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2 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**  
3 **NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**  
4 **SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION**

5 Case No. 3:16-cv-04300-JD

6 CLASS ACTION

7 **IN RE POKÉMON GO NUISANCE**  
8 **LITIGATION**

9 ~~**PROPOSED**~~  
10 **ORDER APPROVING CLASS ACTION**  
11 **SETTLEMENT AND ENTRY OF FINAL**  
12 **JUDGMENT**

13 This matter came on for hearing on August 22, 2019. The Court has considered the Second  
14 Amended Settlement Agreement dated April 25, 2019, ECF No. 129-1 (“Settlement”), any  
15 objections or comments received regarding the Settlement, the record in the Action, and the  
16 arguments and authorities of counsel. Good cause appearing,

17 **IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED AS FOLLOWS:**

- 18 1. The Court, for purposes of this Order Approving Class Action Settlement and Entry of  
19 Final Judgment (“Final Judgment”), adopts the terms and definitions set forth in the  
20 Settlement.
- 21 2. The Court has jurisdiction over this Action, the subject matter of the Action, and all parties  
22 to the Action, including Class Members, and venue is proper in this District.
- 23 3. The Court finds that the notice to the Class of the pendency of the Action and of this  
24 Settlement, Class Counsel’s application for attorneys’ fees and expenses, and the  
25 application for service awards for Class Representatives, as provided for in the Settlement  
26 and by Order of this Court, has been implemented and fully complied with the  
27 requirements of Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23 and due process.
- 28 4. The Court finds that Niantic properly and timely notified the appropriate state and federal  
officials of the Settlement, pursuant to the Class Action Fairness Act, 28 U.S.C. §1715.

1 5. The Court approves the Settlement as fair, reasonable, and adequate and in the best  
2 interests of the Class Members. The Court has specifically considered the factors relevant  
3 to class settlement approval set forth in Ninth Circuit precedents, including the strength  
4 of Plaintiffs' case; the risk, expense, complexity, and likely duration of further litigation;  
5 the risk of maintaining class action status throughout trial; the relief provided for in the  
6 Settlement; the extent of discovery completed and stage of the proceedings; the experience  
7 and views of Class Counsel and the mediator; and the reaction of Class Members to the  
8 proposed settlement. *See, e.g. Churchill Village, L.L.C. v. General Elec.*, 361 F.3d 566  
9 (9th Cir. 2004). The Court has also specifically considered the factors relevant to class  
10 settlement approval set forth in Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(e)(2), including whether:

11 (A) the class representatives and class counsel have adequately represented the  
12 class;

13 (B) the proposal was negotiated at arm's length;

14 (C) the relief provided for the class is adequate, taking into account:

15 (i) the costs, risks, and delay of trial and appeal;

16 (ii) the effectiveness of any proposed method of distributing relief to the  
17 class, including the method of processing class-member claims;

18 (iii) the terms of any proposed award of attorney's fees, including timing  
19 of payment; and

20 (iv) any agreement required to be identified under Rule 23(e)(3); and

21 (D) the proposal treats class members equitably relative to each other.

22 6. The Court has scrutinized the Settlement and negotiation history for any signs of potential  
23 collusion, and finds that the Settlement is not the product of collusion. *See, e.g., In re*  
24 *Bluetooth Headset Prods. Liab. Litig.*, 654 F.3d 935 (9th Cir. 2011). This finding is  
25 supported by, among other things: the fact that the Settlement was negotiated by  
26 experienced, well-qualified counsel and with the active involvement and assistance of a  
27 neutral, well-qualified mediator; the Settlement provides substantial benefits to Class  
28 Members and such benefits are not disproportionate to the attorneys' fees and expenses

1 sought by Class Counsel; the benefits provided to Class Members are appropriate under  
2 the circumstances of this case; and the parties began negotiating regarding attorneys' fees  
3 and expenses only after reaching an agreement regarding the key deal terms.

4 7. The injunctive relief set forth in Section 2.1 of the Settlement Agreement shall be in effect  
5 for at least three (3) years from the Final Settlement Date. Specifically, Section 2.1 of the  
6 Settlement Agreement provides that, with respect to Pokémon GO in the United States:

- 7 (a) For complaints properly received through Niantic's website related to  
8 nuisance, trespass, or a request to remove a POI, Niantic will use CRE to  
9 resolve the complaints and communicate a resolution within no more than 15  
10 (fifteen) days of wait time for the requestor, for 95% of cases each year.
- 11 (b) In cases where the complaining party in Section 2.1(a) is the owner of a  
12 single-family residential property and the party reviewing the complaint  
13 determines that the complained of POI is on or within 40 meters of that  
14 property, Niantic will instruct that reviewer to remove the POI from the  
15 property. In cases where the resolution specified in 2.1(a) or 2.1(b) requires  
16 removal of a POI, Niantic will use CRE to perform that removal within five  
17 business days of the communication from Niantic agreeing to such action.
- 18 (c) Niantic will use CRE to maintain a database of complaints related to  
19 nuisance or trespass and requests to remove a POI, for a minimum of 1 (one)  
20 year from the date of the complaint. Niantic will also continue to use CRE to  
21 avoid the placement of new POI on single-family residential property.
- 22 (d) Niantic will maintain a form on its website whereby an owner of single-  
23 family residential property can request that any POI on or within 40 meters  
24 of their property be removed. In cases where Niantic has previously  
25 removed a POI from the property of a single-family residential home, and in  
26 cases where Niantic does so in the future during the settlement period,  
27 Niantic agrees to use CRE to avoid re-placing that POI on that same single-  
28 family residential property.

