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5 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
6 FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
7 AT SEATTLE

8 BRUCE CORKER, *et al.*, on behalf of
9 themselves and others similarly situated,

10 Plaintiff,

11 v.

12 COSTCO WHOLESALE CORP., *et al.*,

13 Defendants.

Case No. 2:19-CV-00290-RSL

FINAL JUDGMENT AND
ORDER OF DISMISSAL

14 THIS MATTER comes before the Court upon the unopposed “Motion for Final Approval
15 of the Class Settlement” filed by Plaintiffs. Dkt. 659. The Court, being fully advised of the
16 premises of the Motion, FINDS:

17 1. Plaintiff commenced this action by filing their Complaint on February 27, 2019,
18 and ultimately filed a Third Amended Complaint on April 30, 2020 (Dkt. 381) (“Complaint”).
19 Plaintiffs alleged that the defendants violated the Lanham Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1125, by
20 misleadingly labeling and selling coffee not from the Kona region as “Kona” coffee. On
21 November 12, 2019, this Court denied motions to dismiss Plaintiffs’ original complaint (Dkt.
22 155), and discovery began.
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24 2. Plaintiffs have negotiated class action settlements with three defendants: The
25 Kroger Co. (“Kroger”), one with Safeway Inc. and Albertsons Companies Inc.
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1 (“Safeway/Albertsons”), and one with Hawaiian Isles Coffee Co. Ltd. (“HIKC”) (“Settling
2 Defendants”) (collectively, “Settling Defendants”). The Settlement Agreements were attached as
3 Exhibits 1-3 to the declaration of counsel accompanying the Motion for Preliminary Approval of
4 Class Action Settlements, filed on February 11, 2022 (Dkt. 603).

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6 3. Through the Settlement Agreements, Settling Defendants will fully and
7 completely satisfy the claims of Class Members relating to the claims alleged by Plaintiffs in the
8 Third Amended Complaint by paying Class Members a total payment of \$2,150,000 (\$1.35
9 million from Kroger and \$800,000 from HIKC), and provide injunctive relief relating to the
10 labeling of the Kona coffee products at issue. Attorneys’ fees and costs of Class Counsel and
11 administrative costs will be paid from the Settlement Fund. By entering into the Settlement
12 Agreements, the Settling Defendants made no admissions relating to the claims raised in this
13 lawsuit, nor did Plaintiffs make admissions relating to the Settling Defendants’ Defenses.

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15 4. The Settlement Class, as defined in each of the Settlement Agreements, includes
16 the following: All persons and entities who, between February 27, 2015, and the date of Court’s
17 order granting preliminary approval to the settlement, farmed Kona coffee in the Kona District
18 and then sold their Kona coffee. Excluded from the Settlement Class are any defendants to the
19 action, as well as any judge assigned to the action, and the judge’s immediate family and staff.

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21 5. The Settlement Agreements describe the claims that are being settled on behalf of
22 the Class (defined as the “Settled Claims”). The Settlement Agreements and their terms,
23 including the definitions, are incorporated into this Final Judgment And Order of Dismissal (the
24 “Final Judgment”) as if fully set forth herein. The Settlement Agreements and Final Judgment
25 shall be referred to collectively herein as the “Settlements.”
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1 6. This Court entered an Order dated February 14, 2022, directing that notice of the
2 proposed Settlements be effectuated as to the Settlement Class (Dkt. 604) (“Preliminary
3 Approval Order”). The Preliminary Approval Order set a hearing for June 3, 2022 to determine
4 whether the proposed Settlements should be approved as fair, reasonable and adequate.
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6 7. In accordance with the Court’s Preliminary Approval Order, the Settlement
7 Administrator caused to be mailed and emailed to potential members of the Settlement Class for
8 whom addresses could be located, a notice (the “Settlement Notice”) in the form approved by the
9 Court in the Preliminary Approval Orders. Also in accordance with the Court’s Preliminary
10 Approval Orders, the Settlement Administrator also caused the publication notice to be placed in
11 the *West Hawaii Today*. The Court finds that the Settlement Notice, along with the publication
12 notice, provided to potential members of the Settlement Class constituted the best and most
13 practicable notice under the circumstances, thereby complying fully with due process and Rule
14 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. The Court did not receive any objections to the
15 Settlement from class members.
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17 8. The Settling Defendants caused to be mailed to the appropriate federal and state
18 officials the materials required to be submitted by the Class Action Fairness Act, 28 U.S.C.
19 § 1711, *et seq.* (“CAFA”). The Court finds that CAFA’s notice requirements have been
20 satisfied.
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22 9. On June 3, 2022, the Court held a hearing on the proposed Settlements, at which
23 time all interested persons were given an opportunity to be heard. Furthermore, the Court has
24 read and considered all submissions in connection with the Settlements. As explained below, the
25 Court grants the motion for final approval of the Settlements.
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1 **Class Certification**

2 10. The first question before the Court is whether to certify the Settlement Class. *See*
3 Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(a) & (b). Class certification is proper if Plaintiffs demonstrate: (1) The
4 Settlement Class is so numerous that joinder of all members in a single proceeding would be
5 impracticable; (2) Resolution of the claims will involve common questions of law and fact; (3)
6 The named Plaintiffs’ claims are typical of those of the Settlement Class Members; (4) The
7 named Plaintiffs and Settlement Class Counsel have fairly and adequately represented the
8 interests of the Settlement Class and will continue to do so; (5) Questions of law and fact
9 common to the Settlement Class predominate over the questions affecting only individual
10 Settlement Class Members, and (6) certification of the Settlement Class is superior to other
11 available methods to the fair and efficient adjudication of this controversy. *Id.*
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13 11. In its Preliminary Approval Order, the Court concluded that Plaintiffs showed that
14 they were likely to satisfy these requirements. *See* Dkt. 604. The Court now finds no reason to
15 disturb those conclusions. As such, the Court certifies the proposed Class.
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17 **Settlement Approval**

18 12. The Court must also determine whether the Settlements are “fair, reasonable, and
19 adequate.” Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(e)(2). The Court’s Preliminary Approval Order applied these
20 standards and concluded that the Settlement appeared to be “fair, reasonable, and adequate.”
21 Dkt. 604 ¶ 4. Plaintiffs explained, and the Court determined, that approval of the Settlements
22 will bestow a substantial economic benefit on the Settlement Class, result in substantial savings
23 in time and money to the litigants and the Court and will further the interests of justice, and that
24 the Settlements are the product of good-faith arm’s length negotiations between the Settling
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1 Parties. The record is even more supportive of approval now that no Settlement Class Member
2 has objected to the Settlements. The Court thus finds the Settlements to be fair, reasonable, and
3 adequate. *See* Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(e).

4 13. The Settlement Agreements, including all of the terms defined therein including
5 but not limited to the definitions of “Settled Claims,” are incorporated herein. Any terms used in
6 this Final Judgment are governed by their definitions in the Settlement Agreements. The Court
7 has jurisdiction over the subject matter of this litigation and all parties to this litigation, including
8 all members of the Settlement Class.

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10 14. The certified Settlement Class is defined for purposes of the Settlement
11 Agreements and this Final Judgment as set forth in Paragraph 4 above.

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13 15. Therefore, the Settlements are approved in all respects, and shall be binding upon,
14 and inure to the benefit of, all members of the Settlement Class.

15 16. All Settled Claims are hereby dismissed with prejudice.

16 17. This Final Judgment may not be used as an admission by or against Settling
17 Defendants of any fact, claim, assertion, matter, contention, fault, culpability, obligation,
18 wrongdoing or liability whatsoever.


19 18. The Court has, by separate order, granted Class Counsel’s “Motion for Attorneys’
20 Fees and Reimbursement of Litigation Expenses.” The amount of Attorneys’ Fees and Litigation
21 Expenses awarded to Class Counsel shall be distributed to Class Counsel by the Settlement
22 Administrator from the Settlement Funds.

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24 19. The Court reserves jurisdiction over this matter, the Settling Parties, and all
25 counsel herein, without affecting the finality of this Final Judgment, including over (a) the
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1 implementation, administration, and enforcement of this Settlement and any award or
2 distribution from the Settlement Funds; (b) disposition of the Settlement Funds; and (c) other
3 matters related or ancillary to the foregoing.

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5 20. Pursuant to Rule 54(b) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, the Court finds
6 that there is no reason for delay in the entry of this Final Order and Judgment as a final order and
7 final judgment, and the Court further expressly directs the Clerk of the Court to file this Final
8 Order and Judgment as a final order and final judgment.

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10 Dated this 3rd day of June, 2022.

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13 Robert S. Lasnik
14 United States District Judge
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