

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

TALIAH MIRMALEK, on behalf of herself and all others similarly situated,

Case No. 3:24-CV-01797-CRB

Plaintiff,

**[PROPOSED] ORDER GRANTING
PRELIMINARY APPROVAL OF CLASS
ACTION SETTLEMENT**

LOS ANGELES TIMES
COMMUNICATIONS,
LLC,

Judge: Hon. Charles R. Breyer

Defendant.

1 Before the Court is Plaintiff Taliah Mirmalek’s (“Plaintiff”) Motion for Preliminary
2 Approval of Class Action Settlement (“Motion”). Plaintiff and Defendant Los Angeles Times
3 Communications, LLC (“LA Times”) have entered into a Class Action Settlement Agreement,
4 dated October 15, 2025 (“Settlement Agreement”). Having thoroughly reviewed the
5 Settlement Agreement, including the proposed forms of class notice and other exhibits thereto,
6 the Motion, and the papers and arguments in connection therewith, and good cause appearing,
7 the Court hereby ORDERS as follows:

8 1. Capitalized terms not otherwise defined herein have the meanings set forth in
9 the Settlement Agreement.

10 2. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to 28 U.S.C.
11 § 1332(d) and has personal jurisdiction over the Parties and the Settlement Class Members.
12 Venue is proper in this District.

13 3. The Motion is GRANTED.

14 4. The Court hereby preliminarily approves the Settlement Agreement and the
15 terms embodied therein pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(e)(1). The Court finds that it will likely
16 be able to approve the Settlement Agreement under Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(e)(2) and to certify the
17 Settlement Class for purposes of judgment on the proposed Settlement. The Court preliminarily
18 finds that the Settlement Agreement is fair, reasonable, and adequate as to the Settlement Class
19 Members under the relevant considerations. The Court finds that Plaintiff and proposed Class
20 Counsel have adequately represented and will continue to adequately represent the Settlement
21 Class. The Court further finds that the Settlement Agreement is the product of arms’ length
22 negotiations by the Parties through the use of an experienced mediator. The Court preliminarily
23 finds that the relief provided—a non-reversionary common settlement fund of \$3.85 million—
24 is adequate considering, *inter alia*, the costs, risks, and delay of trial and appeal, the alleged
25 harm to Settlement Class Members, and the proposed method of distributing payments to the
26 Settlement Class (i.e., direct payment via check). The Court preliminarily finds that the
27 Settlement Agreement treats the Settlement Class Members equitably relative to each other,
28 and that the proposed allocation of settlement funds to Settlement Class Members is reasonable

1 and equitable. Under the terms of the Settlement Agreement, all Settlement Class Members are
2 eligible to submit a claim for a payment. The Court preliminarily finds that the payment
3 allocation provided in the Settlement Agreement is reasonable and equitable.

4 5. The Court hereby provisionally certifies, for settlement purposes only, a
5 “Settlement Class,” pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(a) and 23(b)(3), consisting of: all persons
6 who accessed LA Times online via website or mobile app in California and had their
7 information collected by tracking technologies between January 31, 2023 to the date of this
8 Order.

9 6. The Court finds that for settlement purposes only, the Settlement Class, as
10 defined above, meets the requirements for class certification under Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(a) and
11 23(b)(3)—namely, that (1) the Settlement Class Members are sufficiently numerous such that
12 joinder is impracticable; (2) there are common questions of law and fact; (3) Plaintiff’s claims
13 are typical of those of the Settlement Class Members; (4) Plaintiff and Class Counsel have
14 adequately represented, and will continue to adequately represent, the interests of the
15 Settlement Class Members; and (5) for purposes of settlement, the Settlement Class meets the
16 predominance and superiority requirements of Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(b)(3).

17 7. Certification of the Settlement Class shall be solely for settlement purposes and
18 without prejudice to the Parties. In the event the Settlement Agreement is not finally approved
19 by this Court or otherwise does not take effect, the Parties preserve all rights and defenses
20 regarding class certification.

21 8. The Court hereby appoints Plaintiff Taliah Mirmalek as Class Representative to
22 represent the Settlement Class.

23 9. The Court hereby appoints the law firm of Burson & Fisher, P.A. as Class
24 Counsel for the Settlement Class.

25 10. The Court hereby appoints Kroll Settlement Administration LLC (“Kroll”) as
26 Settlement Administrator and directs Kroll to carry out all duties and responsibilities of the
27 Settlement Administrator as specified in the Settlement Agreement and herein.

1 Notice Program

2 11. Pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(e)(1) and 23(c)(2)(B), the Court approves the
3 proposed notice program set forth at Section 4 of the Settlement Agreement, including the form
4 and content of the proposed forms of class notice attached as Exhibits B, C, and D to the
5 Settlement Agreement. The Court finds that the proposed notice program meets the
6 requirements of Due Process under the U.S. Constitution and Rule 23; and that such notice
7 program—which includes individual direct notice to known Settlement Class Members via
8 email, mail, and two reminder emails, a media and Internet notice program, and the
9 establishment of a Settlement Website and Toll-Free Number—is the best notice practicable
10 under the circumstances and shall constitute due and sufficient notice to all persons entitled
11 thereto. The Court further finds that the proposed form and content of the form of the notice is
12 adequate and will give the Settlement Class Members sufficient information to enable them to
13 make informed decisions as to the Settlement Class, the right to object or opt out, and the
14 proposed Settlement and its terms. The Court finds that the notice clearly and concisely states
15 in plain, easily understood language, *inter alia*: (i) the nature of the Action; (ii) the definition of
16 the Settlement Class; (iii) the class claims and issues; (iv) that a Settlement Class Member may
17 enter an appearance through an attorney if the member so desires; (v) that the Court will
18 exclude from the Settlement Class any member who timely and validly requests exclusion; (vi)
19 the time and manner for requesting exclusion; and (vii) the binding effect of a class judgment
20 on Settlement Class Members under Rule 23(c)(3).

21 12. The Court directs the Settlement Administrator and the Parties to implement the
22 notice program as set forth in the Settlement Agreement.

23 13. Settlement Class Member Contact Information: Pursuant to the Settlement
24 Agreement, LA Times shall provide the available contact information of every Settlement
25 Class Member that it has in its possession to the Settlement Administrator.

26 14. Email Notice: By no later than thirty (30) days following the entry of this
27 Preliminary Approval Order (hereinafter, the “Notice Date”), the Settlement Administrator
28 shall issue the first Email Notice (substantially in the form attached as Exhibit D to the

1 Settlement Agreement) to each Settlement Class Member whose email address is known to the
2 Settlement Administrator.

3 15. Mail Notice: For any Settlement Class Member for whom LA Times has a valid
4 mailing address, the Settlement Administrator shall send a Mail Notice via the U.S. Postal
5 Service to those Settlement Class Members. The Mail Notice will be substantially similar to the
6 form attached as Exhibit C to the Settlement Agreement and will provide the web address of
7 the Settlement Website and an email and mailing address to contact the Settlement
8 Administrator. LA Times, through the Settlement Administrator, will provide the Mail Notice
9 on or before thirty (30) calendar days after the Preliminary Approval Date. The Mail Notice
10 shall be issued one time to each Settlement Class Member for whom LA Times has a valid
11 mailing address.

12 16. Publication, Media, and Internet Notice. Notice shall be provided via a media
13 and Internet notice program, including banner ads on Internet sites targeted to the Class. The
14 media and Internet notice program shall commence as soon as practicable following the entry
15 of this Order and, in all events, shall commence not later than the Notice Date.

16 17. Reminder Email Notice: Both thirty (30) days prior to the Claims Deadline and
17 seven (7) days prior to the Claims Deadline, the Settlement Administrator shall issue a second
18 and third round of Email Notices, substantially in the form attached as Exhibit D to the
19 Settlement Agreement, to each Settlement Class Member that was sent the initial Email Notice.

20 18. Settlement Website: The Settlement Administrator shall establish and maintain
21 an Internet website (“Settlement Website”), where Settlement Class Members can obtain
22 further information about the terms of the Settlement Agreement, their rights, important dates
23 and deadlines, and related information. Settlement Class Members shall also be able to submit
24 Claim Forms electronically via the Settlement Website. The Settlement Website shall include,
25 in PDF format, the Complaint in this Action, the Settlement Agreement, the long-form notice
26 substantially in the form attached as Exhibit B to the Settlement Agreement, this Preliminary
27 Approval Order, Settlement Class Counsel’s fee and cost application (after it is filed), and other
28 case documents as agreed upon by the Parties and/or required by the Court, and shall be

1 operational and live by no later than one day before the media and Internet notice program is
2 disseminated. The Settlement Website shall be optimized for display on mobile phones. The
3 Settlement Website shall remain operational until at least three months after the date the
4 Settlement becomes Effective.

5 19. Toll-Free Number: The Settlement Administrator shall establish and maintain a
6 toll-free telephone number (“Toll-Free Number”) where Settlement Class Members can obtain
7 further information about the Settlement Agreement and their rights, and request that a hard
8 copy Claim Form or long-form notice be mailed to them. The Toll-Free Number shall be
9 operational and live by no later than one day before the first Mail Notice or Email Notice is
10 disseminated and shall remain operational until at least three months after date the Settlement
11 becomes Effective.

