

ZIMMERMAN REED, LLP
HART L. ROBINOVITCH
14648 N. Scottsdale Road, Suite 130
Scottsdale, AZ 85254
Telephone: 480/348-6400
480/348-6415 (fax)
hart.robinovitch@zimmreed.com

Local Counsel for Lead Plaintiff

ROBBINS GELLER RUDMAN
& DOWD LLP
THEODORE J. PINTAR (admitted *pro hac vice*)
TOR GRONBORG (admitted *pro hac vice*)
J. MARCO JANOSKI GRAY (admitted *pro hac vice*)
T. ALEX B. FOLKERTH (admitted *pro hac vice*)
JESSICA E. ROBERTSON (admitted *pro hac vice*)
EVELYN SANCHEZ GONZALEZ (admitted *pro hac vice*)
655 West Broadway, Suite 1900
San Diego, CA 92101
Telephone: 619/231-1058
619/231-7423 (fax)
tedp@rgrdlaw.com
torg@rgrdlaw.com
mjanoski@rgrdlaw.com
afolkerth@rgrdlaw.com
jrobertson@rgrdlaw.com
egonzalez@rgrdlaw.com

Lead Counsel for Lead Plaintiff

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

DISTRICT OF ARIZONA

Laborers District Council Construction
Industry Pension Fund, et al.,

Plaintiffs,

vs.

Sea Limited, et al.,

Defendants.

No. CV-23-01455-PHX-DLR

Consolidated with
Case No. 23-01889-PHX-SRB

CLASS ACTION

LEAD PLAINTIFF'S MOTION FOR
FINAL APPROVAL OF CLASS ACTION
SETTLEMENT AND APPROVAL OF
PLAN OF ALLOCATION AND
MEMORANDUM OF LAW IN
SUPPORT THEREOF

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MOTION

Lead Plaintiff Laborers District Council Construction Industry Pension Fund (“Plaintiff” or “LDC”), on behalf of itself and the proposed Class, hereby respectfully moves the Court for an Order: (i) entering final judgment and granting final approval to the proposed Settlement, which the Court preliminarily approved by its Order dated March 18, 2025 (ECF 75) (the “Preliminary Approval Order”); (ii) certifying the Class for settlement purposes; and (iii) approving the proposed Plan of Allocation.¹

This Motion is made on the grounds that the Settlement is fair, reasonable, and adequate under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23(e), and that the Class should be certified under Rules 23(a) and 23(b)(3). In support of this Motion, Plaintiff submits the below Memorandum of Law, along with the concurrently-filed Declaration of J. Marco Janoski Gray in Support of Motions for: (1) Final Approval of Class Action Settlement and Approval of Plan of Allocation; and (2) an Award of Attorneys’ Fees and Expenses and Award to Class Representative (“Janoski Declaration” or “Janoski Decl.”), Declaration of James N. Harper, Jr. (“Harper Decl.”), Declaration of Luiggy Segura Regarding Notice Dissemination, Publication, and Requests for Exclusion Received to Date (“Segura Decl.”), all exhibits attached thereto, all prior pleadings and papers in this Litigation, the arguments of counsel, and such additional information or argument as may be required by the Court.

A proposed Final Judgment and Order of Dismissal with Prejudice will be submitted with Plaintiff’s reply submission on June 24, 2025, after the June 10, 2025 deadline for Class Members to opt out of the Class or object to the Settlement or Plan of Allocation has passed.

¹ The terms of the Settlement are set forth in the Stipulation of Settlement dated March 14, 2025 (ECF 73-1) (the “Stipulation”). Unless otherwise defined herein, all capitalized terms have the same meanings as set forth in the Stipulation and in Lead Plaintiff’s Unopposed Motion for Preliminary Approval of Class Action Settlement and Memorandum of Law in Support Thereof (ECF 72).

MEMORANDUM OF LAW

I. INTRODUCTION

The preliminarily-approved Settlement provides for a cash payment of \$46 million in exchange for the dismissal of all claims brought in the Litigation and a full release of claims against the Released Persons. The \$46 million recovery obtained here is more than fair, reasonable, and adequate – and warrants final approval from the Court.

The Settlement was result of hard-fought litigation and arm’s-length negotiations between skilled and knowledgeable counsel, and was facilitated by an experienced mediator – Gregory P. Lindstrom of Phillips ADR Enterprises. Janoski Decl., ¶¶23-48. By the time the Settlement was achieved, Plaintiff and Lead Counsel had: (i) investigated, drafted, and filed a detailed Consolidated Complaint for Violations of the Federal Securities Laws (ECF 31) (the “Complaint”); (ii) successfully obtained an order from the Court approving alternative service of process on the Individual Defendants (ECF 44); (iii) successfully opposed Sea’s motion to transfer this case to the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York (ECF 54); (iv) successfully opposed Defendants’ motion to dismiss the Complaint (ECF 55); (v) opposed Defendants’ motion for partial reconsideration of the Court’s motion to dismiss order, which remained pending at the time of the Settlement (ECFs 58, 61); (vi) propounded and negotiated discovery requests; and (vii) reviewed confidential financial data produced by Defendants, consulted with experts on merits and damages issues, and prepared detailed mediation statements in connection with the mediation process led by Mr. Lindstrom, culminating in a mediator’s proposal that the Settling Parties accepted. *See* Janoski Decl., ¶¶4, 23-42, 47-48. As a result of this process, Plaintiff and Lead Counsel had a thorough understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of the Class’s claims at the time the Settlement was reached.

The reaction of the Class thus far also supports the Settlement. The Court-appointed lead plaintiff LDC fully supports the Settlement. *See* Harper Decl., ¶¶1-7. Pursuant to the Court’s Preliminary Approval Order, more than 199,100 Notices and Postcard Notices have been mailed or emailed to potential Class Members, Summary Notice was published in *The*

1 *Wall Street Journal* and over *PRNewswire*, and the long-form Notice and other relevant
 2 information was also posted on a website established for the Settlement. Segura Decl., ¶¶9-
 3 10, 12. To date, there have been zero objections lodged to any aspect of the Settlement. *See*
 4 *Nat'l Rural Telecomm. Coop. v. DIRECTV, Inc.*, 221 F.R.D. 523, 529 (C.D. Cal. 2004)
 5 (“[T]he absence of a large number of objections to a proposed class action settlement raises a
 6 strong presumption that the terms of a proposed class settlement action are favorable to the
 7 class members.”); *In re Apollo Grp. Inc. Sec. Litig.*, 2012 WL 1378677, at *3 (D. Ariz.
 8 Apr. 20, 2012) (same). Similarly, there has been only one request for exclusion from Class
 9 Members as of this filing. *See* Segura Decl., ¶13; *see also Arrison v. Walmart Inc.*, 2024 WL
 10 3413968, at *4 (D. Ariz. July 15, 2024) (noting that only 47 class members requested
 11 exclusion out of 81,578 mailed notices, and further holding that “the reaction of the class
 12 members to the settlement weighs in favor of approval”).²

13 Accordingly, Plaintiff respectfully requests that the Court grant final approval of the
 14 Settlement, certify the Class, and approve the Plan of Allocation as a fair and reasonable
 15 method for distributing the Net Settlement Fund to the Class.

16 **II. PROCEDURAL AND FACTUAL BACKGROUND**

17 Lead Counsel respectfully refers the Court to the accompanying Janoski Declaration
 18 for a detailed description of the procedural history of the Litigation, the claims asserted, the
 19 investigation and discovery undertaken, the parties’ motion practice, the negotiations and
 20 mediation process resulting in the Settlement, and the risks and uncertainties involved in
 21 prosecuting this Litigation through trial. *See* Janoski Decl., ¶¶13-56.

22 **III. THE SETTLEMENT WARRANTS FINAL APPROVAL**

23 The Ninth Circuit recognizes a ““strong judicial policy that favors settlements,
 24 particularly where complex class action litigation is concerned.”” *Campbell v. Facebook*,

26 ² The deadline for submitting a request for exclusion from the Class or filing an
 27 objection to the Settlement, or any aspect thereof, is June 10, 2025. If any requests for
 28 exclusion or objections by Class Members are received after the date of this submission,
 Lead Counsel will address them in its reply submission to be filed on or before June 24,
 2025.

1 *Inc.*, 951 F.3d 1106, 1121 (9th Cir. 2020).³ Pursuant to Rule 23(e), a proposed class action
 2 settlement may be approved “only after a hearing and only on finding that it is fair,
 3 reasonable, and adequate” after considering whether:

4 (A) the class representatives and class counsel have adequately
 5 represented the class; (B) the proposal was negotiated at arm’s length; (C) the
 6 relief provided for the class is adequate . . . ; and (D) the proposal treats class
 members equitably relative to each other.

7 Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(e)(2). In addition to the Rule 23(e)(2) factors, courts in the Ninth Circuit
 8 also consider the following in evaluating the fairness of a class action settlement:

9 (1) the strength of the plaintiffs’ case; (2) the risk, expense, complexity, and
 10 likely duration of further litigation; (3) the risk of maintaining class action
 11 status throughout the trial; (4) the consideration offered in settlement; (5) the
 12 extent of discovery completed, the stage of the proceedings; (6) the experience
 and views of counsel; and (7) the reaction of the class to the proposed
 settlement.

13 *Apollo*, 2012 WL 1378677, at *1 (citing *Hanlon v. Chrysler Corp.*, 150 F.3d 1011, 1026 (9th
 14 Cir. 1998)).

15 “This list [of factors] is not exclusive and different factors may predominate in
 16 different factual contexts.” *Torrise v. Tucson Elec. Power Co.*, 8 F.3d 1370, 1376 (9th Cir.
 17 1993); *Facebook*, 951 F.3d at 1121 (“District courts may consider some or all of these
 18 factors.”). Ultimately, whether final approval should be granted lies within the sound
 19 discretion of the district court. *Class Plaintiffs v. City of Seattle*, 955 F.2d 1268, 1276 (9th
 20 Cir. 1992). A court, however, should not convert settlement approval into an inquiry into the
 21 merits or substitute its judgment for that of the parties. *Id.* at 1291 (“The court need not
 22 ‘reach any ultimate conclusions on the contested issues of fact and law which underlie the
 23 merits of the dispute, for it is the very uncertainty of outcome in litigation and avoidance of
 24 wasteful and expensive litigation that induce consensual settlements.’”).

25 The Court’s Preliminary Approval Order considered each of the Rule 23(e)(2) factors
 26 when assessing the Settlement, and preliminarily found that it was fair, reasonable, and
 27

28 ³ Citations are omitted and emphasis is added throughout unless otherwise indicated.

adequate, subject to further consideration at the Settlement Hearing. *See* ECF 75 at 2-4. The Court’s conclusion on preliminary approval remains true now, as nothing has changed the evaluation of these factors between March 18, 2025 and the present. *See In re Chrysler-Dodge-Jeep EcoDiesel Mktg., Sales Pracs., & Prods. Liab. Litig.*, 2019 WL 2554232, at *2 (N.D. Cal. May 3, 2019) (“Those conclusions [drawn at preliminary approval] stand and counsel equally in favor of final approval now.”); *Apollo*, 2012 WL 1378677, at *1 (“As this Court concluded in its Preliminary Approval Order, these factors favor a finding of fairness, reasonableness, and adequacy. . . .”).

Accordingly, Plaintiff and Lead Counsel respectfully submit that the Settlement represents a fair, reasonable, and adequate resolution of the Litigation and warrants the Court’s final approval.

A. Plaintiff and Lead Counsel Have Adequately Represented the Class

Plaintiff and Lead Counsel have “adequately represented” the Class in accordance with Rule 23(e)(2)(A), as they have zealously prosecuted this Litigation (and will continue to do so throughout the administration of the Settlement) and have no conflicting interests. *See In re Hyundai & Kia Fuel Econ. Litig.*, 926 F.3d 539, 566 (9th Cir. 2019) (“To determine legal adequacy, we resolve two questions: ‘(1) do the named plaintiffs and their counsel have any conflicts of interest with other class members and (2) will the named plaintiffs and their counsel prosecute the action vigorously on behalf of the class?’”).

As more thoroughly explained in the Janoski Declaration, over the course of this case Plaintiff, through Lead Counsel: (i) investigated, drafted, and filed the operative Complaint (ECF 31); (ii) successfully moved for alternative service of process on the Individual Defendants (ECF 44); (iii) successfully opposed Sea’s motion to transfer to the Southern District of New York (ECF 54); (iv) successfully opposed Defendants’ motion to dismiss (ECF 55); (v) opposed Defendants’ pending motion for partial reconsideration of the Court’s motion to dismiss order (ECF 61); (vi) propounded and negotiated discovery requests; (vii) reviewed confidential data, consulted with experts, and prepared briefs in connection with the mediation process; and (viii) obtained the \$46 million Settlement for the benefit of

the Class. *See* Janoski Decl., ¶¶4, 23-42, 47-48; *In re Volkswagen “Clean Diesel” Mktg., Sales Pracs., & Prods. Liab. Litig.*, 2019 WL 2077847, at *1 (N.D. Cal. May 10, 2019) (finding securities class settlement to be fair where “[l]ead [c]ounsel vigorously litigated th[e] action”).

Plaintiff itself has also actively engaged in this Litigation, by, *inter alia*: (i) reviewing drafts of filings made in the action; (ii) reading key Court orders and updates about the Litigation; (iii) reviewing and responding to document requests; and (iv) discussing litigation and settlement strategy regularly with Lead Counsel. *See* Harper Decl., ¶3.

Moreover, Plaintiff and Lead Counsel have no interests antagonistic to those of other Class Members, as Plaintiff’s and the Class’ claims “arise from the same alleged conduct: the purchase of [Sea ADS] at inflated prices based on Defendants’ alleged . . . misstatements.” *See Cheng Jiangchen v. Rentech, Inc.*, 2019 WL 5173771, at *5 (C.D. Cal. Oct. 10, 2019). Thus, “[b]ecause Plaintiff’s claims are typical of and coextensive with the claims of the . . . Class, [its] interest in obtaining the largest possible recovery is aligned with the interests of the rest of the . . . Class [M]embers.” *See Mild v. PPG Indus.*, 2019 WL 3345714, at *3 (C.D. Cal. July 25, 2019).

Indeed, the Court already determined on a preliminary basis that Plaintiff and Lead Counsel have adequately represented the putative class. *See* ECF 75, ¶3. There are no new developments to disturb that prior finding, and this factor weighs in favor of final approval.

B. The Settlement Was the Result of Arm’s-Length Negotiations

The Ninth Circuit “put[s] a good deal of stock in the product of an arms-length, non-collusive, negotiated resolution.” *Rodriguez v. W. Publ’g Corp.*, 563 F.3d 948, 965 (9th Cir. 2009). Here, as required by Rule 23(e)(2)(B), the Settlement was negotiated at arm’s length and was only reached after the parties engaged in protracted negotiations led by an experienced and neutral third-party mediator – Mr. Gregory P. Lindstrom. This process included the exchange of detailed written submissions, an in-person mediation session in New York City, and follow-up telephonic conferences – all of which resulted in a \$46 million mediator’s proposal that the parties ultimately accepted. *See* Janoski Decl., ¶¶47-48.

1 Mr. Lindstrom’s assistance and supervision of this process as a mediator confirms that
 2 the negotiations were conducted at arm’s length and without collusion. *See In re Atmel*
 3 *Corp. Derivative Litig.*, 2010 WL 9525643, at *13 (N.D. Cal. Mar. 31, 2010) (“[A
 4 mediator’s] participation weighs considerably against any inference of a collusive
 5 settlement.”); *Emond v. Murphy*, 2019 WL 13039332, at *11 (C.D. Cal. Aug. 27, 2019)
 6 (finding that settlement achieved through mediation efforts conducted by Mr. Lindstrom
 7 were evidence of the “parties’ arm length negotiations”); *T.K. Through Leshore v. Bytedance*
 8 *Tech. Co.*, 2022 WL 888943, at *11 (N.D. Ill. Mar. 25, 2022) (same); *see also* ECF 75 at 2
 9 (“[T]he Court preliminarily finds that: (a) the Settlement resulted from informed, good faith,
 10 extensive, arm’s-length negotiations between experienced counsel following mediation
 11 under the direction of an experienced mediator.”).

12 The Settlement is thus entitled to a presumption of fairness, and this factor further
 13 supports final approval.

14 **C. The Settlement Provides Significant Relief for the Class,**
 15 **Particularly Considering the Cost, Risks, and Delay of Litigation**

16 Pursuant to Rule 23(e)(2)(C), the Court considers a number of factors in determining
 17 whether “the relief provided for the class is adequate,” with relevant overlapping Ninth
 18 Circuit factors addressing “the strength of the plaintiffs’ case” and “the risk, expense,
 19 complexity, and likely duration of further litigation.” Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(e)(2)(C); *Hanlon*,
 20 150 F.3d at 1026. While Plaintiff believes its claims have merit and that it would prevail at
 21 class certification, summary judgment, and trial, it nevertheless recognizes that there are
 22 numerous risks and uncertainties in proceeding to litigate this case. As courts have
 23 recognized, securities class actions “‘are highly complex and [litigating] securities class
 24 litigation is notably difficult and notoriously uncertain.’” *Hefler v. Wells Fargo & Co.*, 2018
 25 WL 6619983, at *13 (N.D. Cal. Dec. 18, 2018), *aff’d sub nom. Hefler v. Pekoc*, 802 F.
 26 App’x 285 (9th Cir. 2020). As discussed below, the benefits conferred on Class Members by
 27 the \$46 million Settlement far outweigh the costs, risks, and delay of further litigation, and
 28 confirm the adequacy and reasonableness of the Settlement.

1 **1. The Costs, Risks, and Likely Duration of Further**
 2 **Litigation Supports Final Approval**

3 The Settlement provides adequate relief to the Class when taking into account “the
 4 costs, risks, and delay of trial and appeal” per Rule 23(e)(2)(C)(i) and the Ninth Circuit
 5 factors concerning the “strength of the plaintiffs’ case; the risk, expense, complexity, and
 6 likely duration of further litigation.” *Hanlon*, 150 F.3d at 1026; Fed. R. Civ. P.
 7 23(e)(2)(C)(i). ““In most situations, unless the settlement is clearly inadequate, its
 8 acceptance and approval are preferable to lengthy and expensive litigation with uncertain
 9 results.”” *DIRECTV*, 221 F.R.D. at 526 (quoting 4 A. Conte & H. Newberg, *Newberg on*
 10 *Class Actions*, §11:50 at 155 (4th ed. 2002)); *see also Salazar v. Midwest Servicing Grp.*,
 11 2018 WL 3031503, at *6 (C.D. Cal. June 4, 2018) (A “[s]ettlement [a]greement’s
 12 elimination of risk, delay, and further expenses weighs in favor of approval.”).

13 Plaintiff believes the claims alleged in the operative Complaint are strong based on its
 14 substantial research, factual investigation, and review of data produced in connection with
 15 mediation. However, Plaintiff is also cognizant of the numerous hurdles to establishing
 16 liability and inherent risks that complex securities fraud actions pose to plaintiffs. *See*
 17 *Redwen v. Sino Clean Energy, Inc.*, 2013 WL 12129279, at *5 (C.D. Cal. Mar. 13, 2013)
 18 (“Courts experienced with securities fraud litigation ““routinely recognize that securities
 19 class actions present hurdles to proving liability that are difficult for plaintiffs to clear.””);
 20 *In re Extreme Networks, Inc. Sec. Litig.*, 2019 WL 3290770, at *8 (N.D. Cal. July 22, 2019)
 21 (“Securities actions in particular are often long, hard-fought, complicated, and extremely
 22 difficult to win.”); *Scott v. ZST Digit. Nets., Inc.*, 2013 WL 12126744, at *3 (C.D. Cal.
 23 Aug. 5, 2013) (“[C]ases brought under the [PSLRA] . . . involve a ‘heightened level of risk’
 24 because [the] PSLRA ‘makes it more difficult for investors to successfully prosecute
 25 securities class actions.’”). To establish a claim under §10(b) of the Exchange Act, Plaintiff
 26 would ultimately have to prove: (1) a material misrepresentation or omission; (2) scienter;
 27 (3) a connection between the misrepresentation or omission and the purchase or sale of a
 28 security; (4) reliance upon the misrepresentation or omission; (5) economic loss; and (6) loss

1 causation. *Halliburton Co. v. Erica P. John Fund, Inc.*, 573 U.S. 258, 267 (2014). Plaintiff
 2 would be required to prove each of these elements to prevail at the merits stage, whereas
 3 Defendants would need only to succeed on the defense of one element to defeat the claims.

4 The risks of continued litigation are particularly heightened here, where significant
 5 portions of Plaintiff’s Shopee-related claims have been dismissed and Defendants’ motion
 6 for reconsideration on the remaining Shopee claims is pending. Even if Plaintiff were to
 7 prevail in opposing the motion for reconsideration, additional roadblocks await in discovery
 8 – as the majority of evidence and witnesses in this case are located overseas in Singapore,
 9 introducing additional uncertainties in conducting vigorous discovery. Moreover, in order to
 10 obtain any recovery for the Class as a whole, Plaintiff would still need to prevail at class
 11 certification, summary judgment, pretrial motions, trial, and subsequent appeals – a process
 12 that would likely extend for years. Settlement is favored here where the case is “‘complex
 13 and likely to be expensive and lengthy to try,’” and presents numerous risks beyond the
 14 “‘inherent risks of litigation.’” *Low v. Trump Univ., LLC*, 246 F. Supp. 3d 1295, 1300-01
 15 (S.D. Cal. 2017), *aff’d*, 881 F.3d 1111 (9th Cir. 2018); *see also Khoja v. Orexigen*
 16 *Therapeutics, Inc.*, 2021 WL 5632673, at *5 (S.D. Cal. Nov. 30, 2021) (“Had the parties not
 17 settled, they would have spent considerable time and effort in discovery and litigating class
 18 certification and summary judgment, adding ‘further expense to both sides as well as years
 19 of delay of any potential recovery for the putative class.’”).

20 The \$46 million Settlement balances the risks, costs, and delay inherent in complex
 21 cases evenly with respect to all parties. Considering the risks of continued litigation and the
 22 time and expense that would be incurred to prosecute the Litigation through trial and
 23 appeals, the Settlement is clearly in the Class’s best interest.

24 **2. The Proposed Method for Distributing Relief Is Effective**

25 As further discussed below in §§V and VI, *infra*, the Court-approved notice and
 26 claims administration processes are effective means of distributing relief to the Class and are
 27 in accord with Rule 23(e)(2)(C)(ii). Pursuant to the Preliminary Approval Order, more than
 28 198,000 Notices and Postcard Notices were emailed or mailed to potential Class Members

1 and nominees; the Summary Notice was published in *The Wall Street Journal* and
 2 transmitted over *PR Newswire*; and the website created for this Litigation contains key
 3 documents for Class Members to adequately inform themselves of the Settlement. *See*
 4 *generally* Segura Decl.

5 The claims process here is identical to those commonly and effectively used in
 6 connection with other securities class action settlements. The Court-appointed Claims
 7 Administrator will review and process all Claims received, provide claimants with an
 8 opportunity to cure any deficiency or request judicial review of the denial of their Claims, if
 9 applicable, and remit Authorized Claimants their *pro rata* share of the Net Settlement Fund,
 10 as calculated under the Plan of Allocation, which is designed to equitably distribute the Net
 11 Settlement Fund. *See In re BofI Holding, Inc. Sec. Litig.*, 2022 WL 9497235, at *6 (S.D.
 12 Cal. Oct. 14, 2022) (finding similar “method of allocating and distributing relief [to be]
 13 simple and effective . . . and weigh[ing] in favor of approving the settlement”).

14 **3. The Proposed Attorneys’ Fees Are Both Reasonable and** 15 **Standard**

16 Rule 23(e)(2)(C)(iii) requires the Court to consider “the terms of any proposed award
 17 of attorney’s fees, including timing of payment” in evaluating the adequacy of relief
 18 provided to the Class. Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(e)(2)(C)(iii). As further discussed in Plaintiff’s
 19 concurrently-filed motion for attorneys’ fees, Lead Counsel seeks an award of attorneys’ fees
 20 of 25% of the Settlement Amount and expenses of \$123,264.33, plus interest on both
 21 amounts. *See generally* Lead Counsel’s Motion for an Award of Attorneys’ Fees and
 22 Expenses and Award to Class Representative and Memorandum of Law in Support Thereof
 23 (filed concurrently herewith) (“Fee Memorandum”).

24 This fee request is consistent with the 25% “benchmark award for attorney fees” in
 25 the Ninth Circuit (*see Hanlon*, 150 F.3d at 1029), is approved by Plaintiff (Harper Decl., ¶5),
 26 and was fully disclosed in the Postcard Notice and Notice (Segura Decl., Exs. A (Postcard
 27 Notice) and B (Notice at 3)). *See also* Fee Memorandum, §III. To date, there have been no
 28 objections lodged to the requested fees.

4. The Supplemental Opt-Out Agreement Is Standard

As required to be disclosed in accordance with Rule 23(e)(2)(C)(iv) and Rule 23(e)(3), and as previously disclosed in Plaintiffs’ motion for preliminary approval (ECF 72 at 9), the only agreement the parties entered into in addition to the Stipulation was a confidential Supplemental Agreement regarding requests for exclusion. Stipulation, ¶7.3. The Supplemental Agreement contains a standard “blow provision,” whereby Defendants “have the option to terminate the Settlement in the event that Persons who otherwise would be Members of the Class and timely choose to exclude themselves from the Class . . . purchased more than a certain number of shares of Sea’s publicly-traded American Depositary Shares during the Class Period.” *Id.* The Supplemental Agreement is confidential and can be filed under seal or offered to the Court *in camera*, as is customarily done to prevent the disclosure of the precise opt-out threshold ““in order to prevent third parties from utilizing it for the improper purpose of obstructing the settlement and obtaining higher payouts.”” *See Fernandez v. Corelogic Credco, LLC*, 2024 WL 538585, at *3 n.7 (S.D. Cal. Feb. 9, 2024); *see also Estakhrian v. Obenstine*, 2016 WL 6517052, at *13 (C.D. Cal. Feb. 16, 2016) (finding the opt-out threshold to be “fair and proper in that it supports the parties in their efforts to ensure th[e] settlement proceeds are directed to class members and not diverted to other parties or [their] attorneys to the detriment of the class”); *In re Online DVD-Rental Antitrust Litig.*, 779 F.3d 934, 948 (9th Cir. 2015) (finding settlement was not rendered unfair by the inclusion of an opt-out provision where “[o]nly the exact threshold, for practical reasons, was kept confidential”).

D. The Plan of Allocation Treats Class Members Equitably

In accordance with Rule 23(e)(2)(D), the Plan of Allocation here “treats class members equitably relative to each other.” Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(e)(2)(D). Drafted with the assistance of Plaintiff’s damages expert, the Plan treats all Class Members equitably because it properly makes certain interclass distinctions based on the timing of purchases in relation to the corrective disclosures alleged in the Complaint, and does not treat Plaintiff or any other Class Member preferentially. *See Vinh Nguyen v. Radiant Pharms. Corp.*, 2014 WL

1802293, at *5 (C.D. Cal. May 6, 2014) (“A settlement in a securities class action case can be reasonable if it ‘fairly treats class members by awarding a pro rata share to every Authorized Claimant, but also sensibly makes interclass distinctions based upon, inter alia, the relative strengths and weaknesses of class members’ individual claims and the timing of purchases of the securities at issue.”). All eligible Class Members (including Plaintiff) will be subject to the same formulas for distribution of the Settlement, and each Authorized Claimant will receive his, her, or its *pro rata* share of the distribution. *Mauss v. NuVasive, Inc.*, 2018 WL 6421623, at *4 (S.D. Cal. Dec. 6, 2018) (“A plan of allocation that reimburses class members based on the extent of their injuries is generally reasonable.”).

10 **E. The Remaining Ninth Circuit Factors Support Final Approval**

11 Each of the relevant *Hanlon* factors that are not co-extensive with the Rule 23(e)(2)
12 analysis above also support preliminary approval.

13 **1. The Settlement Amount Supports Final Approval**

14 An “analysis of a fair settlement amount must account for the risks of further
15 litigation and trial, as well as expenses and delays associated with continued litigation.”
16 *Harris v. Amgen Inc.*, 2017 WL 6048215, at *4 (C.D. Cal. Apr. 4, 2017). “The Ninth Circuit
17 has explained that ‘the proposed settlement is “not to be judged against a hypothetical or
18 speculative measure of what *might* have been achieved by the negotiators.”’” *Santillan v.*
19 *Verizon Connect, Inc.*, 2024 WL 627998, at *6 (S.D. Cal. Feb. 13, 2024).

20 The \$46 million Settlement Amount here exceeds both the median (\$14 million) and
21 average (\$43 million) recovery in federal securities cases settled in 2024. Edward Flores and
22 Svetlana Starykh, *Recent Trends in Securities Class Action Litigation: 2024 Full-Year*
23 *Review*, at 22, fig. 21, and 23, fig. 22 (NERA Jan. 22, 2025). As a percentage of estimated
24 damages, the Settlement Amount also exceeds amounts routinely approved by courts. *See*,
25 *e.g.*, *Wong v. Arlo Techs., Inc.*, 2021 WL 1531171, at *9 (N.D. Cal. Apr. 19, 2021)
26 (approving final settlement representing 2.35% of total estimated damages); *M & M Hart*
27 *Living Tr. v. Glob. Eagle Ent., Inc.*, 2018 WL 11471777, at *6 (C.D. Cal. Nov. 2, 2018)
28 (approving preliminary settlement representing 2.4% of estimated total damages); *In re*

1 *Crocs, Inc. Sec. Litig.*, 306 F.R.D. 672, 691 n.20 (D. Colo. 2014) (approving final settlement
2 representing “approximately 1.3% of the amount of damages that could be achieved”). The
3 immediacy and certainty of a \$46 million recovery is of significant benefit to the Class.

4 **2. The Extent of Discovery Completed and Stage of** 5 **Proceedings Support Final Approval**

6 The stage of proceedings and the amount of information available to the parties to
7 assess the strengths and weaknesses of their case is another factor that courts consider in
8 determining the fairness, reasonableness, and adequacy of a settlement. *See In re Mego Fin.*
9 *Corp. Sec. Litig.*, 213 F.3d 454, 459 (9th Cir. 2000). “[I]n the context of class action
10 settlements, formal discovery is not a necessary ticket to the bargaining table where the
11 parties have sufficient information to make an informed decision about settlement.” *In re*
12 *Splunk Inc. Sec. Litig.*, 2024 WL 923777, at *7 (N.D. Cal. Mar. 4, 2024).

13 By the time the parties reached the Settlement, Lead Counsel had a thorough
14 understanding of the merits of the claims alleged in the Litigation and the defenses
15 Defendants would assert. The parties have been actively litigating this matter for more than
16 a year, during which time Lead Counsel engaged in extensive investigation, research, and
17 analysis of the claims – including, *inter alia*, engaging with economic and industry experts,
18 propounding and responding to discovery requests, and reviewing internal financial data,
19 SEC filings, company press releases, analyst reports, and reports in independent news media.
20 In addition, each party’s litigation positions were thoroughly vetted during the mediation
21 process with Mr. Lindstrom. In sum, the knowledge and insight gained by Plaintiff and Lead
22 Counsel following extensive investigation, substantial motion practice, hard-fought
23 settlement negotiations, and the review of internal Company data confirm the reasonableness
24 of the Settlement. *See Destefano v. Zynga, Inc.*, 2016 WL 537946, at *12 (N.D. Cal.
25 Feb. 11, 2016). Accordingly, this factor weighs in favor of final approval of the Settlement.

26 **3. The Experience and Views of Counsel Support Final Approval**

27 The Ninth Circuit recognizes that parties “represented by competent counsel are
28 better positioned than courts to produce a settlement that fairly reflects each party’s expected

outcome in litigation.” *Rodriguez*, 563 F.3d at 967. Thus, “[g]reat weight’ is accorded to the recommendation of counsel, who are most closely acquainted with the facts of the underlying litigation.” *DIRECTV*, 221 F.R.D. at 528.

Lead Counsel has extensive experience representing plaintiffs in securities and other complex class action litigation, and has negotiated numerous substantial class action settlements across the country. Janoski Decl., ¶¶44, 56. As a result of this experience, Lead Counsel possessed a firm understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of the claims by the time the Settlement was reached, and concluded that the Settlement is an outstanding result for the Class. “There is nothing to counter the presumption that Lead Counsel’s recommendation is reasonable.” *In re Omnivision Techs., Inc.*, 559 F. Supp. 2d 1036, 1043 (N.D. Cal. 2008); *In re Wash. Pub. Power Supply Sys. Sec. Litig.*, 720 F. Supp. 1379, 1392 (D. Ariz. 1989) (“Counsels’ opinions warrant great weight both because of their considerable familiarity with this litigation and because of their extensive experience in similar actions.”), *aff’d*, *Class Plaintiffs*, 955 F.2d 1268 (9th Cir. 1992).

4. The Reaction of the Class Supports Final Approval

The reaction of the class to the settlement is a significant factor in assessing its fairness and adequacy. To date, over 199,100 Notices and Postcard Notices have been mailed or emailed to potential Class Members and nominees. *See Segura Decl.*, ¶9. Pursuant to the Preliminary Approval Order and as set forth in the Postcard Notice and Notice, potential Class Members have until June 10, 2025 to request exclusion from the Class or to object to the Settlement, Plan of Allocation, Lead Counsel’s request for an award of attorneys’ fees and litigation expenses, and Plaintiffs’ request for an award pursuant to 15 U.S.C. §78u-4(a)(4). Since the mailing of the Postcard Notice and publication of the Summary Notice, there have been zero objections and only one request for exclusion from the Class to date. *See Janoski Decl.*, ¶12; *Segura Decl.*, ¶13. Accordingly, Plaintiff respectfully submits that this factor weighs heavily in favor of the fairness and reasonableness of the Settlement, and of final approval. *See Apollo*, 2012 WL 1378677, at *3 (“[T]he absence of a large number of objections to a proposed class action settlement

1 raises a strong presumption that the terms of a proposed class settlement action are favorable
2 to the class members.”).

3 **IV. CLASS CERTIFICATION REMAINS APPROPRIATE**

4 “Final approval of a class action settlement requires, as a threshold matter, an
5 assessment of whether the class satisfies the requirements of Federal Rule of Civil Procedure
6 23(a) and (b).” *Garrett v. Advantage Plus Credit Reporting Inc.*, 2024 WL 1603442, at *2
7 (D. Ariz. Apr. 12, 2024) (citing *Hanlon*, 150 F.3d at 1019-22).

8 The Court previously found that all the requirements of Rules 23(a) and 23(b)(3) were
9 satisfied when it preliminarily certified the Class in its Preliminary Approval Order. *See*
10 ECF 75, ¶¶2-4. There have been no changes or developments with respect to any of the class
11 certification factors since the Court preliminarily certified the Class on March 18, 2025.
12 Thus, the Court should reaffirm its holding in the Preliminary Approval Order and certify the
13 Class for purposes of the Settlement pursuant to Rules 23(a) and 23(b)(3), appoint Plaintiff
14 as Class Representative, and appoint Lead Counsel as Class Counsel pursuant to Rule 23(g).
15 *See Garrett*, 2024 WL 1603442, at *2 (“Because no facts that would affect these
16 requirements have changed since the Court preliminarily approved the class . . . this Order
17 incorporates by reference its prior analysis under Rules 23(a) and (b) as set forth in the
18 Preliminary Approval Order. . . . [and] class certification is granted.”); *Zwicky v. Diamond*
19 *Resorts Inc.*, 2024 WL 1717553, at *4 (D. Ariz. Apr. 22, 2024) (same).

20 **V. THE PLAN OF ALLOCATION WARRANTS FINAL APPROVAL**

21 The Plan of Allocation is considered separately from the fairness of the Settlement but
22 is governed by the same legal standards: the plan must be fair and reasonable. *See Class*
23 *Plaintiffs*, 955 F.2d at 1284; *see also Vataj v. Johnson*, 2021 WL 1550478, at *10 (N.D. Cal.
24 Apr. 20, 2021) (“[C]ourts recognize that an allocation formula need only have a reasonable,
25 rational basis, particularly if recommended by experienced and competent counsel.”).

26 Here, the Plan provides for an equitable distribution of the Net Settlement Fund
27 among Class Members who have a recognizable loss on their transactions in Sea ADSs
28 purchased or otherwise acquired during the Class Period. Janoski Decl., ¶53. The formula

1 to apportion the Net Settlement Fund is based on when Class Members purchased, acquired,
 2 and/or sold their shares of Sea ADSs, and accounts for the statutory 90-day look-back period
 3 imposed by the PSLRA. *Id.*; *see also* Segura Decl., Ex. B (Notice at 13-14); *NuVasive*, 2018
 4 WL 6421623, at *4 (“A plan of allocation that reimburses class members based on the
 5 extent of their injuries is generally reasonable.”).

6 Under the Plan, the Court-appointed Claims Administrator will calculate each
 7 Authorized Claimant’s “Recognized Claim,” based on the information supplied in the Proof
 8 of Claim. Segura Decl., Ex. B (Notice at 13-18). The Net Settlement Fund will then be
 9 allocated on a *pro rata* basis to Authorized Claimants with a recognizable loss of more than
 10 \$10 based on each Authorized Claimant’s Recognized Claim. *In re Regulus Therapeutics*
 11 *Sec. Litig.*, 2020 WL 6381898, at *5 (S.D. Cal. Oct. 30, 2020) (“A plan [of allocation] ‘fairly
 12 treats class members by awarding a *pro rata* share to every Authorized Claimant, [even as it]
 13 sensibly makes interclass distinctions based upon, *inter alia*, the relative strengths and
 14 weaknesses of class members’ individual claims and the timing of purchases of the securities
 15 at issue.”) (second alteration in original).

16 This Plan was prepared after careful consideration and with the assistance of a
 17 damages expert and the Claims Administrator. Janoski Decl., ¶53. The Plan was also fully
 18 disclosed in the Notice made available to potential Class Members and nominees. Segura
 19 Decl., Ex. B (Notice at 13-18). To date, there have been zero objections to the Plan. As a
 20 result, the Plan of Allocation is fair and reasonable and should be approved.

21 **VI. NOTICE TO THE CLASS SATISFIED DUE PROCESS**

22 Rule 23 requires the Court to “direct notice in a reasonable manner to all class
 23 members who would be bound by the proposal,” and to “direct to class members the best
 24 notice that is practicable under the circumstances, including individual notice to all members
 25 who can be identified through reasonable effort.” Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(e)(1)(B); Fed. R. Civ.
 26 P. 23(c)(2)(B). The notice must describe ““the terms of the settlement in sufficient detail to
 27 alert those with adverse viewpoints to investigate and to come forward and be heard.””
 28 *Rodriguez*, 563 F.3d at 962. The PSLRA further requires that the settlement notice include a

statement explaining a plaintiff's recovery "to allow class members to evaluate a proposed settlement." *In re Veritas Software Corp. Sec. Litig.*, 496 F.3d 962, 969 (9th Cir. 2007); 15 U.S.C. §78u-4(a)(7)(A).

Notice was issued to the Class here in accordance with the Court-approved process. ECF 75, ¶¶7-11. Over 199,100 copies of the Court-approved Notice and Postcard Notice have been mailed or emailed to potential Class Members and their nominees who could be identified with reasonable effort. *See Segura Decl.*, ¶9. The Claims Administrator also provided all information regarding the Settlement online through the Settlement website, and published the Court-approved Summary Notice in *The Wall Street Journal* and over *PR Newswire*. *Id.*, ¶10. The Notice provides the necessary information for Class Members to make an informed decision regarding the proposed Settlement, and further explains how the Net Settlement Fund will be distributed to eligible Class Members who submit valid and timely Proofs of Claim. "Under the circumstances, the Parties' notice plan constituted the best notice practicable, adequately informed the Class Members regarding the terms of the proposed settlement, including their rights to exclude themselves or opt-out and by when, and fully satisfied the requirements of Rule 23, the requirements of due process, and any other applicable law." *See Apollo*, 2012 WL 1378677, at *3.

VII. CONCLUSION

For each of the reasons set forth herein and in the Janoski Declaration, Plaintiff respectfully submits that the Settlement and Plan of Allocation are fair, reasonable, and adequate, and respectfully requests that the Court: (i) grant final approval of the Settlement; (ii) certify the Class; and (iii) approve the Plan of Allocation as a fair and reasonable method for distributing the Net Settlement Fund to the Class.

DATED: May 27, 2025

Respectfully submitted,

ROBBINS GELLER RUDMAN
& DOWD LLP

s/ Marco Janoski

J. MARCO JANOSKI GRAY

1 THEODORE J. PINTAR
2 TOR GRONBORG
3 T. ALEX B. FOLKERTH
4 JESSICA E. ROBERTSON
5 EVELYN SANCHEZ GONZALEZ
6 655 West Broadway, Suite 1900
7 San Diego, CA 92101
8 Telephone: 619/231-1058
9 619/231-7423 (fax)
10 tedp@rgrdlaw.com
11 torg@rgrdlaw.com
12 mjanoski@rgrdlaw.com
13 afolkerth@rgrdlaw.com
14 jrobertson@rgrdlaw.com
15 egonzalez@rgrdlaw.com

16 Lead Counsel for Lead Plaintiff

17 ZIMMERMAN REED, LLP
18 HART L. ROBINOVITCH
19 14648 N. Scottsdale Road, Suite 130
20 Scottsdale, AZ 85254
21 Telephone: 480/348-6400
22 480/348-6415 (fax)
23 hart.robinovitch@zimmreed.com

24 Local Counsel for Lead Plaintiff
25
26
27
28

Motions

[2:23-cv-01455-DLR Laborers
District Council Construction
Industry Pension Fund v. Sea
Limited et al](#)

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U.S. District Court DISTRICT OF ARIZONA

Notice of Electronic Filing

The following transaction was entered by Janoski, Marco on 5/27/2025 at 2:05 PM MST and filed on 5/27/2025

Case Name: Laborers District Council Construction Industry Pension Fund v. Sea Limited et al

Case Number: [2:23-cv-01455-DLR](#)

Filer: Laborers District Council Construction Industry Pension Fund

Document Number: [77](#)

Docket Text:

[MOTION for Final Approval of Class Action Settlement and Approval of Plan of Allocation and Memorandum of Law in Support Thereof by Laborers District Council Construction Industry Pension Fund. \(Janoski, Marco\)](#)

2:23-cv-01455-DLR Notice has been electronically mailed to:

Adam S Hakki adam.hakki@aoshearman.com, CourtAlert@Shearman.com, manattyoffice@shearman.com

Daniel Craig Lewis daniel.lewis@aoshearman.com, manattyoffice@shearman.com

Danielle S Myers danim@rgrdlaw.com, e_file_sd@rgrdlaw.com

Evelyn Sanchez Gonzalez egonzalez@rgrdlaw.com

Gary A Gotto ggotto@kellerrohrback.com, bnelson@kellerrohrback.com, kkendrick@kellerrohrback.com

Hart Lawrence Robinovitch hart.robinovitch@zimmreed.com, josephine.lu@zimmreed.com,
leslie.harms@zimmreed.com

J Alexander Hood , II ahood@pomlaw.com, abarbosa@pomlaw.com

Jennifer Lynn Kroll jkroll@martinbonnett.com, lfrie@martinbonnett.com

Jeremy A Lieberman jalieberman@pomlaw.com, disaacson@pomlaw.com, tsayre@pomlaw.com

Jessica E Robertson jrobertson@rgrdlaw.com

John Christopher Gray john.gray@wbd-us.com, ecf-filing@lewisroca.com

Joshua Ebersole joshua.ebersole@aoshearman.com, courtalert@shearman.com, manattyoffice@shearman.com

Juan Carlos Sanchez jsanchez@rgrdlaw.com

Marco Janoski mjanoski@rgrdlaw.com, pmitchell@rgrdlaw.com, tdevries@rgrdlaw.com

Michael Albert malbert@rgrdlaw.com

Michael Martin Licata mlicata@martinbonnett.com, kpasley@martinbonnett.com

Nikolai Krylov nik.krylov@aoshearman.com

Peretz Bronstein peretz@bgandg.com

Shawn A Williams ShawnW@rgrdlaw.com, e_file_sd@rgrdlaw.com

Theodore J Pinter tedp@rgrdlaw.com

Timothy AB Folkerth afolkerth@rgrdlaw.com, pmitchell@rgrdlaw.com

Tor Gronborg Torg@rgrdlaw.com, e_file_sd@rgrdlaw.com

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