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Attorneys for Plaintiffs

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

**COUNTY OF SAN MATEO** 

VALERIE WELCH, NINA SUNDAR, MARIETTA MACARAEG, EVELYN HERNANDEZ-MALAGON, COLLEEN GARZA. MATTHEW CHEUNG, and CARLA

NORDSTROM, individually and on behalf of others similarly situated, and on behalf of the

21 general public.

Plaintiffs,

VS.

24 GENENTECH, INC., and DOES 1 through 100, inclusive,

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Defendants.

**ENDORSED FILED SAN MATEO COUNTY** 

DEC 1 8 2014

Clerk of the Superior Court By IERRI MARAGOULAS DEPUTY CLERK

Case No.: CIV 524550

PROPOSED ORDER AND JUDGMENT GRANTING FINAL APPROVAL OF CLASS **ACTION SETTLEMENT** 

Date:

December 18, 2014

Time:

9:00 a.m.

Dept: Before:

Hon. Marie S. Weiner

Trial Date: None Set

BY FAX

[PROPOSED] ORDER AND JUDGMENT GRANTING FINAL APPROVAL OF CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT - CASE NO.: CIV 524550

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The Named Plaintiffs, Valerie Welch, Nina Sundar, Marietta Macaraeg, Evelyn Hernandez-Malagon, Colleen Garza, Matthew Cheung, and Carla Nordstrom, and the settling Defendant Genentech, Inc. (together the "Parties") have entered into a Stipulation and Settlement Agreement of Class Action and Individual Claims ("Settlement Agreement") to settle the above-captioned class action subject to the Court's approval (the "Class Settlement"). The Class Settlement provides for the mailing of notices and claim forms and the payment of compensation to each Class Member who timely submits a valid Claim Form.

## I. <u>BACKGROUND</u>

#### A. Procedural History

On October 3, 2013, Plaintiffs Valerie Welch, Nina Sundar, Marietta Macaraeg, Evelyn Hernandez-Malagon, Colleen Garza, Matthew Cheung, and Carla Nordstrom, on behalf of themselves, others similarly situated, and the general public, filed suit against Genentech, Inc. in the Superior Court of California for the County of San Mateo. Plaintiffs filed a First Amended Complaint ("FAC") on November 25, 2013. The FAC asserted claims under California Labor Code sections 201, 202, 203, 226, 226.7, 510, 512, and 1194, California Industrial Welfare Commission Wage Orders, California Code of Regulations, Title 8, section 11040 *et seq.*, and representative claims under California Business and Professions Code sections 17200 *et seq.* Plaintiffs alleged that certain former and current employees of Defendant were misclassified as exempt employees and are owed compensation for unpaid overtime and missed meal periods. The lawsuit seeks damages for unpaid wages and benefits, overtime pay, restitution, penalties under California law, interest, injunctive relief, and attorneys' fees and expenses. Defendant has denied all of Plaintiffs' claims.

After initial exchanges of information, the Parties entered into private mediation before respected neutral mediator (and plaintiffs' counsel) Mark Rudy, Esq. to try and resolve the claims. As a result of that mediation, and under the auspices of Mr. Rudy, the Parties reached a settlement on May 17, 2014. On or about July 17, 2014, Plaintiffs and Defendant executed the Settlement Agreement, setting forth the terms of the Class Settlement.

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## B. <u>Investigation in the Class Action</u>

The Parties have conducted significant investigation of the facts and law during the prosecution of this Action. Such discovery and investigations have included the exchange of information pursuant to informal discovery, meetings and conferences, and interviews of numerous potential witnesses and putative class members. Counsel for the Parties have further investigated the applicable law as applied to the facts discovered regarding the alleged claims of the Class Members and potential defenses thereto and the damages claimed.

## C. Benefits of the Class Settlement to Class Members

Plaintiffs recognize the expense and length of continued proceedings necessary to continue the litigation against Defendant through trial and through any possible appeals. Plaintiffs have also taken into account the uncertainty and risk of the outcome of further litigation, and the difficulties and delays inherent in such litigation, including those involved in class certification. Plaintiffs are also aware of the burdens of proof necessary to establish liability for the claims asserted in the Action, Defendant's defenses thereto, and the difficulties in establishing damages for Class Members. Plaintiffs have also considered the significant settlement negotiations conducted by the Parties, and the advice of the neutral mediator. Based on the foregoing, Plaintiffs have determined that the Class Settlement set forth in the Settlement Agreement is a fair, adequate, and reasonable, and is in the best interests of all Class Members.

## D. <u>Class Members</u>

The "Class Members" are defined as "all Case Managers and Senior Case Managers employed by Genentech in California from October 3, 2009 to September 30, 2013 and all Foundation Specialists and Senior Foundation Specialists employed by Genentech in California from January 1, 2012 to September 30, 2013".

Every Class Member who has not opted out of the Class Settlement is a Settlement Class Member.

## E. <u>Plaintiffs and the Class Members' Claims</u>

Plaintiffs and the Class Members claimed and continue to claim that the Class Released Claims (as defined below) have merit and give rise to liability on the part of Defendant. Neither the

Settlement Agreement nor any documents referred to herein, or any action taken to carry out the Settlement Agreement is, or may be construed as or may be used as, an admission by or against the Class Members or Class Counsel as to the merits or lack thereof of the claims asserted, except as to the Class Released Claims of the Settlement Class Members.

## F. <u>Defendant's Denials of Wrongdoing</u>

Defendant contends that all of its employees were properly exempt and compensated in compliance with the law, and that its conduct was not willful with respect to any alleged failure to pay any wages or penalties (including but not limited to compensation for unpaid overtime and missed meal or rest periods; failing to maintain accurate records of earned wages, work periods, meal periods, and deductions; and violating fundamental public policy). Defendant has denied and continues to deny each of the claims and contentions alleged by Plaintiffs and the Class Members in the Action.

Defendant denies any wrongdoing or legal liability arising out of any of the facts or conduct alleged in the Action, and believes that it has valid defenses to Plaintiffs' and the Class Members' claims.

Neither the Settlement Agreement, nor any document referred to or contemplated herein, nor any action taken to carry out the Class Settlement, may be construed as, or may be used as an admission, concession, or indication by or against Defendant of any fault, wrongdoing, or liability whatsoever, including any concession that certification of a class would be appropriate in this or any other case.

#### G. Operation of the Class Settlement

Pursuant to the Preliminary Approval Order dated August 4, 2014, this Court conditionally certified the Class and granted preliminary approval of the Class Settlement. The Preliminary Approval Order also approved of the proposed forms of notice and notice plan. The Court entered the Preliminary Approval Order after review and consideration of all of the pleadings filed in connection herewith, and the oral representations made by counsel at the hearing.

In compliance with the Preliminary Approval Order, the Notice and Claim Forms were sent to all Class Members via first class mail. Furthermore, follow-up mailings were performed for returned mail in addition to the distribution of any Claim Forms to Class Members requesting copies. The notice program was timely completed.

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This matter is now before the Court on Plaintiffs' Motion for Final Approval of the Class Action Settlement, including approval of Incentive Awards for Named Plaintiffs Valerie Welch, Nina Sundar, Marietta Macaraeg, Evelyn Hernandez-Malagon, Colleen Garza, Matthew Cheung, and Carla Nordstrom and Class Counsel's Motion for Award of Attorneys' Fees and Costs and Incentive Award. The Court has read, heard, and considered all the pleadings and documents submitted, and the presentations made in connection with the Motions which came on for hearing on December 18, 2014.

This Court finds that the Class Settlement appears to be the product of serious, informed, noncollusive negotiations, has no obvious deficiencies, and does not improperly grant preferential treatment to any individuals. The Court finds that the Class Settlement was entered into in good faith pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure section 877.6. The Court further finds that the Class Settlement is fair, reasonable, and adequate and that Plaintiffs have satisfied the standards for final approval of a class action settlement under California law. Under the provisions of California Code of Civil Procedure section 382 and Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23, as approved for use by the California state court in Vasquez v. Superior Court, 4 Cal. 3d 800, 821 (1971), the trial court has discretion to certify a class where:

> [Q]uestions of law or fact common to the members of the class predominate over any questions affecting only individual members, and that a class action is superior to the available methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of the controversy . . . Fed. R. Civ. Proc. 23.

Certification of a settlement class is the appropriate judicial device under these circumstances.

# Based on the foregoing, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

- 1. This Court has jurisdiction over the claims of the Class Members asserted in this proceeding and over all Parties to the Action.
- 2. For the reasons set forth in the Preliminary Approval Order and in the transcript of the proceedings of the Preliminary Approval hearing, which are adopted and incorporated herein by reference, this Court finds that the applicable requirements of the California Code of Civil Procedure section 382, Rule 3.769 of the California Rules of Court, and Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23 have been satisfied with respect to the Class and the proposed Class Settlement. The Court hereby makes final its earlier provisional certification of the Class, as set forth in the Preliminary Approval Order.

- 3. The Notice given to the Class Members fully and accurately informed the Class Members of all material elements of the proposed Class Settlement and of their opportunity to object to or comment thereon; was the best notice practicable under the circumstances; was valid, due, and sufficient notice to all Class Members; and complied fully with the laws of the State of California, the United States Constitution, due process, and other applicable law. The Notice fairly and adequately described the Class Settlement and provided Class Members adequate instructions and a variety of means to obtain additional information. A full opportunity has been afforded to the Class Members to participate in this hearing and all Class Members and other persons wishing to be heard have been heard. Accordingly, the Court determines that all Class Members who did not timely and properly execute a request for exclusion are bound by this Order and Judgment.
- 4. Pursuant to California law, the Court hereby grants final approval to the Class
  Settlement and finds it reasonable and adequate, and in the best interests of the Class as a whole. More specifically, the Court finds that the Class Settlement was reached following meaningful discovery and investigation conducted by Class Counsel; that the Class Settlement is the result of serious, informed, adversarial, and arms-length negotiations between the Parties; and that the terms of the Class
  Settlement are in all respects fair, adequate, and reasonable. In so finding, the Court has considered all of the evidence presented, including evidence regarding the strength of the Plaintiffs' case; the risk, expense, and complexity of the claims presented; the likely duration of further litigation; the amount offered in Class Settlement; the extent of investigation and discovery completed; and the experience and views of Class Counsel. The Court further has considered the absence of objection to or request for exclusion from the Class Settlement by Class Members. Accordingly, the Court hereby directs that the Class Settlement be effected in accordance with the Settlement Agreement and the following terms and conditions.
- 5. It is hereby ordered that the Incentive Awards of \$5,000 each for Named Plaintiffs Valerie Welch, Nina Sundar, Marietta Macaraeg, Evelyn Hernandez-Malagon, Colleen Garza, Matthew Cheung, and Carla Nordstrom are fair and reasonable for the work they provided to the Class and Class Counsel, and shall be paid accordingly.

- 6. It is hereby ordered that the PAGA Payment of \$10,000.00 shall be paid to the Labor and Workforce Development Agency to pay all applicable penalties under the California Labor Code's Private Attorney General Act of 2004, as amended, California Labor Code sections 2699 et seq.
- 7. It is hereby ordered that a payment of \$23,000 shall be paid to the Settlement Administrator, Kurtzman Carson Consultants, for services performed in administering the Class Settlement.
- 8. With this final approval of the proposed Class Settlement, it is hereby ordered that Settlement Class Members and their successors shall conclusively be deemed to have given a release, as set forth in the Settlement Agreement and Notice, against the Released Parties, and all such participating Class Members and their successors shall be permanently enjoined and forever barred from asserting any claim related to this Action against the Released Parties. The Class Released Claims include all claims, demands, rights, liabilities, and causes of action that were or might have been asserted (whether in tort, contract, or otherwise) for violation of the Fair Labor Standards Act, the California Labor Code, the California Business and Professions Code, the Private Attorneys General Act ("PAGA"), the applicable Industrial Welfare Commission Wage Orders, or any similar state or federal law, whether for economic damages, non-economic damages, liquidated damages, punitive damages, restitution, penalties, other monies, or other relief arising out of, relating to, or in connection with any facts, transactions, events, policies, occurrences, acts, disclosures, statements, omissions, or failures to act pled in the Complaint, which are or could be the basis of claims that Defendant improperly classified Class Members as exempt, failed to provide all wages and overtime wages due. failed to provide timely or accurate final paychecks, failed to keep records properly concerning time worked, failed to provide accurate itemized wage statements, failed to provide meal periods, failed to authorize and permit rest breaks, and/or engaged in unfair business practices, at any times on or before September 30, 2013 (and whether such claims are based on California or federal wage and hour law, contract law, or other law).
- 9. For the reasons set forth in the Motion for Attorneys' Fees and Costs, Class Counsel's attorneys' fee request in the amount of \$859,500 is hereby granted because Class Counsel's request falls within the range of reasonableness and the result achieved justified the award. The court further

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finds that Class Counsel's 2014 hourly rates are reasonable and commensurate with the prevailing rates for wage and hour class actions. Class Counsel's actual expenses in prosecuting this Action in the amount of \$10,000 are hereby approved as reasonably incurred.

- 10. It is hereby ordered that any amounts remaining with the Settlement Administrator after checks that are not negotiated are cancelled, shall be divided equally and paid to the Legal Aid Society Employment Law Center (www.las-elc.org) and the Genentech Foundation, as the qualified 501(c)(3) charities (*cy pres* recipients).
- 11. No other costs or fees relief shall be awarded, either against Defendant or any related persons or entities, as defined in the Settlement Agreement, or from the award to the Settlement Class.
- Agreement constitutes an admission by Defendant, nor is this Order a finding of the validity of any claims in the Complaint or of any other wrongdoing. Further, the Settlement Agreement is not a concession, and shall not be used as an admission of any wrongdoing, fault, or omission of any entity or persons; nor may any action taken to carry out the terms of the Settlement Agreement be construed as an admission or concession by or against Defendant or any related person or entity.
  - 13. The Court approves the following Implementation Schedule for further proceedings:

Payment Obligation and Class Release Date:
Defendant to transfer settlement pay-out funds to
Settlement Administrator.

Fifteen (15) days after the
Payment Obligation and Class
Release Date

Settlement Administrator to mail Settlement Awards to Authorized Claimants, incentive awards to Plaintiffs Valerie Welch, Nina Sundar, Marietta Macaraeg, Evelyn Hernandez-Malagon, Colleen Garza, Matthew Cheung, and Carla Nordstrom, attorneys' fees and costs to Class Counsel, and PAGA payment to the LWDA.

180 days after issuance of Settlement Award checks

Any issued checks will automatically be cancelled if not cashed by the Authorized Claimants within that time, and fifty percent of the funds represented by such checks shall be paid to the Genentech Foundation and fifty percent to the Legal Aid Society – Employment Law Center.

270 days after the Payment Obligation and Class Release Date Administration of the Class Settlement shall be completed by this date. Upon completion of administration of the Class Settlement, the Settlement Administrator shall provide written certification of such completion to the Court, Class Counsel, and Defendant's Counsel.

## **JUDGMENT**

In accordance with, and for the reasons stated in, the Final Approval Order, judgment shall be entered whereby Named Plaintiffs Valerie Welch, Nina Sundar, Marietta Macaraeg, Evelyn Hernandez-Malagon, Colleen Garza, Matthew Cheung, and Carla Nordstrom and all Settlement Class Members shall take nothing from Defendant Genentech, Inc., except as expressly set forth in the Settlement Agreement, which was previously filed as part of Plaintiffs' Motion for Preliminary Approval of the Class Action Settlement.

Pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure section 664.6 and Rule 3.769(h) of the California Rules of Court, this Court reserves exclusive and continuing jurisdiction over this action, the Named Plaintiffs, Members of the Class, and Defendant for the purposes of:

- (a) supervising the implementation, enforcement, construction, and interpretation of the Settlement Agreement, the Preliminary Approval Order, the plan of allocation, the Final Approval Order, and the Judgment; and,
- (b) supervising distribution of amounts paid under this Class Settlement.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated:	DEC 1 8 2014 <sub>2014</sub>	WANIE 5. WEINER	
_		Honorable Marie S. Weiner	