- 1 (e) For Raids which Niantic's systems indicate will involve more than 10  
2 participants, Niantic will use CRE to cause a warning message to appear on  
3 participants' screens before the raid begins reminding players to be courteous  
4 to others and respectful of their real-world surroundings. Precise final  
5 language will be determined by Niantic, in its sole discretion.
- 6 (f) Niantic will add specific instructions to the current review form that  
7 Niantic's user-reviewers use to evaluate new POI submissions that direct  
8 user-reviewers to increase scrutiny regarding any proposed POI that may be  
9 located on or within 40 meters of a private single-family residential property,  
10 and POI that appear to be located in neighborhood parks. At a minimum,  
11 such instructions will include directions for the user-reviewer to examine the  
12 proposed POI using a variety of sources, including but not limited to  
13 mapping services maintained by private companies such as Google Maps.  
14 After such review, Niantic will use CRE to avoid placing the POI on any  
15 property that appears to the reviewer to be a single-family residential  
16 property.
- 17 (g) Niantic agrees that it shall manually review a statistically significant  
18 percentage of new POI submissions via a Niantic employee or contractor for  
19 the principal purpose of trying to avoid POI that are more likely to lead to  
20 issues with nuisance or trespass.
- 21 (h) Niantic agrees to maintain a mechanism for parks whereby it provides parks  
22 the opportunity to request that a specific park's Hours of Operation be  
23 applied to POI that are located within that park. Niantic also agrees to  
24 comply with requests related to existing POI located in parks from  
25 governmental parks authorities to apply Hours of Operation to POI located in  
26 parks within their jurisdiction. In addition to any notice of the settlement that  
27 Plaintiffs determine is required per Section 2.4 below, at least once in each of  
28 the three years of the settlement period, Niantic will make a public post on its

1 website that includes a notification that Niantic will limit the hours of  
2 operation of POI within public parks upon request from the proper park  
3 administrator.

4 (i) Niantic will agree to confirm compliance with its obligations under Section  
5 2.1(a) above by way of an audit, at Niantic's expense, conducted by an  
6 independent firm that Niantic will select, at the time of Plaintiffs' choosing  
7 during the 3 (three) year period, with at least 30 days' notice to Niantic  
8 before the commencement of the audit. Should the audit conclude that  
9 Niantic was materially non-compliant with the settlement terms in Section  
10 2.1(a) during the audited period, a second audit will be conducted, at  
11 Niantic's expense, during the settlement period, with at least 30 days' notice  
12 to Niantic before commencement of the second audit.

13 (j) Niantic will add a new warning to the rotating warnings that appear at the  
14 launch of the game (which currently include "do not trespass while playing  
15 Pokémon GO" and "do not play Pokémon GO while driving") that states:  
16 "Be courteous to members of real-world communities as you play Pokémon  
17 GO" or something similar, with final specific language subject to Niantic's  
18 sole discretion.

19 8. For a period of two (2) years following the Final Settlement Date, Plaintiffs' Counsel will  
20 be available to receive complaints from Class Members who have already gone through  
21 Niantic's customer service process regarding the injunctive relief specified above, in  
22 accordance with Section 2.3 of the Settlement Agreement. Specifically, Section 2.3 of the  
23 Settlement Agreement provides that:

24 a. The Long-Form Notice will provide that Class Members who have already gone  
25 through Niantic's customer service process may contact Plaintiffs' Counsel with  
26 complaints related to the location of Pokéstops or Gyms in Pokémon GO,  
27 including at a dedicated email address that Plaintiffs' Counsel will create, such as  
28 pokemongosettlement@pomlaw.com.

