evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of their respective positions;
  - 6. WHEREAS Defendants deny the allegations of the Action, deny all allegations of

wrongdoing and of liability, and deny any causation of harm or damage to the Settlement Class;

- 7. WHEREAS Defendants nevertheless have concluded that, in light of the costs, risks and disruption of litigation, this Settlement is appropriate on the terms and conditions set forth herein;
- 8. WHEREAS Plaintiff believes that the claims asserted in the Action are meritorious;
- 9. WHEREAS, Plaintiff nevertheless has concluded that in light of the costs, delay and risks of litigation of the matters in dispute, the high value of the Settlement relative to the amount in controversy, and in the desire to provide relief to the Settlement Class sooner rather than later, this Settlement is fair, reasonable, adequate, and in the best interests of the Settlement Class;
- 10. WHEREAS the performance of any act referenced in this Settlement Agreement, or any other circumstance regarding the Parties' agreement to settle, shall not be considered an admission of liability or as an admission of any allegations made in any claim or litigation, including this Action; and
- 11. WHEREAS the Parties hereto agree that this Settlement Agreement shall not be deemed or construed to be an admission or evidence of any violation of any federal or state statute, rule or regulation, principle of common law or equity, or of any liability or wrongdoing whatsoever by Defendants, or of the truth of any of the class claims asserted in the Action, or elsewhere;
- 12. WHEREAS the Parties hereto agree that the certification of the Settlement Class shall have no bearing in deciding whether the claims asserted in the Action are or were appropriate for class treatment in the absence of settlement.
- 13. NOW THEREFORE, it is hereby stipulated and agreed that, in consideration of the agreements, promises, and covenants set forth in this Settlement Agreement, and subject to approval of the Court, the Action shall be fully and finally settled and dismissed with prejudice under the following terms and conditions:

#### **SECTION 2 – DEFINTIONS**

As used in this Settlement Agreement and the related documents attached hereto as exhibits, the terms used therein shall have the meanings set forth below. The singular includes the plural and vice versa.

- 1. "Administrator" means the third-party agent or administrator retained by

  Defendants and approved by the Court to provide services in the administration of the Settlement,
  including providing Class Notice, and the processing of other documents or tasks as provided for
  in the Settlement or as otherwise agreed to by the parties and Administrator or ordered by the

  Court.
- 2. "Administration Costs" means the actual and direct costs reasonably charged by the Administrator for its services.
  - 3. "Class Counsel" means The Restis Law Firm, P.C.
- 4. "Class Members" means all individuals that purchased a product from Point Loma Patients Consumer Cooperative prior to December 31, 2017, except (i) any Defendant in this Action; (ii) Beck's attorneys and litigation staff, including members of their immediate families; or (iii) any judge, justice judicial officer, or judicial staff of the Court.
- 5. "Class Notice" or "Notice" means all types of notice that will be provided to the Class Members pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure section 382 and California Rule of Court 3.766 including Short-Form Notice, Long-Form Notice, Settlement Website notice, and any additional or different notice that may be ordered by the Court. Class Notice means the Court-approved notice of this Agreement that is directed to Class Members and described in Section 4.1 of this Settlement Agreement and exemplified in Exhibits A and B. The Class Notice will be provided as set forth in the Preliminary Approval Order, pursuant to California Rule of Court 3.771(b).
- 6. "Class Period" means the time period between August 1, 2015 and December 31, 2017.
- 7. "Class Released Claims" means any and all actions, causes of action, claims, demands, liabilities, obligations, fees, costs, sanctions, proceedings, and/or rights of any nature

and description whatsoever, including, without limitation, violations of any state or federal statutes, or rules or regulations, or principles of common law, whether liquidated or unliquidated, known or unknown, in law or in equity, whether or not concealed or hidden, by Plaintiff, members of the Settlement Class, or any of them (on their own behalf and/or on behalf of the proposed class or the general public) against Defendants, or any other Released Parties, through the date the Final Approval Order is entered, and that are based on, or arise out of, the facts, transactions, events, occurrences, acts, disclosures, advertisements, omissions, or failure to act concerning the facts alleged in the Action. Notwithstanding the above, "Class Released Claims" shall exclude any claims for personal injury on behalf of the Settlement Class.

- 8. "Class Representative" means Plaintiff (Karl Beck).
- 9. "Court" means the Superior Court of the State of California, County of San Diego, Central Division.
  - 10. "Defendants' Counsel" means the Austin Legal Group and Dart Law.
- 11. "Effective Date" means the earliest of the following: (1) the date of entry of a Final Approval Order and judgment if no objections are filed to the Settlement or if all objections are withdrawn prior to the Court ruling on them; or (2) sixty-one (61) days after entry of a Final Approval Order and judgment; or (3) if a timely appeal is made, three (3) business days after the date of the final resolution of that appeal and any subsequent appeals or petitions for certiorari from final approval of the Settlement.
- 12. "Fee and Cost Application" means the written motion or application by which the Class Representative and/or Class Counsel request that the Court award attorneys' fees, costs, expenses and incentive award.
- 13. "Fee and Expense Award" means an award of attorneys' fees and the reimbursement of litigation costs and expenses authorized by the Court pursuant to the Fee and Cost Application to be paid to Class Counsel for the services rendered by Class Counsel and the attorneys at Finkelstein & Krinsk LLP to Beck and The Class Members in this Action.
- 14. "Final" means that the Court has entered the Final Approval Order on the docket in the Action, and (a) the time to appeal from such order has expired and no appeal has been

timely filed, (b) if such an appeal has been filed, it has finally been resolved and has resulted in an affirmation of the Final Approval Order, or (c) the Court, following the resolution of the appeal, enters a further order or orders approving settlement on the terms set forth herein, or on terms mutually agreed in writing by the parties, and either no further appeal is taken from such order(s) or any such appeal results in affirmation of such order(s). Neither the pendency of the Fee and Cost Application, nor any appeal pertaining solely to a decision on the Fee and Cost Application, shall in any way delay or preclude the Final Approval Order from becoming Final.

- 15. "Final Approval Hearing" means the hearing at which the Court shall (a) determine whether to grant final approval to this Settlement Agreement and to certify the Settlement Class; (b) consider any timely objections to this Settlement and all responses thereto; and (c) rule on the Fee and Cost Application.
- 16. "Final Approval Order" means the order in which the Court grants final approval of this Settlement Agreement, certifies the Settlement Class, and authorizes dismissal of the Action with prejudice.
- 17. "Incentive Award" means an award authorized by the Court to be paid to Plaintiff in recognition of his efforts in prosecuting this Action.
- 18. "Individual Released Claims": means any and all of the Class Representative's actions, causes of action, claims, demands, liabilities, obligations, fees, costs, sanctions, proceedings, and/or rights of any nature and description whatsoever, including, without limitation, violations of any state or federal statutes, rules or regulations, or principles of common law, whether liquidated or unliquidated, known or unknown, in law or in equity, whether or not concealed or hidden, against Defendants, or any other Released Parties, through the date the Final Approval Order is entered, and that are based on, arise out of, the facts alleged in this Action.
- 19. "Long-Form Notice" means the long-form of notice of the proposed class action settlement attached hereto as Exhibit A.
- 20. "Notice Response Deadline" means the deadline for all members of the Settlement Class to request exclusion from the Settlement or object to the Settlement, which shall be 45 days after Notice is disseminated to Class Members, or other date as ordered by the Court.

- 21. "Parties" means Class Representative and Defendants.
- 22. "Patronage Distribution Credits" means the United States dollar value of credits for free or discounted product from the PLPCC.
- 23. "Patronage Distribution Date" means ten (10) days after the Effective Date, which will be disclosed on the Settlement Website, and is the date on which the Patronage Distribution Credits will be available to Class Members.
- 24. "PLPCC" means defendant Point Loma Patients Consumer Cooperative Corporation, and any successor or related entities thereto operating a marijuana dispensary at 3452 Hancock Street, San Diego, CA 92110.
- 25. "Preliminary Approval Order" means the order in which the Court grants its preliminary approval to this Settlement Agreement and preliminarily certifies the Class Members, appoints Plaintiff as Class Representative, appoints Restis Law Firm as Class Counsel, appoints the Administrator, and authorizes dissemination of Notice to Class Members.
- 26. "Released Parties" means Defendants to this Action and each of their respective current and former officers, directors, employees, stockholders, investors, owners, agents, representatives, attorneys, accountants, lenders, underwriters, insurers, administrators, successors, subsidiaries, assigns, affiliates, joint-ventures, partners, members (but not "associate members"), divisions, predecessors.
- 27. "Request for Exclusion" means a valid request for exclusion from a Class Member. To be valid, a request for must (a) be submitted by the Class Member; (b) to the Administrator and postmarked (if applicable) by a date no later than forty-five (45) days following initial dissemination of Notice by the Administrator (or other date as ordered by the Court); and (c) contain the Class Member's name, address and telephone number.
- 28. "Settlement Agreement," "Settlement," or "Agreement" means this Stipulation and Agreement of Settlement, including any exhibits.
- 29. "Settlement Class" means all individuals that purchased a product from Point Loma Patients Consumer Cooperative prior to December 31, 2017, except persons who properly exclude themselves from the Settlement.

- d. Patronage Distribution Credits not redeemed by Settlement Class Members within 18 months shall revert back to the general fund of the PLPCC to be used for the "general welfare" of PLPCC patrons pursuant to Cal. Corp. Code § 12201.
- e. Patronage Distribution Credits to Settlement Class Members shall be non-transferrable and not redeemable for cash.

## SECTION 4 – NOTICE AND REQUESTS FOR EXCLUSION

## 1. Provision of Class Notice

Notice to the Class Members shall be provided in the forms approved by the Court in the Preliminary Approval Order, by those means set forth in the Preliminary Approval Order. The Notice shall be substantially in the same forms as the exemplars submitted as Exhibits A and B hereto, or as approved by the Court.

#### a. Direct Notice.

Within 7 days after entry of the Preliminary Approval Order, Defendants shall provide a list to the Administrator of the Class Members. Within twenty-one (21) days after entry of the Preliminary Approval Order, the Administrator shall mail or email the Short-Form Notice (in the form attached to the Agreement as Exhibit B) to the identified Class Members. The Administrator shall utilize the national change of address database to update the mailing list of Class Members prior to sending Short-Form Notice to any Class Members that will be contacted by mail, and shall perform a single Skip Trace to conduct an address update for any Short-Form Notice returned to the Administrator using an industry accepted source such as Accurint.

In the event that a Short-Form Notice is returned as undeliverable with a forwarding address, the Administrator shall re-mail the Short-Form Notice to the indicated forwarding address within 5 business days from the date of the receipt of the forwarding address. The Administrator shall have no obligation to re-mail any Class Notice returned as undeliverable after 30 days from the date on which it was originally mailed.

#### b. Internet Notice.

The Parties and the Administrator shall use best efforts to cause the Class Notice to commence online at the Settlement Website promptly after entry of the Preliminary Approval

Order. The Settlement Website shall be administered by the Administrator. The Administrator shall cause the Long Form Notice to be posted to the Settlement Website no later than the date for dissemination of the Short-Form Notice. The Settlement Website shall also provide relevant information regarding the Settlement, including (a) how to file Exclusion Requests or object to the Settlement, (b) relevant dates and deadlines, including the Notice Response Deadline, Final Approval Hearing date, and the date that Patronage Distribution Credits will be available for redemption at the PLPCC if the Settlement becomes Final; and (c) copies of the following documents: Plaintiff's Complaint, Defendants' Answer, the Settlement Agreement, Plaintiff's Preliminary Approval Motion and supporting documents, the Preliminary Approval Order, Plaintiff's Fee and Cost Application and supporting documents (when filed), Motion for Final Approval and supporting documents (when filed), and Final Order and Judgment (when filed).

## 2. <u>Declarations of Compliance</u>

The Administrator shall prepare declarations attesting to compliance with the notice requirements set forth above. Such declarations shall be provided to Class Counsel and Defendants' Counsel and filed with the Court when required by the Preliminary Approval Order.

## 3. Best Notice Practicable

The Parties agree that compliance with the procedures described in this section is the best notice practicable under the circumstances and shall constitute due and sufficient notice to the Class Members (and resulting Settlement Class) of the pendency of the Action, certification of the Class Members, the terms of the Settlement Agreement, and the Final Approval Hearing, and shall satisfy the requirements of the California Rules of Court, the Code of Civil Procedure, the California Constitution, the United States Constitution, and any other applicable law.

## 4. Report On Requests For Exclusion

Not later than the date provided in the Preliminary Approval Order, the Administrator shall prepare and deliver to Class Counsel, who shall file it with the Court and provide it to Defendant's Counsel, a report stating: the total number of Persons that have submitted timely and valid Requests for Exclusion from the Class Members, and the names of such Persons. Any Person that has submitted a timely and valid Request for Exclusion will not be entitled to receive

any relief under this Settlement Agreement.

## 5. <u>Inquiries From Class Members</u>

It shall be the responsibility of Class Counsel to establish procedures for receiving and responding to all inquiries from the Class Members with respect to this Settlement. Defendants' Counsel may respond, but are not required to respond, to such inquiries.

## SECTION 5 – COURT APPROVAL OF SETTLEMENT

## 1. <u>Preliminary Approval</u>

As soon as practicable after the execution of this Settlement Agreement, Class Counsel shall apply for entry of Preliminary Approval Order in the form of Exhibit C, which Defendants shall not oppose. The Preliminary Approval Order proposed to the Court shall include provisions (a) preliminarily certifying the Class Members for settlement purposes only; (b) preliminarily approving this Settlement and finding this Settlement sufficiently fair, reasonable and adequate to allow Notice to be disseminated to the Class Members; (c) approving the form, content, and manner of the Notice; (d) setting a schedule for proceedings with respect to final approval of this Settlement; and (e) staying the Action, other than such proceedings as are related to this Settlement.

## 2. <u>Objections To Settlement</u>

Any Class Member wishing to object to or to oppose the approval of this Settlement and/or the Fee and Cost Application and Fee and Expense Award shall file a written objection (with a statement of reasons) with the Court and serve it on the Parties no later than forty-five (45) days following initial dissemination of Notice. Any Class Member making an objection must include the following information: (a) the Class Member's name, address, telephone number and, if represented by counsel, the name, address, and telephone number of counsel; (b) a statement whether the Class Member intends to appear at the Final Approval Hearing, either in person or through counsel; (c) all grounds for the objection, accompanied by any legal support for the objection; (d) a list of all previous class action objections made by the objecting Class Member and/or Class Member's counsel, if any; and (e) the Class Member's handwritten signature, or shall comply with any objection procedures as ordered by the Court. Any Class

Member that fails to file a timely written objection shall have no right to file an appeal relating to the approval of this Settlement.

## 3. Final Approval Hearing

The Parties shall request that the Court, on the date set forth in the Preliminary Approval Order, or on such other date that the Court may set, conduct a Final Approval Hearing to: (a) determine whether to grant final approval to this Settlement Agreement and to certify the Settlement Class; (b) consider any timely objections to this Settlement and the Parties' responses to such objections; and (c) rule on the Fee and Cost Application. At the Final Approval Hearing, the Parties shall ask the Court to give final approval to this Settlement Agreement, then the Parties shall ask the Court to enter a Final Approval Order which approves this Settlement, certifies the Settlement Class, and authorizes entry of a final judgment.

## 4. Disapproval, Cancellation, Termination, Or Nullification Of Settlement

- a. This Settlement Agreement shall terminate automatically if either (i) the Court denies preliminary approval or final approval to this Settlement Agreement, or (ii) the Final Approval Order does not become Final.
- b. If this Settlement Agreement is terminated pursuant to its terms, then: (i) this Settlement Agreement shall be rendered null and void; (ii) this Settlement Agreement and all negotiations and proceedings relating hereto shall be of no force or effect, and without prejudice to the rights of the Parties; and (iii) all Parties shall be deemed to have reverted to their respective status in the Action, as of the date and time immediately preceding the execution of this Settlement Agreement and, except as otherwise expressly provided, the Parties shall stand in the same position and shall proceed in all respects as if this Settlement Agreement and any related orders had never been executed, entered into, or filed, except that the Parties shall not seek to recover from one another any costs incurred in connection with this Settlement.

## 5. <u>Termination Based On Exclusion Requests</u>

Defendants, in their sole and absolute discretion, may elect to terminate this Agreement if exclusion requests as provided for in the Preliminary Approval Order exceeds 1% of the Class members. Defendants may terminate under this Paragraph by providing written notice of

termination to Class Counsel no later than seven (7) calendar days before the Final Approval Hearing.

## SECTION 6 – ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES, ATTORNEYS' FEES, COSTS

#### 1. Costs Of Notice

All costs of providing the Notice as provided herein, including the costs of Direct notice and Internet notice, shall be paid from the Class Settlement Fund.

## 2. <u>Costs Of Administering Settlement</u>

All costs of administering this Settlement, including all fees of the Administrator, shall be paid from the Class Settlement Fund. In the event that this Settlement Agreement is terminated pursuant to its terms, Defendants shall bear any costs of administering this Settlement already incurred.

## 3. Attorneys' Fees And Costs

Plaintiff and/or Class Counsel may make a Fee and Cost Application, to be heard at the Final Approval Hearing, seeking an award of attorneys' fees and costs in an amount not to exceed \$200,000, inclusive of documented costs. Defendants have agreed not to oppose such application by Class Counsel, and to affirmatively express their non-opposition to Class Counsel's Fee and Cost Application provided that Class Counsel's Fee and Cost Application shall not collectively exceed \$200,000. No later than the date set in the Preliminary Approval Order, Class Counsel shall file a motion requesting the Court's approval of attorneys' fees and costs. Defendants shall pay all attorneys' fees and costs up to \$200,000 that are approved by the Court, and only in the event that the Effective Date occurs. Defendants shall make one payment of \$100,000 no later three (3) days after the Effective Date, and any remainder no later than ninety (90) days from the Effective Date. Any payments made under this provision will be exclusive of the Class Settlement Fund. Payments under this provision shall be made to The Restis Law Firm. Class Counsel shall be solely responsible for further distributing any payments made under this provision.

## 4. <u>Incentive Award</u>

Plaintiff and/or Class Counsel on his behalf may make an application to be heard at the Final Approval Hearing for an incentive award to be paid from the Class Settlement Fund in an

amount not to exceed five thousand dollars (\$5,000). Defendants have agreed not to oppose such a request. Class Counsel shall file a motion requesting the Court's approval for any incentive award no later than the date set forth in the Preliminary Approval Order. Such incentive award, if approved by the Court, shall be paid from the Class Settlement Fund no later than fifteen (15) days after the Effective Date, and only in the event that the Effective Date occurs. Such payment shall be compensation and consideration for the efforts of Plaintiff as the Class Representative in the Action.

## 5. <u>Defendants' Legal Fees and Expenses</u>

Defendants own legal fees, costs, and expenses incurred in the Action or related to this Settlement shall be borne exclusively by Defendants.

## 6. <u>Effect On Settlement</u>

The Parties agree that the rulings of the Court regarding the amount of attorneys' fees or costs and any incentive award, and any claim or dispute relating thereto, will be considered by the Court separately from the remaining matters to be considered at the Final Approval Hearing as provided for in this Settlement Agreement and any determinations in that regard will be embodied in a separate order. Any order or proceedings relating to the amount of attorneys' fees or incentive award, including any appeals from or modifications or reversals of any order related thereto, shall not operate to modify, reverse, terminate, or cancel the Settlement Agreement, affect the releases provided for in the Settlement Agreement, or affect whether the Final Approval Order becomes Final as defined herein.

#### SECTION 7 – RELEASES UPON EFFECTIVE DATE

## 1. <u>Binding And Exclusive Nature Of Settlement Agreement</u>

On the Effective Date, if it occurs, the Parties and each and every Settlement Class Member shall be bound by this Settlement Agreement and shall have recourse exclusively to the benefits, rights, and remedies provided hereunder. No other action, demand, suit or other claim may be pursued against the Released Parties with respect to the Class Released Claims.

#### 2. Class Releases

On the Effective Date, if it occurs, the Settlement Class Members shall be deemed to

have, and by operation of this Settlement Agreement shall have fully, finally and forever released, relinquished and discharged the Released Parties from any and all of the Class Released Claims.

## 3. <u>Class Representative's Individual Releases</u>

On the Effective date, if it occurs, the Class Representative shall be deemed to have, and by operation of this Settlement Agreement shall have fully, finally and forever released, relinquished and discharged the Released Parties from any and all of the Class Representative's Individual Released Claims.

The Class Representative shall further be deemed to have waived the provisions of Civil Code section 1542 (or any like or similar state or federal statute or common law doctrine) and does so understanding the significance of that waiver. Section 1542 provides:

A GENERAL RELEASE DOES NOT EXTEND TO CLAIMS WHICH THE CREDITOR DOES NOT KNOW OR SUSPECT TO EXIST IN HER OR HER FAVOR AT THE TIME OF EXECUTING THE RELEASE, WHICH IF KNOWN BY HIM OR HER MUST HAVE MATERIALLY AFFECTED HIS OR HER SETTLEMENT WITH THE DEBTOR

## 4. Stay Of The Action

The Parties agree to request that the Court, in connection with Preliminary Approval of the Class Action Settlement, issue an immediate stay of the Action.

## 5. Assumption Of The Risk

In entering into this Settlement Agreement, each of the Parties assumes the risk of any mistake of fact or law. If either Party should later discover that any fact which the Party relied upon in entering this Settlement Agreement is not true, or that the Party's understanding of the facts or law was incorrect, the Party shall not be entitled to modify, reform, or set aside this Settlement Agreement, in whole or in part, by reason thereof. The Parties agree that at the time this Settlement Agreement was executed, there were unsettled issues of law, and the Parties agree to honor this Agreement regardless of developments in the law after execution; specifically, the Class Representative and Class Counsel recognize and agree that, given these uncertainties in the law, the Class Representative and Class Counsel are receiving valuable consideration for the settlement of the Action at this time and per the terms of this Agreement. The Parties will

advocate for Court approval of this Settlement Agreement.

#### SECTION 8 – LIMITATIONS ON USE OF SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

#### 1. No Admission

Neither the acceptance by Defendants of the terms of this Settlement Agreement nor any of the related negotiations or proceedings constitutes an admission with respect to the merits of the claims alleged in the Action, the validity of any claims that could have been asserted by any of the Class Members in the Action, or the liability of the Defendants in the Action. Defendants specifically deny any liability or wrongdoing of any kind associated with the claims alleged in the Action. Neither the acceptance by Plaintiff of the terms of the Settlement Agreement, nor any of the related negotiations or proceedings constitutes an admission with respect to the merits of the claims alleged in the Action.

## 2. <u>Limitations On Use</u>

This Settlement Agreement shall not be used, offered, or received into evidence in the Action for any purpose other than to enforce, to construe, or to finalize the terms of the Settlement Agreement or to obtain the preliminary and final approval by the Court of the terms of the Settlement Agreement. Neither this Agreement nor any of its terms shall be offered or received into evidence in any other action or proceeding except that Defendants may file this Settlement Agreement in any action that may be brought against a Released Party in order to support a defense or counterclaim based on principles of res judicata, collateral estoppel, release, good faith settlement, judgment bar, reduction, or any other theory of claim preclusion or issue preclusion or similar defense or counterclaim.

## 3. <u>No Public Statements Without Agreement Of The Parties</u>

Class Counsel will remove all information on the website www.restislaw.com that references this Action either expressly or impliedly. The Parties and their counsel agree that no Party or counsel who is a signatory to this Settlement Agreement will comment publicly in any form regarding this Settlement or litigation without prior approval of all Parties and counsel. Any disputes among the Parties regarding publicity associated with this Settlement shall be submitted to this Court for expedited review and determination.

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## **SECTION 9 – MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS**

## 1. No Assignment.

Each Party represents, covenants, and warrants that he or it has not directly or indirectly assigned, transferred, encumbered, or purported to assign, transfer, or encumber any portion of any liability, claim, demand, cause of action, or rights that he or it herein releases.

## 2. <u>Binding On Assigns</u>.

This Settlement Agreement shall be binding upon and inure to the benefit of the Parties and their respective heirs, trustees, executors, successors, and assigns.

## 3. <u>Captions</u>.

Titles or captions contained herein are inserted as a mater of convenience and for reference, and in no way define, limit, extend, or describe the scope of this Settlement Agreement or any provision hereof. Each term of this Settlement Agreement is contractual and not merely a recital.

## 4. <u>Settlement Class Member Signatures</u>.

It is agreed that, because the Settlement Class Members are so numerous, it is impractical to have each Settlement Class Member execute this Settlement Agreement. The Notice will advise all Settlement Class Members of the binding nature of the Releases and of the remainder of this Settlement Agreement, and in the absence of a valid and timely Request for Exclusion, such Notice shall have the same force and effect as if each Settlement Class Member executed this Settlement Agreement.

#### 5. Construction.

The Parties agree that the terms and conditions of this Settlement Agreement are the result of arms-length negotiations between the Parties and that this Settlement Agreement shall not be construed in favor of or against any Party by reason of the extent to which any Party, or his or its counsel, participated in the drafting of this Settlement Agreement.

## 6. Counterparts.

This Settlement Agreement and any amendments hereto may be executed in one or more counterparts, and either Party may execute any such counterpart, each of which when executed

and delivered shall be deemed to be an original and both of which counterparts taken together shall constitute but one and the same instrument. A facsimile or portable data file (PDF) signature shall be deemed an original for all purposes.

## 7. <u>Governing Law.</u>

Construction and interpretation of the Settlement Agreement shall be determined in accordance with California state law without regard to choice of law principles.

## 8. Integration Clause.

This Settlement Agreement, including the exhibits referred to herein, which form an integral part hereof, contains the entire understanding of the Parties with respect to the subject matter contained herein. There are no promises, representations, warranties, covenants, or undertakings governing the subject matter of this Settlement Agreement other than those expressly set forth in this Settlement Agreement. This Settlement Agreement supersedes all prior agreements and understandings among the Parties with respect to the settlement of the Action. This Settlement Agreement may not be changed, altered, or modified, except in a writing signed by the Parties and approved by the Court. This Settlement Agreement may not be discharged except by performance in accordance with its terms or by a writing signed by the Parties.

## 9. Jurisdiction.

The Final Approval Order proposed to the Court shall provide that the Court retain jurisdiction, after entry of the Final Approval Order, with respect to enforcement of the terms of this Settlement, and all Parties and Settlement Class (and their counsel) submit to the exclusive jurisdiction of the Court with respect to the enforcement of this Settlement and any dispute arising out of, related to, or with respect to this Settlement.

#### 10. No Collateral Attack.

This Settlement Agreement shall not be subject to collateral attack by any member of the Settlement Class at any time on or after the Effective Date related to the calculation of Patronage Distribution Credits.

## 11. <u>Parties' Authority</u>.

The signatories hereto represent that they are fully authorized to enter into this Settlement

- 1		
1	Agreement, have received legal advice with respect to the advisability of entering into this	
2 -	Settlement Agreement, and fully understand its legal effect.	
3	12. Receipt Of Advice Of Counsel.	
4	The Parties acknowledge, agree, and specifically warrant to each other that they have read	
5	this Settlement Agreement, have received legal advice with respect to the advisability of entering	
6	into this Settlement, and fully understand its legal effect.	
7	13. Waiver Of Compliance.	
8	Any failure of any Party to comply with any obligation, covenant, agreement, or condition	
9	herein may be expressly waived in writing, to the extent permitted under applicable law, by the	
10	Party or Parties entitled to the benefit of such obligation, covenant, agreement, or condition. A	
11	waiver or failure to insist upon compliance with any representation, warranty, covenant,	
12	agreement, or condition shall not operate as a waiver of, or estoppel with respect to, any	
13	subsequent or other failure.	
14		
15		
16		
17	Dated: 11/26, 2018 Back	
18	KARL BECK, individually and on behalf of	
19	all other similarly situated California residents	
20		
21	Data d. 2019 DOINT LONG DATIENTS CONSUMED	
22	Dated:, 2018 POINT LOMA PATIENTS CONSUMER COOPERATIVE CORPORATION, a California corporation	
23	corporation	
24	By:	
25		
26		
27		
28		
	19	

STIPULATION AND SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

1	Agreement, have received legal advice with respect to the advisability of entering into this	
2	Settlement Agreement, and fully understand its legal effect.	
3	12. Receipt Of Advice Of Counsel.	
4	The Parties acknowledge, agree, and specifically warrant to each other that they have read	
5	this Settlement Agreement, have received legal advice with respect to the advisability of entering	
6	into this Settlement, and fully understand its legal effect.	
7	13. <u>Waiver Of Compliance</u> .	
8	Any failure of any Party to comply with any obligation, covenant, agreement, or condition	
9	herein may be expressly waived in writing, to the extent permitted under applicable law, by the	
10	Party or Parties entitled to the benefit of such obligation, covenant, agreement, or condition. A	
11	waiver or failure to insist upon compliance with any representation, warranty, covenant,	
12	agreement, or condition shall not operate as a waiver of, or estoppel with respect to, any	
13	subsequent or other failure.	
14		
15		
16		
17	Dated:, 2018	
18	KARL BECK, individually and on behalf of all other similarly situated California	
19	residents	
20		
21	Dated:	
22	COOPERATIVE CORPORATION, a California corporation	
23	corporation ( )	
24	By	
25	\ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \	
26		
27		
28	10	

1 2 3	Dated:11/21, 2018	ADAM KNOPF an individual
4 5 6	Dated:, 2018	JUSTUS H. HENKES IV, an individual
7 8 9 10	Dated: 11/21 , 2018	419 CONSULTING INC., a California corporation  By:
11 12 13 14 15 16	Dated:, 2018	GOLDEN STATE GREENS LLC, a California LLC  By:
17 18 19 20 21	Dated: <u>11/21</u> , 2018	FAR WEST MANAGEMENT LLC, a California LLC  By:
<ul><li>22</li><li>23</li><li>24</li><li>25</li><li>26</li></ul>	Dated: <u>11/21</u> , 2018	FAR WEST OPERAPING, LLC, a California LLC  By:
27 28		20

STIPULATION AND SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

1 2	Dated:, 2018	ADAM KNOPF, an individual
3 4 5	Dated: 1//20/, 2018	USTUS PAHENKES IV, an individual
6   7 8 9	Dated:, 2018	419 CONSULTING INC., a California corporation
10 11 12 13	Dated:, 2018	GOLDEN STATE GREENS LLC, a California LLC
<ul><li>14</li><li>15</li><li>16</li><li>17</li></ul>		By:
18 19 20	Dated:, 2018	FAR WEST MANAGEMENT LLC, a California LLC  By:
21 22	Dated:, 2018	FAR WEST OPERATING, LLC, a California LLC
<ul><li>23</li><li>24</li><li>25</li></ul>	Dated, 2016	By:
<ul><li>26</li><li>27</li></ul>		
28	STIPLILAT	20 ION AND SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

1 2 3 4 5	Dated:	FAR WEST STAFFING LLC, a California LLC
6		Approved as to form by:
7		
8 9	Dated:11/21, 2018	AUSTIN LEGAL GROUP, APC
10 11 12		By: Janua Llubane Gina M. Austin/Tamara Leetham, Attorneys for Point Loma Patients
13 14		Consumer Cooperative Corporation, Golden State Greens, LLC, Far West Management, LLC, Far West Operating, LLC, and Far West Staffing, LLC
15		
16	Dated:, 2018	DARTLAW
17		Ву:
18 19		MATTHEW B. DART Attorney for Defendants 419 Consulting, Inc., Adam Knopf and Justus Henkes
20		
21		THE RESTIS LAW FIRM, P.C.
22 23	Dated:, 2018	THE RESTIS LAW FIRM, P.C.
24		By:
25	· ·	WILLIAM R. RESTIS Attorney for Plaintiff Karl Beck,
26		individually and on behalf of all other similarly situated California residents.
27		·
28		
		21
- 1	STIPULATION AN	D SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

1 2	Dated:, 2018	FAR WEST STAFFING LLC, a California LLC
3		Ву:
4		-5.5
5		
6		Approved as to form by:
7		
8		
9	Dated:, 2018	AUSTIN LEGAL GROUP, APC
10		
11		By: Gina M. Austin/Tamara Leetham,
12		Attorneys for Point Loma Patients Consumer Cooperative Corporation,
13		Golden State Greens, LLC, Far West Management, LLC, Far West Operating,
14		LLC, and Far West Staffing, LLC
15		
16	Dated:, 2018	DART LAW
17		By: MATTHEW B. DART
18		Attorney for Defendants 419 Consulting,
19		Inc., Adam Knopf and Justus Henkes
20		
21	G. Da	THE RESTIS LAW FIRM, P.C.
22	Dated: 1/26, 2018	THE RESTIS LAW FIRM, P.C.
23	7	
24 25		By: WILLIAM R. RESTIS
26	q.	Attorney for Plaintiff Karl Beck, individually and on behalf of all other
27		similarly situated California residents.
28		
		21
	STIPULATIO	ON AND SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

# EXHIBIT A

## NOTICE OF CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT

You have been identified as a member of a class action lawsuit due to your of purchase of product from Point Loma Patient Consumer Cooperative Cooperation d/b/a Golden State Greens ("PLPCC").

This notice explains your rights and options and the deadlines to exercise them.

A California court authorized this Notice. This is not a solicitation from a lawyer.

## SUMMARY OF THE LAWSUIT AND SETTLEMENT

- A member patron of PLPCC claims that the PLPCC cooperative was operated as a for-profit business in violation of California law, which requires cooperative profits to be distributed to cooperative patrons. The lawsuit alleges that defendants diverted revenue to themselves rather than distribute profits to patrons of PLPCC.
- PLPCC, along with 419 Consulting, Inc., Golden State Greens LLC, Far West Management, LLC, Far West
  Operating, LLC, Far West Staffing, LLC, Adam Knopf and Justus Henkes IV (collectively, the "Defendants") deny any
  wrongdoing and have strongly defended against the lawsuit.
- Plaintiff, on behalf of himself and all class members, and Defendants have agreed to settle the litigation on the terms explained in this Notice. Defendants contest liability with respect to all facts and claims alleged in the lawsuit. Nevertheless, Defendants are entering into this settlement to avoid further expense and burden of litigation. Plaintiff, and the attorneys appointed for you and all class members ("Class Counsel"), believe this Settlement is fair, reasonable, adequate, and in the best interests of Plaintiff and the Class.
- This Notice is being sent to you to inform you about your rights and options under the proposed Settlement and your deadlines to exercise them.

	YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS AND OPTIONS
Do Nothing and Get Benefits	The Settlement provides class members (who do not exclude themselves) with account credits for free or discounted products at the PLPCC, located at 3452 Hancock Street, San Diego, CA 92110. If you wish to remain in the Settlement and receive these benefits, simply do nothing. See FAQ 7-8 below.
Exclude Yourself	Get no credit at the PLPCC. This is the only option that allows you to ever be part of any other lawsuit against Defendants about the legal claims in this case. See FAQ 9-10 below. To exclude yourself, send a letter that states you want to be excluded from the settlement in "Beck. v. PLPCC," Include your name, address, and signature. You must mail your exclusion request letter so that it is postmarked by MONTH xx, 2019.
Овјест	Write to the Court about why you don't like the settlement. To object, you must file with the Court and serve on Class Counsel and Defendants' Counsel your objection in writing no later than MONTH xx, 2018. See FAQ 13 below.
Go To A HEARING	Ask to speak in Court about the fairness of the settlement. See FAQ 14-16 below.

## **BASIC INFORMATION**

## 1. Why did I receive this notice?

This notice was issued because a Court has preliminarily approved a class action settlement of this litigation.

You have been identified as a class member because you purchased product from PLPCC between August 1, 2015 and December 31, 2017. As a class member, your rights may be affected. This notice explains all of these things.

Honorable Judge Joel Wohlfeil of the Superior Court of California, County of San Diego, is overseeing this class action. The case is known as *Beck v. Point Loma Patient Consumer Cooperative Corp.*, *et al.* Case No. 37-2017-00037524-CU-BC-CTL. The person who sued is called the Plaintiff. The companies and people he sued are called the Defendants. The Defendants include PLPCC, 419 Consulting, Inc., Golden State Greens LLC, Far West Management, LLC, Far West Operating, LLC, Far West Staffing, LLC, Adam Knopf and Justus Henkes IV.

#### 2. What is a class action?

In a class action, one or more people, called Class representatives (in this case Karl Beck), sue on behalf of all others who have similar claims. Together, these people make up the Class and are called class members. One court resolves the issues for all Class members, except for those who exclude themselves from the Class.

#### 3. Why is this lawsuit a class action?

The Court decided that this lawsuit could proceed as a class action because the Class Members are so numerous that that joining them in one lawsuit is impracticable; (b) there are questions of law and fact common to the Class Members; (c) Class Representative Beck's claims are typical of the claims of the Class Members; (d) Class Representative and Class Counsel are able to adequately represent the Class Members; and (e) class-wide treatment of the disputes raised in the lawsuit is superior to individual cases

## THE CLAIMS IN THE LAWSUIT

### 4. What is the lawsuit about?

The lawsuit claims that Defendants operated PLPCC as a for-profit business in violation of California law, including the law governing cooperative corporations, and California's medical marijuana laws. The lawsuit claims that Defendants diverted revenue to themselves rather than distribute profits to members of PLPCC. Plaintiff claims those laws require cooperative profits to be distributed to cooperative member-patrons.

Defendants vehemently deny that they have done anything wrong, or owe the Class any money.

For more information about the allegations in the case, including Court documents, see www.PLPCCsettlement.com.

## 5. Has the Court decided who is right?

The Court has made no determinations of the merits of the lawsuit.

## THE SETTLEMENT

#### 6. Why is there a settlement?

The parties attended two mediation sessions before retired Superior Court Judge Hon. Joel Pressman, and at mediation both sides agreed to settle the litigation on the terms described herein. That way, they avoid the cost of a trial, and the people affected will get compensation. The Class Representative and Class Counsel believe the Settlement is in the best interest of the class members.

## **SETTLEMENT BENEFITS AND OPTIONS**

## 7. Benefits of the Settlement

The Settlement relieves the need for the Class to prove their claims at trial and eliminates the uncertainty of the results of a trial. The Settlement also allows class members to receive benefits faster and without the expensive of bringing their own lawsuit.

If the Settlement is approved by the Court, Defendants will create a fund of \$630,000 that will pay for credits to the Class for free or discounted product at the PLPCC. The Settlement fund will also pay for settlement administrative costs, and possibly an incentive award to the class representative (if awarded by the Court) and will reduce the funds available for account credits to Class members that do not exclude themselves from the Settlement

If you purchased any product from PLPCC between August 1, 2015 and December 31, 2017, and do not exclude yourself from the Settlement, you will receive a credit for free or discounted products to redeem at the PLPCC, 3452 Hancock Street, San Diego, CA 92110. The credits will be distributed *pro rata* based on your patronage at PLPCC. In other words, Class members that purchased more from the PLPCC will receive more credits that Class members that purchased less.

You can redeem your credits for free or discounted products from PLPCC for 18 months after the Settlement is finally approved by the Court.

The settlement website www.PLPCCsettlement.com and dispensary website www.goldenstategreens.com will have details about when your credits will be available to redeem.

If you do not redeem Credits within 18 months, they will revert back to the general fund of PLPCC to be used for the "general welfare" of PLPCC patrons.

Credits are non-transferable and not redeemable for cash.

## 8. How can I get those benefits?

If you wish to stay a member of the Class and receive credits to redeem for free or discounted products at the PLPCC, simply do nothing. You will automatically receive these credits if the Settlement is approved. If you do nothing, you will be considered a member of the Class, and will waive your right to sue Defendants (and other Released Parties) based on, or arising out of, the facts alleged in the lawsuit.

The Court must also issue a final ruling approving the Settlement. The Court has preliminarily approved the Settlement, but will hold a hearing on \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_ to decide whether to issue final approval of the Settlement. The hearing may be changed by the Court, and you should check www.PLPCCsettlement.com for any updates. If the Court approves the Settlement, there may be appeals. Benefits are contingent on final approval of the Court, including the determination of any appeal or other challenge. We do not know how long this will take, but check www.PLPCCsettlement.com for any updates.

#### 9. What am I giving up in exchange for the settlement benefits?

Unless you exclude yourself, you are staying in the Class, and that means that you can't sue, continue to sue, or be part of any other lawsuit against the Defendants about the legal issues in this case. It also means that all of the Court's orders will apply to you and legally bind you.

## 10. Can I exclude myself from the Settlement?

Yes. If you don't want to receive PLPCC credits from this settlement, or want keep the right to sue or continue to sue Defendants on your own about the legal issues in this case, then you must take steps to get out. This is called excluding yourself, or "opting-out" of the settlement Class.

If you exclude yourself: (1) you will <u>not</u> receive any Settlement benefits; (2) you will <u>not</u> be legally bound the Settlement; and (3) you will keep any rights you may have to sue Defendants for the legal claims included in this lawsuit, so long as suit is filed before the relevant statutes of limitation expire.

You cannot exclude yourself on the phone or by e-mail. To exclude yourself, send a letter that states you want to be excluded from the "Beck. v. PLPCC Settlement". Include your name, address, and signature. You must mail your exclusion request letter so that it is postmarked by MONTH XX, 2019 to: Beck v PLPCC - Settlement Administrator c/o The Notice Company, Inc., P.O. Box 778, Hingham, MA 02043. As a reminder, before making a decision to exclude yourself, you should consult a lawyer.

## THE LAWYERS REPRESENTING YOU

## 11. Do I have a lawyer in this case?

Yes. The Court has appointed William R. Restis of The Restis Law Firm, P.C. as Class Counsel, and he represents you and other Class members in this case. You will not be charged for Class Counsel's fees. If you want to be represented by your own lawyer, you may hire one at your own expense.

## 12. How will the lawyers be paid?

Class Counsel will ask the Court for attorneys' fees and reimbursement of litigation expenses up to \$200,000, Defendants have agreed not to oppose these fees and expenses, but the Court may award less than these amounts. Defendants will separately pay the attorneys fees and expenses that the Court awards. These amounts will not come out of the funds for payments to the Class.

## 12. Does The Class Representative Get Special Treatment?

Under the Settlement, the Class Representative will receive his same *pro rata* share of the Settlement fund as every other Class member, based on how much product he purchased at the PLPCC.

But as part of the Settlement, Defendants have agreed not to object to a request by Class Counsel for an incentive award up to \$5,000 to Mr. Beck in recognition for his efforts as Class Representative. Mr. Beck's support for the Settlement is not contingent on payment of the incentive award, which must be approved by the Court. The Court may award Mr. Beck less than \$5,000, or nothing at all.

Any incentive fee awarded to Mr. Beck as Class Representative will be paid out of the \$630,000 Settlement fund and reduce the funds available for account credits to Class members that do not exclude themselves from the Settlement.

#### **OBJECTING TO THE SETTLEMENT**

### 13. How do I tell the Court I don't like the Settlement?

You can object to the Settlement if you do not like it or any part of it. To object, you must file with the Court and serve on Class Counsel and Defendants' Counsel your objection in writing.

The objection must include the following information:

- (a) your name, address, telephone number and, if represented by counsel, the name, address, and telephone number of your counsel as well;
- (b) a statement whether you intend to appear at the Final Approval Hearing, either in person or through counsel;
- (c) all grounds for your objection, accompanied by any legal support for the objection known to you or your counsel;
- (d) a list of all previous objections you or your counsel have made to any other class action settlement, if any; and
- (e) your handwritten signature.

Your written objection must be served on and actually received by the Court and counsel, at the following addresses, no later than MONTH xx, 2019:

Class Counsel: San Diego Superior Court

William Restis, Esq. Hon. Joel Wohlfeil, Dept. C-73
THE RESTIS FIRM, P.C. San Diego Superior Court
402 W. Broadway, Suite 1520 330 W. Broadway

San Diego, California 92101 San Diego, California 92101

Defendants' Counsel: Defendants' Counsel:

Tamara Leetham Matthew B. Dart Gina Austin Dart Law

Austin Legal Group 12526 High Bluff Drive, Ste 300

3990 Old Town Ave, Ste A-112 San Diego, CA 92130

San Diego, CA 92110

## FINAL APPROVAL HEARING

# 14. When and where will the Court decide final approval of the settlement?

The Court will hold a hearing to consider whether to finally approve the Settlement on MONTH xx, 2019 at \_\_:\_ a.m./p.m. at:

Hon. Joel Wohlfeil, Dept. C-73 San Diego Superior Court 330 W. Broadway San Diego, California 92101

The hearing date may be changed by the Court. You can check www.PLPCCsettlement.com for updates. At the hearing, the Court will consider whether the Settlement is fair, reasonable, and adequate and capable of approval. The court will consider any objections. The Court will decide whether to approve the Settlement at or after the hearing.

#### 15. Do I have to come to Court?

No. Class Counsel will present the Settlement, answer any questions, and respond to any objections. You may, however, attend the hearing at your own expense.

#### 16. May I speak at the hearing?

The Court must grant you permission to speak at the hearing. If you want to speak at the hearing, you must file a Notice of Intention to Appear with the Court and send a copy to Class Counsel and Defendants' counsel at the addresses listed above no later than MONTH xx, 2019. You may also be required to provide proof that you are a class member.

# IF YOU DO NOTHING

### 17. What if I do nothing?

You will be included in the Settlement. However, you will release your claims against Defendants.

DATE: Month 00, 0000

# **EXHIBIT B**

# ATTENTION CUSTOMERS OF POINT LOMA PATIENTS CONSUMER COOPERATIVE A CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT AFFECTS YOUR RIGHTS The Court ordered this notice so that you may decide what to do.

A proposed class Settlement has been reached in *Beck v. PLPCC et al.*, No. 37-2017-00037524-CU-BT-CTL. This lawsuit alleges that the PLPCC cooperative was operated as a for-profit business in violation of California law, which requires cooperative profits to be distributed to patrons. The lawsuit further alleges that defendants improperly diverted revenue to themselves. Defendants strongly deny any wrongdoing.

If the Court approves the Settlement, Defendants will create a \$630,000 fund for (1) credits to the Class for free or discounted product at the PLPCC, (2) settlement administrative costs, and (3) a potential class representative incentive award. If you purchased any product from PLPCC between August 1, 2015 and December 31, 2017, you will receive a credit at PLPCC d/b/a Golden State Greens, 3452 Hancock Street, San Diego, CA 92110. The credits will be distributed *pro rata* based on your patronage at PLPCC. The Court may award attorneys fees and costs up to \$200,000, which will be paid separately from the \$630,000 fund.

If you wish to stay a member of the class and receive PLPCC credit, simply do nothing. You may also exclude yourself from or object to the Settlement with the option to appear at the final approval hearing on \_\_\_\_\_\_, 2019. If you do nothing, or object to the Settlement, you will be bound by its terms and cannot later sue on your own behalf. If you exclude yourself, you will not receive anything, but will retain your right to sue. Requests to be excluded and objections to the Settlement must be submitted by \_\_\_\_\_\_, 2019.

To find out how to exclude yourself from the Settlement, or object to any part of it, visit www. PLPCCsettlement.com. The website also contains more information about the lawsuit and the Settlement. Continue to check for updates. If the Court approves the Settlement, www.PLPCCsettlement.com will tell you when PLPCC credits will be available to redeem. PLEASE DO NOT CONTACT DEFENDANTS OR THE COURT FOR INFORMATION. Questions? Contact us at ask@PLPCCsettlement.com.

Beck v PLPCC Settlement Administrator c/o The Notice Company, Inc. P.O. Box 778 Hingham, MA 02043

#### NOTICE OF PROPOSED CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT

This Notice Affects Your Legal Rights

Please read it carefully

www.PLPCCsettlement.com FOR MORE INFORMATION <<FName>> <<LName>> <<Addr1>> <<Addr2>> <<City>>, <<State>> <<Zip>>>

# EXHIBIT C

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8	SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA	
9	COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO	
10	<b>KARL BECK</b> , individually and on behalf of all other similarly situated California residents,	Case No: 37-2017-00037524-CU-BT-CTL
11	Plaintiff,	CLASS ACTION
12	V.	
13	POINT LOMA PATIENTS CONSUMER COOPERATIVE CORPORATION, A	[PROPOSED] ORDER ON PLAINTIFF'S MOTION FOR PRELIMINARY
14	California Corporation, <b>ADAM KNOPF</b> , an Individual, <b>JUSTUS H. HENKES IV</b> , an	APPROVAL OF CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT
15	Individual, <b>419 CONSULTING INC.</b> , a California Corporation, <b>GOLDEN STATE</b>	Date: January 4, 2019
16	GREENS LLC, a California LLC, FAR WEST MANAGEMENT, LLC, a California LLC,	Time: 9:00 a.m.
17	FAR WEST OPERATING, LLC, a California LLC, FAR WEST STAFFING, LLC, a	Judge: Hon. Joel R. Wohlfeil Ctrm: C-73
18	California LLC, and <b>DOES 1-50</b> ,	
19	Defendants.	
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CASE NO: 37-2017-00037524-CU-BT-CTL

ORDER GRANTING PRELIMINARY APPROVAL

Plaintiff Karl Beck's ("Class Representative" or "Beck") Motion for Preliminary Approval of a Class Action Settlement (the "Motion") was heard on January 4, 2019. In connection with the Motion, the Court considered the proposed class action Settlement Agreement (attached as Exhibit 1 to the Declaration of William Restis), the submissions of counsel, and all other papers filed in this action. This Order incorporates by reference the definitions in the Settlement Agreement (the "Agreement"). The matter having been submitted, and good cause appearing:

### IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED THAT:

- 1. The provisions of the Agreement are hereby preliminarily approved. The Court finds that the Settlement appears to be fair, adequate, and reasonable to the Class Members, free of collusion or indicia of unfairness, and within the range of possible judicial approval. The Court also finds that the Settlement resulted from arm's length negotiations and is sufficient to warrant the dissemination of Class Notice to the Class Members.
- 2. Pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure § 382 and California Rule of Court 3.769(d), and for purposes of, and solely in connection with, the Settlement, the Court finds that each of the requirements for certification of the Class Members set forth in the Class Representative's Motion for Preliminary Approval are met and hereby conditionally certifies the Class Members comprised of:

All individuals that purchased a product from Point Loma Patients Consumer Cooperative prior to December 31, 2017, except (i) any Defendant in this Action; (ii) Beck's attorneys and litigation staff, including members of their immediate families; or (iii) any judge, justice judicial officer, or judicial staff of the Court.

3. The Court, for Settlement purposes only, finds that certification of the Class Members satisfies the requirements under California Code of Civil Procedure § 382 and California Rule of Court 3.769(d). In support of this ruling, the Court conditionally and preliminarily finds that: (a) the Class Members are so numerous that joinder of all members is impracticable; (b) there are questions of law and fact common to the Class Members; (c) the named Class Representative's claims are typical of the claims of the Class Members; (d) the named Class Representative and Class

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treatment of the disputes raised in the Complaint is superior to other available methods for adjudicating the controversy.

