## UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA SAN JOSE DIVISION

JEREMY VILLANUEVA, Individually and On Behalf of All Others Similarly Situated,

Plaintiff,

v.

GARETH T. JOYCE, KARINA FRANCO
PADILLA, JOHN J. ALLEN, AMY E. ARD, JOHN
F. ERHARD, BROOK F. PORTER, JOAN
ROBINSON-BERRY, JEANNINE P. SARGENT,
CONSTANCE E. SKIDMORE, MICHAEL D.
SMITH, DANIEL R. REVERS, MARCO F. GATTI,
ARNO HARRIS, JA-CHIN AUDREY LEE, BRIAN
GONCHER, and STEVEN BERKENFELD,

Defendants.

No. 5:23-cv-03519-EKL

**CLASS ACTION** 

## PRELIMINARY APPROVAL ORDER

WHEREAS, Lead Plaintiff Cyress Jam and additional Plaintiffs Jeremy Villanueva, Tanya Tirado, Luong Du, William E. Zinn, and Raymond H. Quick (collectively, "Plaintiffs"), and Defendants Gareth T. Joyce, Karina Franco Padilla, Amy E. Ard, John J. Allen, Andrew J. Cederoth, John F. Erhard, Brook F. Porter, Joan Robinson-Berry, Jeannine P. Sargent, Constance E. Skidmore, Michael D. Smith, Daniel R. Revers, Marco F. Gatti, Arno Harris, Ja-Chin Audrey Lee, Brian Goncher and Steven Berkenfeld ("Defendants," together with Plaintiffs, the "Parties" and each a "Party"), entered into the Stipulation of Settlement dated January 3, 2025 (the "Stipulation") which is subject to review under Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, and which, together with the exhibits thereto (as later amended), sets forth the terms and conditions for the proposed settlement and dismissal of the above-captioned class action pending before the Court (the "Action"); and the Court having considered the Stipulation and the exhibits thereto, and Plaintiffs' motion and supporting papers, and finding that substantial and sufficient grounds exist for entering this Order;

Capitalized terms used herein have the meanings defined in the Stipulation.

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- 2. Pursuant to Rule 23(a) and (b)(3) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and for the purposes of the Settlement only, the Action is hereby preliminarily certified as a class action for a Class including: (1) all persons or entities who purchased or otherwise acquired public shares in Proterra (including by exchange of publicly-listed ArcLight Clean Transition Corp. shares) pursuant and/or traceable to the proxy/registration statement filed with the SEC on Form S-4 on February 2, 2021, and thereafter amended on Form S-4/A and filed on April 7, 2021, and May 7, 2021, and the body of which was incorporated into the final prospectus on Form 424(b)(3) filed on May 14, 2021, as amended; and (2) all persons who purchased or otherwise acquired Proterra common stock between August 11, 2021 and August 7, 2023, inclusive. Excluded from the Class are: (a) Defendants and their immediate families; (b) current and former directors or officers of Proterra or ArcLight Clean Transition Corp. and their immediate families; (c) any entity that has entered into a stockholder agreement or co-venture agreement with Proterra, or was a Private Investment in Public Equities ("PIPE") investor in Proterra; and (d) and each of the foregoing persons' legal representatives, heirs, successors or assigns, and any entity controlled, majority-owned or wholly owned, or affiliated with any of the above all persons who purchased or otherwise acquired Proterra common stock during the 10(b) Class Period. For the avoidance of doubt, "affiliates" are persons or entities that are controlled by or are under common control with one or more of the Defendants.
- 3. Pursuant to Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, preliminarily and for the purposes of this Settlement only, Plaintiffs are certified as the class representative and their counsel, Levi & Korsinsky, LLP and Pomerantz LLP, are hereby appointed as Class Counsel.

All persons or entities who request exclusion consistent with this Order will also be excluded.

4. The Court finds that (a) the Stipulation resulted from good faith, arm's length negotiations, and (b) the Stipulation is sufficiently fair, reasonable, and adequate to the Class Members to warrant providing notice of the Settlement to Class Members and holding a Settlement Hearing.