- 1           b. Within fifteen (15) business days of receiving each complaint, Plaintiffs’ Counsel  
2           will undertake a review of each complaint, including soliciting additional  
3           information from the Class Member where appropriate.
- 4           c. In cases where Plaintiffs’ Counsel believes Niantic should take further action to  
5           address the Class Member’s concerns, Plaintiffs’ Counsel will assemble the  
6           relevant information bearing on the complaint, including information sufficient to  
7           allow Niantic to locate the prior investigation of the complaint in Niantic’s  
8           systems, and Plaintiffs’ Counsel’s recommendation for remediation. Plaintiffs’  
9           Counsel shall transmit such information to Niantic, for all claims they have chosen  
10          to raise for further review, on the first Monday of each month (or the next business  
11          day thereafter, in the event of a holiday).
- 12          d. Within fifteen (15) business days of receipt, Niantic will provide a written  
13          response to Plaintiffs’ Counsel, including whether Niantic will offer further  
14          remediation and, if not, the basis for Niantic’s position regarding the particular  
15          complaint.
- 16          e. Niantic and Plaintiffs’ Counsel will make a good faith and reasonable attempt to  
17          cooperatively resolve Class Member claims that Niantic has not adhered to the  
18          terms of the Settlement.
- 19          f. Twice during this two-year period, Plaintiffs’ Counsel shall file a status report with  
20          the Court, providing the Court with the number of instances where Plaintiffs’  
21          Counsel contacted for further review Niantic and a high-level summary of the  
22          nature of the complaints and resolutions.
- 23          9. The Parties and Settlement Class Members are bound by the terms and conditions of the  
24          Settlement. Upon the Final Settlement Date, the members of the Class and their present,  
25          former, and future heirs, executors, administrators, representatives, agents, attorneys,  
26          partners, predecessors-in-interest, successors, assigns, and legatees, fully, finally and  
27          forever release, relinquish, and discharge the Released Parties from all claims for  
28          equitable, injunctive or declaratory relief based on the facts that were or could have been

1 alleged in the SAC, including but not limited to injunctive claims arising out of or relating  
2 to any of the facts, transactions, events, occurrences, acts, disclosures, statements,  
3 misrepresentations, omissions, failures to act, or other conduct that was or could have  
4 been alleged, including, but not limited to, claims regarding Niantic's conduct, practices,  
5 disclosures, terms, and policies relating to the placement of POI, spawning of Pokémon,  
6 and design of the Pokémon GO game through the date on which the Court enters the  
7 Approval Order. The foregoing release includes all claims for equitable, injunctive or  
8 declaratory relief that Class Members do not know or suspect to exist, which, if known by  
9 them might affect their decision not to object to the release of the Released Parties for the  
10 claims specified in this Section or might affect their decision not to object to the  
11 Settlement Agreement. Upon the Final Settlement Date, Class Members shall be deemed  
12 to have, and shall have, expressly waived and relinquished, to the fullest extent permitted  
13 by law, the provisions, rights, and benefits of Section 1542 of the California Civil Code,  
14 and any law or legal principle of similar effect in any jurisdiction, whether federal or state.  
15 Section 1542 of the California Civil Code provides as follows:

16 A GENERAL RELEASE DOES NOT EXTEND TO CLAIMS WHICH THE  
17 CREDITOR OR RELEASING PARTY DOES NOT KNOW OR SUSPECT TO  
18 EXIST IN HIS OR HER FAVOR AT THE TIME OF EXECUTING THE  
19 RELEASE, WHICH IF KNOWN BY HIM OR HER WOULD HAVE  
20 MATERIALLY AFFECTED HIS OR HER SETTLEMENT WITH THE  
21 DEBTOR OR RELEASED PARTY.

22 10. Class Members individually and on behalf of each of their present, former, and future  
23 heirs, executors, administrators, representatives, agents, attorneys, partners, predecessors-  
24 in-interest, successors, assigns, and legatees, fully understand that the facts upon which  
25 this Agreement is executed may hereafter be other than or different from the facts now  
26 believed by Class Members, and/or Plaintiffs' Counsel or other counsel for Class  
27 Members to be true and expressly accept and assume the risk of such possible difference  
28 in facts and agree that this Agreement shall remain effective notwithstanding any such

1 difference in facts. Class Members acknowledge and agree that this waiver is an essential  
2 and material term of this release and the settlement that underlies it and that without such  
3 waiver the settlement would not have been accepted. The release set forth in this section  
4 does not include any claim for monetary relief.

5 11. The Action and all claims asserted in the Action are dismissed with prejudice as to the  
6 Class Representatives and all Class Members.

7 12. The Court reserves exclusive and continuing jurisdiction over the Action, the Class  
8 Representatives, the Class Members, and Niantic for the purposes of supervising the  
9 implementation, enforcement, and construction of the Settlement and this Judgment.

10 13. This Judgment shall not be construed or used as an admission, concession, or declaration  
11 by or against Niantic of any fault, wrongdoing, breach, or liability, and shall not be  
12 deemed to be a stipulation as to the propriety of class certification, or any admission of  
13 fact or law regarding any request for class certification, in any other action or proceeding,  
14 whether or not involving the same or similar claims. Nor shall this Judgment be construed  
15 or used as an admission, concession, or declaration by or against Plaintiffs or the other  
16 Settlement Class Members that their claims lack merit or that the relief requested is  
17 inappropriate, improper, or unavailable, or as a waiver by any Party of any defenses or  
18 claims he, she, or it may have in the Action or in any other proceeding.

19 **SO ORDERED** in the Northern District of California on August 30, 2019.

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HON. JAMES DONATO  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE