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Ctrm.:	1668 255 E. Temple Street Los Angeles, CA 90012

TO THE HONORABLE BARRY RUSSELL, UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY JUDGE, THE OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRUSTEE, CREDITORS, AND OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES AND/OR THEIR RESPECTIVE COUNSEL OF RECORD:

Eclipse Berry Farms, LLC ("EBF"), et al., debtors and debtors in possession, by its proposed attorneys, hereby move this Court (the "Motion"); pursuant to Sections 105(a), 361 and 363 of Title 11 of the United States Code (the "Bankruptcy Code"), Rules 2002, 4001, and 9014 of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure (the "Bankruptcy Rules"), and Local Bankruptcy Rule 4001-2 for the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Central District of California (the "LBR") for the entry of an interim order (the "Interim Cash Collateral Order") and, after further notice and a hearing, the entry of a final order (the "Final Cash Collateral Order") authorizing the Debtors on a stipulated basis (a) to use the cash collateral (as defined in section 363(a) of the Bankruptcy Code) in which Ventura Strawberry Farms, Inc. ("Ventura") may hold an interest (the "Cash Collateral"); and (b) to provide and grant replacement liens to Ventura. The Debtors believe no other creditor holds a secured interest in the Debtors' cash collateral. This Motion is supported by the memorandum of points and authorities contained herein, the Declaration of Robert Marcus, Chief Restructuring Officer, in Support of First Day Motions ("Marcus Declaration") and the exhibits attached thereto filed concurrently herewith, all pleadings filed and the record in this case, and the argument of counsel at the hearing on this Motion. The relief requested in this Motion and the Budget (as defined below) are agreed to and supported by Ventura.

Proposed Use of Cash Collateral

The Debtors require the use of Cash Collateral to pay for: (a) the costs of the orderly liquidation of their business, and (b) the costs of administration of the Debtors' chapter 11 cases, including the payment of the CRO's compensation, Debtors' professional fees, and U.S. Trustee's fees. The Debtors also desire to use Cash Collateral to pay for pre-petition insurance

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premiums, employee wages, and other necessary expenditures for the administration of the bankruptcy estates as set forth more fully in the Debtors' proposed budget ("Budget") attached to the Marcus Declaration as Exhibit ii-A.²

Material Terms Regarding Use of Cash Collateral

The material terms and provisions of the Debtors' proposed use of Cash Collateral are:

- a. <u>Use of Cash Collateral</u>. The Debtors shall use Cash Collateral in accordance with the Budget attached to the Marcus Declaration as <u>Exhibit ii-A</u>. Prior to the final hearing on the Cash Collateral Motion, the Debtors shall submit a Supplemental Budget for further time periods as needed. Additionally, the parties have agreed and consented, pursuant to Section 363(c)(2) of the Bankruptcy Code, to allow Debtors use of their cash collateral from the Petition Date through the preliminary hearing date on this Motion.
- b. <u>Deposits of Cash Collateral</u>. Debtors shall deposit all Cash Collateral into the debtor in possession accounts opened at JPMorgan Chase Bank (collectively, the "<u>Cash Collateral Accounts</u>"), in accordance with the U.S. Trustee Guidelines and Requirements for Chapter 11 Debtors in Possession promptly upon receipt thereof.³
- c. <u>Budget</u>. The Debtors have prepared a Budget which sets forth the required uses of Cash Collateral through April 15, 2018. A copy of the Budget is attached to the Marcus Declaration as <u>Exhibit ii-A</u>. The Debtors intend to submit modified or supplemental Budgets for periods beyond April 15, 2018 at later dates as agreed upon by the parties. Notwithstanding the amount of cash collateral existing in any of the Debtors' accounts, Debtors will be allowed to expend cash and funds to pay those charges and expenses set forth in the attached Budget, with an agreed variance of up to 10% for each line-item.

² The Debtor intends to seek authority to pay these amounts through a separate motion.

³ The Debtors are seeking authority to maintain certain prepetition payroll accounts for the payment of wages, and related expenses, with respect to prepetition wages of Debtors' employees. All Cash Collateral, except that remaining in the prepetition payroll accounts, will be deposited into the Cash Collateral Accounts. The amounts remaining in the payroll accounts are not included in the Budget but will be accounted for and detailed in the respective Debtors' monthly operating report.

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Adequate Protection. In order to provide Ventura with adequate d. protection for the Debtors' use of their cash collateral, the Debtors will grant the following:

i. Replacement Liens. Pursuant to § 361 of the Bankruptcy Code, Ventura shall be granted replacement liens (the "Replacement Liens") in the Debtors' existing and after-acquired assets post-petition to the extent of the Debtors' use of their cash collateral. The Replacement Liens shall be of the same extent, scope, validity and priority as the prepetition liens of Ventura.4

Pre-Petition Loans

On July 11, 2017, to meet current obligations owed to Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. ("Wells Fargo"), Ventura advanced \$4.3 million to EBF, memorialized through a promissory note dated the same date. On August 2, 2017, Ventura advanced an additional \$17.3 million to EBF, through an amended promissory note, enough to satisfy the full amount of the Wells Fargo line of credit and caused Wells Fargo to release all of its liens against Debtors' assets. The obligations under the amended promissory note were purportedly secured through a Security Agreement dated August 2, 2017, granting Ventura liens on all of Debtors' assets, including cash. A copy of the relevant Ventura loan documents is attached as Exhibit ii-B to the Marcus Declaration. Ventura asserts that EBF's outstanding debt totals more than \$29.6 million, consisting of the \$21.6 million advanced in July and August 2017 ("Secured Claim"), and \$8 million in unsecured advances made prior to July 2017 ("Unsecured Claim"). On September 1, 2017, Ventura filed a UCC-1 financing statement purportedly securing the \$21.6 million July and August advances against all of EBF's assets. A copy of the Ventura UCC-1 financing statement is attached as Exhibit ii-C to the Marcus Declaration.

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⁴ The Debtors have entered into discussions with Ventura on the extent and amount of Ventura's liens, if any, against its assets. EBF and Ventura have agreed to the use of cash collateral pursuant to the terms of the Budget attached to Marcus' Declaration and will continue negotiating the treatment of Ventura's claims against the Debtors.

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MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES

I. Jurisdiction And Venue

The Court has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1334. This matter is a core proceeding within the meaning of 28 U.S.C. §§ 157(b)(2)(A) and (M). Venue is proper in this district pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1408 and 1409.

II. Statement Of Facts

On January 16, 2018 (the "Petition Date"), Debtors filed a voluntary petition for relief under chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code, thereby commencing this case. Debtors continue to operate the business through EBF, maintain control and possession of their assets, and have the rights, powers and duties of debtors in possession, pursuant to sections 1107 (a) and 1108 of the Bankruptcy Code.

Eclipse Berry Farms, LLC ("EBF") was organized in 1999 by Norman Gilfenbain ("Gilfenbain") and Robert Wiviott ("Wiviott"). Gilfenbain is deceased and his fifty percent (50%) membership interest in EBF is currently held by the Gilfenbain Family Trust dated May 15, 1990 ("Gilfenbain Trust"), with Gary Finkel and Gloria Gilfenbain, serving as Trustees of the Gilfenbain Trust. Ventura Strawberry Farms, LLC ("Ventura") holds the remaining fifty percent (50%) membership interest in EBF. Ventura is wholly owned by the Wiviott Family Trust dated May 8, 1992 (the "Wiviott Trust"), with Stacey B. Torchon and Jeffrey R. Richter, serving as Trustees of the Wiviott Trust. EBF is the operating entity of the Debtors while Rosalyn Farms, LLC ("RF") and Harvest Moon Strawberry Farm, LLC ("HMSF") are non-operating pass-through payroll entities of the Debtors.

At its origins, EBF began with a 240 acre farming operation in Oxnard, California. Over time, EBF expanded its farming operations into Salinas, California (Monterey County) and Santa Maria, California (Santa Barbara County). At its peak, EBF had a 2,500+ acre farming operation and more than 3,000 employees working in offices and farmland across its

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various leased farms in Northern and Southern California. EBF did not own any of the real property on which it operated its farms or its offices.

EBF's core operation was farming strawberries and its expanded operations into Salinas and Santa Maria allowed it to offer an extended growing season over many of its competitors. EBF's customer base included retailers (such as Walmart, H-E-B Grocery, and Kroger), brokers/wholesalers (such as C&S Wholesale Produce, Westlake Fresh, and Blazer Wilkenson), and processors (such as Sunrise Growers, Tree Top, and Island Oasis. In order to provide its extensive customer base with year-round strawberries, EBF entered into supply agreements with strawberry growers in California, Florida, and Mexico.

