

1 Mike Arias (CSB #115385)
2 Craig S. Momita (CSB #163347)
3 M. Anthony Jenkins (CSB #171958)
4 **ARIAS SANGUINETTI WANG & TEAM LLP**
5 6701 Center Drive West, Suite 1400
6 Los Angeles, CA 90045
7 Telephone: (310) 844-9696
8 Facsimile: (310) 861-0168
9 mike@aswtlawyers.com
10 craig@aswtlawyers.com
11 anthony@aswtlawyers.com

12 [*Additional Counsel Cont'd. After Caption*]

13 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**
14 **CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

15 GLENN KESSELMAN, an individual,
16 on behalf of himself and all others
17 similarly situated, *et al.*,

18 Plaintiffs,

19 vs.

20 TOYOTA MOTOR SALES, U.S.A.,
21 INC., a California Corporation

22 Defendant.

Case No. 2:21-cv-06010-TJH-JC

HON. TERRY J. HATTER JR.

**AMENDED ORDER GRANTING
PLAINTIFFS' AMENDED
MOTION FOR ATTORNEY'S
FEES, EXPENSES, AND SERVICE
AWARD**

1 Thomas P. Rosenfeld, *admitted pro hac vice*
2 Kevin P. Green, *admitted pro hac vice*
3 Daniel S. Levy, *admitted pro hac vice*
4 **GOLDENBERG HELLER & ANTOGNOLI, P.C.**
5 2227 South State Route 157
6 Edwardsville, IL 62025
7 Telephone: (618) 656-5150
8 tom@ghalaw.com
9 kevin@ghalaw.com
10 daniel@ghalaw.com

11 Attorneys for Plaintiffs
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28

1 Plaintiffs’ Amended Motion for Attorney’s Fees, Expenses, and Service Award
2 (Dkt. 170) (“Fee Application”) came before the Court for hearing on March 2, 2026.
3 The Court has reviewed Plaintiffs’ Memorandum in Support of the Fee Application,
4 including all declarations and submissions relating thereto filed with the Court in
5 support of the Fee Application (Dkt. 170-1 to 170-9) and Plaintiffs’ *in camera*
6 submissions (*see* Dkt. 172, 175).

7 Pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(h) and 54(d)(2), the Court finds and orders as
8 follows:

9 1. Plaintiffs request an award of attorneys’ fees of \$2,850,000, an award of
10 \$273,373.96 for litigation costs and expenses, and a combined service award for all
11 plaintiffs, as identified in the Settlement, in the amount of \$95,000.

12 2. The Court finds that these requests are both authorized by the parties’
13 Settlement Agreement (Dkt. 145-3) and by law as set forth in the Fee Application,
14 and that the Settlement Agreement sets forth reasonable procedures and deadlines for
15 payment.

16 3. This Court will award reasonable attorney’s fees to Class Counsel based
17 on the lodestar method. *See, e.g., Lealao v. Beneficial Cal., Inc.*, 82 Cal. App. 4th 19,
18 26 (2000) (“In so-called fee shifting cases, in which the responsibility to pay attorney
19 fees is statutorily or otherwise transferred from the prevailing plaintiff or class to the
20 defendant, the primary method for establishing the amount of ‘reasonable’ attorney
21 fees is the lodestar method”); *Guttmann v. Ole Mexican Foods, Inc.*, 2016 U.S. Dist.
22 LEXIS 100534, *13 (N.D. Cal. Aug. 1, 2016) (“Because the settlement [here] resulted
23 in injunctive relief, the lodestar method is the appropriate measure for calculating
24 attorneys’ fees”) (quoting *Lilly v. Jamba Juice Co.*, 2015 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 58451,
25 2015 WL 2062858, *5 (N.D. Cal. May 1, 2015)).

26 4. An attorney’s fees award to Class Counsel in the amount of \$2,850,000
27 is reasonable under the lodestar method. Class Counsel provided detailed information
28 relating to their lodestar (hours worked by Class Counsel along with respective rates),

1 and the Court finds the total 2814.84 hours worked and hourly rates of Class Counsel,
2 as identified in connection with the Fee Application, to be reasonable. *See Charlebois*
3 *v. Angels Baseball LP*, 993 F. Supp. 2d 1109, 1115 (C.D. Cal. 2012) (“Under the
4 Lodestar method, Plaintiff’s attorneys are entitled to be compensated for ‘all hours
5 reasonably spent on the matter.’”) (quoting *Serrano v. Unruh*, 32 Cal. 3d 621, 643
6 (1982); *DeCarlo v. Watermark Ret. Cmtys., LLC*, 2025 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 145693, *4
7 (C.D. Cal. July 23, 2025) (“Under California law, fee awards should generally be
8 ‘fully compensatory’”) (quoting *Ketchum v. Moses*, 24 Cal. 4th 1122, 1133 (2001));
9 *Glaviano v. Sacramento City Unified Sch. Dist.*, 22 Cal. App. 5th 744, 751 (2018)
10 (“The reasonable hourly rate is that prevailing for private attorneys in the community
11 conducting noncontingent litigation of the same type”) (citing *Ketchum*, 24 Cal.4th at
12 1133 and *PLCM Grp., Inc. v. Drexler*, 22 Cal. 4th 1084, 1095 (2000)). The Court is
13 satisfied that Class Counsel sufficiently showed that their hours included in the
14 lodestar figure were reasonably performed on behalf of the Class and that their
15 respective hourly rates are reasonable and consistent with those of private attorneys in
16 the community performing complex class action litigation and are in line with such
17 attorneys of comparable skill, experience, and reputation.

18 5. Further, the Court finds that Class Counsel’s requested modest multiplier
19 (1.05 as of December 2025), which the Court agrees has been reduced based on Class
20 Counsel’s continued work thereafter in connection with this litigation, is warranted in
21 light of the relevant factors for adjusting an attorney’s lodestar figure, including, *inter*
22 *alia*, the nature and difficulty of this technically complex litigation, the skill required
23 and employed to handle the case, the benefits obtained, Class Counsel’s preclusion of
24 other employment in handling this matter, and the contingent nature of Class
25 Counsel’s fee and associated substantial risk undertaken by Class Counsel in
26 prosecuting this matter. *See Guzman v. FCA US LLC*, 2024 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 232394,
27 *3-4 (C.D. Cal. Oct. 3, 2024) (citing *Cavalry SPVI, LLC v. Watkins*, 36 Cal. App. 5th
28 1070, 1101 (2019)); *see also Nichols v. City of Taft*, 155 Cal. App. 4th 1233, 1240

1 (2007); *In re Bluetooth Headset Prods. Liab. Litig.*, 654 F.3d 935, 941 (9th Cir. 2011)).
2 Additionally, the 1.05 multiplier is well within the accepted range. *See, e.g., Chavez*
3 *v. Netflix, Inc.*, 162 Cal. App. 4th 43, 66 (2008) (multiplier of 2.5); *Pellegrino v. Robert*
4 *Half Internat., Inc.*, 182 Cal. App. 4th 278, 291 (2010) (multiplier of 1.75); *Gutierrez*
5 *v. Amplify Energy Corp.*, 2023 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 72861, *30 (C.D. Cal. Apr. 24, 2023)
6 (multipliers ranging from 1.0-4.0 presumptively acceptable in Ninth Circuit).

7 The Court further finds the requested fee reasonable in light of the conservative
8 valuation of the injunctive relief performed by Christian Tregillis (Dkt. 162-8). The
9 fee requested represents 12.67% of this conservative value of the injunctive relief—
10 far below the 25% benchmark common in the Ninth Circuit. *See DeCarlo*, 2025 U.S.
11 Dist. LEXIS 145693 at *8-9 (performing “percentage-of-recovery cross check and
12 finding fee representing 20% of recovery “falls well within the range approved in other
13 cases”).

14 6. The Court also finds that Class Counsel sufficiently identified their costs
15 and expenses reasonably incurred in litigating this matter and that an award of
16 expenses and costs of \$273,373.96 will reimburse Class Counsel for costs and
17 expenses that they reasonably bore during the course of this case.

18 7. Further, the Court finds a combined service award to plaintiffs of \$95,000
19 to be fair and reasonable, divided as follows among the plaintiffs identified in the
20 Settlement: \$2,500 to Plaintiff Coviello, who did not have a vehicle inspection or sit
21 for a deposition; \$5,000 to Plaintiffs Granger and Freeman who had vehicle
22 inspections but did not sit for a deposition; and \$7,500 to each of the other Plaintiffs,
23 who all had vehicle inspections and sat for a deposition. These amounts are in-line
24 with service awards regularly found reasonable by courts within this circuit for
25 plaintiffs who have performed similar amounts of work on behalf of a class (*see, e.g.,*
26 *DeCarlo*, 2025 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 145693 at *12), and are warranted in light of, *inter*
27 *alia*, their extensive and continued work performed on behalf of the Class. The Court
28 agrees with Class Counsel and finds that each Plaintiff has been helpful, responsive,

1 engaged, and willing to devote their time and effort to this litigation, stood up for the
2 Class Members' rights despite the reputational damage they incurred in being named
3 a litigant in the public records, and understood and were willing to bear additional
4 invasion of their private matters through the discovery process. *Gaston v. Fabfitfun,*
5 *Inc.*, 2021 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 250695, *4 (C.D. Cal. Dec. 9, 2021). A combined \$95,000
6 service award is therefore reasonable, with the plaintiffs who both had a vehicle
7 inspection and sat for their deposition being awarded \$7,500, plaintiffs who had a
8 vehicle inspection but did not sit for their deposition being awarded \$5,000, and the
9 plaintiff who did not have a vehicle inspection or sit for a deposition being awarded
10 \$2,500.

11 **NOW THEREFORE, GOOD CAUSE APPEARING, IT IS HEREBY**
12 **ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED THAT:**

13 1. Class Counsel is awarded attorney's fees in the amount of \$2,850,000, to
14 be paid by Defendant pursuant to the terms of the Settlement.

15 2. Class Counsel is awarded \$273,373.96 in costs and expenses, to be paid
16 by Defendant pursuant to the terms of the Settlement.

17 3. The named plaintiffs, as identified in the Settlement, are awarded a
18 combined service award of \$95,000, to be paid by Defendant pursuant to the terms of
19 the Settlement, and divided as follows: \$2,500 to Plaintiff Coviello; \$5,000 to
20 Plaintiffs Granger and Freeman; and \$7,500 to each of the other Plaintiffs.

21 4. To the extent objections have been made to the Fee Application or
22 amounts set forth above, they are overruled.

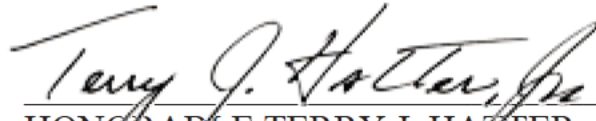
23
24
25
26
27
28

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

5. Good cause appearing, the Court finds pursuant to Rule 54(b) that there is no just reason for delay of enforcement or appeal of this Order, and it is expressly directed that this Order be, and hereby is, entered as a final and appealable order.

IT IS SO ORDERED:

Date: March 24, 2026


HONORABLE TERRY J. HATTER, JR.
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE