1	Michael H. Kim (SBN 200792)		
2	Jamielee F. Martinez (SBN 303792) Adam K. Tanouye (SBN 304711)		
3	MICHAEL H. KIM, P.C.		
4	475 El Camino Real, Suite 309 Millbrae, CA 94030		
5	Telephone: (650) 697-8899 Fax: (650) 697-8896		
6	Attorneys for Plaintiff		
7	MARIS TERESA LOPEZ		
8			
9	KAUFMAN DOLOWICH & VOLUCK, LLP KATHERINE S. CATLOS (SBN 184227)		
10	BRANDON KAHOUSH (SBN 311560) 425 California Street, Suite 2100		
11	San Francisco, CA 94104		
12	Telephone: (415) 926-7600 Facsimile: (415) 926-7601		
13	Attorneys for Defendant		
14	HERSHA HOSPITALITY MANAGEMENT, L.	P.	
15	SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA		
	FOR THE COUNTY OF CONTRA COSTA		
16	FOR THE COUNTY O	OF CONTRA COSTA	
16 17			
	FOR THE COUNTY OF MARIA TERESA LOPEZ, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated,	) Case No. C17-00929	
17	MARIA TERESA LOPEZ, individually and	) Case No. C17-00929 ) AMENDED STIPULATION FOR CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT	
17 18	MARIA TERESA LOPEZ, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated,	) Case No. C17-00929 ) AMENDED STIPULATION FOR	
17 18 19	MARIA TERESA LOPEZ, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated,  Plaintiff,  vs.  HERSHA HOSPITALITY	) Case No. C17-00929 ) AMENDED STIPULATION FOR CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT	
17 18 19 20	MARIA TERESA LOPEZ, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated,  Plaintiff,  vs.	) Case No. C17-00929 ) AMENDED STIPULATION FOR CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT	
17 18 19 20 21	MARIA TERESA LOPEZ, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated,  Plaintiff,  vs.  HERSHA HOSPITALITY MANAGEMENT, L.P.; and DOES 1	) Case No. C17-00929 ) AMENDED STIPULATION FOR CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT	
17 18 19 20 21 22	MARIA TERESA LOPEZ, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated,  Plaintiff,  vs.  HERSHA HOSPITALITY  MANAGEMENT, L.P.; and DOES 1 through 20, inclusive,	) Case No. C17-00929 ) AMENDED STIPULATION FOR CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT	
17 18 19 20 21 22 23	MARIA TERESA LOPEZ, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated,  Plaintiff,  vs.  HERSHA HOSPITALITY MANAGEMENT, L.P.; and DOES 1 through 20, inclusive,  Defendants.	) Case No. C17-00929 ) AMENDED STIPULATION FOR CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT	
17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24	MARIA TERESA LOPEZ, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated,  Plaintiff,  vs.  HERSHA HOSPITALITY MANAGEMENT, L.P.; and DOES 1 through 20, inclusive,  Defendants.	) Case No. C17-00929 ) AMENDED STIPULATION FOR ) CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT AND RELEASE ) ) ) ) ) mong Plaintiff Maria Teresa Lopez ("Plaintiff"),	
17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25	MARIA TERESA LOPEZ, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated,  Plaintiff,  vs.  HERSHA HOSPITALITY  MANAGEMENT, L.P.; and DOES 1 through 20, inclusive,  Defendants .  IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED, by and a	Case No. C17-00929  AMENDED STIPULATION FOR CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT AND RELEASE   mong Plaintiff Maria Teresa Lopez ("Plaintiff"), the one hand, and Defendant Hersha Hospitality	
17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26	MARIA TERESA LOPEZ, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated,  Plaintiff,  vs.  HERSHA HOSPITALITY MANAGEMENT, L.P.; and DOES 1 through 20, inclusive,  Defendants.  IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED, by and a on behalf of herself and the Class Members, on the company of the company	Case No. C17-00929  AMENDED STIPULATION FOR CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT AND RELEASE   mong Plaintiff Maria Teresa Lopez ("Plaintiff"), the one hand, and Defendant Hersha Hospitality the other hand, that the above-captioned class	

STIPULATION FOR CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT AND RELEASE

the terms and conditions set forth herein subject to the Court's approval (the "Stipulation" or "Agreement").

#### 1. **DEFINITIONS**

Unless otherwise defined herein, capitalized terms used in this Agreement shall have the meanings set forth below:

- 1.1 "Action" means *Maria Teresa Lopez v. Hersha Hospitality Management, L.P.*, which is currently pending before Department 39, in the Superior Court of California for the County of Contra Costa, Case No. C17-00929.
- 1.2 "Agreement," "Settlement," or "Stipulation" means this Stipulation for Class Action Settlement and Release.
- 1.3 "Class Counsel" and "Plaintiff's Counsel" mean and refer to collectively, Michael H. Kim, Jamielee F. Martinez, and Adam K. Tanouye of the law firm of Michael H. Kim, P.C.
- 1.4 "Class Counsel Fees" means the amount authorized by the Court to be paid to Class Counsel for the services they have rendered in prosecuting this Action. Class Counsel Fees shall be paid from the Gross Settlement Fund. Any portion of the requested Class Counsel Fees that is not awarded to Class Counsel shall be part of the Net Settlement Fund and be distributed to Class Members as provided in this Agreement.
- 1.5 "Class Counsel Costs" means the amount authorized by the Court to be paid to Class Counsel for actual expenses and costs incurred by Class Counsel in prosecuting this Action. Class Counsel Costs shall be paid from the Gross Settlement Fund. Any portion of the requested Class Counsel Costs that is not awarded to Class Counsel shall be part of the Net Settlement Fund and be distributed to Class Members as provided in this Agreement.
- 1.6 "Class Information" or "Class List" means information regarding Class Members, which Defendant in good faith will compile from its records and provide to the Settlement Administrator. Class Information shall be provided as a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet and shall include: each Class Member's full name; last known mailing address; last known home telephone number; Social Security Number; start date of employment; end date of employment; and Compensable Workweeks. The Class Information shall also include the sum of all

