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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

NEETA THAKUR, *et al.*,
Plaintiffs,

v.

DONALD J. TRUMP, et al.,

Defendants.

Case No. 3:25-cv-4737

DECLARATION OF KEVIN R. BUDNER IN SUPPORT OF MOTION FOR FINAL APPROVAL OF CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT BETWEEN PLAINTIFFS AND DEFENDANT ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

I, Kevin R. Budner, declare as follows:

1. I am an attorney admitted to practice in the state of California. I am a partner at Lieff Cabraser Heimann & Bernstein LLP ("LCHB"). The Court appointed me, together with Elizabeth J. Cabraser of Lieff Cabraser; Erwin Chemerinsky and Claudia Polsky of U.C. Berkeley School of Law; and Anthony P. Schoenberg and Linda S. Gilleran of Farella Braun + Martel LLP, as class counsel at the preliminary injunction stage, Dkt. 54 at 60, and again as Settlement Class Counsel in the Preliminary Approval Order, Dkt. 244 ¶ 5. I respectfully submit this declaration in support of Plaintiffs' Motion for Final Approval of Class Action Settlement between Plaintiffs, on behalf of themselves and the Settlement Class, and the Environmental Protection Agency. I have personal knowledge of the facts set forth in this declaration, and could testify competently to them if called upon to do so.

2. Elizabeth Cabraser previously submitted a declaration in support of Plaintiffs' Motion for Preliminary Approval (Dkt. 238). That declaration addressed the Rule 23 class certification and settlement approval factors and attached the Settlement Agreement (Exhibit A), the proposed short-form email notice (Exhibit B), and the proposed long-form notice (Exhibit C). Familiarity with that declaration is presumed. Capitalized terms not otherwise defined herein have the meanings set forth in the Settlement Agreement. This Declaration supplements the existing record with details regarding the implementation of the Court-approved notice program.

3. To identify recipients of the direct notice email, EPA provided the names and reasonably available contact information of Settlement Class Members associated with the Covered Grants. Where EPA's records did not identify individual researchers or their contact information, Settlement Class Counsel supplemented those records through web searches, UC networks, and available grant materials.

4. Beginning on October 8, 2026, Settlement Class Counsel sent the Court-approved short-form notice by email to 36 Settlement Class Members, with several class members named more than once due to their involvement on more than one grant. Three notices were initially returned as undeliverable but were successfully resent to alternative email addresses associated with the Class member.

5. The notice summarized the settlement and directed Class members to the Settlement website. The Settlement website, https://ucresearchergrantterminations.com/EPA-Settlement, has posted the Settlement Agreement, the Motion for Preliminary Approval, the Preliminary Approval Order, the Long Form Notice, important dates and deadlines, and frequently asked questions. Settlement Class Members could also contact Settlement Class Counsel directly with questions. As of the date of this declaration, Settlement Class Counsel have received no such inquiries.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California and the United States that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed this 23rd day of October, 2026, in San Francisco.

/s/ Kevin R. Budner
Kevin. R. Budner