- 5. The Court hereby preliminarily approves the Settlement, subject to further consideration at a hearing (the "Settlement Hearing") pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23(e), which is hereby scheduled to be held before the Court on **August 20, 2025**, at 10 a.m. for the following purposes:
  - (a) to determine finally whether the applicable prerequisites for class action treatment under Federal Rules of Civil Procedure 23(a) and (b) are satisfied;
  - (b) to determine finally whether the Settlement is fair, reasonable, and adequate, and should be approved by the Court;
  - (c) to determine finally whether the Judgment as provided under the Stipulation should be entered, dismissing the Action on the merits and with prejudice, and to determine, among other things, whether the releases set forth in the Stipulation should be ordered;
  - (d) to determine finally whether the proposed Plan of Allocation for the distribution of the Net Settlement Fund is fair and reasonable and should be approved by the Court;
  - (e) to consider any application of Class Counsel for an award of fees and reimbursement of litigation expenses, or an application for an award to Plaintiffs;
  - (f) to consider Class Members' objections to the Settlement, if any, provided that they validly submitted an objection in accordance with this Order and the Notice; and
  - (g) to rule upon such other matters as the Court may deem appropriate.
- 6. The Court reserves the right to adjourn the Settlement Hearing to a later date and to approve the Settlement without modification, or with such modifications as may be agreed to by the Parties, and with or without further notice of any kind. The Court further reserves the right to enter Judgment approving the Settlement and dismissing the Action, on the merits and with prejudice, regardless of whether it has approved the Plan of Allocation or awarded fees or expenses.

- 7. The Court approves the form, substance, and requirements of (a) the Postcard Notice, (b) the Notice, (c) the Proof of Claim, and (d) the Summary Notice, all of which are exhibits to the Stipulation. *See* ECF No. 119-2 (Postcard Notice); ECF No. 119-1 (Notice); ECF No. 113 Ex. A-2 (Proof of Claim); ECF No. 113 Ex. A-3 (Summary Notice).
- 8. Class Counsel has the authority to enter into the Settlement on behalf of the Class and has the authority to act on behalf of the Class with respect to all acts or consents required by or that may be given pursuant to the Stipulation or such other acts that are reasonably necessary to consummate the Settlement.
- 9. For settlement purposes only, A.B. Data, Ltd. is appointed and approved as the Settlement Administrator to supervise and administer the notice procedure as well as the processing of claims. Up to \$300,000 in Settlement Administration Costs may be paid to the Settlement Administrator without further order of this Court.
- 10. By <u>April 25, 2025</u> (the "Notice Date"), Class Counsel, through the Settlement Administrator, shall cause the Postcard Notice, substantially in the form of Exhibit A-4 to the Stipulation (*see* ECF No. 119-2) to be mailed, by first-class mail, postage prepaid, or via electronic mail if addresses are available, to Class Members who can be identified with reasonable effort by Class Counsel.
- Notice to nominees and custodians, and such nominees and custodians shall, within ten (10) calendar days of receipt of the Notice, either: (i) request copies of the Postcard Notice sufficient to send to all beneficial owners for whom they are nominee or custodian; or (ii) request an electronic link to Notice and Proof of Claim (the "Notice and Claim Link"), and within ten (10) calendar days after receipt thereof, email the Notice and Claim Link to such beneficial owners for whom valid email addresses are available; or (iii) provide the Settlement Administrator with lists of the names, last known addresses, and email addresses (to the extent known) of such beneficial owners. If the Settlement Administrator receives an email address, it will send a Postcard Notice and Notice and Claim Link electronically. Otherwise, it will send a Postcard Notice by first-class mail. Nominees

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or custodians who elect to send the Postcard Notice and Notice and Claim Link to their beneficial owners shall send a written certification to the Settlement Administrator confirming that the mailing or emailing has been made as directed. Copies of the Postcard Notice and Notice and Claim Links shall be made available to any nominee or custodian requesting same for the purpose of distribution to beneficial owners. The Settlement Administrator shall, if requested, reimburse nominees or custodians out of the Settlement Fund solely for their reasonable out-of-pocket expenses, incurred in providing notice to beneficial owners, which expenses would not have been incurred except for the providing names and addresses up to \$0.05 per name (with address and email address) provided to the Settlement Administrator; up to \$0.05 per Postcard Notice mailed plus postage at the rate used by the Settlement Administrator; or up to \$0.05 per Notice and Claim Link sent by email, and subject to further order of this Court with respect to any dispute concerning such reimbursement.