12 20. At least seven (7) calendar days prior to the final approval hearing, Class
13 Counsel shall prepare or cause the Settlement Administrator to prepare a list of the persons who
14 have excluded themselves in a valid and timely manner from the Settlement Class (the “Opt-
15 Outs”), and Class Counsel shall file that list with the Court.

16 Claims Procedure

17 21. The Court approves the form and content of the proposed Claim Form, in the
18 form attached as Exhibit A to the Settlement Agreement, approves the Claims Process set forth
19 in the Settlement Agreement for Settlement Class Members to submit Claims, and directs the
20 Parties and the Settlement Administrator to implement the Claims Process.

21 Opt-Out and Objection Procedures

22 22. Settlement Class Members may exclude themselves from the Settlement Class
23 by mailing to the Settlement Administrator a request for exclusion that is postmarked or
24 emailed no later than March 23, 2026 (the “Exclusion/Objection Deadline”). To be effective,
25 the request for exclusion must include: (a) the Settlement Class Member’s full name, telephone
26 number, mailing address, and email address; (b) a clear statement that the Settlement Class
27 Member wishes to be excluded from the Settlement Class; (c) the name of this Action:
28 “Mirmalek v. Los Angeles Times Communications, LLC”; and (d) the Settlement Class

1 Member's signature or a signature of an individual authorized to act on his or her behalf.
2 Settlement Class Members cannot request exclusion as a class or group. Any Settlement Class
3 Member who submits a timely and valid request for exclusion is foreclosed from objecting to
4 the Settlement or to Class Counsel's motion for attorneys' fees, costs, and service awards. If a
5 Settlement Class Member submits both a timely and valid request for exclusion and an
6 objection, the Settlement Class Member shall be treated as if they had only submitted a request
7 for exclusion. Any Settlement Class Member who does not submit a timely and valid request
8 for exclusion in accordance with this paragraph shall be bound by the Final Order and
9 Judgment if and when it is entered. The Settlement Administrator shall provide copies of all
10 timely and valid requests for exclusion to Class Counsel and LA Times' Counsel.

11 23. Any Settlement Class Member who does not submit a timely and valid request
12 for exclusion shall have the right to object to the proposed Settlement and/or to Class Counsel's
13 motion for attorneys' fees, costs, or service awards. To be considered valid, an objection must
14 be in writing, must be filed with or mailed to the Court, and filed with or mailed to the Court, at
15 the address listed in the long-form notice, postmarked/filed no later than March 23, 2026 (the
16 "Exclusion/Objection Deadline"), and must include the following: (a) the name of this Action:
17 "Mirmalek v. Los Angeles Times Communications, LLC"; (b) the full name, mailing address,
18 telephone number, and email address of the objector; (c) the objector's signature or the
19 signature of an individual authorized to act on his or her behalf; (d) a description of the specific
20 reasons for the objection; (e) the name, address, bar number, and telephone number of counsel
21 for the objector, if the objector is represented by an attorney; (f) a list of any objections to class
22 actions submitted by the objector or its attorney(s) within the previous 5 years; and (g) state
23 whether the objector intends to appear at the final approval hearing either in person or through
24 counsel. Only objections that are submitted in accordance with this paragraph shall be heard by
25 the Court. Any Settlement Class Member who does not timely submit an objection in
26 accordance with this paragraph shall waive the right to object or to be heard at the final
27 approval hearing and shall be forever barred from making any objection to the proposed
28 Settlement or to Class Counsel's motion for attorneys' fees, costs, and service awards. Any

1 Settlement Class Member who objects to the Settlement shall nevertheless be entitled to all
2 benefits of the Settlement if it is approved and becomes final. The Settlement Administrator
3 shall promptly after receipt provide copies of any objections, including any related
4 correspondence, to Class Counsel and Defendant's Counsel.

5 **Final Approval Hearing**

6 24. The Court will hold a final approval hearing on May 22, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. in
7 the United States District Court for the Northern District of California, via Zoom. The purposes
8 of the final approval hearing will be to: (i) determine whether the proposed Settlement
9 Agreement should be finally approved by the Court as fair, reasonable, adequate, and in the
10 best interests of the Settlement Class; (ii) determine whether judgment should be entered
11 pursuant to the Settlement Agreement, dismissing the Action with prejudice and releasing the
12 Released Parties of all claims stated in Section 1.23 of the Settlement Agreement; (iii)
13 determine whether the Settlement Class should be finally certified; (iv) rule on Class Counsel's
14 motion for attorneys' fees, costs and service award; (v) consider any properly filed objections;
15 and (vi) consider any other matters necessary in connection with the final approval of the
16 Settlement Agreement.

