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9	UNITED STATES	S BANKRUPTC	Y COURT		
10	EASTERN DIST	RICT OF CALI	FORNIA		
11	SACRAM	IENTO DIVISIO	ON		
12	In re:	CASE NO.	12-37961-B-11		
13	ZF IN LIQUIDATION, LLC, a	Confirmation Hearing:			
14	California limited liability company fka ZACKY FARMS, LLC, a	Date:	December 10, 2013		
15	California limited liability company,	Time: Courtroom:	2:00 p.m. 32		
16	Debtor-In-Possession.		501 I Street, 6th Floor Sacramento, CA		
17	SECOND MEMORANDUM OF POIN CONFIRMATION OF DEBTOR'S				
18		: JUNE 27, 2013			
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			Second Memorandum of Points & Authorit		

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ZF in Liquidation, LLC fka Zacky Farms, LLC, debtor and debtor-in-possession (the "Debtor"), hereby submits this Memorandum of Points and Authorities in Support of Confirmation of the Amended Plan of Liquidation (Dated: June 27, 2013) (the "Plan"), pursuant to section 1129.¹

The evidentiary support for the facts supporting confirmation is provided in the Second Declaration of Sean M. Harding in Support of Confirmation of the Plan ("Harding Decl.") filed herewith, the Declaration of Karen L. Widder Regarding Tabulation of Ballots in Support of Confirmation of the Plan ("Ballot Decl.") and the Ballots filed on August 6, 2013 (Dkt. Nos. 2057 and 2055, respectively), the Amended Declaration of Karen L. Widder Regarding Tabulation of Ballots in Support of Confirmation of the Plan filed on August 12, 2013 (Dkt. No. 2072), and the Supplemental Declaration of Karen L. Widder Regarding Tabulation of Ballots in Support of Confirmation of the Plan ("Supp. Ballot Decl.") and the Ballots and Amended Ballots received after August 6, 2013, both filed herewith, as well as such further evidence and argument as may be submitted at the confirmation hearing.

I. BACKGROUND

A. Plan Overview

On the Petition Date,² the Debtor filed its voluntary petition under Chapter 11 of the Code. Dkt. No. 1. The Plan provides for the continued liquidation of assets of the Estate and distribution of the proceeds in accordance with existing Court-approved settlements and the priorities established under the Code. Disclosure Statement Accompanying the Plan filed May 1, 2013 (Dkt. No. 1539) ("Disclosure Statement") at 1:6-9.

B. Plan Voting

On May 2, 2013, after notice and a hearing, the Court entered its Order Approving Disclosure Statement and Fixing Time for Filing Acceptances or Rejections of Plan, Combined with Notice of Hearing on Confirmation and of Related Deadlines (Dkt. No. 1543) ("Order

¹ Statutory citations, unless otherwise noted, are to the Bankruptcy Code, 11 U.S.C. § 101, et seq.

² Unless otherwise defined herein, all capitalized terms shall have the meanings ascribed to them in the Plan.

1	Approving Disclosure Statement"). On May 10, 2013, the Debtor served the solicitation package
2	regarding the proposed confirmation of the Plan. Dkt. No. 1650. On May 15, 2013, the Debtor
3	filed an application to amend the Order Approving Disclosure Statement to permit the Debtor to
4	serve the exhibits to the Plan on CD-ROM. Dkt. No. 1678. On May 21, 2013, the Court entered
5	its Order Approving Application to Amend Order Approving Disclosure Statement. Dkt. No.
6	1713.
7	The Plan provides for sixteen classes of impaired claims: Class 1 (Settled Claim of DIP

The Plan provides for sixteen classes of impaired claims: Class 1 (Settled Claim of DIP Lender); Class 2 (Settled Secured Claim of Western Milling); Class 3 (Disputed Secured Claim of Dreisbach); Class 4 (Settled Claim of the Lillian Zacky Trust); Class 5 (Disputed Secured Claim of Office Max North America); Class 6 (Disputed Secured Claim of Dave Dodge Service, Inc.); Class 7 (Disputed Secured Claim of B&B Quality Food Providers); Class 8 (Disputed Secured Claim of Wei Chan DDS); Class 9 (Disputed Secured Claim of Idaho Avenue Land Company); Class 10 (Disputed Secured Claim of USA Petroleum Corporation); Class 11 (Disputed Secured Claim of GFC LLC); Class 12 (Disputed Secured Claim of Richard Zacky Trust); Class 13 (Holders of Permitted Liens); Class 14 (Settled 503(b)(9) Claims); Class 15 (General Unsecured Claims); and Class 16 (Debtor's Members' Interests). Plan, Art. 5. The ballots and other filings the Debtor has received demonstrate acceptances of the Plan by impaired Classes 2, 12, 14, 15 and 16. Ballot Decl. ¶ 4; Supp. Ballot Decl. ¶ 9. No votes were received from Classes 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 or 13. Supp. Ballot Decl. ¶ 9.

Since the solicitation of the Plan, the Debtor has obtained a Court order determining that Class 3 has no outstanding pre- or post-petition claim against the Debtor. Dkt. No. 2040. The Debtor also has obtained Court orders disallowing the secured claims of Classes 5, 6 and 8. Dkt. Nos. 1841; 1846 & 1852. In addition, the Debtor has filed a motion for a Court order determining the amount of the disputed secured claim of Class 7 at zero (\$-0-) for plan confirmation purposes and that motion has been taken under submission by the Court. Dkt. No. 2357.

At a hearing on November 26, 2013, the Court granted the Debtor's motion for default judgment as to the holder of claims in Class 9. Adv. Proc. Dkt. No. 46. The Debtor has submitted a proposed judgment to the Court with respect to the holder of claims in Class 9 that

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provides, inter alia, that the holder of claims in Class 9 has no lien on or other claim to the \$3.5M Creditor Note. Harding Decl. ¶ 44.

The Debtor also has obtained stipulations from the holders of claims in Classes 10 and 11 providing that those creditors do not have any interest in the Debtor's property. Adv. Proc. Dkt. Nos. 37 & 38. The Debtor is awaiting entry of orders approving those stipulations as well as entry of stipulated judgments for the holders of claims in Classes 10 and 11 which will provide, inter alia, that the holders of claims in Class 10 and Class 11 have no lien on or other claim to the \$3.5M Creditor Note. Harding Decl. ¶ 45.

C. **Objections to the Plan**

(i) Resolved Objections

The Court initially fixed June 11, 2013, as the deadline to file objections to Plan confirmation. Order Approving Disclosure Statement at 2:12-15. As of that deadline, objections to confirmation were filed by: (1) the United States of America ("USDA") (Dkt. No. 1761); (2) Integrated Grain & Milling, Inc. ("IGM") (Dkt. No. 1763); (3) Richard Zacky, individually and in his capacity as trustee of the Richard N. Zacky Irrevocable Trust dated 11/25/07, the Survivor's Trust of Albert and Beverly Zacky Trust dated 2/10/88, the Barbara Jean Zacky Irrevocable Trust dated 12/30/06, and ZF Enterprises, LLC (collectively, the "Richard Zacky Entities") (Dkt. No. 1765); (4) Big Feather Ranch, LLC, Lucky Wishbone Ranch, LLC and American Huntsman, LLC (collectively, the "Ranches") (Dkt. No. 1767); and (5) Sharon Zacky Wilensky, individually and in her capacity as trustee of the Sharon Zacky Wilensky Irrevocable Trust dated 11/26/07 ("Wilensky") (Dkt. No. 1769) (collectively, the "Objections").

The Objections were filed with respect to the plan dated May 1, 2013. On June 27, 2013, the Debtor filed an amended plan (including a redlined copy to show the changes from the version dated May 1, 2013) to address certain issues raised in the Objections. subsequently raised concerns with respect to the amended plan filed on June 27, 2013, based on the rejection of that plan by the general unsecured creditors. The Debtor filed another amended plan on September 3, 2013 (Dkt. No. 2167) ("September Plan") to address those issues. Each of the Objections subsequently has been resolved or withdrawn and, as a consequence, the general

unsecured class has accepted the Plan and the modifications proposed by the Debtor in the September Plan are no longer necessary. The Debtor withdrew the September Plan on November 19, 2013 (Dkt. No. 2341).

On October 30, 2013, pursuant to the Court's order, the Debtor re-noticed confirmation of the Plan and provided a new deadline of November 26, 2013 in which to file objections to the Plan as well as a chance to file amended ballots (Dkt. Nos. 2298, 2312 & 2330).

(ii) Only Remaining Conditional Objection/Request for Clarification

On November 26, 2013, Western Milling, LLC ("Western Milling") filed a conditional objection to/request for clarification of the Plan ("Western Milling Objection"). Notwithstanding having voted for the Plan in three classes (Classes 2, 14 and 15), Western Milling now objects to the Plan because the Plan does not provide for the pro rata distribution to Class 2 and 503(b)(9) Claimants of the interest and maturity extension fee paid by the borrower of the \$6.4M 503(b)(9) Note.

The Western Milling Objection should be denied and the Plan should be confirmed as filed. Western Milling asserts that Bankruptcy Code section 1123(a)(4) embodies the concept that "all claims of equal priority are entitled to the same treatment *in a chapter 11 case*." Western Milling Objection, 5:9-10 (emphasis added). Such is not the case. Bankruptcy Code section 1123(a)(4) provides in relevant part that "a plan shall ... provide the same treatment for each class of claim ... unless the holder of a particular claim ... agrees to a less favorable treatment[.]" 11 U.S.C. § 1123(a)(4) (emphasis added). Here, the Plan does provide for the same treatment for each class of claims, and both Classes 2 and 14 have accepted the treatment of their claims under the Plan. The Plan clearly provides that Class 2 and the 503(b)(9) Claimants, including those holding Settled 503(b)(9) Claims in Class 14, are to be paid the amount of their claim without interest. Western Milling provides no legal basis to adjust that treatment now. The Western Milling Objection should be overruled.

II. ARGUMENT

Section 1129 sets forth the requirements for confirmation of a plan. As the proponent of the Plan, the Debtor bears the burden of establishing each of the elements under section 1129 by a

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preponderance of the evidence. In re Arnold, 177 B.R. 648, 654-55 (9th Cir. BAP 1994). For reasons set forth below, the Plan satisfies the requirements of section 1129, the Objections to the Plan should be overruled, and the Court should therefore confirm the Plan.

Α. The Plan Complies with Section 1129(a)(1)

Pursuant to section 1129(a)(1), a plan must comply with "the applicable provisions of" the Code. The applicable provisions are section 1122, which sets guidelines for permissible classification of claims or interests in a plan, and section 1123, which sets forth the required and permissible contents of a plan. H.R. Rep. No. 95-595, at 412 (1977); S. Rep. No. 95-989, at 126 (1978); see In re Michelson, 141 B.R. 715, 721 (Bankr. E.D. Cal. 1992) (noting that the court will review classification and contents of a plan sua sponte); In re Toy & Sports Warehouse, Inc., 37 B.R. 141, 149 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. 1984) (holding that a plan must comply with the requirements of Chapter 11, even absent objections to confirmation). Here, the Plan complies with sections 1122 and 1123, and other provisions of the Code.

The Plan Complies with Section 1122 (i)

Under section 1122(a), with the exception of administrative convenience classes covered under section 1122(b), "a plan may place a claim or an interest in a particular class only if such claim or interest is substantially similar to the other claims or interests of such class." Although section 1122 provides that dissimilar claims may not be classified together, there is no express prohibition of separate classification of similar claims. Bakarat v. Life Ins. Co. of Va. (In re Bakarat), 99 F.3d 1520, 1524-25 (9th Cir. 1996); Travelers Ins. Co. v. Bryson Properties XVIII (In re Bryson Properties XVIII), 961 F.2d 496, 502 (4th Cir. 1992) (acknowledging that section 1122 "grants some flexibility in classification of unsecured claims"). Nevertheless, most courts will only allow separate classification of similar claims where such classification does not represent gerrymandering. Id.; In re Corcoran Hospital District, 233 B.R. 449, 455 (Bankr. E.D. Cal. 1999) (affirming that the Ninth Circuit requires a business or economic justification for the separate classification of unsecured claims).

The Plan classifies claims as follows:

1. Class 1 consists of the settled secured claim of the DIP Lender.

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Class 2 consists of the settled secured claim of Western Milling.

Class 3 consists of the disputed secured claim of Dreisbach.

3	4.	Class 4 consists of the settled secured claim of the Lillian Zacky Trust.
4	5.	Class 5 consists of the disputed secured claim of Office Max North America.
5	6.	Class 6 consists of the disputed secured claim of Dave Dodge Service, Inc.
6	7.	Class 7 consists of the disputed secured claim of B&B Quality Food Providers.
7	8.	Class 8 consists of the disputed secured claim of Wei Chan DDS.
8	9.	Class 9 consists of the disputed secured claim of Idaho Avenue Land Company.
9	10.	Class 10 consists of the disputed secured claim of USA Petroleum Corporation.
10	11.	Class 11 consists of the disputed secured claim of GFC LLC.
11	12.	Class 12 consists of the disputed secured claim of the Richard Zacky Trust.
12	13.	Class 13 consists of the secured claims of holders of Permitted Liens.
13	14.	Class 14 consists of allowed Settled 503(b)(9) Claims.
14	15.	Class 15 consists of allowed general Unsecured Claims.
15	16.	Class 16 consists of allowed interests of the Debtor's Members.
16	These	classifications are rationally based on the legal nature and/or priority of the claims
17	and interests,	and there is no scheme that allows for voting manipulation. Harding Decl. ¶ 7.
18	(ii)	The Plan Complies with Section 1123
19	Sectio	n 1123(a) sets forth mandatory requirements, and section 1123(b) sets forth
20	permissive re	quirements, for the contents of a plan. The Plan complies with the requirements of
21	section 1123.	
22	1.	Pursuant to subsection (1) of section 1123(a), the Plan designates classes of claims
23	and interests.	See Plan, Art. 2.
24	2.	Pursuant to subsection (2) of section 1123(a), the Plan specifies any classes of
25	claims or inte	rests that are not impaired. See Plan, Art. 5.
26	3.	Pursuant to subsection (3) of section 1123(a), the Plan specifies the treatment of
27	any class of c	laims or interests that is impaired under the Plan. See Plan, Art. 4.

Pursuant to subsection (4) of section 1123(a), the Plan provides the same treatment

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of each class or interest as the treatment of other claims or interests in such class, unless the holder of a particular claim or interest agrees to a less favorable treatment. See Plan, Art. 4.

- 5. Subsection (5) of section 1123(a) requires that a plan provide adequate means for its implementation. Article VI of the Plan sets forth the means for implementation of the Plan. The Plan provides for, among other things, the revesting of Estate Assets in the Liquidating Debtor (Plan at Articles 6.2, 9.2), the enforcement of the Secured Sale Notes and other DIP Lender obligations (Plan at Articles 6.10, 6.11), the management of the Liquidating Debtor by a Plan Administrator (subject to certain oversight restrictions by the Post-Confirmation Committee) (Plan at Articles 6.4, 6.20), and the rights of the Liquidating Debtor to prosecute, investigate, liquidate and/or settle Claims and Defenses and Avoidance Actions for the benefit of the Estate (Plan at Articles 6.12, 6.15). Article VI of the Plan also contains provisions governing the allowance, distribution and payment of Claims (Plan at Articles 6.23, 6.24), the establishment of reserves for Disputed Claims (Plan at Article 6.25), the Reserved Claims Pool Account and the Claims Reserve Account (Plan at Article 6.16), and procedures for governing the payment of Plan Expenses (Plan at Article 6.22). Article VI of the Plan also creates the Post-Confirmation Committee (Plan at Article 6.19), delineates the power and authority of the Post-Confirmation Committee as of the Effective Date (Plan at Article 6.20), fixes procedures for the post-Effective Date employment and compensation of Professionals (Plan at Article 6.38), and provides for the entry of a final decree closing the Debtor's chapter 11 case upon full administration of the Bankruptcy Case (Plan at Article 6.45). The Debtor submits that the foregoing constitutes adequate means for implementation of the Plan.
- 6. Subsection (6) of section 1123(a) requires that a plan provide for the inclusion in a corporate debtor's charter a provision prohibiting the issuance of nonvoting equity securities, and providing, as to the classes of securities possessing voting power, an appropriate distribution of such power among such classes. 11 U.S.C. § 1123(a)(6). This provision is not applicable as the Debtor is a limited liability company and not a corporation. In re Univ. Shoppes, LLC, 2010 Bankr. LEXIS 4814, *13 (Bankr. S.D. Fla. Sept. 17, 2010) (finding section 1123(a)(6) not applicable because the debtor was a limited liability company). If the Court determines that the

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Debtor is required to comply with section 1123(a)(6), the Debtor will amend the Plan to include language consistent with section 1123(a)(6). Such an amendment would not be material because the Debtor is liquidating under the Plan.

- 7. Subsection (7) of section 1123(a) requires that a plan contain only provisions that are consistent with the interests of creditors, equity security holders, and public policy with respect to the manner of selection of any officer, director or trustee under the plan and any successor thereto. Pursuant to Article VI of the Plan, the Debtor has disclosed the identity of, and the terms of engagement for, the Plan Administrator and the manner in which a successor Plan Administrator will be selected. (Plan at Articles 6.3, 6.4 & 6.32). The Plan Administrator will be required to act in consultation with the Post-Confirmation Committee by, among other things, (a) providing the Post-Confirmation Committee members with periodic status reports regarding the status of the Secured Sale Notes and the Liquidating Debtor's budget to actual performance regarding the Post-Confirmation Budget; (b) working with the Post-Confirmation Committee to schedule Post-Confirmation Committee meetings as needed; and (c) as long as the Post-Confirmation Committee has one or more members remaining, the Plan Administrator may not take certain enumerated actions (such as settling claims against third parties in excess of \$100,000.00) without the written approval of the Post-Confirmation Committee. provisions satisfy the requisites of section 1123(a)(7) of the Code and are consistent with the interests of creditors, equity security holders, and public policy.
- 8. Subsection (8) of section 1123(a) is not applicable because the Debtor is not an individual.
- 9. Pursuant to the permissible provisions of section 1123(b), the Plan renders all classes of claims impaired. See Plan, Art. 4; 11 U.S.C. § 1123(b)(1). The Plan provides that all executory contracts and unexpired leases of the Debtor entered into prior to the Petition Date which are not assumed or rejected pursuant to section 365 prior to the Confirmation Date shall be deemed rejected upon the Effective Date. See Plan, Art. 7; 11 U.S.C. § 1123(b)(2). Each nondebtor party to an executory contract or unexpired lease rejected under the Plan shall have thirty (30) days subsequent to the Effective Date to file a proof of claim with the Court asserting

damages arising from such rejection. *Id.* The Plan provides for the retention of all claims or interests held by the Estate. *See* Plan, Art. 6; 11 U.S.C. § 1123(b)(3)(B). The Plan will be executed by the vesting of Estate Assets in the Liquidating Debtor. *See* Plan, Art. 6, 11 U.S.C. § 1123(b)(4). The rights of holders of secured claims are modified, but not in a manner that is prohibited by section 1123(b)(5). *See* Plan, Art. 4; 11 U.S.C. § 1123(b)(5).

(iii) Additional Briefing Regarding Plan Treatment of Late Filed Claims

The Plan further includes other provisions not inconsistent with Title 11. 11 U.S.C. § 1123(b)(6). During a prior hearing on confirmation of the Plan, the Court requested additional briefing regarding the propriety of Article 6.34 of the Plan. Plan Article 6.34 provides that if a creditor was scheduled as an Allowed Claim, but subsequently filed a late claim, the Allowed amount of such creditor's claim will be the scheduled amount of the Claim and not the amount set forth in the late-filed Claim. Plan Article 6.34 is proper under applicable Ninth Circuit case law, the plain language of Bankruptcy Code section 1111(a) and Federal Rule of Bankruptcy Procedure ("Bankruptcy Rule") 3003 as well as principles of equity.

(a) Ninth Circuit Case Law. Although a few bankruptcy courts in other circuits have allowed late-filed claims to relate back to scheduled claims (and to be treated as amendments to the scheduled claims), the Ninth Circuit has not made such a determination. The primary case to address this issue is *Varela v. Dynamic Brokers, Inc.* (*In re Dynamic Brokers, Inc.*), 293 B.R. 489 (9th Cir. BAP 2003). The Bankruptcy Appellate Panel in *Varela* stated that "[a]lthough Rule 3003(c)(4) provides that a creditor's filing of a proof of claim supersedes any scheduling, it does not destroy the effect of scheduling in "deemed allowed" status if the filed proof of claim is somehow procedurally incorrect. [citations omitted]. If the superseding claim is defeated on a procedural ground *such as timeliness of filing*, the "deemed allowed" claim springs back into effect." *Id.* (emphasis added).³ In other words, if the creditor's filed claim fails for a reason such as untimeliness, the claim is still allowed in the scheduled amount.

Here, the Plan is consistent with this concept because the Plan provides that claims filed

Second Memorandum of Points & Authorities in Support of Plan Confirmation

³ The BAP in *Varela* also held that the Debtor improperly had attempted to use a plan provision to reduce the creditor's claim below the allowed scheduled amount of the claim without specific notice of the requested reduction to the creditor.

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after the Bar Date are disallowed as filed, but are Allowed as originally scheduled.

(b) Statutory Construction. The plain language of Bankruptcy Code section 1111(a) and Bankruptcy Rule 3003 also support the treatment of late-filed claims as provided in Plan Article 6.34. Bankruptcy Code section 1111(a) provides that, "A proof of claim or interest is deemed filed under section 501 of this title for any claim or interest that appears in the schedules ... except a claim or interest that is scheduled as disputed, contingent, or unliquidated." 11 U.S.C. § 1111(a). Bankruptcy Rule 3003(b)(1) implements Bankruptcy Code section 1111(a) and provides that "[t]he schedule of liabilities filed pursuant to § 521 of the Code shall constitute prima facie evidence of the validity and amount of the claims of creditors, unless they are scheduled as disputed, contingent, or unliquidated. It shall not be necessary for a creditor or equity security holder to file a proof of claim or interest except as provided in subdivision (c)(2) of this rule." Fed. R. Bankr. P. 3003(b)(1). In addition, Bankruptcy Rule 3003(c)(3) provides, in relevant part, that "[t]he court shall fix and for cause shown may extend the time within which proofs of claim or interest may be filed." Fed. R. Bankr. P. 3003(c)(3). Finally, Bankruptcy Rule 3003(c)(4) states that, "A proof of claim or interest executed and filed in accordance with this subdivision shall supersede any scheduling of that claim or interest pursuant to § 521(a)(1) of the Code." Fed. R. Bankr. P. 3003(c)(4) (emphasis added). Taking these provisions together, it is clear that a creditor whose claim is scheduled (and not listed as disputed, contingent, or unliquidated) is not required to file a proof of claim, and that such claim is "deemed allowed" unless there is an objection to the claim. See 11 U.S.C. § 502(a).

Nevertheless, a creditor may file a proof of claim, which will supersede the scheduling of such claim only if that claim is filed *in accordance with* the subdivisions of Bankruptcy Rule 3003. As stated above, subdivision (c)(3) of Bankruptcy Rule 3003 requires that a claims bar date be fixed and may only be extended if the Court finds that "cause" exists to warrant extension. If a creditor does not file a proof of claim by the Bar Date, such creditor has not filed a claim in accordance with the subdivisions of Rule 3003, and therefore, under the plain language of the rule, a proof of claim filed after the bar date does not supersede the scheduling of the claim.

(c) Equitable Considerations. In addition, Plan Article 6.34 is proper in light of

equitable concerns. All scheduled creditors received a Notice of Chapter 11 Bankruptcy Case, Meeting of Creditors, & Deadlines (the "Bar Date Notice"), which provided that the deadline to file a proof of claim was February 6, 2013. *See* Dkt. No. 29. That notice also stated "If your claim is scheduled and is and is (sic) not listed as disputed, contingent, or unliquidated, it will be allowed in the amount scheduled unless you filed a Proof of Claim or you are sent further notice about the claim." *See* Explanations sheet attached to Bar Date Notice. Therefore, scheduled creditors were made aware that a claims Bar Date existed, and that if no claim was filed by such Bar Date, their claim would be allowed in the scheduled amount.

In addition, scheduled creditors have been provided copies of the proposed Plan and Disclosure Statement, and therefore have been provided notice of the Debtor's proposed treatment of late-filed claims in those documents as well, namely, that such claims will be allowed in the scheduled amount only.

Accordingly, Plan Article 6.34 is proper under applicable Ninth Circuit case law, statutory construction and principles of equity, and should be confirmed as part of the Plan.

B. The Plan Complies with Section 1129(a)(2)

Section 1129(a)(2) requires that the proponents of a plan comply with the "applicable provisions" of Title 11. The applicable provisions include the disclosure requirements under section 1125. H.R. Rep. No. 95-595, at 412 (1977); S. Rep. No. 95-989, at 126 (1978); see, e.g., In re Sierra-Cal, 210 B.R. 168, 176 (Bankr. E.D. Cal. 1997) (stating that section 1125 is an example of what section 1129(a)(2) is intended to cover); *Michelson*, 141 B.R. at 719 (explaining that "[c]ompliance with the disclosure and solicitation requirements is the paradigmatic example of what Congress had in mind when it enacted section 1129(a)(2).").

Section 1125 requires disclosure prior to the solicitation of acceptances of a proposed plan. That is, plan acceptances or rejections may not be solicited unless "at the time of or before such solicitation, there is transmitted to such holder the plan or a summary of the plan, and a written disclosure approved, after notice and a hearing, by the court as containing adequate information." 11 U.S.C. § 1125(b). The same disclosure statement shall be transmitted to all class members, but differing disclosure statements may be transmitted among the classes.

11 U.S.C. § 1126(c).

The Court determined that the Disclosure Statement contained adequate information, as defined by section 1125(a)(1), to enable a hypothetical investor typical of the holders of claims or interests in the case to make an informed judgment about the Plan. Order Approving Disclosure Statement at 1:22-23. In accordance with the Order Approving Disclosure Statement, as amended, the Debtor mailed copies of the Disclosure Statement and Plan, in addition to ballot forms, to all creditors, equity security holders, other parties in interest, and the United States Trustee, as evidenced by the Proofs of Service filed with the Court on May 13 and 23 and June 7 and 21, 2013 (Dkt. Nos. 1650, 1717, 1755 & 1857). The Debtor did not solicit Plan acceptances before providing the required adequate information in the Disclosure Statement. Harding Decl. ¶ 10.

C. The Plan Complies with Section 1129(a)(3)

Section 1129(a)(3) requires that the Plan have been proposed "in good faith and not by any means forbidden by law." "A plan is proposed in good faith where it achieves a result consistent with the objectives and purposes of the Code." *Platinum Capital, Inc. v. Sylmar Plaza, L.P.* (*In re Sylmar Plaza, L.P.*), 314 F.3d 1070, 1074 (9th Cir. 2002) (citing to *Ryan v. Loui (In re Corey)*, 892 F.2d 829, 835 (9th Cir. 1989)). The bankruptcy court, in evaluating whether a plan is proposed in good faith, will look to the totality of the circumstances. *Id.* (citations omitted) (rejecting a *per se* rule under section 1129(a)(3)). Bankruptcy Rule 3020(b)(2) provides that in the absence of a timely objection, the Court may determine that the plan has been proposed in good faith and not by any means forbidden by law without receiving evidence on such issues.

The Plan, which provides for adequate protection of all parties' interests in connection with the orderly liquidation of the assets, was the result of extensive analysis and investigation by the Debtor, in addition to negotiation among the Debtor and parties in interest. Harding Decl.

^{¶ 12.} Therefore, the Plan is proposed in good faith and not by any means forbidden by law, and

⁴ On October 30, 2013, pursuant to the Court's order, the Debtor re-noticed confirmation of the Plan and provided a new deadline of November 26, 2013 in which to file objections to the Plan as well as a chance to file amended ballots (Dkt. Nos. 2298, 2312 & 2330).

meets the requirements of section 1129(a)(3).

D. The Plan Complies with Section 1129(a)(4)

Section 1129(a)(4) requires mandatory disclosure of any payments for services or for costs and expenses in connection with the case or plan. The plan must provide that:

Any payment made or to be made by the proponent, by the debtor, or by a person issuing securities or acquiring property under the plan, for services or for costs and expenses in or in connection with the case, or in connection with the plan and incident to the case, has been approved by, or is subject to the approval of, the court as reasonable.

11 U.S.C. § 1129(a)(4). Section 1129(a)(4) "ensures compliance with the policies of the Code that the bankruptcy court should police the awarding of fees in title 11 cases and that holders of claims and interests should have the benefit of information that might affect the claimants' decision to accept or reject the plan." *In re Beyond.com Corporation*, 289 B.R. 138, 144 (Bankr. N.D. Cal. 2003) (citing to *In re Future Energy Corp.*, 83 B.R. 470, 488 (Bankr. S.D. Ohio 1988)). The requirements of section 1129(a)(4) are twofold in that there must be disclosure and the court must approve the reasonableness of payments. *Beyond.com*, 289 B.R. at 144.

The Plan satisfies the requirements of section 1129(a)(4). As disclosed in the Disclosure Statement, the Debtor and the Committee have retained bankruptcy counsel and other special counsel and professionals. *See* Disclosure Statement, Art. III. All professionals have been employed with Court approval during the Case, and, except where flat fee arrangements were specifically approved by the court, fees and expenses remain subject to final review by the Court for reasonableness under sections 328 or 330. Harding Decl. ¶ 13. Other than payments made or to be made pursuant to orders entered by the Court and those described in the Disclosure Statement or the Plan, the Estate has neither made nor promised any payment to any party who will acquire property under the Plan, for services or costs and expenses in connection with the Case, or in connection with the Plan. *Id.* ¶ 14. Further, the Plan provides that the Plan Administrator and the Post-Confirmation Committee may employ professionals without court approval or notice, with their compensation subject to court approval if the compensation exceeds the amount allowed in the Post-Confirmation Budget. *See* Plan, Art. 6.

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E. The Plan Complies with Section 1129(a)(5)

Section 1129(a)(5)(A)(i) requires the plan proponent to disclose the identity and affiliations of any individual proposed to serve, after confirmation of the plan, as a director, officer, voting trustee of the debtor, an affiliate of the debtor participating in a joint plan with the debtor, or a successor to the debtor. The appointment to such office must be consistent with the interests of creditors and equity security holders, and with public policy. 11 U.S.C. § 1129(a)(5)(A)(ii). Any insiders that will be employed or retained by the reorganized debtor, and the nature of compensation, must be disclosed. 11 U.S.C. § 1129(a)(5)(B).

The disclosure and substantive requirements of the subsections of section 1129(a)(5) ensure that there are sufficient "safeguards with respect to post-confirmation governance of the debtor to ensure that the interests of creditors and equity security holders are protected." *Beyond.com*, 289 B.R. at 145. The interests of creditors and equity security holders are likely to be protected if prior management who is subject to potential conflicts of interest does not continue to serve post-confirmation. *Id*.

The Plan complies with section 1129(a)(5). Under the Plan, the Plan Administrator – and initially designated as Hank M. Spacone – will manage the Liquidating Debtor in liquidating its assets. Plan, Articles 6 & 1.86. Mr. Spacone's appointment as Plan Administrator serves the interests of creditors, equity security holders and public policy because Mr. Spacone is a panel Chapter 7 Trustee in the Eastern District of California and has served as a Chapter 11 Trustee in the Eastern District of California and in the Northern District of California, as well as the liquidating agent in multiple Chapter 11 cases pursuant to confirmed plans. Mr. Spacone both resides in and has his principal offices located in the Eastern District of California (Sacramento Division). Harding Decl. ¶ 15. No person other than Mr. Spacone and his employees, and no insider, is presently anticipated to serve in an implementation role with respect to the Plan. *Id.* ¶ 16.

F. Section 1129(a)(6) is Inapplicable to the Plan

Section 1129(a)(6) requires that any governmental regulatory commission having jurisdiction over the rates of the debtor approve any rate change provided for in the plan. The

has jurisdiction over any rates of the Debtor. *Id.* ¶ 17.

G. The Plan Complies with Section 1129(a)(7)

Section 1129(a)(7), also referred to as the "best interests of creditors" test, requires that the plan be in the best interests of creditors under which each holder of a claim or interest in each impaired class has accepted the plan, or will receive value, as of the effective date of the plan, that is not less than the amount such holder would receive under liquidation in chapter 7 of the Bankruptcy Code. See e.g., Mutual Life Ins. Co. v. Patrician St. Joseph Partners, Ltd. P'ship (In re Patrician St. Joseph Partners Ltd. P'ship), 169 B.R. 669, 679 (D. Ariz. 1994). Section 1129(a)(7)(A)(i) excludes creditors who have accepted the plan from those entitled to claim the benefit of this provision. In re Marshall, 298 B.R. 670, 680 (Bankr. C.D. Cal. 2003). The application of the best interests of creditors test "involves a hypothetical application of chapter 7 to a chapter 11 plan." In re Stone & Webster, Inc., 286 B.R. 532, 544 (Bankr. D. Del. 2002).

requirements of section 1129(a)(6) are inapplicable since no governmental regulatory commission

As the Plan is a liquidating plan, the Plan functionally provides the Creditors with the same protections as would be granted in a Chapter and at an anticipated reduced cost. Harding Decl. ¶ 18. The Disclosure Statement and the Harding Declaration contain a detailed analysis of why the Plan satisfies the "best interests of creditors" test. *See* Disclosure Statement 23:6 - 24:28; Harding Decl. ¶¶ 19-24. That analysis, incorporated herein by reference, clearly demonstrates that the Plan complies with Section 1129(a)(7).

The Plan further provides the best means of maximizing payment of all legitimate secured and unsecured claims and is in the best interests of the Estate's creditors, and provides a return not less than would be provided in a Chapter 7 and in a more expedited fashion. Harding Decl. ¶ 25.

H. The Plan Complies with Section 1129(a)(8)

Section 1129(a)(8) provides that a plan may be confirmed if each class of claims or interests has accepted the plan or such claim is not impaired under the plan. Pursuant to section 1126(c), a class accepts a plan if voting creditors holding at least two-thirds in amount, and more than one-half in number, of the allowed claims of the class that are voted, cast affirmative ballots.

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As set forth in the Ballot Decl. and in the chart below, the requisite number and amount of holders of claims in five of the sixteen impaired classes have voted to accept the Plan. Thus, section 1129(a)(8) is met as to Classes 2, 12, 14, 15 and 16.⁵

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Class	Acceptance Votes	Rejection Votes	% Acceptance by Number	% Acceptance by Amount	Class Vote
1	No Votes	Received			
2	1	0	100%	100%	Accept
3	No Votes	Received ⁶			
4	No Votes	Received			
5	No Votes	Received ⁷			
6	No Votes	Received ⁸			
7	No Votes	Received			
8	No Votes Received ⁹				
9	No Votes	Received			
10	No Votes	Received			
11	No Votes	Received			
12	1	0	100%	100%	Accept
13	No Votes	Received			
14	9	0	100%	100%	Accept
15	73	3	96%	99%	Accept
16	1	0	100%	100%	Accept

The Debtor's Plan has overwhelming support from the Debtor's creditors.

As set forth in more detail in Section II.O, below, the Plan meets the requirements of Section of 1129(b) as to each class that has not accepted the Plan.

I. The Plan Complies with Section 1129(a)(9)

Section 1129(a)(9) provides the requirements for treatment of certain administrative and priority claims. For administrative claims specified in sections 507(a)(2) and (3), the holders of such claims must receive cash equal to the allowed amount on the effective date of the plan, except to the extent that a claim holder has agreed to a different treatment of such claim.

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The Plan does not discriminate unfairly, and is fair and equitable, with respect to all impaired classes. Harding Decl. ¶ 27; 11 U.S.C. § 1129(b).

⁶ Secured Claim has been fully satisfied per Court Order Dkt. No. 2040.

Secured Claim Disallowed by Court Order Dkt. No. 1846.

Secured Claim Disallowed by Court Order Dkt. No. 1841.

Secured Claim Disallowed by Court Order Dkt. No. 1852.

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	11 U.S.C. § 1129(a)(9)(A). For priority claims specified in sections 507(a)(1), (4), (5), (6), or (7),
	except to the extent that a claim holder has agreed to a different treatment of such claim, the
	holders of such claims must receive cash equal to the allowed amount on the effective date of the
	plan if such class has not accepted the plan. 11 U.S.C. § 1129(a)(9)(B)(ii). If such class has not
	accepted the plan, the holders of such claims must receive deferred cash payments of the value of
	the allowed amount as of the effective date of the plan. 11 U.S.C. § 1129(a)(9)(B)(i). Finally, for
	those priority tax claims specified in section 507(a)(8), the allowed amount must be paid in
	regular cash installments within five years from the entry of the order for relief and cannot be
	paid in a manner less favorable than the most favored nonpriority unsecured claim. 11 U.S.C.
	§§ 1129(a)(9)(C), (D).
	In accordance with section 1129(a)(9)(A), the Plan provides that all Administrative
	Claims shall be paid in full as soon as practicable after the date on which such Administrative
	Claim becomes an Allowed Administrative Claim or on the Effective Date, whichever is later,
	unless different treatment is agreed to between the claimant and the Liquidating Debtor. See
	Plan, Art. 3.
	In accordance with section 1129(a)(9)(B), the Plan provides that each Priority Employee
	Claim was assumed by the DIP Lender under the terms of the DIP Lender APA and have
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y Employee A and have previously been paid or satisfied by such assumption. If the DIP Lender fails to pay the Priority Employee Claims, and if collection efforts by the Plan Administrator against the DIP Lender do not prompt such payment, any amounts unpaid by the DIP Lender, subject to the satisfaction of the condition in Plan Article 6.20, shall be paid by the Liquidating Debtor from Available Cash or the Reserved Claims Pool Account (as applicable) as soon as practicable after the Effective Date. No claim in a particular rank of priority shall be paid until each higher level of priority under section 507 is paid in full. See Plan, Art. 3.5.

The Plan provides that all Other Priority Claims shall be paid in full as soon as practicable after the date on which such Priority Claim becomes an Allowed Priority Claim or on the Effective Date, whichever is later, unless otherwise ordered by the Court or unless different treatment is agreed to between the claimant and the Liquidating Debtor. See Plan Art. 3.6. No

claim in a particular rank of priority shall be paid until each higher level of priority under section 507 is paid in full. *Id*.

In accordance with sections 1129(a)(9)(C) and (D), the Plan provides that each Priority Tax Claim shall be paid by the DIP Lender under the terms of the DIP Lender APA. If the DIP Lender fails to pay the Priority Tax Claims, the Liquidating Debtor reserves the right to the maximum deferral of payment of claims of a kind specified in section 507(a)(8) as permitted by section 1129(a)(9)(C). *See* Plan, Art. 3.4.

J. The Plan Complies with Section 1129(a)(10)

Section 1129(a)(10) requires that "at least one class of claims that is impaired under the plan has accepted the plan" when there is a class of claims impaired under the Chapter 11 plan, without including any acceptance by any insider. Section 1129(a)(10) is a technical requirement for confirmation, but not a substantive right of objecting creditors. *In re 7th St. & Beardsley P'ship*, 181 B.R. 426, 431 (Bankr. D. Ariz. 1994). Any change of a creditor's rights constitutes impairment. *7th St.*, 181 B.R. at 431 (citing *In re L&J Anaheim Assoc.*, 995 F.2d 940 (9th Cir. 1993)).

Here, Class 2 (Settled Secured Claim of Western Milling), Class 12 (Disputed Secured Claim of Richard Zacky Trust), Class 14 (Settled 503(b)(9) Claims), Class 15 (General Unsecured Claims) and Class 16 (Debtor's Members' Interests) are impaired under the Plan and have voted to accept the Plan. Supp. Ballot Decl. ¶ 9. Accordingly, the Plan complies with section 1129(a)(10).

K. The Plan Complies with Section 1129(a)(11)

Under section 1129(a)(11), the plan proponent must show that plan confirmation is unlikely to be followed by liquidation or further reorganization, unless such liquidation or reorganization is provided for in the plan. The purpose of section 1129(a)(11)'s feasibility requirement is to prevent "confirmation of visionary schemes which promise creditors and equity security holders more under a proposed plan than the debtor can possibly attain after confirmation." *Pizza of Hawaii, Inc. v. Shakey's Inc. (In re Pizza of Hawaii, Inc.)*, 761 F.2d 1374, 1382 (9th Cir. 1985) (citations omitted). Rather than a guarantee of the future, courts will

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require a reasonable probability of success. In re Patrician St. Joseph Partners Ltd. P'ship, 169 B.R at 674. That the plan provides for liquidation of assets does not preclude confirmation under section 1129(a)(11). Acequia, Inc. v. Clinton (In re Acequia, Inc.), 787 F.2d 1352, 1364 (9th Cir. 1986).

The Plan provides that all of the Debtor's assets and all claims, rights and causes of action held by the Debtor under the Code and non-bankruptcy law will be deemed fully preserved and vested in the Liquidating Debtor. See Plan, Art. 6. The Plan also provides for the funding of Plan Expenses and the establishment of a Reserved Claims Pool Account, which will have sufficient funds to pay Priority Claims, Administrative Claims and Post-Confirmation Expenses. Id. The Liquidating Debtor is projected to have sufficient funds to conduct an orderly liquidation to maximize the recovery to creditors. Harding Decl. ¶¶ 33-34. The foregoing demonstrates the Plan's feasibility.

L. The Plan Complies with Section 1129(a)(12)

Section 1129(a)(12) requires that "[a]ll fees payable under section 1930 of title 28, as determined by the court at the hearing on confirmation of the plan, have been paid or the plan provides for the payment of all such fees on the effective date of the plan." Section 507(a)(2) provides that "fees and charges assessed against the estate under chapter 123 of title 28" are to be accorded priority treatment.

All fees required under 28 U.S.C. § 1930 shall be paid in full on the Effective Date and will be paid thereafter when due. See Plan, Art. 3; Harding Decl. ¶ 36. The Plan provides for the payment of post-confirmation quarterly fees by the Debtor. See Plan, Art. 6.47. Therefore, the Plan complies with section 1129(a)(12).