- Class Counsel, through the Settlement Administrator, shall cause the Stipulation and 12. its exhibits, this Order, and a copy of the Notice and Proof of Claim to be posted on the Settlement website on or before the Notice Date.
- 13. Class Counsel, through the Settlement Administrator, shall cause the Summary Notice to be published electronically once on a broadly-disseminated national wire service by May 9, 2025.
- Class Counsel shall, by July 15, 2025, serve upon counsel for Defendants and file 14. with the Court proof of dissemination of the Postcard Notice and publication of the Summary Notice.
- 15. The forms and methods set forth herein of notifying Class Members of the Settlement and its terms and conditions meet the requirements of due process, Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, and Section 21D(a)(7) of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. § 78u-4(a)(7), as amended by the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995; constitute the best notice practicable under the circumstances; and constitute due and sufficient notice to all Persons entitled thereto. No Class Member will be relieved from the terms and conditions of the Settlement, including the releases

provided for therein, based upon the contention or proof that such Class Member failed to receive actual or adequate notice.

16. In order to be entitled to participate in recovery from the Net Settlement Fund after the Effective Date, each Class Member shall take the following action and be subject to the following conditions:

- (a) On or before August 29, 2025 (the "Claims Filing Deadline"), a properly completed and executed Proof of Claim must be submitted to the Settlement Administrator either (a) electronically through the Settlement website or (b) at the Post Office Box indicated in the Notice. Each Proof of Claim shall be deemed to have been submitted when: (a) the claimant receives a confirmation notice from the Settlement Administrator for electronic submissions; or (b) legibly postmarked (if properly addressed and mailed by first-class mail) provided such Proof of Claim is actually received before the filing of a motion for an Order of the Court approving distribution of the Net Settlement Fund. Any Proof of Claim submitted in any other manner shall be deemed to have been submitted when it was actually received by the Settlement Administrator at the address designated in the Notice.
- (b) the Proof of Claim submitted by each Class Member must satisfy the following conditions: (i) it must be properly completed, signed, and submitted in a timely manner in accordance with the provisions of the preceding subparagraph; (ii) it must be accompanied by adequate supporting documentation for the transactions reported therein, in the form of broker confirmation slips, broker account statements, an authorized statement from the broker containing the transactional information found in a broker confirmation slip, or such other documentation as is deemed adequate by the Settlement Administrator or Class Counsel; (iii) if the Person executing the Proof of Claim is acting in a representative capacity, a certification of his current authority to act on behalf of the Class Member must

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be provided with the Proof of Claim; and (iv) the Proof of Claim must be complete and contain no material deletions or modifications of any of the printed matter contained therein and must be signed under penalty of perjury.

- Once the Settlement Administrator has considered a timely submitted Proof of (c) Claim, it shall determine whether such claim is valid, deficient, or rejected. For each claim determined to be either deficient or rejected, the Settlement Administrator shall send a deficiency letter or rejection letter as appropriate, describing the basis on which the claim was so determined. Persons who timely submit a Proof of Claim that is deficient or otherwise rejected shall be afforded a reasonable time (at least ten (10) calendar days) to cure such deficiency if it shall appear that such deficiency may be cured. If any Claimant whose claim has been rejected in whole or in part wishes to contest such rejection, the Claimant must, within ten (10) calendar days after the date of mailing of the notice, serve upon the Settlement Administrator a notice and statement of reasons indicating the Claimant's ground for contesting the rejection along with any supporting documentation, and requesting a review thereof by the Court. If an issue concerning a claim cannot be otherwise resolved, Class Counsel shall thereafter present the request for review to the Court.
- (d) As part of the Proof of Claim, each Class Member shall submit to the jurisdiction of the Court with respect to the claim submitted, and shall, upon the Effective Date, release all claims as provided in the Stipulation. No discovery shall be allowed on the merits of the Action or the Settlement in connection with processing of the Proof of Claim, nor shall any discovery from or of Plaintiffs or Defendants, or of their counsel or the Settlement Administrator be allowed on any topic.

- 17. All Class Members who do not submit valid and timely Proofs of Claim will be forever barred from receiving any payments from the Net Settlement Fund, but will in all other respects be subject to and bound by the provisions of the Stipulation and the Judgment, if entered.
- 18. Class Members shall be bound by all determinations and judgments in this Action whether favorable or unfavorable, unless such Persons request exclusion from the Class in a timely and proper manner, as hereinafter provided. A Class Member wishing to make such request for exclusion shall mail it by first-class mail, postage prepaid, or otherwise deliver it, so that it is received no later than July 1, 2025 (the "Exclusion Deadline"), to the address listed in the Notice. In order to be valid, such request for exclusion must (i) state the name, address, and telephone number of the person or entity requesting exclusion; (ii) state the number of shares of Proterra (including predecessor ArcLight Clean Transition Corp. stock) common stock purchased, acquired, and/or sold during the Class Period, as well as the dates and prices of each such purchase, acquisition, and sale; and (iii) be signed by the person or entity requesting exclusion or an authorized representative. In order to be valid, such request for exclusion must be submitted with documentary proof of each purchase or acquisition and, if applicable, sale of Proterra common stock during the relevant period. Account statements or trade confirmations will suffice. Any such request for exclusion must be signed and submitted by the beneficial owner under penalty of perjury. The request for exclusion shall not be effective unless it provides the required information, is legible, and is made within the time stated above, or the exclusion is otherwise accepted by the Court. Class Counsel may contact any Person filing a request for exclusion, or their attorney if one is designated, to discuss the request for exclusion.
- 19. The Settlement Administrator shall provide all requests for exclusion and supporting documentation submitted therewith (including untimely requests and revocations of requests) to counsel for the Parties (by email) as soon as possible and no later than the Exclusion Deadline or upon the receipt thereof (if later than the Exclusion Deadline). The Class will not include any Person who delivers a valid and timely request for exclusion.

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PRELIMINARY APPROVAL ORDER

- 20. Any Person that submits a request for exclusion may thereafter submit to the Settlement Administrator a written revocation of that request for exclusion, provided that it is received no later than <u>August 18, 2025</u>, two (2) business days before the Settlement Hearing, in which event that Person will be included in the Class.
- 21. All Persons who submit a valid, timely, and unrevoked request for exclusion will be forever barred from receiving any payments from the Net Settlement Fund.
- 22. The Court will consider comments and/or objections to the Settlement, the Plan of Allocation, or any application for an award of fees or reimbursement of expenses, provided, however, that no Class Member or other Person shall be heard or entitled to contest the approval of the terms and conditions of the proposed Settlement or, if approved, the Judgment, or any other order relating thereto, unless that Person has served the objection upon the Court by **July 1, 2025** (the "Objection Deadline"). To be valid, any such objection must (i) clearly identify the case name and number "Jeremy Villanueva v. Gareth T. Joyce, et al., Case No: 5:23-cv-03519-EKL (N.D. Cal.)"; (ii) state the name, address, and telephone number of the person or entity objecting; (iii) state the number of shares of Proterra (including predecessor ArcLight Clean Transition Corp. stock) common stock purchased, acquired, and/or sold during the Class Period, as well as the dates and prices of each such purchase, acquisition, and sale; (iv) be signed by the person or entity objecting or an authorized representative; (v) be submitted to the Court either by filing them electronically or in person at any location of the United States District Court for the Northern District of California or by mailing them to the Class Action Clerk, United States District Court for the Northern District of California, 450 Golden Gate Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94102-3489. Attendance at the Settlement Hearing is not necessary but Persons wishing to be heard orally in opposition to the approval of the Stipulation, the Plan of Allocation, and/or application for an award of fees or reimbursement of expenses may do so at the Settlement Hearing, provided they have filed a timely objection in accordance with this Order. The Court will require only substantial compliance with the requirements for submitting a written objection, and these requirements may be excused by the Court upon a showing of good cause.

- 23. Any Class Member or other Person who does not object in the manner prescribed above shall be deemed to have waived all such objections and shall forever be foreclosed from making any objection to the fairness, adequacy, or reasonableness of the Settlement, the Judgment to be entered approving the Settlement, the Plan of Allocation, and/or any application for an award of fees or reimbursement of expenses, unless otherwise ordered by the Court; shall be bound by all the terms and provisions of the Stipulation and by all proceedings, orders, and judgments in the Action; and shall also be foreclosed from appealing any judgment or order entered in this Action.
- 24. The Court reserves the right to adjourn the Settlement Hearing or to conduct it remotely without any further notice other than entry of an Order on the Court's docket, and to approve the Settlement without further notice to the Class.
- 25. All papers in support of the Settlement, the Plan of Allocation and/or any application for an award of fees or reimbursement of expenses shall be filed and served no later than <u>May 27</u>, <u>2025</u> (the "Motion Deadline").
- 26. Any submissions filed in response to any objections or in further support of the Settlement, the Plan of Allocation and/or any application for an award of fees or reimbursement of expenses any application for an award of fees or reimbursement of expenses shall be filed no later than <u>July 15, 2025</u> (the "Reply Deadline").
- 27. Defendants shall have no responsibility for, or liability with respect to, the Plan of Allocation or any application for attorneys' fees and interest, or expenses or payments to the Lead Plaintiffs submitted by Class Counsel, and such matters will be considered separately from the fairness, reasonableness, and adequacy of the Settlement.
- 28. Pending final determination of whether the Settlement should be approved, all Plaintiffs and Class Members shall be enjoined from commencing, prosecuting, or attempting to prosecute any Released Plaintiffs' Claims against any Released Defendants' Party in any court or tribunal or proceeding (including in the Action), unless and until the Stipulation is cancelled and terminated pursuant to the Stipulation.

- 29. All funds held in the Escrow Account shall be deemed and considered to be in the custody of the Court, and shall remain subject to the jurisdiction of the Court, until such time as such funds shall be distributed or returned pursuant to the Stipulation and Plan of Allocation and/or further order(s) of the Court.
- 30. Neither the Stipulation, nor any of its terms or provisions, nor any of the negotiations or proceedings connected with it, nor this Order shall be construed as an admission or concession by Defendants or any of the other Released Defendants' Parties of the truth of any of the allegations in the Action, or of any liability, fault, or wrongdoing of any kind and shall not be construed as, or deemed to be evidence of or an admission or concession that Plaintiffs or any Class Members have suffered any damages, harm, or loss. Further, neither the Stipulation, nor any of its terms or provisions, nor any of the negotiations or proceedings connected with it, nor this Order shall be construed as, or argued to be, a waiver of any defenses in the Action. Additionally, neither the Stipulation, nor any of its terms or provisions, nor any of the negotiations or proceedings connected with it, nor this Order shall be construed as an admission or concession by Plaintiffs of the validity of any factual or legal defense or of the infirmity of any of the claims or facts alleged in this Action.
- 31. In the event the Settlement is not consummated in accordance with the terms of the Stipulation, then the Stipulation and this Order (including any amendment(s) thereof, and except as expressly provided in the Stipulation or by order of the Court) shall be null and void, of no further force or effect, and without prejudice to any Party, and may not be introduced as evidence or used in any action or proceeding by any Person against the Parties or the Released Parties, and each Party shall be restored to his, her or its respective litigation positions as they existed prior to the execution date of the Stipulation, pursuant to the terms of the Stipulation.
- 32. The Court reserves the right to alter the time or the date or manner of the Settlement Hearing without further notice to the Class Members, provided that the Settlement Hearing shall not be set at a time or date earlier than the time and date set forth in paragraph 5 above. The Court retains exclusive jurisdiction to consider all further matters arising out of, or relating to, the Stipulation, including by way of illustration and not limitation, any dispute over the funding of the

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Settlement, any dispute concerning any Proof of Claim submitted, and any future requests by one or more of the Parties that the Judgment, the releases and/or the permanent injunction set forth in the Stipulation be enforced.

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## **Summary of Key Dates**

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Event	Deadline
Notice mailed to class ("Notice Date")	April 25, 2025
Summary notice published	May 9, 2025
Briefs in support of final approval, plan of allocation, and attorneys' fees and expenses due ("Motion Deadline")	May 27, 2025
Requests for exclusion from class due ("Exclusion Deadline")	July 1, 2025
Objections to settlement, plan of allocation, and/or attorneys' fee and expense application due ("Objection Deadline")	July 1, 2025
Reply papers in support of final approval, plan of allocation, and attorneys' fees and expenses due ("Reply Deadline")	July 15, 2025
Last day to revoke requests for exclusion from class	August 18, 2025
Settlement Hearing	August 20, 2025
Claims Filing Deadline	August 29, 2025

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DATED: April 3, 2025

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Hon. Eumi K. Lee

United States District Judge