L.P.

24

25

26

27

28

but not limited to any and all statutes referenced in the Complaint and corresponding provisions

of the California Industrial Welfare Commission Wage Orders and California Code of

Regulations, including but not limited to claims for Defendant's: (i) alleged failed to pay all

overtime wages (Cal. Lab. Code §§ 510 and 1194); (ii) alleged failure to provide meal periods

Lab. Code § 226.7; (iv) alleged failure to furnish complete and accurate wage statements (Cal.

(Cal. Lab. Code §§ 226.7 and 512); (iii) alleged failure to authorize and permit rest periods (Cal.

- 1.31 "Request for Exclusion" means the Request for Exclusion from Class Action Settlement form (substantially in the form attached hereto as Exhibit B).
- 1.32 "Response Deadline" means the date sixty (60) days after the Settlement Administrator mails the Notice Packets to Settlement Class Members.

27

28

- 1.33 "Settlement" means the disposition of the Action pursuant to this Agreement.
- 1.34 "Settlement Administration Costs" means the amount to be paid to the Settlement Administrator from the Gross Settlement Fund for the administration of the Settlement. The Settlement Administrator estimates costs not to exceed Ten Thousand U.S. Dollars (\$10,000).
- 1.35 "Settlement Administrator" means CPT Group, Inc. or such other settlement administrator that the Court appoints.
- 1.36 "Settlement Class Members" or "Settlement Class" means all Class Members who do not opt out of the Settlement by timely submitting a Request for Exclusion.
- 1.37 "Settlement Fund Account" means the qualified settlement fund interest bearing bank account established pursuant to the terms of this Stipulation from which all monies payable under the terms of this Settlement shall be paid, as set forth herein.

#### 2. <u>RECITALS</u>

- 2.1 <u>Class Certification</u>. The Parties stipulate and agree to the certification of this Action for purposes of this Settlement only. Should the Settlement not become final and effective as herein provided, class certification shall immediately be set aside (subject to further proceedings on motion of any party to certify or deny certification thereafter). The Parties' willingness to stipulate to class certification as part of the Settlement shall have no bearing on, and shall not be admissible in or considered in connection with, the issue of whether a class should be certified in a non-settlement context in this Action and shall have no bearing on, and shall not be admissible or considered in connection with, the issue of whether a class should be certified in any other lawsuit. Defendant expressly reserves all rights to oppose class certification should this Settlement not become final and effective.
- 2.2 <u>Procedural History.</u> On May 15, 2017, Plaintiff Maria Teresa Lopez filed the instant Action in the Superior Court for the County of Contra Costa. The Complaint alleged, *inter alia*, that Defendant violated various provisions of the California Labor Code by, among other things, failing to pay all overtime hours worked, failing to provide all meal and rest periods, failing to furnish complete and accurate wage statements and to maintain proper records, failing to timely pay wages upon termination or resignation, and unfair business practices. On

10

11

12

13

14

15

16 17

18

19

20 21

22

23 24

25

27

26

28

August 23, 2017, Defendant filed its Answer to the complaint in the instant Action. In the Answer, Defendant denied all claims and liability.

- 2.3 The Parties immediately commenced an investigation of the claims and defenses alleged in the case. Plaintiff served initial sets of written discovery, specifically special interrogatories, form interrogatories, and requests for production of documents, on Defendant, to which Defendant responded and provided responsive documents. Defendant served initial sets of written discovery, specifically special interrogatories, form interrogatories, and requests for production of documents, on Plaintiff Lopez, to which Plaintiff responded. Thereafter, the Parties met and conferred over discovery issues and worked through certain issues, including the scope of permissible pre-certification discovery, the definition of the class, the employees who are members of the putative class, and motions to compel further responses and documents. On May 30, 2018, Defendant took the deposition of Plaintiff Lopez.
- 2.4 As a result of this meet and confer process, Defendant produced the names, payroll records, and time records of all employees in the housekeeping department, including House Attendants, Housekeeping Inspectors, Laundry Attendants, and Room Attendants, as opposed to just limiting the disclosure to housekeepers. Defendant also produced the Meal Periods and Rest Break Policy, timekeeping policy, the Employee Handbook, written job descriptions for the employees in the housekeeping department, housekeeping schedules, Maria Lopez's personnel file and payroll records, and Defendant's payroll and time record audits.
- 2.5 On June 12, 2018, the Parties participated in a full day mediation with experienced and respected mediator, Mr. Art Siegel. The mediation encompassed all employees working in the housekeeping department at the Hyatt House located at 2611 Contra Costa Blvd., Pleasant Hill, California 94523. At the conclusion of the mediation, Mr. Siegel made a mediator's proposal, which was accepted by the Parties. The Settlement is now before this Court.
- 2.6 State Court Jurisdiction. The Parties agree that the Superior Court of California for the County of Contra Costa has jurisdiction over the Action, and also that venue is proper in that Court. The Court has jurisdiction over the Parties and the subject matter of this Action and

9

10 11

12

13 14

15

16

17

18

19 20

21

22 23

24

25 26

27

28

following final approval of the Settlement will continue to retain jurisdiction over the Parties and the Action under California Code of Civil Procedure Section 664.6.

- 2.7 Benefits of Settlement to Settlement Class Members. Plaintiff and Class Counsel recognize the expense and length of continued proceedings necessary to litigate their disputes through trial and through any possible appeals. Plaintiff has also taken into account the uncertainty and risk of the outcome of further litigation, and the difficulties and delays inherent in such litigation. Plaintiff and Class Counsel are also aware of the burdens of proof necessary to establish liability for the claims asserted in the Action, both generally and in response to Defendant's defenses thereto, and potential difficulties in establishing damages for the Settlement Class Members. Plaintiff and Class Counsel have also taken into account Defendant's agreement to enter into a settlement that confers relief upon Settlement Class Members. Based on the foregoing, Plaintiff and Class Counsel have determined that the Settlement set forth in this Agreement is a fair, adequate and reasonable settlement, and is in the best interests of the Settlement Class Members.
- 2.8 Defendant's Reasons for Settlement. Defendant has concluded that any further defense of this litigation would be protracted and expensive for all Parties. Substantial amounts of time, energy and resources of Defendant have been devoted and, unless this Settlement is made, will continue to be devoted to the defense of the claims asserted by Plaintiff and Class Members. Defendant has also taken into account the risks of further litigation in reaching its decision to enter into this Settlement. Despite continuing to contend it is not liable for any of the claims set forth by Plaintiff in the Action, Defendant has, nonetheless, agreed to settle in the manner and upon the terms set forth in this Agreement to put to rest the claims as set forth in the Action.
- 2.9 <u>Class Members' Claims</u>. Class Members, by and through Plaintiff, have claimed and continue to claim that the Released Claims have merit and give rise to liability on the part of Defendant. This Agreement is a compromise of disputed claims. Nothing contained in this Agreement and no documents referred to herein and no action taken to carry out this Agreement may be construed or used as an admission by or against the Class Members or Class Counsel as

to the merits or lack thereof of the claims asserted.

3

2

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

## 3. <u>TERMS OF AGREEMENT</u>

The Parties agree as follows:

of any fault, wrongdoing or liability whatsoever.

3.1 <u>Maximum Amount Payable by Defendant</u>. Under the terms of this Settlement, the maximum amount payable by Defendant shall be the Gross Settlement Fund of One Hundred Fifty Thousand U.S. Dollars (\$150,000), which includes Class Counsel's attorneys' fees and costs, litigation costs, Settlement Administration Costs, all settlement payments to Class Members, and the Class Representative Service Award, and Employer payroll taxes due on wage payments from the Maximum Amount Payable.

<u>Defendant's Defenses</u>. Defendant denied and continues to deny each of the

claims and contentions alleged by Class Members in the Action. Defendant asserted, and

continues to assert defenses thereto, and expressly denied and continues to deny any wrongdoing

or legal liability arising out of any of the facts or conduct alleged in the Action. Defendant also

denied and continues to deny, inter alia, the allegations that the Class Members have suffered

Defendant violated any laws regarding meal periods, rest breaks and/or reporting time pay; that

Defendant failed to timely pay Class Members all wages owed upon termination/resignation or

otherwise when due; that Defendant failed to comply with the law with respect to itemized wage

statements; that Defendant engaged in any unlawful, unfair or fraudulent business practices; that

Defendant engaged in any wrongful conduct as alleged in the Action; or that Class Members

were harmed by the conduct alleged in the Action. Neither this Agreement, nor any document

referred to or contemplated herein, nor any action taken to carry out this Agreement, is, may be

construed as, or may be used as an admission, concession or indication by or against Defendant

damage; that Defendant in any way failed to pay Class Members for all hours worked; that

- 3.2 <u>Class Size</u>. Defendant represented that, as of the date of this Stipulation, there are approximately 57 Class Members.
- 3.3 <u>Release as To All Class Members</u>. As of the Effective Date, the Settlement Class Members, including Plaintiff, release the Released Parties from the Released Claims for the

Class Period and agree not to sue or otherwise make a claim against any of the Release Parties for the Released Claims. The Plaintiff and Settlement Class Members may hereafter discover facts in addition to or different from those they now know or believe to be true with respect to the subject matter of the Released Claims, but upon the Effective Date, shall be deemed to have, and by operation of the Final Judgment shall have, fully, finally, and forever settled and released any and all of the Released Claims.

3.4 <u>General Release of All Claims by Named Plaintiff</u>. In addition to the releases made by Settlement Class Members, Plaintiff Lopez, in exchange for the terms and conditions of this Agreement, including the Class Representative Service Award, as requested or as otherwise authorized by the Court, shall, as of the Effective Date, fully and forever releases the Released Parties from any and all Released Claims set forth in paragraph 1.29 of this Agreement, individual claims as well as collective, representative, and class claims of any kind arising from his employment with Defendant ("Plaintiff's Released Claims"). With respect to Plaintiff's Released Claims, Plaintiff shall be deemed to have, and by operation of the Final Judgment shall have, expressly waived and relinquished, to the fullest extent permitted by law, the provisions, rights and benefits of Section 1542 of the California Civil Code, or any other similar provision under federal or state law, which Section provides:

A general release does not extend to claims which the creditor does not know or suspect to exist in his or her favor at the time of executing the release, which if known by him or her must have materially affected his or her settlement with the debtor.

Plaintiff may hereafter discover facts in addition to or different from those she now knows or believes to be true with respect to the subject matter of the Action and/or the Plaintiff's Released Claims, but Plaintiff upon the Effective Date shall be deemed to have, and by operation of the Final Judgment shall have, fully, finally, and forever settled and released any and all of the claims released pursuant to this Section whether known or unknown, suspected or unsuspected, contingent or non-contingent, which now exist, or heretofore have existed upon any theory of law or equity now existing or coming into existence in the future, including, but not limited to,

conduct that is negligent, intentional, with or without malice, or a breach of any duty, law or rule, without regard to the subsequent discovery or existence of such different or additional facts.

- 3.5 <u>Employment References</u>. As to employment references for named Plaintiff, Defendant agrees that, in response to inquiries from prospective employers, it will only provide Plaintiff's dates of employment and job title(s). Plaintiff agrees to direct prospective employers to Defendant's Human Resources.
- 3.6 <u>Tax Liability</u>. The Parties make no representations as to the tax treatment or legal effect of the payments called for hereunder, and Plaintiff and Settlement Class Members are not relying on any statement or representation by the Released Parties in this regard. Plaintiff and Class Members understand and agree that they will be responsible for the payment of any taxes and penalties assessed on the payments described herein and will hold the Released Parties free and harmless from and against any claims resulting from treatment of such payments as non-taxable damages, including the treatment of such payment as not subject to withholding or deduction for payroll and employment taxes. Plaintiff is advised to consult with competent tax counsel in connection with this Settlement, and Plaintiff is not relying on any statement or representation by Defendant in this regard.
- 3.7 No Knowledge of Other Claims. Class Counsel and Plaintiff agree and represent that they are not aware of any claim that could have been brought against Defendant by any person or entity, other than the claims that were alleged in the Action, or could have been alleged based on the facts alleged in the Action.
- 3.8 <u>Settlement Approval and Implementation Procedures</u>. As part of this Settlement, the Parties agree to the following procedures for obtaining the Court's preliminary approval of the Settlement, certifying a class for settlement purposes, notifying Class Members of the Settlement, obtaining the Court's final approval of the Settlement, and processing the Individual Settlement Payments.
- 3.9 <u>Preliminary Approval and Certification</u>. Subject to Defendant's review and approval, Class Counsel shall be responsible for preparing and filing, in coordination with Defendant's Counsel, the Motion for Preliminary Approval of the Settlement and the Motion for

Final Approval of the Settlement, and any supporting documents. Class Counsel agrees to			
provide to Defendant's Counsel for review and approval the draft Motion for Preliminary			
Approval of the Settlement and the draft on Motion for Final Approval of the Settlement at least			
ten (10) business days before the filing of each motion. Class Counsel agrees not to file either			
motion without Defendant's approval. Prior to the final approval hearing by the Court, the			
Parties will submit a proposed Final Order(s): (i) provisionally certifying the Class for			
settlement purposes; (ii) finding the Settlement fair, reasonable, and in the best interests of the			
Class Members; (iii) approving Class Counsel's application for an award of attorneys' fees and			
litigation costs; (iv) approving the Class Representative's application for a Class Representative			
Service Award; (v) approving payment of Settlement Administration Costs; (vi) releasing and			
parring all Settlement Class Members' Released Claims. The Parties and their Counsel shall			
make all reasonable efforts to secure entry of the Order Granting Final Approval. Prior to the			
Final Approval Hearing, concurrent with or prior to the filing of the motion for final approval,			
Class Counsel shall file a motion seeking approval of attorneys' fees and costs and the proposed			
Service Award to the Class Representative as set forth in this Agreement.			

- 3.10 <u>Private Information.</u> Class Members' private information shall be redacted in documents publicly filed with the Court to protect Class Member privacy rights, or shall otherwise comply with the governing Stipulation and Protective Order on file with the Court.
- 3.11 <u>Class Information and Claims Administration</u>. Not later than ten (10) calendar days after the entry of the Preliminary Approval Order, Defendant shall provide the Settlement Administrator with the Class Information for purposes of mailing Notice Packets to Class Members. Class Information shall be used by the Claims Administrator solely for the purpose of notifying the Class Members of the Settlement.
- 3.12 Notice by First Class U.S. Mail. Upon receipt of the Class Information, the Settlement Administrator will perform a search on the National Change of Address database to update the Class Members' addresses. Not later than twenty (20) calendar days after receiving the Class Information from Defendant as provided herein, the Settlement Administrator shall mail copies of the Notice Packet, in English with a Spanish translation, to all Class Members by

regular First Class U.S. Mail. The Settlement Administrator shall exercise its best judgment to determine the current mailing address for each Class Member. The address identified by the Settlement Administrator as the current mailing address shall be presumed to be the best mailing address for each Class Member. It will be conclusively presumed that, if an envelope so mailed has not been returned within thirty (30) calendar days of the mailing, the Class Member received the Notice Package.

- Administrator as non-delivered on or before the Response Deadline shall be re-mailed to the forwarding address affixed thereto. If no forwarding address is provided, the Settlement Administrator shall make reasonable efforts to obtain an updated mailing address within five (5) business days of the date of the return of the Notice Packet. If an updated mailing address is identified, the Settlement Administrator shall resend the Notice Packet to the Class Member. Class Members to whom Notice Packets are re-sent after having been returned undeliverable to the Settlement Administrator shall have fourteen (14) calendar days thereafter to or until the Response Deadline has expired, whichever is later, to mail, fax or email the Request for Exclusion, or mail, fax or email an Objection Form. Notice Packets that are resent shall inform the recipient of this adjusted deadline. If a Class Member's Notice Packet is returned to the Settlement Administrator more than once as non-deliverable, then an additional Notice Packet shall not be remailed.
- 3.14 Compliance with the procedures specified in paragraphs 3.12 and 3.13 herein shall constitute due and sufficient notice to Class Members of this Settlement and shall satisfy the requirement of due process. Nothing else shall be required of, or done by, the Parties, Class Counsel, and Defense Counsel to provide notice of the proposed settlement.
- 3.15 <u>Claim Disputes</u>. Class Members will have the opportunity, should they disagree with Defendant's records regarding the dates of employment and/or workweeks stated on their Notice Packet, to provide documentation and/or an explanation to show contrary employment dates and/or workweeks. If there is a dispute, the Settlement Administrator will consult with the Parties to determine whether an adjustment is warranted. The Settlement Administrator shall

10

1112

13 14

15 16

17

18

1920

21

22

2324

25

26

2728

determine the eligibility for, and the amounts of, any Individual Settlement Payments under the terms of this Agreement. The Settlement Administrator's determination of the eligibility for and amount of any Individual Settlement Payment shall be binding upon the Class Member and the Parties.

3.16 Exclusions (Opt-Outs). The Notice Packet shall state that Class Members who wish to exclude themselves from the Settlement must submit a Request for Exclusion by the Response Deadline. The Request for Exclusion: (1) must contain the name, address, and telephone number of the person requesting exclusion, (2) must be signed by the Class Member; and (3) must be postmarked, fax or email stamped by the Response Deadline and returned to the Settlement Administrator at the specified address, fax telephone number, or email address. If the Request for Exclusion does not contain the information listed in (1)-(2), it will not be deemed valid for exclusion from this Settlement, except a Request for Exclusion form not containing a Class Member's telephone number will be deemed valid. The date of the postmark on the Request for Exclusion, which shall be based on the postmarked date on the return mailing envelope, date of the fax stamp, or date of email transmission, shall be the exclusive means used to determine whether a Request for Exclusion has been timely submitted. Any Class Member who requests to be excluded from the Settlement Class will not be entitled to any recovery under the Settlement and will not be bound by the terms of the Settlement or have any right to object, appeal or comment thereon. Class Members who receive a Notice Packet but fail to submit a valid and timely Request for Exclusion on or before the Response Deadline shall be bound by all terms of the Settlement and any Final Judgment entered in this Action if the Settlement is approved by the Court. No later than fourteen (14) calendar days after the Response Deadline, the Settlement Administrator shall provide counsel for the Parties with a complete list of all members of the Class who have timely submitted Requests for Exclusion. At no time shall any of the Parties or their counsel seek to solicit or otherwise encourage any Class Member to submit Requests for Exclusion from the Settlement.

3.17 <u>Objections</u>. The Notice Packet shall state that Class Members who wish to object to the Settlement must submit a written statement of objection ("Objection Form") to the Claims

27

28

7

9

1011

1213

14

16

15

17

18 19

20

22

21

23

2425

26

27

28

Settlement Fund will be inclusive of employer-side payroll taxes. Other than Plaintiff, Class Members are not eligible to receive any compensation other than an Individual Settlement Payment.

- 3.21 Tax Treatment. Individual Settlement Payments reflect settlement of a dispute regarding wages, interest, and penalties. Individual Settlement Payments to Class Members will be allocated as follows: thirty-three and one-third percent (33 1/3%) as penalties; thirty-three and one-third percent (33 1/3%) as interest; and thirty-three and one-third percent (33 1/3%) as wages. The Settlement Administrator shall issue an IRS Form 1099 for payments treated as penalties and interest and an IRS Form W-2 for payments treated as wages. Neither Defendant, its attorneys, or Class Counsel make any representations and it is understood and agreed that they have made no representations as to the taxability to any Class Members of any portions of the Settlement Payments or other consideration. The Parties further understand that the Class Representative and any Class Members who receive any Settlement Payment pursuant to this Agreement shall be solely responsible for any and all tax obligations associated with such receipt. The Class Representative and any Class Members who receive any Settlement Payment should consult with their own tax advisors concerning the tax consequences of the Settlement Payments they receive under the Settlement, and each of them represents that they have relied on their own independent tax advisor for tax advice in connection with this Agreement, and that each of them have not entered into this Agreement based upon the recommendation of any other Party or advisor to any other Party.
- 3.22 <u>Class Representative Service Award</u>. Defendant agrees not to oppose or object to any application or motion by Plaintiff to be appointed Class Representative and for a Class Representative Service Award, not to exceed to Seven Thousand Five Hundred U.S. Dollars (\$7,500), as consideration for the release of all Released Claims and for her time and effort in bringing and prosecuting this matter. The Class Representative Service Award shall be paid to Plaintiff from the Gross Settlement Fund no later than ten (10) calendar days after the date of Settlement Funding. The Settlement Administrator shall issue an IRS Form 1099–MISC to Plaintiff for her Class Representative Enhancement Award. Plaintiff agrees to provide the

1	Settlement Administrator with an executed Form W-9 before the Class Representative
2	Enhancement Award is issued. Plaintiff shall be solely and legally responsible for paying any
3	and all applicable taxes on her Class Representative Service Award and shall hold harmless
4	Defendant and Released Parties from any claim or liability for taxes, penalties, or interest arising
5	as a result of the Class Representative Service Award. The Class Representative Service Award
6	shall be in addition to Plaintiff' Individual Settlement Payment as a Class Member. In the event
7	that the Court awards less than the requested amount of the Class Representative Service Award
8	then any portion of the requested amount not awarded to Plaintiff shall be added to the Net
9	Settlement Fund. In the event the Court reduces or does not approve the requested Class
10	Representative Service Award, Plaintiff shall not have the right to revoke her agreement to the
11	Settlement, which shall remain binding on the Parties.

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

3.23 <u>Class Counsel Fees and Costs</u>. Defendant agrees not to oppose or object to any application or motion by Class Counsel for attorney's fees not to exceed Thirty-Three and One-Third percent (33 1/3%) of the Gross Settlement Fund, which is Fifty Thousand U.S. Dollars (\$50,000) and Class Counsel Costs, estimated to be no more than Seven Thousand Five Hundred U.S. Dollars (\$7,500), as supported by declarations from Class Counsel and to be determined at the Final Approval Hearing, from the Gross Settlement Fund. Class Counsel shall be paid any Court-approved fees and costs no later than ten (10) calendar days after the date of Settlement Funding. Class Counsel shall be solely and legally responsible to pay all applicable taxes on the payment made pursuant to this paragraph. The Settlement Administrator shall issue an IRS Form 1099–MISC to Class Counsel for the payments made pursuant to this Paragraph. This Settlement is not contingent upon the Court awarding Class Counsel any particular amount in attorney's fees and costs. In the event the Court reduces or does not approve the requested Class Counsel Fees and/or Class Counsel Costs, the Settlement shall remain binding on the Parties. Any amount requested by Class Counsel for the Class Counsel Fees and Class Counsel Costs and not granted by the Court shall return to the Net Settlement Fund and be distributed as provided in this Agreement.

3.24 Settlement Administration Costs. The Settlement Administrator shall be paid for

the costs of administration of the Settlement from the Gross Settlement Fund. No fewer than
thirty (30) calendar days prior to the Final Approval Hearing, the Settlement Administrator shall
provide the Parties with a statement detailing the costs of administration, showing the estimated
Individual Settlement Payments to be made to Class Members who have not opted out, and
listing the names and number of Class Members who have objected to or requested exclusion
from the Settlement. The Settlement Administrator, on Defendant's behalf, shall have the
authority and obligation to make payments, credits and disbursements, including payments and
credits in the manner set forth herein, to Class Members calculated in accordance with the
methodology set out in this Agreement and orders of the Court. The Parties agree to cooperate in
the Settlement Administration process and to make all reasonable efforts to control and minimize
the cost and expenses incurred in administration of the Settlement. The Parties each represent
they do not have any financial interest in the Settlement Administrator or otherwise have a
relationship with the Settlement Administrator that could create a conflict of interest. The
Settlement Administrator shall be responsible for: processing and mailing payments to the Class
Representative, Class Counsel, and Class Members; preparing, printing and mailing the Notice
Packets to the Class Members as directed by the Court; receiving and reporting the Requests for
Exclusion and Objection Forms submitted by Class Members; providing declaration(s) as
necessary in support of preliminary and/or final approval of this Settlement; development and
maintenance of a settlement website to post key documents, dates, and deadlines regarding the
Settlement and Final Judgment; and other tasks as the Parties mutually agree or the Court orders
the Settlement Administrator to perform. The Settlement Administrator shall keep the Parties
timely apprised of the performance of all Settlement Administrator responsibilities. Any legally-
mandated tax reports, tax forms, tax filings, or other tax documents required by administration of
this Agreement shall be prepared by the Settlement Administrator. Any expenses incurred in
connection with such preparation shall be a cost of administration of the Settlement. The
Settlement Administrator shall be paid the Settlement Administration Costs in accordance with
paragraph 3.18 of this Stipulation.

the Court shall hold the Final Approval Hearing, where objections, if any, may be heard, and the Court shall determine whether final approval of this Settlement and the amounts properly payable for (i) the Class Counsel Fees and Costs, (ii) the Class Representative Service Award, (iii) Individual Settlement Payments, and (v) the Settlement Administration Costs should be granted.

- 3.26 Entry of Final Judgment. If the Court approves this Settlement at the Final Approval Hearing, the Court will enter the Final Judgment, with the Court retaining jurisdiction over the Parties to enforce the terms of the judgment. Notice of Entry of Final Judgment will be provided on the Settlement Website to be created and maintained by the Settlement Administrator, which the Parties agree will satisfy due process.
- 3.27 <u>No Effect on Employee Benefits</u>. Defendant will not use the Settlement Payments to calculate any additional benefits including, for example (but without limitation), any vacation, holiday pay, pension, or 401(k) plan contributions. The Settlement Payments do not represent any modification of previously credited hours of service or other eligibility criteria under any employee pension or employee welfare benefit plan sponsored by Defendant, and are not "compensation" for purposes of determining eligibility for, or benefit accrual within, an employee pension benefit plan, an employee welfare benefit plan, or other plan sponsored by Defendant or its predecessors, subsidiaries, or successors.
- 3.28 <u>Nullification of Settlement Agreement</u>. In the event: (i) the Court does not enter the Preliminary Approval Order substantially in the form specified herein; (ii) the Court does not grant final approval of the Settlement as provided herein; (iii) the Court does not enter a Final Judgment as provided herein; or (iv) the Settlement does not become final for any other reason, this Settlement Agreement shall be null and void and any order or judgment entered by the Court in furtherance of this Settlement shall be treated as void from the beginning. In such a case, the Parties and any funds to be awarded under this Settlement shall be returned to their respective statuses as of the date and time immediately prior to the execution of this Agreement, and the Parties shall proceed in all respects as if this Agreement had not been executed, except that any fees already incurred by the Settlement Administrator shall be paid by the Parties in equal shares.

in any attached Exhibits A-C, which are incorporated by this reference as though fully set forth

Exhibits and Headings. The terms of this Agreement include the terms set forth

may file an appropriate motion for enforcement with the Court.

26

27

28

3.31

herein. Any Exhibits to this Agreement are an integral part of the Settlement. The descriptive headings of any paragraphs or sections of this Agreement are inserted for convenience of reference only and do not constitute a part of this Agreement.

- 3.32 <u>Interim Stay of Proceedings</u>. The Parties agree to make all efforts to obtain a stay of all proceedings in the Action, except such proceedings necessary to implement and complete the Settlement, in abeyance pending the Final Approval Hearing to be conducted by the Court.
- 3.33 <u>Amendment or Modification</u>. This Agreement may be amended or modified only by a written instrument signed by counsel for all Parties or their successors-in-interest.
- 3.34 <u>Entire Agreement</u>. This Agreement and any attached Exhibits constitute the entire Agreement among these Parties, and no oral or written representations, warranties or inducements have been made to any Party concerning this Agreement or its Exhibits other than the representations, warranties and covenants contained and memorialized in the Agreement and its Exhibits.
- 3.35 Authorization to Enter Into Settlement Agreement. Counsel for all Parties warrant and represent they are expressly authorized by the Parties whom they represent to negotiate this Agreement and to take all appropriate actions required or permitted to be taken by such Parties pursuant to this Agreement to effectuate its terms, and to execute any other documents required to effectuate the terms of this Agreement. The Parties and their counsel will cooperate with each other and use their best efforts to affect the implementation of the Settlement. In the event the Parties are unable to reach agreement on the form or content of any document needed to implement the Settlement, or on any supplemental provisions that may become necessary to effectuate the terms of this Settlement, the Parties may seek the assistance of the Court to resolve such disagreement. The person signing this Agreement on behalf of Defendant represents and warrants that he or she is authorized to sign this Agreement and that she has not assigned any claim, or part of a claim, covered by this Settlement to a third-party.
  - 3.36 <u>Binding on Successors and Assigns</u>. This Agreement shall be binding upon, and

inure to the benefit of, the successors or assigns of the Parties hereto, as previously defined.

- 3.37 <u>California Law Governs</u>. All terms of this Agreement and the Exhibits hereto shall be governed by and interpreted according to the laws of the State of California.
- 3.38 This Settlement is Fair, Adequate and Reasonable. The Parties believe this Settlement is a fair, adequate and reasonable settlement of this Action and have arrived at this Settlement after extensive arms-length negotiations, taking into account all relevant factors, present and potential.
- 3.39 <u>Jurisdiction of the Court</u>. Pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure Section 664.6, the Parties agree that the Court shall retain jurisdiction over the Parties to enforce the terms of this Settlement including but not limited to the interpretation, implementation and enforcement of the terms of this Agreement and all orders and judgments entered in connection therewith, and the Parties and their counsel hereto submit to the jurisdiction of the Court for purposes of interpreting, implementing and enforcing the settlement embodied in this Agreement and all orders and judgments entered in connection therewith.
- 3.40 <u>Invalidity of Any Provision</u>. Before declaring any provision of this Agreement invalid, the Court shall first attempt to construe the provisions valid to the fullest extent possible consistent with applicable precedents so as to define all provisions of this Agreement valid and enforceable.
- 3.41 <u>Waiver of Certain Appeals</u>. The Parties agree to waive appeals and to stipulate to class certification for purposes of this settlement only.
- 3.42 <u>Cooperation</u>. The Parties agree to cooperate fully with one another to accomplish and implement the terms of this Settlement. Such cooperation shall include, but not be limited to, execution of such documents and the taking of such other action as may be reasonably necessary to fulfill the terms of this Settlement. The Parties shall use their best efforts, including all efforts contemplated by this Settlement and any other efforts that may become necessary by Court order, or otherwise, to effectuate this Settlement and the terms set forth herein.
- 3.43 <u>Confidentiality of Settlement</u>. The Parties and their respective counsel (and all employees thereof) expressly agree that they will maintain in strict confidence the fact that this

the Parties and that this Stipulation shall not be construed in favor of or against any of the Parties by reason of their participation in the drafting of this Stipulation.

- 3.49 <u>Counterparts</u>. This Stipulation shall become effective upon its execution by all of the undersigned. Plaintiff, Class Counsel, Defendant, and Defense Counsel may execute this Stipulation in counterparts, and execution of counterparts shall have the same force and effect as if each had signed the same instrument. Copies of the executed agreement shall be effective for all purposes as though the signatures contained therein were original signatures. The signing of a facsimile copy or a PDF file copy attached to an email exchanged by the parties' attorneys shall have the same force and effect as the signing of an original, and any such facsimile or PDF file email signature shall be deemed an original and valid signature.
- 3.50 Force Majeure. The failure of any party to perform any of its obligations hereunder shall not subject such party to any liability or remedy for damages, or otherwise, where such failure is occasioned in whole or in part by acts of God, fires, accidents, earthquakes, other natural disasters, explosions, floods, wars, interruptions or delays in transportation, power outages, labor disputes or shortages, shortages of materials or supplies, governmental laws, restrictions, rules or regulations, sabotage, terrorist acts, acts or failures to act of any third parties, or any other similar or different circumstances or causes beyond the reasonable control of such party.
- 3.51 <u>Deadlines Falling on Weekends or Holidays.</u> To the extent that any deadline set forth in this Stipulation falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday, that deadline shall be continued until the following business day.
- 3.52 <u>Class Information Confidential.</u> The names, addresses, telephone numbers, employment periods, and social security numbers of Class Members shall be kept strictly confidential by the Settlement Administrator, who will not release unredacted information to Class Counsel or Class Representative and will provide such information to the Court only under seal or redacted, and only if so ordered by the Court. Class Counsel agrees that any information or documents they receive or have received in connection with this Settlement may be used for this Action only, and may not be used for any purposes or in any other action or proceeding.

3.53

## 5

4.

#### 6 7

# 8 9

## 10 11

12 13

14

1516

17

18 19

20

21

22

23

24

25

## 26 **5. AMENDMENT**

the motions for preliminary or final approval.

27 28 This Agreement may be amended or modified by a written instrument signed by counsel for all Parties or their successors-in-interest.

STIPULATION FOR CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT AND RELEASE

Extensions of Time. If either Party cannot reasonably comply with an obligation

under this Stipulation by the deadline set forth herein applicable to that obligation, that Party

may apply to the Court for a reasonable extension of time to fulfill that obligation. Consent to

Defendant has the right in its sole and exclusive discretion to terminate and withdraw

from the Settlement at any time prior to date the Court enters final approval of this Settlement if:

(a) the Settlement is construed in such a fashion that Defendant is required to pay more than the

Representative' Service Awards); or (c) any court following the signing of this Stipulation but

before final approval of the Settlement certifies a class action involving a claim described in the

Action on behalf of class members covered by this Settlement; or (d) five percent (5%) or more

Class Members timely and validly opt out of the Settlement. If for any reason the Settlement is

Settlement, this Stipulation and any related settlement documents shall be null and void, and any

class certified for settlement purposes will be vacated. In such an event, neither the Stipulation,

nor the settlement documents, nor the negotiations leading to the Settlement may be used as

allegations in the Action, to assert all applicable defenses, and to dispute the propriety of class

Counsel attorneys' fees or costs or the Class Representative Service Award payment sought in

evidence for any purpose, and Defendant shall retain the right to challenge all claims and

certification on all applicable grounds. The Class Representative do not have the right to

withdraw from the Settlement if the Court does not award or reduces the amount of Class

not approved by the Court, or if either Party validly terminates and withdraws from the

such a request for an extension will not be unreasonably withheld by the other Party.

**DEFENDANT'S RIGHT TO RESCIND** 

1		
	IT IS SO AGREED:	THE COLUMN
3	Pated: 3/5/2019	HERSHA HOSPITALITY MANAGEMENT, L.P.
4		BIMALI FOR
5		By:
6		Name: Title:
7	Pated: 3/4/19	PLAINTIFF MARIA TERESA LOPEZ
8		Mass
9		I laria lope
10	Pated:3/5/2019	MICHAEL H. KIM, P.C.
11		11 / //
12		By Mulus Kinchael H. Kim, Esq.
13		Jamielee F. Martinez, Esq.
14		Adam K. Tanouye, Esq. Attorneys for Plaintiff
15	,	MARIA TERESA LOPEZ, individually and on behalf of all others similarly
16	3/4/2019	situated KAUFMAN DOLOWICH & VOLUCK,
17	pated:	LLP
18		RIUII
19		By: Katherine S. Catlos, Esq.
20		Brandon Kahoush, Esq. Attorneys for Defendant
21		HERSHA HOSPITALITY
22		MANAGEMENT, L.P.
23	6	
24		
25		
26		
27		
1112550/39084770v.128		