Μ. Section 1129(a)(13) is Inapplicable to the Plan

Section 1129(a)(13) requires that a plan provide for the continuation of retiree benefits at the level under subsection (e)(1)(B) or (g) of section 1114, for the duration of the period the debtor has obligated itself to provide such benefits. The Estate has no responsibility to fund retiree benefits as that term is defined in section 1114. Harding Decl. ¶ 37. Therefore, this requirement is inapplicable.

N. Sections 1129(a)(14), (15) and (16) Are Inapplicable to the Plan

These provisions were added by the Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act of 2005, Pub. L. No. 109-8 (2005), to modify the treatment of individuals and nonprofit entities in chapter 11. *See 7 Collier on Bankruptcy* § 1129.LH[9] (16th ed. 2013). As the Debtor is neither an individual nor a nonprofit entity, these provisions are inapplicable.

O. The Plan Complies with Section 1129(b)

Below is a brief description of the Debtor's resolution of the non-voting classes and why the Plan (1) meets the requirements of section 1129(b) as to each class that has not accepted the Plan and (2) does not discriminate unfairly, and is fair and equitable, with respect to each of the non-accepting impaired classes.

(i) Classes 1 and 4

The proposed treatment of Class 1 (Settled Claim of DIP Lender) and Class 4 (Settled Claim of the Lillian Zacky Trust) meet the requirements of section 1129(b) because Class 1 and Class 4 claims shall be treated pursuant to the terms agreed to by the DIP Lender and the Lillian Zacky Trust pursuant to the DIP Lender Settlement Order, the Zacky Farms Sale Order and the DIP Lender APA.

(ii) Class 3

The Class 3 (Disputed Secured Claim of Dreisbach) secured creditor has stipulated that there is nothing owed to that creditor on account of that creditor's secured claim, so there is no need to meet the requirements of section 1129(b) with respect to Class 3. Dkt. No. 2040.

(iii) Classes 5, 6 and 8

While Class 5 (Disputed Secured Claim of Office Max North America); Class 6 (Disputed Secured Claim of Dave Dodge Service, Inc.) and Class 8 (Disputed Secured Claim of Wei Chan DDS) did not vote to accept the Plan, the secured claim in each of these classes has been disallowed by Court order, so there is no need to meet the requirements of section 1129(b) with respect to Classes 5, 6 and 8. Dkt. Nos. 1841, 1846 and 1852.

(iv) Class 7

The Debtor has filed a motion for a Court order determining the amount of the disputed

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secured claim of B&B Quality Food Providers (Class 7) at zero (\$-0-) for plan confirmation purposes and that motion has been taken under submission by the Court. Dkt. No. 2357. If the Debtor's motion is granted, there is no need to meet the requirements of section 1129(b) with respect to Class 7 since the Plan provides that no further distributions shall be made on account of the Class 7 claim and any disputed lien on the Debtor's assets shall be deemed invalid, void and expunged from all the Estate Assets on the Effective Date. If the motion is not granted, the Class 7 disputed secured claim will be secured after the Effective Date by a Disputed Secured Creditors' Post-Effective Date Lien and will be paid from the proceeds of the \$3.5M Creditor Note on the later of (i) when the Class 7 Disputed Secured Claim becomes an Allowed Secured Claim and (ii) ninety (90) days after the \$3.5M Creditor Note Payment Date. Interest on the claim will be paid concurrently in accordance with the underlying loan documents or at such other rate as determined by the Court at the Confirmation Hearing. The alternative treatment that provides for the retention of a lien until payment and the provision allowing interest at the contract rate is a treatment that does not discriminate unfairly, is fair and equitable, and is confirmable under 11 U.S.C. 1129(b). Harding Decl. ¶ 42-43.

(v) Classes 9, 10 and 11

The proposed treatment of Class 9 (Disputed Secured Claim of Idaho Avenue Land Company), Class 10 (Disputed Secured Claim of USA Petroleum Corporation) and Class 11 (Disputed Secured Claim of GFC LLC) meet the requirements of section 1129(b) because each of these disputed secured claims is in the process of being resolved in the adversary proceeding to quiet title to these disputed secured claims as follows:

(a) The Class 10 and Class 11 claimants have stipulated that there is nothing owed to those claimants on account of their respective disputed secured claims, so there is no need to meet the requirement of section 1129(b) with respect to Classes 10 and 11. The Debtor is awaiting entry of orders approving those stipulations as well as entry of stipulated judgments for the holders of claims in Classes 10 and 11 which will provide, *inter alia*, that the holders of claims in Class 10 and Class 11 have no lien on or other claim to the \$3.5M Creditor Note. Harding Decl. ¶ 45.

1	(b) With respect to Class 9, the Court on November 26, 2013, granted the
2	Debtor's motion for default judgment in that same adversary proceeding with respect to the
3	Class 9 claim, so there is no need to meet the requirements of section 1129(b) with respect to
4	Class 9. Adv. Proc. Dkt. No. 46. The Debtor has submitted a proposed judgment that provides,
5	inter alia, that the holder of claims in Class 9 has no lien on or other claim to the \$3.5M Creditor
6	Note. Harding Decl. ¶ 44.
7	(vi) Class 13
8	The proposed treatment of Class 13 (Holders of Permitted Liens) meets the requirements
9	of section 1129(b) because the secured claims of the Class 13 claimants remain on the assets
10	transferred to the DIP Lender pursuant to the Zacky Farms Sale documents and sections 1.1(mm)
11	and 2.1 of the DIP Lender APA and shall be satisfied by the DIP Lender. This treatment is fair
12	and equitable and does not discriminate against the holders of these permitted liens. Harding
13	Decl. ¶ 46.
14	III. CONCLUSION
15	Based on the foregoing, the Debtor respectively requests that the Court enter an order
16	confirming the Plan.
17	Dated: December 3, 2013 FELDERSTEIN FITZGERALD
18	WILLOUGHBY& PASCUZZI LLP
19	By:/s/Thomas A Willoughby
20	By: <u>/s/ Thomas A. Willoughby</u> Thomas A. Willoughby Attorneys for ZF in Liquidation, LLC
21	fka Zacky Farms, LLC
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