

1
2
3
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

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA - SOUTHERN DIVISION

IN RE: TOLL ROADS LITIGATION

Case No: 8:16-cv-00262-ODW(ADSx)

PENNY DAVIDI BORSUK; DAVID
COULTER; EBRAHIM E. MADHA;
TODD QUARLES; TODD
CARPENTER; LORI MYERS; DAN
GOLKA; and JAMES WATKINS on
behalf of themselves and all others
similarly situated,

Hon. Otis D. Wright II

**ORDER GRANTING PRELIMINARY
APPROVAL OF CLASS ACTION
SETTLEMENTS**

Plaintiffs,

vs.

Date: December 10, 2020

Time: 10:30 a.m.

Location: Virtual

FOOTHILL/EASTERN
TRANSPORTATION CORRIDOR
AGENCY; SAN JOAQUIN HILLS
TRANSPORTATION CORRIDOR
AGENCY; ORANGE COUNTY
TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY;
3M COMPANY; BRiC-TPS LLC;
RHONDA REARDON; MICHAEL
KRAMAN; CRAIG YOUNG; SCOTT
SCHOEFFEL; ROSS CHUN;
DARRELL JOHNSON; LORI
DONCHAK; COFIROUTE USA, LLC;
and DOES 3-10; inclusive,

Special Master: Hon. Andrew J. Guilford (ret.)

Defendants

1 **ORDER GRANTING PRELIMINARY APPROVAL**

2 On August 27, 2020, Plaintiffs and Defendants Foothill/Eastern Transportation
3 Corridor Agency, San Joaquin Hills Transportation Corridor Agency, Michael
4 Kraman, Craig Young, Scott Schoeffel, Ross Chun, Rhonda Reardon and BRiC-TPS,
5 LLC (collectively “TCA”) entered into a Settlement Agreement and Release (“TCA
6 Agreement”), after two arms-length mediations, one with the assistance of mediator
7 Robert Kaplan, and the second with mediator Rachel Ehrlich, Esq.¹ Also on
8 August 27, 2020, Plaintiffs and Defendant 3M Company (“3M”) entered into a
9 Settlement Agreement and Release (“3M Agreement”), after two arms-length
10 mediations with the assistance of mediator Robert Kaplan, Esq. (collectively, the TCA
11 Agreement and the 3M Agreement will be referred to as the Agreements, and the
12 settlements reached in those Agreements will be referred to as the Settlements).

13 On November 4, 2020, Plaintiffs moved this Court, pursuant to Federal Rule
14 of Civil Procedure (“Rule”) 23(e), for an order preliminarily approving the
15 Settlements upon the terms and conditions set forth in the respective Agreements.
16 The Motion was referred to the Special Master, Judge Andrew Guilford (ret.) (*see*
17 ECF No. 582), and a hearing on the Motion occurred on December 10, 2020. Special
18 Master Guilford issued a Report and Recommendation recommending granting the
19 Motion for Preliminary Approval of the Settlements.

20 After carefully considering Plaintiffs’ Motion for Preliminary Approval and
21 accompanying declarations; the Agreements, including the accompanying Exhibits;
22 Special Master Guilford’s Report and Recommendation; and the applicable law, the
23 Court finds that:

24 1. The proposed Settlements are fair, reasonable, and adequate, and the
25 Court will likely be able to approve them under Rule 23(e)(2) and enter judgment on
26 them. The proposed Settlements do not improperly grant preferential treatment to any
27 _____

28 ¹ Unless otherwise defined, all terms used herein have the same meanings as set forth in the Agreements.

1 segment of the TCA Settlement Class or the 3M Settlement Class (together, the
2 “Settlement Classes”). The proposed Settlements are sufficient to warrant sending
3 notice to the respective class members about the Settlements. The procedures for
4 establishing and administering the benefits provided by the proposed Settlements and
5 for notice to class members satisfy Rule 23 and due process.

6 2. The Court finds and determines that it will likely be able to certify the
7 Settlement Classes for purposes of judgment on the settlement proposals under
8 Rule 23(b)(3) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, because: (a) members of each
9 Settlement Class are so numerous that joinder of all members would be impracticable,
10 (b) there are questions of law and fact that are common to each Settlement Class, and
11 those questions of law and fact common to the Settlement Class predominate over any
12 questions affecting any individual class member; (c) the claims of the Plaintiffs are
13 typical of the claims of the Settlement Classes they seek to represent for purposes of
14 settlement; (d) a class action on behalf of each Settlement Class is superior to other
15 available means of adjudicating this dispute; and (e) Plaintiffs and Class Counsel are
16 adequate representatives of the Settlement Classes. Defendants retain all rights to
17 assert that this action may not be certified as a class action, other than for settlement
18 purposes.

19 3. The Court has reviewed the class notices for each Settlement Class and
20 the methods for providing notice and has determined that the parties will employ
21 forms and methods of notice that constitute the best notice practicable under the
22 circumstances; are reasonably calculated to apprise class members of the terms of the
23 Settlements and of their right to participate in them, object, or opt-out; are reasonable
24 and constitute due, adequate, and sufficient notice to all persons entitled to receive
25 notice; and meet all applicable requirements of Rule 23, the United States
26 Constitution, and due process.

27
28

1 **Accordingly, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that:**

2 1. The Motion for Preliminary Approval is **GRANTED**. The Court
3 preliminarily approves the Settlements.

4 2. The Court hereby certifies, for settlement purposes only:

5 a. A 3M Settlement Class consisting of: All individuals whose PII
6 was provided by 3M or TCA to any other individual or entity from April 13, 2015, to
7 June 30, 2015, including:

- 8 • Any person with a transponder account with a Toll Agency whose
9 PII was sent by 3M or TCA from April 13, 2015, to June 30, 2015
10 to another Toll Agency (interoperability transmissions);
- 11 • Any person who used any of the TCA Toll Roads whose PII was
12 sent by 3M or TCA to a third party from April 13, 2015, to
13 June 30, 2015 in connection with efforts to collect tolls or
14 penalties (collection transmissions); and
- 15 • Any person whose PII was sent by 3M or TCA to a third party
16 from April 13, 2015, to June 30, 2015 for any reason other than
17 those listed above (other transmissions).

18 Excluded from the 3M Settlement Class are: (1) employees of 3M, including
19 their current and former directors, officers and counsel; (2) any entity that has a
20 controlling interest in 3M; (3) 3M's affiliates and subsidiaries; and (4) the judge to
21 whom this case is or was assigned, any member of the judge's immediate family, and
22 any member of the judge's staff.

23 b. A TCA Settlement Class consisting of: All individuals whose PII
24 was provided by 3M or TCA to any other individual or entity from April 13, 2015,
25 through 30 days after the date of this order, including:

- 26 • Any person with a transponder account with a Toll Agency
27 whose PII was sent by 3M or TCA from April 13, 2015, through
28 30 days after the date of this order to another Toll Agency

- 1 (interoperability transmissions);
- 2 • Any person who used any of the TCA Toll Roads whose PII was
- 3 sent by 3M or TCA to a third party from April 13, 2015, through
- 4 30 days after the date of this order in connection with efforts to
- 5 collect tolls or penalties (collection transmissions); and
- 6 • Any person whose PII was sent by 3M or TCA to a third party
- 7 from April 13, 2015, through 30 days after the date of this order
- 8 for any reason other than those listed above (other
- 9 transmissions).

10 Excluded from the TCA Settlement Class are: (1) employees of TCA

11 Defendants, including their current and former directors, officers and counsel;

12 (2) any entity that has a controlling interest in TCA Defendants; (3) TCA

13 Defendants' affiliates and subsidiaries; and (4) the judge to whom this case is or was

14 assigned, any member of the judge's immediate family, and any member of the

15 judge's staff.

16 3. TCA Class Representatives. For purposes of the TCA Settlement only,

17 the Court preliminarily finds and determines, pursuant to Rule 23(a) of the Federal

18 Rules of Civil Procedure, that Plaintiffs Penny Davidi Borsuk; David Coulter; Todd

19 Carpenter; Lori Myers; Dan Golka; Todd Quarles; and Ebrahim E. Madha will fairly

20 and adequately represent the interests of the Class in enforcing their rights in the

21 action and appoints them as Class Representatives. The Court preliminarily finds that

22 they are similarly situated to absent Settlement Class Members and therefore typical

23 of the Class, and that they will be adequate Class Representatives.

24 4. 3M Class Representatives. For purposes of the 3M Settlement only, the

25 Court preliminarily finds and determines, pursuant to Rule 23(a) of the Federal Rules

26 of Civil Procedure, that Plaintiffs Penny Davidi Borsuk; David Coulter; Todd

27 Carpenter; Lori Myers; and Dan Golka will fairly and adequately represent the

28 interests of the Class in enforcing their rights in the action and appoints them as Class

1 Representatives. The Court preliminarily finds that they are similarly situated to
2 absent Settlement Class Members and therefore typical of the Class, and that they will
3 be adequate Class Representatives.

4 5. Class Counsel. For purposes of the Settlements, the Court appoints Helen
5 I. Zeldes of Schonbrun Seplow Harris Hoffman & Zeldes, LLP; Blake J. Lindemann
6 of Lindemann Law APC; and Michael J. Flannery of Cuneo Gilbert & LaDuca, LLP
7 as Class Counsel to act on behalf of each Settlement Class and the respective Class
8 Representatives with respect to the respective Settlements. The Court authorizes Class
9 Counsel to enter into the Settlements on behalf of the respective Class Representatives
10 and Settlement Classes, and to bind them all to the duties and obligations contained
11 therein, subject to final approval by the Court of the Settlements.

12 6. Administration. Epiq Class Action & Claims Solutions, Inc is appointed
13 as Class Administrator to administer the notice procedure and the processing of claims
14 for the Settlement Classes, under the supervision of Class Counsel.

15 7. Class Notice. The form and content of the proposed Notice of Class
16 Action Settlement (“Long Form Notice”), the Email Notice, Mail Notice, and
17 Publication Notice are hereby approved. The Parties and Class Administrator may
18 amend the Class Notice documents as necessary to add dates, correct errors, and
19 improve the information provided to Settlement Class Members consistent with the
20 guidance provided by the Special Master.

21 8. Cofiroute USA, LLC (“Cofiroute”), and the Orange County
22 Transportation Authority (“OCTA”) are hereby ordered to provide to the Class
23 Administrator, in an electronically searchable and readable format, the names, email
24 addresses and, if necessary (i.e., if an email address is unavailable or if the Class
25 Administrator notifies Cofiroute that an email was returned as undeliverable) the last
26 known mailing addresses of OCTA account holders who used their OCTA FasTrak
27 account to pay for a toll on a toll road operated by TCA between April 13, 2015 and
28 the thirtieth day after the date of this Order. TCA is hereby ordered to provide to the

1 Class Administrator, in an electronically searchable and readable format, information
2 to be identified by TCA in TCA's discretion, that the Class Administrator will use to
3 determine the names, last known email address, and last known mailing addresses
4 held by Settlement Class Members, to the extent TCA determines that such
5 information exists in its reasonably available computerized account records. The
6 Court finds that the provision of the foregoing information by OCTA, Cofiroute and
7 TCA to the Class Administrator is necessary so that reasonable notice can be given to
8 the class, as required by state and federal constitutional provisions and FRCP 23, and
9 so the Class Administrator can verify membership in the Settlement Classes. The
10 Court further finds and orders that compliance with this Order by OCTA, TCA and/or
11 Cofiroute will not and does not violate California Streets & Highways Code section
12 31490 or any other federal, state or local constitution, statute, rule, regulation or policy
13 purporting to limit the disclosure of personally identifiable information.

14 9. To effectuate this Order and to ensure adequate notice is provided to the
15 members of the Settlement Classes, and in accordance with both the Court's general
16 authority to protect its jurisdiction and the All Writs Act (28 USC § 1651), the Court
17 hereby permanently enjoins each and every member of each of the Settlement Classes
18 from filing or pursuing any claim or litigation against any of the persons and/or
19 entities listed below in 9(a)-(d), asserting that compliance with the obligations
20 imposed by this Order or either of the Agreements violates California Streets &
21 Highways Code section 31490 or any other federal, state or local constitution, statute,
22 rule, regulation or policy purporting to limit the disclosure of personally identifiable
23 information:

24 a. Any and all Released Parties (as defined in Section 2.26 of the
25 TCA Agreement);

26 b. Any and all Released Parties (as defined in Section 2.26 of the 3M
27 Agreement);

28

1 c. OCTA and Cofiroute, together with their respective officers,
2 agents, employees and attorneys;

3 d. Any other person or entity who provides information to the Class
4 Administrator pursuant to this Order, together with their respective officers, agents,
5 employees and attorneys.

6 10. The Class Administrator shall send the applicable Class Notice as
7 provided by the respective Agreements via: (i) electronic mail, to the most recent
8 email address of all persons in the respective Settlement Classes for whom such
9 information is reasonably available from the computerized records of OCTA, TCA or
10 Cofiroute; (ii) first class mail, to the most recent mailing address of all persons in the
11 respective Settlement Classes for whom there was no reasonably available email
12 address or whose email notice was returned as undeliverable and for whom such
13 mailing address is reasonably available from the computerized records of OCTA,
14 Cofiroute or TCA; and (iii) via publication and social media ads for members of the
15 interoperability transmissions subgroups of the respective Settlement Classes for
16 whom no email or mailing address is reasonably available to OCTA, Cofiroute or
17 TCA. The Notice will advise the respective class members of their ability to update
18 their email address and/or mailing address with the Class Administrator.

19 11. The Class Administrator shall treat the records of class members as
20 confidential and shall not disclose all or any portion of those records to any person or
21 entity except as authorized by Court order. The Class Administrator shall use the
22 records containing class member information solely for the purposes of providing
23 notice to class members, verifying claim forms, and calculating and paying settlement
24 awards. No copies of files containing the records may be made, nor may the records
25 be utilized by the Class Administrator for any other purpose not specified in this
26 Order.

27 12. Settlement Website. By the respective Settlement Notice Dates, the Class
28 Administrator will maintain and administer a dedicated Settlement Website

1 containing class information and related documents. At a minimum, such documents
2 will include the Agreements and attached exhibits, E-mail Notice, Mail Notice, this
3 Preliminary Approval Order, all submissions regarding final settlement approval, any
4 motion(s) for attorney’s fees, costs, and/or service awards for the respective Class
5 Representatives, and the Final Approval Order. The Settlement Website will permit
6 members of the respective Settlement Classes who elect to do so to register online to
7 receive (a) email notice that the Court has granted Final Approval of the Settlements,
8 (b) updates on the deadlines to submit Requests for Exclusion and make Objections,
9 and (c) the status of payments under the terms of the Settlements. The Settlement
10 Website will be taken down and rendered inaccessible by the Final Distribution Date.

11 13. Claims. All claims must be postmarked or submitted electronically
12 within **eighty-four (84) days after the Settlement Notice Date (“Claims Deadline”)**
13 as specified by the respective Agreements. Any class member who does not timely
14 and properly submit a claim within the time provided for shall be forever barred from
15 sharing in the distribution of the proceeds of the respective Settlements, unless
16 otherwise agreed by the Parties or ordered by the Court, but will in all other respects
17 be subject to and bound by the provisions of the Agreements, the releases contained
18 therein, this Order, the Final Judgment, and the Final Approval Order.

19 14. The Class Administrator shall review and process each claim to
20 determine whether it qualifies for a settlement award, and in what amount, in
21 accordance with the terms of the respective Agreements. Claims that do not meet the
22 submission requirements may be rejected. Prior to rejecting a claim, in whole or in
23 part, the Class Administrator shall communicate with the claimant in writing to give
24 the claimant a reasonable opportunity to remedy any deficiencies in the claim.

25 15. Exclusions from the Settlement. Members of the Settlement Classes who
26 wish to exclude themselves from one or both of the Settlement Classes must advise
27 the Class Administrator by providing a written Request for Exclusion. The Request
28 for Exclusion must be postmarked no later than **eighty-four (84) days after the**

1 **Settlement Notice Date** (the “Exclusion Deadline”). In it, the class member must
2 state his or her full name and address and must state that he or she wishes to be
3 excluded from the Settlement(s). Any member of a Settlement Class who submits a
4 valid and timely Request for Exclusion will not be a final class member of the
5 Settlement he/she is excluded from and will not be bound by the terms of the
6 Agreement(s) (but will be bound by the injunction in paragraph 9, above). All
7 members of the Settlement Classes who do not submit a timely, valid Request for
8 Exclusion, however, will be bound by the Agreement(s) and the Judgment, including
9 the releases and covenant not to sue.

10 16. **Objections**. Any Settlement class member who intends to object to one
11 or both Settlements must file a written Objection with the Court, located at 350 W. 1st
12 Street, Los Angeles California, 90012, Courtroom 5D, no later than **eighty-four (84)**
13 **days after the Settlement Notice Date** (the “Objection Deadline”). In the written
14 Objection, the Settlement class member must state his or her (1) full name and
15 address; (2) account number with the TCA, if one exists; and (3) any other proof of
16 Settlement Class membership if such proof exists. The written Objection must also
17 state the reasons for the Settlement class member’s Objection and indicate whether
18 he or she intends to appear at the Final Approval Hearing on his or her own behalf or
19 through counsel. Any documents supporting the Objection must be attached to the
20 Objection. The Parties shall have the right to obtain document discovery from and
21 take the deposition of any objector relevant to the Objection. Any Settlement class
22 member who has timely filed an Objection and indicated an intent to appear may
23 appear at the Final Approval Hearing, either in person or through an attorney hired at
24 the Settlement class member’s own expense, to object to the fairness, reasonableness,
25 or adequacy of one or both of the Settlements.

26 17. **Declaration of Class Administrator**. No later than fourteen (14) calendar
27 days before the Final Approval Hearing, the Class Administrator shall file with the
28

1 Court and serve on counsel for all Parties a declaration stating that the Notice required
2 by this Order has been completed.

3 18. Motion for Final Approval. The motion for final approval shall be filed
4 and served **at least twenty-eight (28) days before the Final Approval Hearing.**
5 Any replies to any Objections shall be filed and served at least **fourteen (14) calendar**
6 **days prior to the Final Approval Hearing.**

7 19. The motion for attorneys' fees and costs and Service Awards shall be
8 filed **at least two weeks before the Objection and Exclusion Deadlines.** Any replies
9 to any Objections shall be filed and served at least **fourteen (14) calendar days prior**
10 **to the Final Approval Hearing.**

11 20. Defendants shall bear no responsibility for any application for attorneys'
12 fees and costs and service awards, and such matters will be considered separately from
13 the fairness, reasonableness, and adequacy of the Settlement. At or after the Final
14 Approval Hearing, the Court shall determine whether any application for attorneys'
15 fees and costs to Class Counsel and any service awards to Court-appointed Class
16 Representatives shall be approved.

17 21. All reasonable expenses incurred in identifying and notifying Class
18 Members, as well as administering the Settlements, shall be paid in accordance with
19 the terms set forth in the Agreements.

20 22. The Court preliminarily approves Section 14 of the 3M Settlement
21 Agreement and Section 15 of the TCA Settlement Agreement in which the TCA, the
22 OCTA, Cofiroute, other Toll Agencies, 3M, and the Class Administrator are released
23 from any and all claims that any Settlement class member could assert arising out of
24 or in any way related to the transmission, collection, or use of the Settlement Class
25 Member Information pursuant to the Settlement Agreements to administer the
26 Settlements.

27 23. The Special Master, Hon. Andrew J. Guilford (ret.), shall hold a Final
28 Approval Hearing on a date selected by the Special Master at Judicate West, to

1 determine: (a) whether the Settlements on the terms and conditions provided for in
2 the Agreements are fair, reasonable and adequate to class members and should be
3 finally approved by the Court; (b) whether a judgment should be entered; (c) whether
4 Class Counsel should be awarded attorneys' fees and costs, and if so, in what amount;
5 and (d) whether service awards should be awarded to the Court-appointed Class
6 Representatives, and if so, in what amount. The Special Master may postpone the
7 Final Approval Hearing and will provide notice of any such postponement on the
8 Class Administrator's website without further notice to class members. The Special
9 Master shall produce a Report and Recommendation as to whether he believes the
10 Settlements should be finally approved.

11 24. Neither the Agreements or any of their terms or provisions, nor any of
12 the negotiations or proceedings connected with the Settlements, whether or not
13 consummated, shall be construed as an admission or concession of any kind by any
14 of the Parties. Neither the Agreements or any of their terms or provisions, nor any of
15 the negotiations or proceedings connected with the Settlements, may be offered
16 against any of the Parties as evidence of, or construed as or deemed to be evidence of,
17 any presumption, concession or admission by any of the Parties regarding any issue
18 whatsoever including: (i) whether it was appropriate for class certification; (ii) the
19 validity of any allegation or claim that was, could have been or will be asserted against
20 any of the Defendants; (iii) liability, negligence, fault, or wrongdoing of any kind;
21 and (iv) the existence or scope of any damages.

22 25. The Court retains exclusive and continuing jurisdiction over the Parties
23 and the class members to consider all further motions and applications arising out of,
24 or connected with, the Agreements or related Settlement matters. The Court may
25 approve the Settlements with such modifications as may be agreed to by the Parties,
26 if appropriate, without further notice to the Settlement Classes. The Court shall also
27 retain jurisdiction with respect to the implementation and enforcement of the terms of
28 the Agreements, and all Parties hereto submit to the jurisdiction of the Court for

1 purposes of implementing and enforcing the Settlements embodied in the
2 Agreements.

3 26. All class members shall be bound by all determinations and judgments
4 of the Court in the Action concerning the Settlements and related matters, whether
5 favorable or unfavorable to the Settlement Classes.

6 27. All proceedings in this action relating to TCA, 3M, and BRiC shall be
7 stayed until further order of the Court, except for proceedings that may be necessary
8 to implement this Preliminary Approval Order, the Agreements, their Exhibits, or to
9 comply with or effectuate the terms and conditions of the Agreements.

10 28. Pending final determination of whether the proposed Settlements should
11 be approved, neither Plaintiffs nor any class member, directly or indirectly,
12 representatively, or in any other capacity, shall commence or prosecute against any of
13 the settling Defendants, any action or proceeding in any court or tribunal asserting
14 any of the respective Released Claims.

15

16 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

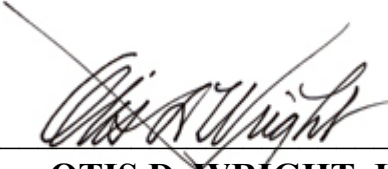
17

18 May 17, 2021

19

20

21



OTIS D. WRIGHT, II
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

22

23

24

25

26

27

28