In late-July 2017, Wells Fargo informed the Debtors that Wells Fargo would no longer renew its long-standing \$49 million lines of credit that were essential to Debtors' operations. These lines of credit in the aggregate available amount of \$49 million were pass-through lines of credit with Wells Fargo and Ventura and were secured by the Debtors' assets. Traditionally, the growing season in California began in August of the preceding year with the season ending in July through November of the following year. Like most farms, EBF would draw on its line of credit at the beginning of the growing season (August), when overhead and capital was required to plant the new crops, and pay off the outstanding line by the end of the growing season (following year).

On July 11, 2017, to meet current obligations owed to Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. ("Wells Fargo"), Ventura advanced \$4.3 million to EBF, memorialized through a promissory note dated the same date. On August 2, 2017, Ventura advanced an additional \$17.3 million to EBF, through an amended promissory note, enough to satisfy the full amount of the Wells Fargo line of credit and caused Wells Fargo to release all of its liens against Debtors' assets. The obligations under the amended promissory note were purportedly secured through a Security Agreement dated August 2, 2017, granting Ventura liens on all of Debtors' assets, including cash. *See* Exhibit ii-B. Ventura asserts that EBF's outstanding debt totals more than \$29.6 million, consisting of the \$21.6 million advanced in July and August 2017, and \$8 million in advances made prior to July 2017. On September 1, 2017, Ventura filed a UCC-1 financing

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statement purportedly securing the \$21.6 million July and August advances against all of EBF's assets. *See* Exhibit ii-C.

On September 6, 2017, with the consent of the respective managers and members, the Debtors appointed Robert Marcus as Chief Restructuring Officer to, *inter alia*, evaluate company operations and implement procedures to maximize the recovery for all legally interested parties (the "CRO"). The Debtors filed these cases to finalize the orderly liquidation of their estates, wind-up their affairs, and adjudicate all outstanding claims in a single forum to ensure that creditors, on all levels, are treated fairly and equitably. Use of cash collateral is needed while the Debtors continue to manage their financial affairs in chapter 11.

III. Legal Argument

Pursuant to Section 363(a) of the Bankruptcy Code, cash collateral includes cash, deposit accounts, and proceeds in which the estate and an entity other than the estate have an interest. 11 U.S.C. § 363(a).

The Debtors' cash held as of the Petition Date and all monies to be received by the Debtors from sales of inventory, collection of accounts receivable, and proceeds from sales of other assets may constitute the cash collateral of Ventura.

Section 363(c)(2) of the Bankruptcy Code provides that a debtor in possession may not use cash collateral unless "(a) each entity that has an interest in such cash collateral consents; or (b) the court, after notice and a hearing, authorizes such use . . . in accordance with the provisions of this section." 11 U.S.C. § 363(c)(2). "The ability to use cash collateral under 11 U.S.C. § 363(c)(2) extends to the Debtors by virtue of § 1107(a), which endows a Chapter 11 debtor-in-possession with 'virtually all the rights and powers of a bankruptcy trustee . . ." In re Village Green I.GP, 435 B.R. 525, 530 (Bankr. E.D. Tenn. 2000). Additionally, the Court may enter a preliminary order authorizing the debtor to use property of the estate otherwise pledged as collateral so long as "there is a reasonable likelihood that the trustee will prevail at the final hearing under subsection (e) of this section," which addresses adequate protection. 11 U.S.C. § 363(c)(3).

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Section 361 of the Bankruptcy Code does not define adequate protection. The legislative history of section 361, however, makes clear that bankruptcy courts are given broad flexibility in deciding what constitutes adequate protection, stating:

This section specifies the means by which adequate protection may be provided. It does not require the court to provide it. To do so would place the court in an administrative role. Instead, the trustee or debtor in possession will provide or propose a protection method. If the party that is affected by the proposed action objects, the court will determine whether the protection provided is adequate. The purpose of this section is to illustrate means by which it may be provided and to define the contours of the concept.

In re Robson, 10 B.R. 362, 365 n.4 (Bankr. N.D. Ala. 1981) (quoting legislative history).

Section 361 of the Bankruptcy Code delineates the forms of adequate protection which may be provided and includes replacement liens. What constitutes adequate protection must be decided on a case-by-case basis. See In re O'Connor, 808 F.2d 1393, 1396 (10th Cir. 1987); In re Martin, 761 F.2d 472 (8th Cir. 1985); In re Shaw Indus., Inc., 300 B.R. 861, 865 (Bankr. W.D. Pa. 2003). The focus of the requirement is to protect a secured creditor from diminution in the value of its interest in the particular collateral during the period of use. See In re Swedeland Dev. Group, Inc., 16 F.3d 552, 564 (3d Cir. 1994) ("The whole purpose of adequate protection for a creditor is to insure that the creditor receives the value for which he bargained prebankruptcy.") (internal citation omitted).

The Debtors respectfully submit that the adequate protection proposed to be provided to Ventura, particularly in light of Ventura's agreement to the relief requested and Budget, is reasonable and appropriate and should be approved.

Bankruptcy Rules 4001(b) and (c) provide that a final hearing on a motion to use cash collateral or obtain credit, respectively, may not be commenced earlier than fourteen (14) days after the service of such motion. Upon request, however, the Court is empowered to conduct a

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preliminary expedited hearing on the motion and authorize the use of cash collateral and the obtaining of credit to the extent necessary to avoid immediate and irreparable harm to a Debtors' estate pending a final hearing.

Pursuant to Bankruptcy Rules 4001(b) and (c), the Debtors request that the Court: (a) authorize the Debtors to use Cash Collateral on an interim basis, pending entry of a final order, in order to avoid immediate and irreparable harm and prejudice to the Debtors' estate and all parties in interest; and (b) schedule a hearing to consider entry of a final order.

The Debtors have an urgent and immediate need for cash to preserve and maximize the value of its assets. Currently, the Debtors do not have sufficient unencumbered funds with which to do so. Absent authorization from the Court to use Debtor's Cash Collateral, as requested, on an interim basis pending a final hearing on the Motion, the Debtors will be immediately and irreparably harmed.

WHEREFORE, the Debtors respectfully request that this Court: (1) approve the use of cash collateral on an interim basis in accordance with the proposed Budget pending final approval of the Motion; (2) enter the proposed Interim Cash Collateral Order; (3) schedule a final hearing to approve this Motion; (4) after further notice and a hearing, enter a Final Cash Collateral Order; (5) authorize the Debtors to execute such documents as are necessary to carryout the Court's order; and (6) grant such other and further relief this Court deems just, equitable, and proper.

Dated: January 18, 2018

ECLIPSE BERRY FARMS, LLC, et al., debtors and debtors in possession

By:

BARRY A. CHATZ (CA Bar No. 140638) KEVN H. MORSE (CA Bar No. 253066) SAUL EWING ARNSTEIN & LEHR, LLP

- and -

AMY GOLDMAN

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1		LOVEE SARENAS LEWIS BRISBOIS BISGAARD &	
2		SMITH LLP	
3		[Proposed] Attorneys for Debtors	
4		and Debtors in Possession	
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PROOF OF SERVICE OF DOCUMENT

I am over the age of 18 and not a party to this bankruptcy case or adversary proceeding. My business address is: 633 West 5th Street, Suite 4000, Los Angeles, CA 90071.

A true and correct cor	by of the foregoing documer	nt entitled (specify): DEBTO	ORS' MOTION FOR APPROVAL OF AGREEI	D	
WILL OF CASH COLL WILL be served or was the manner stated be		hambers in the form and m	nanner required by LBR 5005-2(d); and (b) in		
Orders and LBR, the	foregoing document will be the CM/ECF docket for this b	served by the court via NE cankruptcy case or adversa	NG (NEF): Pursuant to controlling General F and hyperlink to the document. On (date) ary proceeding and determined that the smission at the email addresses stated below:	:	
Ron Maroko: ron.mal Kevin H. Morse: kevi United States Trustee		ĝusdoj.gov			
		☐ Se	ervice information continued on attached page	Э	
2. SERVED BY UNITED STATES MAIL: On (date) 01/18/18, I served the following persons and/or entities at the last known addresses in this bankruptcy case or adversary proceeding by placing a true and correct copy thereof in a sealed envelope in the United States mail, first class, postage prepaid, and addressed as follows. Listing the judge here constitutes a declaration that mailing to the judge will be completed no later than 24 hours after the document is filed.					
		⊠ Se	ervice information continued on attached page	Э	
for each person or en following persons and such service method)	tity served): Pursuant to F.F d/or entities by personal delingly by facsimile transmission a	R.Civ.P. 5 and/or controlling very, overnight mail service and/or email as follows. Lis	TRANSMISSION OR EMAIL (state method g LBR, on (date) 01/18/18, I served the e, or (for those who consented in writing to sting the judge here constitutes a declaration to later than 24 hours after the document is		
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declare under penal	ty of perjury under the laws	of the United States that th	ne foregoing is true and correct.		
01/18/18	Marion Diamond		M. Lloemond		
Date	Printed Name		Signature		

SERVICE LIST

BY U.S. MAIL:

DEBTOR:

Eclipse Berry Farms, LLC 11812 San Vicente Boulevard, Suite 250 Los Angeles, CA 90049

Harvest Moon Strawberry Farms, LLC 11821 San Vicente Boulevard, Suite 250 Los Angeles, CA 90049

Rosalyn Farms, LLC 11821 San Vicente Boulevard, Suite 250 Los Angeles, CA 90049

SECURED CREDITOR:

COUNSEL TO VENTURA STRAWBERRY FARMS, LLC Alan I. Nahmias
Mirman, Bubman & Nahmias LLP
21860 Burbank Boulevard, Suite 360
Woodland Hills, CA 91367-7406

THE HONORABLE BARRY RUSSELL:

(Sent Via Messenger Hand Delivery)

United States Bankruptcy Court Central District of California 255 East Temple Street, Suite 1660 Los Angeles, CA 90012

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LIST OF 20 LARGEST CREDITORS:

Advance Plant Nutrition LLC 2888 Estates Drive Aptos, CA 95003 AG RX, Inc. 751 South Rose Avenue Oxnard, CA 93030 Alex Camany 18825 Heritage Court Salinas, CA 93908

American Express P.O. Box 0001 Los Angeles, CA 90096-8000 Armstrong Transport Group Inc. P.O. Box 560687 Charlotte, NC 28256-0687 BNSF Logistics, LLC 2710 S. 48th Street Springdale, AR 72762

C H Robinson Worldwide Inc. P.O. Box 9121 Minneapolis, MN 55480-9121 Cal-Tex Transportation, LLC P.O. Box 107 Visalia, CA 93291 Central Cold Storage P.O. Box 742352 Los Angeles, CA 90074-2352

Coastal Growers Supply, Inc. 1450 Soloman Road Santa Maria, CA 93455 Crop Production Services (649) P.O. Box 657 Salinas, CA 93902 George-Pacific Corrugated LLC Attn: P.O. Box 743348 1000 W. Temple St. Los Angeles, CA 90012

Golden Four Express, LLC c/o Crecia Sue Plaugher 13287 El Nogal Ave Visalia, CA 93292 Jerue Truck Broker, Inc. P.O. Box 33080 Lakeland, FL 33807 Robert Mann Packaging, Inc. 1051 S. Rose Avenue Oxnard, CA 93030

TCI Business Capital, Inc. 9185 Paysphere Circle Chicago, IL 60674

Tri Cal, Inc. 8100 Arroyo Circle Gilroy, CA 95020 Unified Carries 1105 South M Street Oxnard, CA 93033

Ventura Strawberry Farms, Inc. 5000 N. Parkway Calabasas Suite 107 Calabasas, CA 91302 Cal Dept. of Food & Agriculture Headquarters Legal Office 1220 N. Street, Fourth Floor Sacramento, CA 95814 Employment Development Dept. Bankruptcy Group MIC 92E P.O. Box 826880 Sacramento, CA 94280-0001

Franchise Tax Board Bankruptcy Section MS: A-340 P.O. Box 2952 Sacramento, CA 95812-2952 Internal Revenue Service P.O. Box 7346 Philadelphia, PA 19101-7346 Los Angeles County Tax Collector P.O. Box 54110 Los Angeles, CA 90054-0110

Santa Barbara County Treasurer 511 Lakeside Parkway, #104 Santa Maria, CA 93455 State Board of Equalization Special Ops Bankruptcy Team MIC 74 P.O. Box 942879 Sacramento, CA 94279-0074 Treasurer – Tax Collector of Monterey County P.O. Box 891 Salinas, CA 93902-0891

United States Trustee 915 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 1850 Los Angeles, CA 90017 Frontier Communications P.O. Box 740407 Cincinnati, OH 45274-0407 Frontier Communications c/o Corporation Service Company 401 Merritt 7 Norwalk, CT 0685

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Spectrum Business 2939 Nebraska Avenue Santa Monica, CA 90404

Growers Captive Group c/o York Risk Services Group 333 City Boulevard West, Suite 1500 Orange, CA 92868

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Alan I. Nahmias Mirman, Bubman & Nahmias LLP 21860 Burbank Boulevard, Suite 360 Woodland Hills, CA 91367-7406 Alliant Insurance Services, Inc. 701 B Street, 6th Floor San Diego, CA 92101