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IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION

IN RE CHRYSLER-DODGE-JEEP
ECODIESEL[®] MARKETING, SALES
PRACTICES, AND PRODUCTS
LIABILITY LITIGATION

Case No. 3:17-md-02777-EMC
THE HONORABLE EDWARD M. CHEN

This Document Relates to:

ALL CONSUMER AND RESELLER
DEALER ACTIONS

**ORDER GRANTING PRELIMINARY
APPROVAL OF CLASS SETTLEMENT
AND DIRECTION OF NOTICE UNDER
RULE 23(E)**

Before the Court is Plaintiffs’ Motion for Preliminary Approval of Class Settlement and Direction of Notice under Rule 23(e) (“Motion”).

WHEREAS, a proposed Class Action Settlement Agreement (the “Settlement”) has been reached between Court-appointed Lead Counsel and the Plaintiffs’ Steering Committee (“PSC”) on behalf of a defined proposed Settlement Class of certain current and former owners and lessees of 2014-2016 Jeep Grand Cherokee and Ram 1500s with a 3.0 liter “EcoDiesel” engine (the “Eligible Vehicles”), which resolves certain claims against Defendants pertaining to the Eligible Vehicles listed below;

WHEREAS, the Fiat Chrysler Defendants also entered related agreements with the United States Department of Justice (“DOJ”) on behalf of the Environmental Protection Agency (“EPA”), and the State of California by and through the California Air Resources Board

1 (“CARB”) and California’s Office of the Attorney General (“CA AG”);

2 WHEREAS, the Court, for the purposes of this Order, adopts all defined terms as set forth
3 in the Settlement;

4 WHEREAS, this matter has come before the Court pursuant to Plaintiffs’ Motion for
5 Preliminary Approval of the Class Action Settlement and Direction of Notice Under Fed. R. Civ.
6 P. 23(e) (the “Motion”);

7 WHEREAS, Defendants do not oppose the Court’s entry of the proposed Preliminary
8 Approval Order;

9 WHEREAS, the Court finds that it has jurisdiction over the Action and each of the Parties
10 for purposes of settlement and asserts jurisdiction over the Settlement Class Representatives for
11 purposes of considering and effectuating this Settlement;

12 WHEREAS, the Court held a Preliminary Approval Hearing on January 23, 2019; and

13 WHEREAS, this Court has considered all of the presentations and submissions related to
14 the Motion and, having presided over and managed these MDL proceedings as Transferee Judge,
15 since the April 2017 Transfer Order, with the facts, contentions, claims and defenses as they have
16 developed in these proceedings, and is otherwise fully advised of all relevant facts in connection
17 therewith.

18 **IT IS HEREBY ORDERED AS FOLLOWS:**

19 **I. PRELIMINARY APPROVAL OF THE CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT:**

20 1. The proposed Settlement appears to be the product of intensive, thorough, serious,
21 informed, and non-collusive negotiations overseen by the Court-appointed Special Master
22 Kenneth Feinberg; has no obvious deficiencies; does not improperly grant preferential treatment
23 to the Settlement Class Representatives or segments of the Class; and appears to be fair,
24 reasonable, and adequate, such that notice of the Settlement should be directed to the Class
25 Members, and a Final Approval Hearing should be set.

26 2. Accordingly, the Motion is GRANTED.
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1 **II. THE CLASS, CLASS REPRESENTATIVES, AND CLASS COUNSEL**

2 3. “Class” or “Settlement Class” means, for purposes of this Class Action Settlement
3 only, a nationwide class, including Puerto Rico, of all Persons (this includes individuals who are
4 United States citizens, residents, or United States military, or diplomatic personnel that are living
5 or stationed overseas, as well as entities) who (1) on January 12, 2017 owned or leased a Ram
6 1500 or Jeep Grand Cherokee 3.0-liter diesel vehicle in the United States or its territories; or who
7 (2) between January 12, 2017 and the Claim Submission Deadline for Eligible Owners and
8 Eligible Lessees become the owner or lessee of an Eligible Vehicle in the United States or its
9 territories; or who (3) own or lease an Eligible Vehicle in the United States or its territories at the
10 time of participation in the Repair Program. The Class includes automobile dealers who are not
11 Authorized Dealers and who otherwise meet the definition of the Class. The following entities
12 and individuals are excluded from the Class:

13 (a) Owners or lessees who acquired an Eligible Vehicle after January 12, 2017,
14 and transferred ownership or terminated their lease before April 1, 2019;

15 (b) Owners or lessees who acquired an Eligible Vehicle after January 12, 2017,
16 and transferred ownership or terminated their lease after April 1, 2019, as a result of a total loss,
17 but before the Claim Submission Deadline for Eligible Owners and Eligible Lessees;

18 (c) Owners who acquired an Eligible Vehicle on or before January 12, 2017,
19 and transferred ownership after January 10, 2019, but before April 1, 2019, unless ownership was
20 transferred as a result of a total loss;

21 (d) Lessees who leased their Eligible Vehicles on or before January 12, 2017,
22 acquire ownership after January 10, 2019, and transfer ownership before the AEM is performed
23 on the Eligible Vehicle;

24 (e) Owners whose Eligible Vehicle is not Registered in the United States as of
25 the date the AEM is performed;

26 (f) Defendants’ officers, directors and employees; Defendants’ affiliates and
27 affiliates’ officers, directors and employees; their distributors and distributors’ officers, directors
28 and employees; and Authorized Dealers and Authorized Dealers’ officers and directors;

1 (g) Judicial officers and their immediate family members and associated court
2 staff assigned to this case; and

3 (h) All those otherwise in the Class who or which timely and properly exclude
4 themselves from the Class as provided in this Class Action Agreement.

5 4. The Plaintiffs' Lead Counsel and members of the Plaintiffs' Steering Committee
6 who were appointed by the Court in Pretrial Order No. 3 on June 19, 2017, have applied for
7 appointment as Settlement Class Counsel, and the proposed Settlement Class Representatives,
8 named as Plaintiffs in the earlier-filed Second Amended Consolidated Consumer Class Action
9 Complaint, are listed in Exhibit F to the Motion.

10 **III. PRELIMINARY FINDINGS**

11 5. The Court finds that it will likely be able to approve, under Rule 23(e)(2), the
12 proposed Settlement Class as defined above, consisting of current and former owners and lessees
13 of approximately 100,000 identifiable Eligible Vehicles.

14 6. The Court furthermore finds that it will likely be able to certify the class for
15 purposes of judgment on the proposal, because the Settlement Class likely meets the numerosity
16 requirement of Rule 23(a)(1), as well as the commonality and predominance requirements of Rule
17 23(a)(2) and (b)(3).

18 **IV. NOTICE TO CLASS MEMBERS**

19 7. Under Rule 23(c)(2), the Court finds that the content, format, and method of
20 disseminating Notice, as set forth in the Motion, the Declaration of Steven Weisbrot filed on
21 January 10, 2019, the Supplemental Weisbrot Declaration filed on February 8, 2019, and the
22 Amended Settlement Agreement and Release, including direct First Class mailed notice to all
23 known Class Members and an extensive and targeted publication campaign, is the best notice
24 practicable under the circumstances and satisfies all requirements provided in Rule 23(c)(2)(B)
25 and due process. The Court approves such notice, and hereby directs that such notice be
26 disseminated in the manner set forth in the proposed Settlement Agreement to Class Members
27 under Rule 23(e)(1).
28

V. **SCHEDULE AND PROCEDURES FOR DISSEMINATING NOTICE, FILING CLAIMS, REQUESTING EXCLUSION FROM THE CLASS, FILING OBJECTIONS TO THE CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT, AND FILING THE MOTION FOR FINAL APPROVAL**

Proposed Date	Court Adopted Date (if altered)	Event
January 10, 2019	January 10, 2019	Settlement Class Representatives file Motion for an Order Approving Notice
January 23, 2019	January 23, 2019	Hearing on Motion for an Order Approving Notice
January 24, 2019	February 13, 2019	Class Notice Program begins
February 25, 2019	March 11, 2019	Motions for Final Approval and Attorneys' Fees and Expenses filed
April 1, 2019	April 15, 2019	Objection and Opt-Out Deadline
April 22, 2019	April 25, 2019	Reply Memoranda in Support of Final Approval and Fee/Expense Application filed
April 29, 2019 – May 3, 2019	May 3, 2019	Final Approval Hearing.
Date of entry of Final Approval Order and US-CA Consent Decree	_____, 2019	Claims Period Begins

VI. **FINAL APPROVAL HEARING**

8. The Final Approval Hearing shall take place on **May 3, 2019 at 10:00 a.m.** at the United States District Court for the Northern District of California, United States Courthouse, 450 Golden Gate Avenue, San Francisco, California 94102, before the Honorable Edward M. Chen, to determine whether the proposed Class Settlement is fair, reasonable, and adequate, whether it

1 should be finally approved by the Court, and whether the Released Claims should be dismissed
2 with prejudice under the Settlement and the Notice Program.

3 **VII. OTHER PROVISIONS**

4 9. Plaintiffs' Lead Counsel and the members of the PSC are hereby appointed as
5 Settlement class counsel under rule 23(g)(3) ("Class Counsel"). Settlement Class Counsel and
6 Defendants are authorized to take, without further Court approval, all necessary and appropriate
7 steps to implement the Settlement, including the approved Notice Program.

8 10. The deadlines set forth in this Preliminary Approval Order, including, but not
9 limited to, adjourning the Final Approval Hearing, may be extended by Order of the Court, for
10 good cause shown, without further notice to the Class Members, except that notice of any such
11 extensions shall be included on the Settlement Website. Class Members should check the
12 Settlement Website regularly for updates and further details regarding extensions of these
13 deadlines. Exclusions and Objections must meet the deadlines and follow the requirements set
14 forth in the approved notice in order to be valid.

15 11. Class Counsel and Defendants' Counsel are hereby authorized to use all
16 reasonable procedures in connection with approval and administration of the Settlement that are
17 not materially inconsistent with the Preliminary Approval Order or the Class Action Settlement,
18 including making, without further approval of the Court, minor changes to the Settlement, to the
19 form or content of the Class Notice, or to any other exhibits that the Parties jointly agree are
20 reasonable or necessary.

21 12. The Court shall maintain continuing jurisdiction over these proceedings for the
22 benefit of the Class as defined in this Order.

23 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

24
25 DATED: February 11, 2019



26 THE HONORABLE EDWARD M. CHEN
27 UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE