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Superior Coult of California County of San Francisco

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CLERK OF THE COURT

BY: Deputy Clerk

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA

COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

DEPARTMENT 613

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA,

VITOL INC.; SK ENERGY AMERICAS,

INC.; SK TRADING INTERNATIONAL CO. LTD.; AND DOES 1-30, INCLUSIVE,

v.

Plaintiff,

Defendants.

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Case No. CGC-20-584456

ORDER GRANTING MOTION TO GIVE NOTICE OF PARENS PATRIAE SETTLEMENT

This matter was scheduled for hearing on September 13, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. in Department 613 of the above court, the Honorable Andrew Y.S. Cheng presiding. Having reviewed and consider the parties' supplemental briefing, the Court determines that this matter can be decided without hearing, VACATES the September 13, 2024 hearing on this motion and case management conference, and GRANTS the motion to give notice of *parens patriae* settlement.

The California Attorney General ("AG") filed a *parens patraie* action. The AG and Defendants Vitol, Inc., SK Energy Americas, Inc. and SK Trading International Co. Ltd. ("Defendants") have entered into Settlement Agreement ("Settlement Agreement") ¹ attached as Exhibit 3 to the Declaration of Divya

¹ This Order hereby incorporates by reference the definitions of the Settlement Agreement as though fully set forth herein, and all terms used herein shall have the same meaning as set forth in the Settlement.

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Rao in Support of Supplemental Brief Supporting Motion to Give Notice of *Parens Patriae* Settlement, dated August 23, 2024, which, if approved, would resolve this action. The AG filed a motion to give notice of *parens pariae* settlement. Upon review and consideration of the motion papers and supplemental documents submitted by the parties as requested by the Court, including the Settlement Agreement and all exhibits thereto, the Court determines and orders as follows:

- 1. The Court has jurisdiction over this matter and venue is proper.
- 2. This action is provisionally certified as a class action, for settlement purposes only, pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure section 382 and California Rules of Court rule 3.763. The Class is all natural persons living in California who purchased gasoline at retail in Los Angeles, San Diego, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, Kern, Ventura, Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo, and/or Imperial counties in California between February 20, 2015 and November 10, 2015.
- 3. The Court conditionally approves the proposed settlement as within the range of possible final approval.
- 4. The Court preliminarily finds, for purposes of this Settlement only, that the AG fairly and adequately represents and protects the interests of the absent Plaintiff Class.
- 5. The Court approves and appoints Verita Global, LLC ("Verita") f/k/a KCC Class Action Services, LLC to serve as the Settlement Administrator and directs Verita to carry out all duties and responsibilities of the Settlement Administrator specified in the Settlement Agreement.
- 6. Pursuant to California Rules of Court rule 3.769(f), the Court approves the manner of class notice set forth in the Plan of Allocation and Notice Program attached as Exhibit A. The Court approves the form and content of the Long-Form Notice attached as Exhibit B, Email Notice attached as Exhibit C, Postcard Notice attached as Exhibit D, Publication Notice attached as Exhibit E, Digital Media Notice attached as Exhibit F, and Joint Press Release attached as Exhibit G. The Court finds that the Notices constitute the best notices practicable under the circumstances and are valid, due and sufficient notices to the Settlement Class of the pendency of the action, preliminary certification of the Settlement Class, the terms of the Settlement, procedures for objecting to the settlement, and time and place of the Final Approval Hearing. The proposed manner of class notice satisfies the requirements of due process, and complies with applicable law, including California Code of Civil Procedure Section 382 and

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California Rules of Court rule 3.769. Class Counsel shall proofread the Notices for typos and fill in all blanks, including all highlighted dates and addresses prior to sending the Notices. The Court additionally approves the directions on how to access the Court's public docket online and in person attached as **Exhibit H**, which shall be posted on the Settlement Website.

- 7. No later than October 2, 2024 (twenty-eight (28) calendar days after entry of this Order), the Settlement Administrator shall disseminate the Notices. The Settlement Administrator shall electronically transmit the Email Notice to the Class Members for whom email addresses are available and shall mail the Postcard Notice to Class Members for whom email addresses are not available, using the most current mailing address available via first-class United States mail. Before mailing the Postcard Notices, the Administrator shall update the Class Member addresses using the National Change of Address database. Additionally, the Settlement Administrator shall disseminate the Digital Media Notice, release the Press Release, ensure that the Publication Notice is published in the respective newspapers, and publication of settlement-related material on the Settlement Website.
- 8. The deadline by which a class member may opt out or object shall be January 8, 2025 (one hundred twenty-six (126) calendar days) after entry of this Order. This is a postmark deadline.
- 9. If a Class Member submits both a Request for Exclusion and an Objection, then the Request for Exclusion will be deemed valid and the written Objection will be voided.
- 10. Requests for Exclusion: A Class Member requesting to be excluded must mail the Settlement Administrator a written, signed Request for Exclusion or fill out an online form requesting exclusion. The request for exclusion should include the name of the proceeding, the individual's full name, personal signature, and the words "Request for Exclusion" or a comparable unequivocal statement that the individual does not wish to participate in the settlement.
- Objections: A Class Member objecting to the Settlement may do so in writing and mail a 11. written objection to the Settlement Administrator. A written objection should include the name of the proceeding, the individual's name, address, and telephone number; a written statement of the grounds for the objection, and the objector's signature. However, a Class Member does not have to make a written objection in order to appear at the Final Approval Hearing.

- 12. Participating Class Members will have one hundred and eighty (180) calendar days from the date of issuance of the check to cash their check.
- 13. All papers filed in support of the AG's motion for attorneys' fees and costs, shall be filed by **December 6, 2024**. This date is at least thirty (30) days prior to the deadline for submitting requests for exclusion and objections.
- 14. Class Counsel shall file their motion for final approval of the Class Action Settlement and entry of a Final Approval Order and Judgment no later than **January 31, 2025**.
- 15. A final approval hearing shall be held on **February 28, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.** in Department 613, San Francisco Superior Court, 400 McAllister Street, San Francisco, CA 94102, at which the Court will determine whether the settlement should be finally approved as fair, reasonable and adequate to the Settlement Class; whether the Final Approval Order and Judgment should be entered; and whether the AG's Application for Attorneys' Fees and Costs should be approved.
- 16. The Court reserves the right to modify the date of the Final Approval Hearing and related deadlines set forth herein. The Final Approval Hearing may be postponed, adjourned or continued by Order of the Court without further notice to the Class Members.
- 17. If for any reason the Court does not approve the Settlement, it will be of no force or effect, and the Parties shall be returned to their original respective positions.
- 18. Pending the final determination of whether the settlement should be approved, all proceedings in this Action, except as may be necessary to implement the settlement or comply with the terms of the settlement, are hereby stayed.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated: September 4, 2024

ANDREW Y.S. CHENG Judge of the Superior Court

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PLAN OF ALLOCATION AND NOTICE PROGRAM

Pursuant to the Settlement Agreement (see Settlement Agreement, Exhibit A), the amount of the Settlement Payment that will be allocated to the Cartwright Act claim, under Business and Professions Code section 16760, subdivision (a)(1), is \$37,500,000. Eligible Consumers may be eligible to receive a distribution from the Settlement Funds for the portion of the settlement amount allocated to the Cartwright Act claim (the Cartwright Act Settlement Fund), as explained below.

The amount of the Settlement Payment that will be allocated to the Unfair Competition Law ("UCL") claim, under Business and Professions Code section 17200, et seq., is \$12,500,000. This amount will be distributed pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 17206, subdivision (c)(1). Half of the amount will be provided by the Attorney General to the City and County of San Francisco for the enforcement of consumer protection laws. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17206(4). The other half of the amount will be deposited in the Attorney General's fund for enforcement of consumer protection laws by the Antitrust Section of the California Department of Justice.

All capitalized terms used herein shall have the same meaning as provided for in the Settlement Agreement, unless the term is expressly defined herein.

I. DIRECT DISTRIBUTION TO CONSUMERS: PAYMENT FROM THE CARTWRIGHT ACT SETTLEMENT FUND

The funds deposited into the Cartwright Act Settlement Fund and any accrued interest after deposit, less Settlement Fund Administration Costs, taxes, and attorneys' fees, and costs, shall be referred to as the Direct Distribution Amount. Upon final approval of the Settlement Agreement by the Court, the Direct Distribution Amount shall be available for distribution to Eligible Consumers.

All natural persons who purchased gasoline in Southern California (the ten counties of, Los Angeles, San Diego, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, Kern, Ventura, Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo or Imperial) from February 20, 2015 through November 10, 2015 and were a resident of California at any point between May 4, 2020 and the present are eligible to receive a distribution out of the Cartwright Act Settlement Fund ("Eligible Consumers"). Eligible Consumers must attest to such a purchase under penalty of perjury. Each Eligible Consumer that submits a claim form for payment from the Cartwright Act Settlement Fund shall be referred to as a claimant. The Direct Distribution Amount shall be apportioned equally across the total number claimants who timely submit a valid claim. Each claimant will be limited to a single recovery. Defendant Releasees may not partake in the distribution of the Settlement Funds.

II. CY PRES DISTRIBUTION OF RESIDUE CORPUS

If any funds from the Cartwright Act Settlement Fund remain following the distribution to claimants and the deduction of taxes, attorneys' fees, costs, and expenses, and Settlement Fund Administration Costs (the "Remaining Cartwright Act Settlement Funds"), the funds will be distributed cy pres to a public California university or universities to further study the California gas and transportation energy market with a goal of lowering costs to consumers and/or to develop analytical tools to detect and deter future market manipulation. This process will ensure that the recipient(s) will use the funds for a purpose that aligns with the purpose of the litigation and harm incurred by Eligible Consumers.

The Attorney General's Office, which has overseen the *cy pres* distribution of residual funds from several antitrust settlements obtained on behalf of consumers previously in its role as *parens patriae* under the Cartwright Act, will supervise the Remaining Cartwright Act Settlement Funds and their distribution. The Attorney General's Office or its designee will select the *cy pres* recipient(s) based on which project best serves the interests of the people of the State of California and will most contribute to the study of the California gas and transportation energy market with a goal of lowering costs to consumers and/or to the development of analytical tools to detect and deter future market manipulation.

Based on the Attorney General's experience supervising the distribution of *cy pres* funds in similar cases, the Attorney General believes that any decision pertaining to the solicitation and selection of recipient(s), as well as the amount(s) to be awarded, should be deferred until the claims process has concluded. At that point, it will be known whether there are Remaining Cartwright Act Settlement Funds, their extent, and when they can be made available for distribution.

III. NOTICE PROGRAM

Under the Attorney General's supervision, the Settlement Administrator will implement a notice program based on a publication/media campaign, an email campaign, and mail notice. The plan reaches adults throughout California, with a focus on likely Eligible Consumers. In order to avoid consumer confusion and take advantage of possible synergies, certain aspects of the notice program will be coordinated with notice given in the federal class action in *In re California Gasoline Spot Market Antitrust Litigation*, Civil Case No.: 3-20-cv-03131, as noted below. The Notice Program is confirmed by the declaration of Zachary Cooley on behalf of the Settlement Administrator, Verita Global, LLC ("Cooley Decl.").

Mail Notice: Postcard mail notice will be mailed to households located within Southern California. (See Cooley Decl., Ex. 1.) All notices will be addressed to "Resident."

Email Campaign: Email addresses will be obtained for individuals known to be located within Southern California during 2015. An email notice will be distributed, consisting of a summary notice in the body of the email and a link to the settlement website. (See Cooley Decl., Ex. 2.) Email response rates will be tallied and best practices will be used to ensure reasonable delivery and response rates.

Publication in Newspapers: A summary notice will be placed as an approximate eighth-page ad unit one time each in newspapers across California (see Jorgenson Decl., Ex. 3 [example of newspaper summary notice]), including the Los Angeles Times (Los Angeles, Santa Barbara, and Ventura Counties); The San Diego Union-Tribune (San Diego County); San Francisco Chronicle (City and County of San Francisco); The Mercury News, East Bay Times, Marin Independent Journal, Santa Cruz Sentinel, Monterey Herald, Vallejo Times-Herald, and The Vacaville Reporter (Contra Costa, Marin, Monterey, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, and Solano Counties); The Orange County Register (Orange County); Fresno Bee, Sacramento Bee, and Modesto Bee (Fresno, Sacramento, and Stanislaus Counties); The Record (Calaveras and San Joaquin Counties); Imperial Valley Press (Imperial County); The Bakersfield Californian (Kern County); The Press-Enterprise, The Sun, and Daily Bulletin (Riverside and San Bernardino Counties); The Tribune (San Luis Obispo County); Santa Barbara Independent (Santa Barbara County); The Record Searchlight (Shasta County); and Ventura County Star (Ventura County). Publication notice will also be provided through Spanish-language newspapers and Spanish-language online news websites covering Southern California as approximate quarter-page ad units or banners: La Opinión (Los Angeles Counties); La Prensa Hispana (Riverside, Coachella Valley, San Bernardino, Blythe, and Imperial Valley Counties); El Latino (San Diego); San Diego Union-Tribune en Español (website); The Orange County Register (website); Los Angeles Times en Español (website); and The

Riverside Press-Enterprise (website). The notice will appear in each newspaper's print edition, as well as its online digital replica where available.

Digital Media: For a nine week (63 day) period, over 81.3 million digital media impressions targeting adults 25 years of age or older in California will be purchased programmatically via various ad exchanges and Facebook and delivered on desktop and mobile devices. (See Cooley Decl., Ex. 4.) These media impressions will be in English, Spanish, Tagalog, Chinese, Vietnamese, Korean, Armenian, and Arabic, as appropriate. A portion of the impressions will be targeted to a geofence of devices in Southern California. An additional portion of the impressions will be targeted to a geofence of devices that engaged with a location service while in Southern California within the last four years ago but are now located elsewhere in California. The digital media notice has been designed to coincide with the digital media notice given in *In re California Gasoline Spot Market Antitrust Litigation*.

Press Release: A nationwide press release will also be released to press outlets as well as to a National Hispanic newsline in Spanish. The press release provides notice of the settlement in this action as well as the settlement in *In re California Gasoline Spot Market Antitrust Litigation*. (See Cooley Decl., Ex. 5.)

Website: Each of the notices above will also direct recipients to a website—
www.CalGasLitigation.com—that will be established and maintained by the Settlement Administrator.
The settlement website will be shared between this action and In re California Gasoline Spot Market
Antitrust Litigation. The landing/main page of the joint website will provide an info-graphic directing
visitors to the appropriate settlement pages, i.e., one designated page for this settlement and another for
the settlement in In re California Gasoline Spot Market Antitrust Litigation. On the designated settlement
page for this settlement, visitors will be able to read, download, and print the Complaint, Settlement
Agreement, Motion to Give Notice of Parens Patriae Settlement, long form notice, and other relevant
filings. Visitors may file a Claim Form or Exclusion Form online as well as download either form to be
submitted via US Mail. Visitors will be able to view a list of Frequently Asked Questions and Answers as
well as contact information for counsel for both parties.

Telephone, Email, and Mail: The Settlement Administrator will also establish and host a case-specific toll-free number for inquiries. Any person may request to have a long form notice mailed directly to them. The toll-free number will be displayed on the postcard mail notice and on the case website. The Settlement Administrator will establish and monitor an electronic and physical case mailbox for exclusion requests and other case correspondence.

NOTICE OF PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AND FINAL SETTLEMENT APPROVAL HEARING

The People of the State of California v. Vitol Inc., et al., Case No. CGC-20-584456 Superior Court of California, County of San Francisco

THIS NOTICE MAY AFFECT YOUR RIGHTS — PLEASE READ IT CAREFULLY.

If you live in California and purchased gasoline at retail between February 20, 2015 and November 10, 2015 in ten Southern California counties, you may be eligible for payment from a settlement negotiated by the Attorney General of California.

A court has authorized this notice. This is not a solicitation from a lawyer and you are not being sued.

- A settlement has been reached in a lawsuit between the Attorney General of California and three defendants,
 Vitol Inc., SK Energy Americas, Inc., and SK Trading International Co. Ltd. (collectively, "Defendants"). The Attorney General brought this lawsuit in his law enforcement capacity and on behalf of natural persons who reside in California.
- The lawsuit alleges that Defendants manipulated gasoline price indices, causing inflated retail gas prices in California, in violation of California's antitrust laws, the Cartwright Act and Unfair Competition Law.
- Under the settlement, Defendants have agreed to pay the total amount of \$50 million into two settlement funds to resolve these allegations. Of this total, \$37,500,000 will be distributed to consumers as compensation for violations of the Cartwright Act, subject to deductions for payments of taxes, administration costs, and attorneys' fees and costs. \$12,500,000 is assessed as a penalty under California's Unfair Competition Law and will be used by state and local government to enforce consumer protection laws.
- Your legal rights are affected whether you act or don't act.
- You can learn more about this settlement, or a related settlement affecting businesses and non-California residents who purchased gasoline at retail, at www.CalGasLitigation.com.

YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS AND OPTIONS IN THIS SETTLEMENT:	
SUBMIT A CLAIM FORM	The only way to receive a payment.
EXCLUDE YOURSELF	Receive no payment but maintain the ability to bring a separate legal claim. This is the only option that allows you to ever be part of any other lawsuit against Defendants regarding the conduct covered by this settlement.
MAKE A STATEMENT CONCERNING THE SETTLEMENT	If you are affected by the settlement (and you do not exclude yourself), you may make a statement for the court's consideration in deciding whether to approve the settlement. You may write to the Court or you may ask to speak in court at the settlement approval hearing.
DO NOTHING	Receive no payment. Give up your rights.

- You have until **Month Day Year** to submit a claim form, exclude yourself, or submit a written statement concerning the settlement.
- The Court in charge of this case still has to decide whether to approve the settlement. Payments will be made if the court approves the settlement and after any appeals are resolved. Please be patient.

Basic Information

1. Why did I get this notice?

You received this notice either because you requested it, or because you have been identified as a California natural person who may be affected by this settlement.

2. What is this lawsuit about?

The Attorney General brought an action against Defendants alleging that Defendants manipulated gasoline price indices, causing inflated retail gas prices in California, in violation of state law. Defendants have agreed to the terms

of this settlement but do not admit any law was violated. You can read the Complaint filed in this action, which includes more details about the conduct alleged, at www.CalGasLitigation.com. You may also inspect the entire Court docket for free on the Court's website and in person at the Courthouse. Visit www.CalGasLitigation.com for further instructions.

3. Why did the Attorney General file this lawsuit on my behalf?

The Attorney General filed this case in *parens patriae*, on behalf of the state's residents, for violations of antitrust laws. The Attorney General is vested with this authority to safeguard the general and economic welfare of the state's residents and to assure that the benefits of these laws are not denied to the general population.

4. Why is there a settlement?

The Court did not decide in favor of the Attorney General or Defendants. Instead, both sides agreed to a settlement. That way, they avoid the cost of a trial, and the people affected will receive compensation. The Attorney General thinks the settlement is the best way to resolve this litigation.

5. What rights am I releasing by participating in this settlement?

Upon the Settlement Agreement becoming final as set out in Section 7.2 of the Settlement Agreement, the Plaintiff Releasor and Defendant Releases shall be fully, finally, and forever released as follows:

- a. Plaintiff Releasor, on the one hand, and Defendant Releasees, on the other hand, hereby completely release, acquit, and forever discharge each other from the claims and cross-claims asserted in the Action, or that could have been asserted in the Action, or that relate to the facts and conduct alleged in the Action. For the avoidance of doubt, this Release includes claims or cross-claims for violation of any federal or state antitrust, commodities, market manipulation, price gouging, unfair competition, unfair practices, price discrimination, unitary pricing, or trade practice law (the "Relevant Laws"), whether known or unknown, and arising from or relating to Defendants' conduct concerning trading, selling, buying, or importing Relevant Products in California. This Release includes a release of claims on behalf of natural persons on whose behalf this Action was brought to the fullest extent permitted under Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code, section 16760.
- b. Notwithstanding the foregoing paragraph [], the Release specifically does not include environmental claims or claims related to tax liability.
- c. With respect to the Released Claims, the Plaintiff Releasor expressly waives and releases any and all provisions, rights, and benefits conferred by § 1542 of the California Civil Code, which states: "A general release does not extend to claims that the creditor or releasing party does not know or suspect to exist in his or her favor at the time of executing the release and that, if known by him or her, would have materially affected his or her settlement with the debtor or released party" and all provisions, rights and benefits conferred by any law of any state or territory of the United States, or principle of common law or foreign law, that is similar, comparable or equivalent in effect to Section 1542 of the California Civil Code.

Who is affected by the Settlement?

6. How do I know if I am affected by the settlement?

If you are a natural person living in California, your rights are affected by this settlement.

If you purchased gasoline at retail in Los Angeles, San Diego, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, Kern, Ventura, Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo, and/or Imperial counties in California between February 20, 2015 and November 10, 2015, you may be eligible for monetary benefits.

If you are not sure whether you are affected by the Settlement, you may contact the Settlement Administrator by calling 1-###-#### or emailing #######@CalGasLitigation.com. Please do not contact Defendants or the Court.

7. What is a "natural person"? If I am not a natural person, am I eligible for monetary benefits?

A natural person is someone who is a human being, as distinguished from a corporate entity (a business, partnership or other corporate organization). Only natural persons are covered by the settlement and you must be a natural person to participate in any distribution. Businesses, corporations, partnerships, etc. are not included in the settlement. However, if you purchased gas on behalf of a business entity, you may be eligible for compensation through a settlement in a related litigation. Please visit www.CalGasLitigation.com for more information.

8. If I am not a California resident, am I eligible for monetary benefits?

If you are not currently a California resident, you may still be eligible for monetary benefits under this settlement if you previously lived in California. If you have never lived in California but you purchased gas while visiting California, you may be eligible for compensation through a settlement in a related litigation. Please visit www.CalGasLitigation.com for more information.

The Settlement Benefits—What You Get

9. What benefits are available?

All people who file a valid claim will receive a payment out of the \$37,500,000 portion of the Settlement Fund allocated to the Cartwright Act claim. After deductions for payments of taxes, administration costs, attorneys' fees, costs, and expenses, the remaining amount will be divided equally among all claimants who timely submit a claim. The amount of the payment will depend on how many valid claims are received. Each claimant will be limited to a single recovery.

Separately, \$12,500,000 is allocated to the Unfair Competition Law ("UCL") claim. Half of the amount, less any administrative costs, will be provided by the Attorney General to the City and County of San Francisco pursuant to Business & Professions Code, § 17206(c)(1) for the enforcement of consumer protection laws. The other half of the amount will be deposited in the Attorney General's fund for UCL enforcement by the Antitrust Section of the California Department of Justice (DOJ). Such funding may be used for the costs of the DOJ's investigation, filing fees and other court costs, attorney's fees and expenses, payment to expert witnesses and technical consultants, and other costs necessary to pursue unfair competition matters.

10. What happens to any unclaimed funds?

If, following the distribution to eligible consumers and the deduction of taxes, attorneys' fees, costs, and expenses, and administration costs, any funds remain for the portion of the Settlement Payment allocated to the Cartwright Act claim, the funds will be distributed *cy pres* to a public California university or universities to further study the California gas and transportation energy market with a goal of lowering costs to consumers and/or to develop analytical tools to detect and deter future market manipulation.

How You Get a Payment—Submitting a Claim Form

11. How can I get a payment?

To qualify for payment, you must submit a claim. You can submit a claim online or download a claim form at www.CalGasLitigation.com. You may also request a claim form by contacting the Settlement Administrator at: 1-xxx-xxxx or write to The People of the State of California v. Vitol Inc., et al. Settlement Administrator, P.O. Box xxxxxx, xxxxxxxxx, CA xxxxx-xxxx Read the instructions carefully, fill out the form, sign, and mail the claim in its entirety. Claim forms must be postmarked or submitted electronically no later than Month Day Year.

You may receive payment through an electronic payment account (PayPal, Venmo, or Zelle) or via a paper check. You will have 180 days to cash a paper check. If your selected form of payment is unsuccessful, delivery will automatically be attempted a second time.

12. When would I get my payment?

The court will hold a hearing on Month Day Year to decide whether to approve the settlement. If the court approves the settlement there may be appeals. It's always uncertain whether these appeals can be resolved, and resolving them can take time, perhaps more than a year. Payments will be made following the conclusion of any appeal.

13. What am I giving up to get a payment or stay in the settlement?

Unless you exclude yourself, you will remain in the settlement. All of the court's orders will apply to you and bind you to the court's decision. You will give up the right to sue Defendants later for any claims this settlement resolves. If you have a pending lawsuit or are considering one, speak to your lawyer immediately.

Excluding Yourself from the Settlement

14. How do I get out of the settlement?

To exclude yourself from the settlement, you must respond by letter or online form saying that you want to be excluded from *The People of the State of California v. Vitol Inc.*, et al. settlement. To be valid, each written request for exclusion must set forth the name of the individual seeking exclusion and be signed or submitted physically or electronically by the individual seeking exclusion (or his or her individual legal representative, but not counsel purporting to act collectively on behalf of capable individuals who have not consented to such representation). You must submit the online form or mail your exclusion request postmarked no later than **Month Day Year** to:

The People of the State of California v. Vitol, Inc., et al. Settlement Administrator
P.O. Box xxxxx

xxxxx, CA xxxxx-xxxx

The online form can be found at www.CalGasLitigation.com.

You cannot exclude yourself on the phone or by e-mail.

15. If I do not exclude myself, can I sue the Defendants for the same thing later?

If you do not exclude yourself now, you will give up the right to sue Defendants later for any claims this settlement resolves. If you have a pending lawsuit or are considering one, speak to your lawyer immediately.

16. If I exclude myself, can I get money from this settlement?

No. If you exclude yourself, you are choosing not to be a part of this lawsuit and will not receive benefits from this settlement. However, you may sue, continue to sue, or be part of a different lawsuit against the Defendants.

Make a Statement Concerning the Settlement

17. How do I tell the Court that I like or do not like the settlement?

If you are affected by the settlement, you can comment on it or protest it if you do not like any part of it. To do so, you must send a letter commenting on or protesting the proposed settlement in *The People of the State of California v. Vitol Inc.*, et al. Be sure to include your name, address, telephone number, your signature, and the reasons you like or dislike the settlement. Mail the statement, postmarked no later than **Month Day Year** to the Settlement Administrator at:

The People of the State of California v. Vitol Inc., et al. Settlement Administrator P.O. Box xxxxx xxxxx, CA xxxxx-xxxx

18. What is the difference between making a statement or asking to be heard on the settlement and excluding one's self?

Making a statement protesting the settlement is telling the court that you like or do not like something about the settlement but do not wish to be excluded from it. By excluding yourself, you are telling the court that you do not want to be a part of the settlement. If you exclude yourself, you will not be bound by the settlement and will not receive any money under it.

The Court's Final Approval Hearing

19. When and where will the Court decide whether to approve the settlement?

The Court will hold a Final Approval Hearing at x:00 a/p.m., on Month Day Year at Department 613, 400 McAllister St, San Francisco, CA. At this hearing the Court will consider whether the settlement should be approved. If there are statements, the Court may consider them. The presiding judge may listen to people who have asked to speak at the hearing. After the hearing, the Court will decide whether to approve the settlement. We do not know how long these decisions will take.

20. Do I have to come to the hearing?

No, but you are welcome to come at your own expense. If you send a written statement, you do not have to come to court to talk about it. You may also pay your own lawyer to attend, but it is not necessary to do so.

21. May I speak at the hearing?

You may appear at and speak at the hearing without providing any notice.

If You Do Nothing

22. What happens if I do nothing at all?

If you do nothing, you will receive no monetary benefit from the settlement. Unless you exclude yourself, you may not be able to start a lawsuit, continue with a lawsuit, or be part of any other lawsuit against Defendants about the legal issues in this case ever again.

The Lawyers Representing You

23. Who are the lawyers in this case?

The People of the State of California are represented by Rob Bonta, Attorney General of California. The Attorney General has brought this action in his law enforcement capacity and as *parens patriae* on behalf of natural persons who are residing in California.

24. How will the lawyers be paid?

The Attorney General will seek reimbursement of attorneys' fees and costs up to 25% of the \$37,500,000 allocated to the Cartwright Act claim. Pursuant to Business & Professions Code, § 17206(c)(1), half of the \$12,500,000 assessed as a penalty under the Unfair Competition Law will be deposited in the Attorney General's fund for Unfair Competition Law enforcement for future enforcement of consumer protection laws by the Antitrust Section of the California Department of Justice (DOJ). Counsel in *In re California Gasoline Spot Market Antitrust Litigation*, a related case discussed below, plan to request a fee award of up to \$3,000,000 out of the Cartwright Act settlement fund. That planned request will not result in duplicative payments of fees to Counsel in the related case.

The Attorney General will use a Settlement Administrator to provide notice of the settlement and distribute settlement funds, also be paid out of the Cartwright Act settlement fund. Depending on the number of claims, the Settlement Administrator estimates notice and distribution will cost between \$3,072,622 - \$3,349,780.

Lawyers' fees and expenses will only be awarded if approved by the Court as a fair and reasonable amount. You have the right to object to the lawyers' fees and expenses even if you think the Settlement is fair, using the procedures described above.

You will not be charged for this lawyer. If you want to be represented by your own lawyer, you may hire one at your own expense.

Getting More Information

25. Are there more details about the settlement?

This notice summarizes the proposed settlement. The Settlement Agreement and all court documents related to this matter are available on the settlement website at www.CalGasLitigation. PLEASE DO NOT CONTACT THE COURT, JUDGE, OR CLERK OF COURT WITH QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS MATTER.

26. How do I get more information?

You can call 1-xxx-xxx-xxxx toll free, write to *The People of the State of California v. Vitol Inc., et al.* Settlement Administrator, P.O. Box xxxxxx, xxxxxxxx, CA xxxxx-xxxx, or visit the website at www.CalGasLitigation.com where you will find answers to common questions about the settlement, a claim form, plus other information to help you determine your eligibility and options.

Notice Regarding Related Case: In re California Gasoline Spot Market Antitrust Litigation

27. How does this settlement impact any rights or recovery I might be entitled to in the *In re California Gasoline Spot Market Antitrust Litigation* class action?

Following the Attorney General's filing of this case, a number of other cases were filed in federal district court in the Northern District of California bringing claims against the Defendants on behalf of all individuals (whether California residents or not) and business entities that purchased gasoline at retail in California in 2015-2017. The federal cases were consolidated into a single case captioned *In re California Gasoline Spot Market Antitrust Litigation*, Civil Case No.: 3-20-cv-03131. California natural persons who purchased gasoline in California and were affected by Defendants' conduct had claims for damages made on their behalf in this action, as well as the federal class action.

A settlement in *In re California Gasoline Spot Market Antitrust Litigation* has also been reached, and a court is similarly deciding whether to approve it. The settlement reached in that case does not provide any benefits for California natural persons, but does cover business entities and non-California residents, and specifically those that purchased gasoline in California at retail, for their own use and not for resale, between February 18, 2015 and May 31, 2017. Please refer to the settlement website, which also contains information about this parallel settlement, at www.CalGasLitigation.com for further details.

28. How else might In re California Gasoline Spot Market Antitrust Litigation impact the settlement and distribution of funds in this case?

The Attorney General understands that counsel for the federal class action will seek a fee award out of the Cartwright Act Settlement Fund in this case for legal work performed that materially contributed to fact and expert development and that benefitted the California natural persons whose claims will be released by the Settlement. Any such fee award would need to be approved by the Court. Documents concerning any future fee request will be made available on the settlement website at www.CalGasLitigation. In the event the Court awards a fee to federal class counsel, such an award may decrease the amount of money that is available to be distributed to California natural persons.

Addresses for Notice

If you wish to contact the Attorney General, Defendants, or the Court concerning this Settlement, you may use the following addresses:

For the Attorney General:

PAULA L. BLIZZARD
Senior Assistant Attorney General
MICHAEL JORGENSON
Supervising Deputy Attorney General
LAUREN J. POMEROY
DIVYA B. RAO
Deputy Attorney General
455 Golden Gate Avenue, Suite 11000
San Francisco, California 94102
Tele: (415) 510-4400

Fax: (415) 510-4400

For Defendants:

ALEX KAPLAN Susman Godfrey LLP 1000 Louisiana St. JEFFREY M. DAVIDSON Covington & Burling LLP 415 Mission Street

Suite 5100 Houston, TX 77002 Tel: (713) 653-7835 Suite 5400 San Francisco, CA 94105 Tel: (415) 591-7021

Counsel for Defendant Vitol Inc.

Counsel for Defendants SK Energy Americas Inc. and SK Trading International

Co. Ltd.

LEGAL NOTICE

The California Attorney General has settled a lawsuit concerning high gas prices in 2015 and 2016 in California. You may be entitled to compensation.

The People of the State of California v. Vitol Inc., et al., Case No. CGC-20-584456

Superior Court of the State of California, County of San Francisco

This notice is only a summary. Please visit www.CalGasLitigation.com to learn more.

The Attorney General of California sued three multinational gas trading firms in May 2020 for alleged violations of the State's antitrust and unfair competition laws. The name of the case is *The People of the State of California v. Vitol Inc.*, et al., Case No. CGC-20-584456 (S.F. Super. Ct.). A settlement has been reached with those defendants, Vitol Inc., SK Energy Americas, Inc. and SK Trading International Co. Ltd. (collectively, "Defendants"). Read on for more information on how your legal rights may be affected by this litigation and settlement. *Sources for more information are also listed below*.

WHAT IS THIS LAWSUIT ABOUT? The Attorney General brought an action against Defendants alleging that they manipulated gasoline prices in California, in violation of state antitrust and unfair competition laws. Defendants deny all wrongdoing. The Court has not decided who is right. Under the proposed settlement, Defendants have agreed to pay \$50 million into two settlement funds to resolve these allegations. \$37.5 million will be distributed to consumers as compensation for violations of the Cartwright Act, subject to deductions for payments of taxes, administration costs, and attorneys' fees, and costs. \$12.5 million is assessed as a penalty under California's Unfair Competition Law and will be used to enforce consumer protection laws.

WHO IS INCLUDED IN THE SETTLEMENT AND WHAT DOES IT PROVIDE? If you are a natural person living in California, your rights are affected by this settlement. "Natural person" is a legal term to distinguish between living people and corporate persons, like businesses. The settlement does not affect or recover for corporations, businesses or partnerships, or for visitors to California, but you may be entitled to compensation through a different settlement. Visit www.CalGasLitigation.com for more details.

If you purchased gasoline at retail in Southern California (Los Angeles, San Diego, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, Kern, Ventura, Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo, and/or Imperial counties) between February 20, 2015 and November 10, 2015, you may be eligible for monetary benefits. Visit www.CalGasLitigation.com for more details.

WHAT ARE MY LEGAL RIGHTS? You have a choice of whether to stay in the settlement or not, and you must decide now.

Submit a Claim Form. To receive a payment, you must submit a Claim Form. You can submit a Claim Form online or download a Claim Form to mail at www.CalGasLitigation.com. Claims must be postmarked or submitted electronically no later than **Month Day Year**.

Exclude Yourself From the Settlement. If you want to maintain the ability to bring a separate legal claim, you must exclude yourself from the settlement and receive no payment. To exclude yourself from the settlement, you must postmark or electronically submit an exclusion letter by Month Day Year. You can submit an exclusion form online or download an exclusion form to mail at www.CalGasLitigation.com. This is the only option that ensures this settlement will not limit your rights in another lawsuit.

Make a Statement Concerning the Settlement. If you are affected by the settlement (and you do not exclude yourself), you may make a statement for the Court's consideration in deciding whether to approve the settlement. You must mail your statement, postmarked no later than Month Day Year, to the Settlement Administrator. Details on how to make a statement concerning the settlement can be found at www.CalGasLitigation.com.

Do Nothing. If you do not take action in response to this notice, you will receive no payment and will give up

your rights. Consider all of your options before deciding to take no action.

HOW WILL THE LAWYERS BE PAID? The Attorney General will seek reimbursement of attorneys' fees and costs up to 25% of the \$37,500,000 allocated to the Cartwright Act claim.

Pursuant to Business & Professions Code, § 17206(c)(1), half of the \$12,500,000 assessed as a penalty under the Unfair Competition Law will be deposited in the Attorney General's fund for Unfair Competition Law enforcement for future enforcement of consumer protection laws by the Antitrust Section of the California Department of Justice (DOJ).

FINAL APPROVAL HEARING. The Court will hold a hearing to consider approval of the settlement on Month Day Year. At this hearing, the Court will consider whether the settlement should be approved. You may appear at this hearing without providing any notice.

NOTICE REGARDING RELATED CASE: In re California Gasoline Spot Market Antitrust Litigation

A separate case was filed in federal court by private parties who brought claims against Defendants on behalf of all business entities and individuals (whether California residents or not) that purchased gasoline at retail in California in 2015-2017. A settlement in *In re California Gasoline Spot Market Antitrust Litigation* has been reached that provides benefits for business entities and non-California residents. The Attorney General understands that counsel for plaintiffs in *In re California Gasoline Spot Market Antitrust Litigation* will seek a fee award out of the Cartwright Act Settlement Fund in this case for legal work performed that materially contributed to fact and expert development and that benefited the California natural persons whose claims will be released by the Settlement. Any such fee award would need to be approved by the Court. Please refer to the settlement website, which also contains information about this parallel settlement, at www.CalGasLitigation.com for further details.

HOW CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION? If you have questions, visit www.CalGasLitigation.com, call 1-877-725-7523 toll-free, or write to California v. Vitol Settlement Administrator, P.O. Box 301177, Los Angeles, CA 90030-1177. You may also inspect the entire Court docket for free on the Court's website and in person at the Courthouse. Visit www.CalGasLitigation.com for further instructions. PLEASE DO NOT CONTACT THE JUDGE, CLERK OF COURT, OR COURT ABOUT THE SETTLEMENT.

Important Notice of Legal Settlement



The Attorney General has Settled an Antitrust Lawsuit on Behalf of California Residents

SETTLEMENT
WEBSITE BY
SCANNING
THE PROVIDED
OR CODE

California v. Vitol Settlement Administrator P.O. Box 301177 Los Angeles, CA 90030-1177

«Barcode»

Postal Service: Please do not mark barcode

ClaimID: <<Claim8>>

PIN Code: <<PIN>>>

VLC: ClaimID: «Claim8»-«CkDig»

«FirstNAME» «LastNAME»

«Addr2»

«Addr1»

«City», «State» «FProv» «Zip» «FZip»

«FCountry»



Superior Court of California, County of San Francisco The People of the State of California v. Vitol Inc., et al. Case No. CGC-20-584456

Notice of Proposed Settlement

Did you live in and buy gasoline in California in 2015 or 2016?

There is a \$37.5 million settlement of a lawsuit that may affect your rights.

You may be entitled to money.

To be part of this settlement, you must take action by [date].

You can visit www.CalGasLitigation.com to learn more.

Key Things to Know:

- You must make a claim to receive a payment. To be able to sue Vitol, Inc., SK Energy Americas, Inc., and SK Trading International Co. Ltd. about the same issues in the future, you must exclude yourself.
- If you take no action, you will not be able to sue and will receive no payment.
- The Court will hold a hearing to consider whether to approve the settlement on Month Day, Year. You may make a written or oral statement for the Court's consideration at this hearing.
- If you bought gas for a business or while visiting California, you may be entitled to money from another settlement.
- Questions or to Jearn more: call 1-877-725-7523, visit www.CalGasLitigation.com, or scan the QR code.

LEGAL NOTICE

The California Attorney General has settled a lawsuit concerning high gas prices in 2015 and 2016 in California. You may be entitled to compensation.

Superior Court of the State of California, County of San Francisco

Visit www.CalGasLitigation.com to learn more.

The Attorney General of California sued three multinational gas trading firms in May 2020 for alleged violations of the State's antitrust and unfair competition laws. The name of the case is *The People of the State of California v. Vitol Inc.*, et al., Case No. CGC-20-584456 (S.F. Super. Ct.). A settlement has been reached with Vitol Inc., SK Energy Americas, Inc. and SK Trading International Co. Ltd. (collectively, "Defendants").

WHAT IS THIS LAWSUIT ABOUT? The Attorney General alleged that Defendants manipulated gasoline prices in California in violation of state antitrust and unfair competition laws. Defendants deny all wrongdoing. The Court has not decided who is right. Defendants have agreed to pay \$50 million into two settlement funds. \$37.5 million will be paid to consumers, after deductions for taxes, administration costs, and attorneys' fees and costs. \$12.5 million will be used to enforce consumer protection laws.

WHO IS INCLUDED? If you are a natural person living in California, your rights are affected by this settlement. The settlement does not affect or recover for corporations, businesses or partnerships, or for visitors to California, but you may be entitled to compensation through a different settlement.

If you purchased gasoline in Southern California (Los Angeles, San Diego, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, Kern, Ventura, Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo, or Imperial counties) between February 20 and November 10, 2015, you may receive a payment.

WHAT ARE MY LEGAL RIGHTS?

Submit a Claim Form. To receive a payment, you must submit a claim form online or postmarked by Month Day Year.

Exclude Yourself. If you want to maintain the ability to bring a separate legal claim you must exclude yourself from the Settlement and receive no payment. To exclude yourself, you must mail or electronically submit an exclusion letter by **Month Day Year**. This is the only option that ensures this settlement will not limit your rights in another lawsuit.

Make a Statement. If you are affected by the settlement (and you do not exclude yourself), you may make a statement for the Court's consideration in deciding whether to approve the settlement. You must mail your statement, postmarked no later than Month Day Year to the Settlement Administrator.

Do Nothing. If you do nothing, you will not receive a payment and will give up your rights.

HOW WILL THE LAWYERS BE PAID? The Attorney General will seek reimbursement of attorneys' fees and costs up to 25% of the \$37,500,000 allocated to consumers. Half of the \$12,500,000 will be used by the Attorney General for future enforcement of consumer protection laws by the Antitrust Section of the California Department of Justice.

FINAL APPROVAL HEARING. The Court will hold a hearing on Month Day Year to consider whether the settlement should be approved. If there are statements, the Court may consider them. You may appear at this hearing without providing any notice.

WANT MORE INFORMATION? Visit www.CalGasLitigation.com, call 1-877-725-7523, or write to *The People of the State of California v. Vitol Inc.*, et al. Settlement Administrator, P.O. Box 301177, Los Angeles, CA 90030-1177. You may also inspect the entire Court docket for free on the Court's website and in person at the Courthouse. Visit www.CalGasLitigation.com for further instructions. PLEASE DO NOT CONTACT THE COURT, JUDGE, OR CLERK OF COURT WITH QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS MATTER.





DIGITAL MEDIA MOCKUPS

State of California v. Vitol - Notice & Administration July 3, 2024

KCC Class Action Services, LLC

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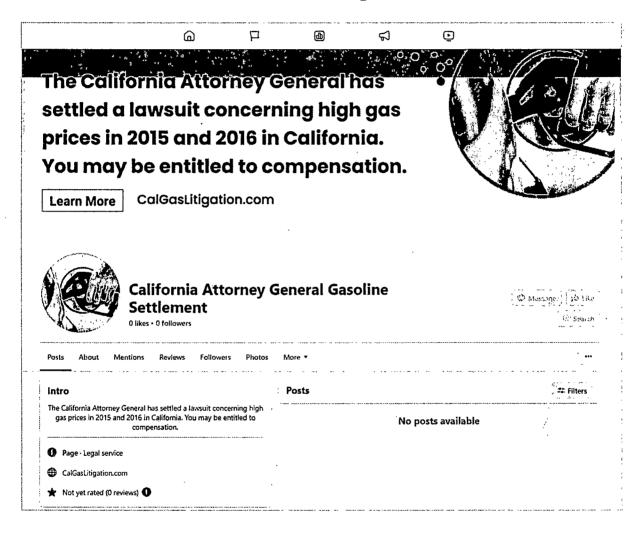
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California Attorney General Gasoline Settlement Sponsored -



The California Attorney General has settled a lawsuit concerning high gas prices in 2015 and 2016 in California. You may be entitled to compensation.



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See if you qualify for a payment.

CalGasLitigation.com

Headline: California Attorney General Gasoline Settlement

Description: The California Attorney General has settled a lawsuit concerning high gas prices in 2015 and 2016 in California. You may be entitled to compensation.

Website URL: https://www.calgaslitigation.com/ URL as displayed: CalGasLitigation.com A Combined \$ Million Settlement has been reached with Gas Trading Companies making money available for those who bought Gas in California.

CITY, ST, MONTH DAY, 2024 /PR Newswire/ --

A lawsuit brought by the Attorney General of California and a separate federal class action lawsuit claimed that Defendants Vitol Inc., Brad Lucas, SK Energy Americas, Inc., SK Trading International Co. Ltd., and David Niemann manipulated a benchmark price for gasoline in California, causing purchasers to pay artificially inflated prices for gasoline (regular, mid-grade, and premium) in California.

The Attorney General of California has settled claims on behalf of natural persons residing in California (i.e., individuals who are not businesses) who purchased gasoline in the state. If you purchased gasoline at retail in Los Angeles, San Diego, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, Kern, Ventura, Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo, and/or Imperial counties in California between February 20 and November 10, 2015, you may be eligible for a payment. You must file a claim to be eligible to receive money from the \$\pi\$ million parens patriae portion of the \$\pi\$ million settlement.

Plaintiffs in the federal class action have settled claims on behalf of people who, at the time of purchase, were not residents of California, and businesses (regardless of location), that purchased gasoline from a retailer, for their own use and not for resale, in California, between February 18, 2015, and May 31, 2017. Those who are in this federal settlement class must file a claim to be eligible to receive money from this \$13.93 million settlement.

Payments will depend on which settlement a claimant is eligible for and may vary in part based on how much each claimant spent on gasoline during the relevant time period. How much each claimant will receive is unknown at this time and will depend on how many claims are submitted.

California residents and members of the federal settlement class may object to the respective settlement or request exclusion. Californians and federal settlement class members that do not exclude themselves will be bound by the respective settlement, which may impact their rights.

To submit a claim or exclude yourself from either settlement, learn full details about your rights and options, including the deadlines to exercise them, and access frequently asked questions and other important documents, visit www.CalGasLitigation.com.

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Source: Verita Global, LLC Media Contact(s): [TBD]

Free Public Docket Access: Online

- 1. Go to www.sf.courts.ca.gov/online-services/case-information in a web browser. It is recommended to access this page through a computer, rather than a smart phone for ease of use and compatibility.
- 2. Scroll down to 'Civil Case Query' and click the button titled 'Access Now'.
- 3. Under the 'Search by Case Number' tab, enter "CGC20584456" into the search field.
- 4. Click the grey 'Search' button.
- 5. This will return the complete list of docket entries for the case.
- 6. A description of each docket entry can be found under the 'Proceedings' header.
- 7. Only ten entries are displayed per page by default. This can be changed in the upper left-hand corner above the 'Date' header on the table of entries.
- 8. When you find an entry you wish to inspect, click the 'View' button to the right of each entry's description. Some entries may not be accompanied by the 'View' button as the entirety of the entry was captured in the description.
- 9. After clicking the 'View' button, a PDF of the entry will open in a new tab in your web browser.

Free Public Docket Access: In Person

- 1. Proceed to the San Francisco Superior Courthouse, located at 400 McAllister Street, San Francisco, CA, 94102. The Courthouse is open on weekdays from 8:30 AM to 12:00 PM and 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM.
- 2. Pass through security.
- 3. Turn left after security and head towards Room 103, the 'Public Viewing Area.'
- 4. Proceed to a computer terminal and select 'Case Information' in the search program.
- 5. Enter Case Number 'CGC20584456' into the search field.
- 6. Click the 'Process' button.
- 7. This will return the complete list of docket entries for the case.
- 8. Select the entry you would like to inspect and click the 'View Doc' button. Some entries may not be inspectable as the entirety of the entry may be captured in the entry description.
- 9. This will open the document on the computer terminal for inspection.
- 10. Clerks will be on hand to assist with locating specific documents or printing.
- 11. It costs \$.50 per page to print.

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CERTIFICATE OF ELECTRONIC SERVICE

(CCP 1010.6(6) & CRC 2.251)

I, Sean Kane, a Deputy Clerk of the Superior Court of the County of San Francisco, certify that I am not a party to the within action.

On September 4, 2024, I electronically served the attached document via File & ServeXpress on the recipients designated on the Transaction Receipt located on the File & ServeXpress website.

Dated: September 4, 2024

Brandon E. Riley, Court Executive Officer

By: Demille

Sean Kane, Deputy Clerk