Counsel identified below are able to adequately represent the Class Members; and (e) class-wide

- 4. If the Agreement is terminated or not consummated, conditional certification of the Class Members class shall be void. In that event, the Class Representative, the Class Members, and Defendants shall be returned to their respective statuses as of the date immediately prior to the execution of the Agreement and neither the Agreement nor this Preliminary Approval Order shall have any bearing on, and neither shall be admissible in connection with, (a) any issue in this action or any claim raised under any other state or federal law that was intended to be encompassed within the Complaint; (b) whether certification or decertification would be appropriate in a non-settlement context; (c) Defendants' liability.
- The Court appoints and designates Plaintiff Karl Beck as Class Representative for the Class Members.
- 6. The Court appoints and designates William R. Restis of The Restis Law Firm, P.C. as Class Counsel for the Class Members. Class Counsel are located at the following address:

William R. Restis, Esq. The Restis Law Firm, P.C. 402 West Broadway, Suite 1520 San Diego, CA 92101 (619) 270-8383 support@restislaw.com

- 7. The Court approves, as to form and content, the proposed Class Notice, attached as Exhibits A (Long-Form Notice) and B (Short-Form Notice) to the Agreement, and accordingly directs the Administrator to disseminate Class Notice in the form and manner described in the Settlement Agreement and this Preliminary Approval Order.
- 8. In accordance with the schedule set forth below, the Administrator is directed to establish a website at http://www.PLPCCsettlement.com (the "Settlement Website") to provide information regarding the Settlement, including (a) how to file Exclusion Requests or object to the Settlement, (b) relevant dates and deadlines, including the Notice Response Deadline, Final Approval Hearing Date, and the date that Patronage Distribution Credits will be available for

redemption at the PLPCC if the Settlement becomes Final; and (c) copies of the following documents: Plaintiff's Complaint, Defendants' Answer, the Settlement Agreement, Plaintiff's Preliminary Approval Motion and supporting documents, this Preliminary Approval Order, Plaintiff's Fee and Cost Application and supporting documents (when filed), Motion for Final Approval and supporting documents (when filed), and Final Order and Judgment (when filed).

- 9. The Court hereby directs the Administrator to provide the approved Class Notice and Settlement Website to the Class Members in accordance with the schedule below and using the procedures set forth in the Agreement.
- 10. The Court finds that the Class Notice and Settlement Website is the best means practicable of providing notice under the circumstances and when completed shall constitute due and sufficient notice of the Action, the Settlement, and the Final Approval Hearing to all persons affected by and/or authorized to participate in the Settlement in full compliance with California Rules of Court 3.766 and 3.769, and the requirements of due process.
- 11. The provisions of the Agreement relating to the Class Notice, exclusion from the Settlement, and objection to the Settlement, are deemed incorporated as if expressly set forth in this Preliminary Approval Order and have the full force and effect of an Order of this Court.
  - 12. The Court appoints and designates The Notice Company, Inc. as the Administrator.
- 13. Defendant PLPCC shall pay to the Administrator all reasonable costs associated with the administration of the Settlement, distribution of Class Notice pursuant to the Agreement, and any other tasks assigned to the Administrator by the Agreement, by the parties' mutual agreement in writing, or by this Court.
  - 14. The COURT orders the following schedule as set forth in the Motion:
- a. No later than DATE 7 DAYS AFTER PRELIMINARY APPROVAL, the PLPCC shall provide a full and complete Class Member list, including name, mailing address and electronic email address, if available, to the Administrator.
- b. No later than DATE 21 DAYS AFTER PRELIMINARY APPROVAL, the Administrator shall launch the Settlement Website with the Long-Form Notice and disseminate the Short-Form Notice.

CASE No: 37-2017-00037524-CU-BT-CTL

1	IT IS SO ORDERED
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3	DATED:
4	Hon. Joel R. Wohlfeil JUDGE OF THE
5	SAN DIEGO SUPERIOR COURT
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CASE No: 37-2017-00037524-CU-BT-CTL

ORDER GRANTING PRELIMINARY APPROVAL



#### **EDUCATION**

- ❖ U. San Diego School of Law, J.D., 2006
- James Madison College,
   Michigan State University,
   B.A. 2002 (Dean's List)

#### BAR ADMISSIONS

California 2006

#### **COURT ADMISSIONS**

- Southern District of California
- Northern District of California
- Central District of California
- **❖** Eastern District of California
- Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals
- California Fourth District Court of Appeals
- California Supreme Court

# William R. Restis

For over a decade, I have been litigating complex, multidistrict, and multi-party class actions. I have recovered over two hundred million dollars in value for class members and clients, and changed the law to help protect them.

I founded The Restis Law Firm, P.C. in 2017. Prior to founding RLF, I represented investors and consumers at San Diego's oldest class action law firm, Finkelstein & Krinsk LLP.

In addition to class actions, I also practice other forms of complex litigation. This includes representing whistleblowers before the Department of Justice and Securities and Exchange Commission.

I also served as general counsel for two technology start-ups, and am a longtime board member of a highly successful non-profit.

I am currently Lead Counsel or co-counsel to Lead Counsel in the following cases:

♣ In re Tezos Securities Litigation, No. 3:17-cv-06779-RS (N.D. Cal.) (challenging whether "Initial Coin Offering" of cryptocurrency was an illegal offer and sale of securities in violation of the Securities Act of 1933) (Co-Counsel to Court appointed Lead Counsel)

**♣** Faasse et al. v. Coinbase, Inc., No. 3:18-cv-01382-JD (N.D. Cal.) (challenging Coinbase's ability to keep Bitcoin that was sent from Coinbase users to third parties but was never claimed) (Lead Counsel)

Notable past cases that I was either lead attorney or had significant involvement include:

♣ Blevins v. Capital Alliance Group, No. 2:18-cv-364-EAS-KAJ (S.D. Ohio) (won dismissal of TCPA class action within 4 months) (Lead Counsel for defendant)



- ♣ Northrup v. Capital Alliance Group, No. 8:18-cv-23-JLS-DFM (C.D. Cal.) (won dismissal of TCPA class action within 8 months) (Lead Counsel for defendant)
- # Hahn v. Massage Envy Franchising LLC, No. 3:12-cv-000153 (S.D. Cal.) (nationwide settlement with 75% restitution of class members' lost prepaid massages valued by experts between \$179-\$225 million). In Massage Envy, I won every motion, and established complete liability to the class on plaintiff's motion for summary judgment. 2014 WL 5100220 (S.D. Cal. Sept. 25, 2014). In doing so, the Court adopted my proposed extension of California's doctrines on unconscionability, liquidated damages and franchisor liability that have since been relied upon by several courts.
- **♣** Sanai v. BMW of North America, No. 2:12-cv-06105 (D.N.J.) (nationwide settlement recovering lost warranty and 100% reimbursement of repair costs valued by expert at \$12.8 million)
- ♣ *Derry v. Jackson Nat'l Insurance Co.*, No. 4:12-cv-1380 (N.D. Cal.) (California settlement recovering \$11.2 million in annuity surrender charges, and reducing future surrender charges)
- ♣ Klien v. Walgreen Company et al., No. GIC 795254 (S.D. Sup. Ct.) (California class settlement prohibiting pharmacies from using medical information for marketing)
- ♣ Utility Consumers Action Network v. Albertsons, Inc. et al., No. GIC830069 (S.D. Sup. Ct.)
  (California class settlement prohibiting pharmacies from using medical information for marketing)
- ♣ Scherer v. Tiffany and Company, Co., 3:11-cv-00532 (S.D. Cal.) (class action settlement providing free Tiffany's merchandise)
- *♣ Austin v. Michaels Stores Inc.*, No. 37-2011-00085906 (S.D. Sup. Ct.) (class action settlement providing free merchandise)
- **♣** Saratoga Advantage Trust v. ICG, Inc. et al., No. 2:08-cv-00011 (S.D.W. Va.) (\$1.4 million securities class action settlement)