17 25. By no later than 15 days after the Notice Date, Plaintiff and Class Counsel shall
18 file their: (a) motion for final approval of the Settlement Agreement; and (b) any motion for
19 attorneys' fees, costs, and service awards. Promptly after they are filed, these document(s) shall
20 be posted on the Settlement Website.

21 26. By no later than 14 days before the final approval hearing, the Parties shall file
22 any responses to any Settlement Class Member objections and any replies in support of final
23 settlement approval and/or in support of Class Counsel's motion for attorneys' fees, costs, and
24 service awards.

25 27. The Court may, in its discretion, modify the date and/or time of the final
26 approval hearing, and may order that this hearing be held remotely or telephonically. In the
27 event the Court changes the date, time, and/or the format of the final approval hearing, the
28 Parties shall ensure that the updated information is posted on the Settlement Website.

1 28. Only Settlement Class Members who have submitted timely and valid
2 objections, in accordance with the requirements of this Preliminary Approval Order, may be
3 heard at the final approval hearing.

4 29. If the Settlement Agreement, including any amendment made in accordance
5 therewith, is not approved by the Court or shall not become effective for any reason
6 whatsoever, the Settlement Agreement and any actions taken or to be taken in connection
7 therewith (including this Preliminary Approval Order and any judgment entered herein), shall
8 be terminated and shall become null and void and of no further force and effect except for
9 (i) any obligations to pay for any expense incurred in connection with Notice and Other
10 Administration Costs as set forth in the Settlement Agreement, and (ii) any other obligations or
11 provisions that are expressly designated in the Settlement Agreement to survive the termination
12 of the Settlement Agreement.

13 30. Other than such proceedings as may be necessary to carry out the terms and
14 conditions of the Settlement Agreement, all proceedings in the Action are hereby stayed and
15 suspended until further order of this Court.

16 31. Pending final determination of whether the Settlement Agreement should be
17 finally approved, Plaintiff and all Settlement Class Members are barred and enjoined from
18 filing, commencing, prosecuting, or enforcing any action against the Released Parties insofar as
19 such action asserts claims stated in section 1.23 of the Settlement Agreement, directly or
20 indirectly, in any judicial, administrative, arbitral, or other forum. This bar and injunction are
21 necessary to protect and effectuate the Settlement Agreement and this Preliminary Approval
22 Order, and this Court's authority to effectuate the Settlement, and is ordered in aid of this
23 Court's jurisdiction.

24 32. This Preliminary Approval Order, the Settlement Agreement, and all
25 negotiations, statements, agreements, and proceedings relating to the Settlement, and any
26 matters arising in connection with settlement negotiations, proceedings, or agreements shall not
27 constitute, be described as, construed as, offered or received against LA Times or the other
28 Released Parties as evidence or an admission of: (a) the truth of any fact alleged by Plaintiff in

1 the Action; (b) any liability, negligence, fault, or wrongdoing of LA Times or the Released
2 Parties; or (c) that this Action or any other action may be properly certified as a class action for
3 litigation, non-settlement purposes.

4 33. The Court retains jurisdiction over this Action to consider all further matters
5 arising out of or connected with the Settlement, including enforcement of the Release provided
6 for in the Settlement Agreement.

7 34. The Parties are directed to take all necessary and appropriate steps to establish
8 the means necessary to implement the Settlement Agreement according to its terms should it be
9 finally approved.

10 35. The Court may, for good cause, extend any of the deadlines set forth in this
11 Preliminary Approval Order without further notice to Settlement Class Members. Without
12 further order of the Court, the Parties may agree to make non-material modifications in
13 implementing the Settlement that are not inconsistent with this Preliminary Approval Order.

14 36. The following chart summarizes the dates and deadlines set by this Preliminary
15 Approval Order:

EVENT	PROPOSED DEADLINE
CAFA Notice Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1715(b)	October 24, 2025
Establishment of Settlement Website	December 29, 2025
Notice Date	January 20, 2026
Motion for Attorneys' Fees, Costs, Expenses, and Service Award	March 6, 2026
Objection and Opt-Out Deadline	March 23, 2026
Claims Deadline	April 20, 2026
Final Approval Motion and Response to Any Objections	May 4, 2026
Deadline to Submit Notices of Appearance at the Final Approval Hearing	May 4, 2026
Supplement declaration (1) stating the number of claims, requests for exclusion, and objections to date and (2) attesting that Notice was disseminated consistent with the Settlement	May 12, 2026
Final Approval Hearing	May 22, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. (via Zoom)
Award Issuance Date	Begins 14 days after Effective Date

1 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

2 Date: December 19, 2025

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4 
5 HON. CHARLES R. BREYER
6 UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE