# FIRE VICTIM CLAIMS RESOLUTION PROCEDURES

# RESERVED FOR DISCUSSION WITH TRUSTEE AND CLAIMS ADMINISTRATOR

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#### FORM OF CERTIFICATE OF TRUST

### **OF THE**

### **PG&E FIRE VICTIM TRUST**

This Certificate of Trust of the **PG&E FIRE VICTIM TRUST** (the "*Trust*") is being duly executed and filed by the undersigned trustees of the Trust, to form a statutory trust under the Delaware Statutory Trust Act (12 Del. Code § 3801 *et seq.*) (the "*Act*").

1. <u>Name</u>. The name of the statutory trust formed hereby is:

## **PG&E Fire Victim Trust**

2. **Delaware Trustee.** The name and business address of the Delaware Trustee of the Trust in the State of Delaware is:

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3. <u>Effective Date</u>. This Certificate of Trust shall be effective upon filing.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF,** the undersigned, being all of the trustees of the Trust, have duly executed this Certificate of Trust in accordance with Section 3811(a) of the Act.

TRUSTEE:	DELAWARE TRUSTEE:
Hon. John K. Trotter (Ret.), in his capacity as Trustee and not individually	By: Name: Title

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# SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT, GENERAL RELEASE, AND ASSIGNMENT

## MUTUAL MADE WHOLE RELEASE

The terms "Claimant" and "Insurer," are defined in Paragraph G. below.

\_\_\_\_\_, Trustee of the Fire Victim Trust, the undersigned party or personal representative (referred to herein as "Claimant"), individually and on behalf of the estate of the Claimant, and the Insurer (collectively, the "Parties" or "Releasees") agree as follows:

A. Whereas, the Debtors' and Shareholder Proponents' Joint Chapter 11 Plan of Reorganization dated \_\_\_\_\_\_ (the "<u>Plan</u>"), was confirmed by an order of the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of California entered on \_\_\_\_\_\_, 2020, and the Plan became effective on \_\_\_\_\_\_, 2020.

B. Whereas the Plan provides for the treatment of all allowed Fire Victim Claims (as defined in the Plan) against the Debtors through the Fire Victim Trust (as defined in the Plan) and for the discharge of the Debtors from any further or other liability on account of all Fire Victim Claims.

C. Whereas the Plan provides for the treatment of all allowed Subrogation Wildfire Claims (as defined in the Plan) against the Debtors through the Subrogation Wildfire Trust (as defined in the Plan) and for the discharge of the Debtors from any further or other liability on account of all Subrogation Wildfire Claims.

D. Whereas, the Plan provides that the Fire Victim Claims are administered by a Fire Victim Trust and a Fire Victim Trustee who operates independent from the Debtors, holders of the Fire Subrogation Claims, and the Insurer. Neither the Debtors, holders of the Fire Subrogation Claims, nor the Insurer shall have any right to participate in the administration of the Fire Victim Trust, review any allocation or distribution decision of the Trustee or Trust Oversight Committee, including that of the Claimant, or make any claim for money against the Trust or the Trustee in any way or at any time.

E. Whereas, the Trustee and Fire Victim Trust Oversight Committee have reviewed and advised the Claimant of (a) the total amount paid into the Fire Victim Trust available for compensation to the Fire Victims, (b) the total number of claims made against the Fire Victim Trust, (c) the process by which trust funds will be allocated and distributed, and (d) the total allocated amount from the Fire Victim Trust to the Claimant ("Total Allocation Award").

F. Whereas, the Claimant has reviewed the Total Allocation Award.

G. Whereas, the Plan provides the Claimant and the Insurer execute a mutual limited release after the Claimant has reviewed the Total Allocation Award wherein the Claimant agrees to release only their claim against the Insurer under the Made Whole Doctrine (see Paragraph 1) and no other claim, cause of action, defense or remedy against the Insurer, and the Insurer agrees to release the Claimant as described herein in Paragraph 3. For the purpose of this Release, "Claimant" includes the Claimant's heirs, legal representatives, successor or assigns and "Insurer" includes the Claimants' insurance carriers, their past and present holders of insurance

subrogation claims against the Debtors (and their direct and indirect assignors or assignees), and each of their directors, officers, agents, consultants, financial advisers, employees, attorneys, predecessors, successors and assigns.

H. Whereas, nothing in this Release is an affirmation, representation, or an acknowledgment that the Claimant has in fact been fully compensated for their damages covered by the contract of insurance between the Insurer and the Claimant. The parties agree that Court's approval of the Plan and the Claimants' acceptance of the Total Allocation Award does not establish that the Claimant has been fully compensated under California law for their compensable damages as a result of the fire to the extent those damages are covered by insurance.

I. Whereas, the Insurer has agreed to the terms, provisions, and agreements of this Mutual Release in a separate agreement dated \_\_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_, affirming, adopting, and attaching a copy of this Mutual Release ("Insurer Adoption Agreement"). This Mutual Release is conditioned upon the Insurer, or the Insurer's successor on behalf of the Insurer, filing in the Chapter 11 case the Insurer Adoption Agreement, which states the Insurer releases, as to the Made Whole Doctrine only, each Claimant who signs and agrees to the terms of this Mutual Release. The terms, provisions, and agreements of the Insurer Adoption Agreement are incorporated herein by reference. Insurer's consent and agreement to the terms, provisions, and agreements of this Mutual Release shall be effective upon the signature of the Claimant.

J. Whereas, this release is not required for the Trustee to allocate and distribute preliminary awards to individuals on a case by case basis for humanitarian or urgent needs.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration for the agreements described in this Release and other good and valuable consideration, the Claimant and the Insurer agree as follows:

1. By accepting the Total Allocation Award, the Claimant hereby waives and releases their rights, known or unknown, to assert the Made Whole Doctrine against the Insurer. Claimant is not waiving or releasing any other claim, cause of action, defense, or remedy against Insurer. Also, by signing this agreement, the Claimant is not agreeing as a factual matter that the Claimant has been fully compensated for each and every category of their damages under California law.

2. The Claimant is not releasing any claims the Claimant may have against the Insurer other than the Claimant's foregoing waiver set forth in Paragraph 1. The Parties to this Release further agree and acknowledge that the Claimant is <u>not</u> releasing any claims, except and only to the extent set forth above, they might have against the Insurer, including but not limited to those claims or causes of action related to: (1) the policy of insurance and what is still owed or to be paid under the policy terms and conditions; (2) the right to pursue claims already made or to make new or continued claims under the policy; (3) claims handling issues; (4) delay in paying claims under the policy; (5) inadequate or untimely communication relating to the claim; (6) unreasonable positions taken relating to coverage, payment of the claim, acknowledging coverage, or day-today claims decisions; (7) actions or inactions of insurance agents or brokers in underwriting, securing, adjusting, calculating or recommending coverage; (8) coverage issues over policy language; (9) any action for bad faith or breach of the covenant of good faith and fair

dealing; (10) any claims to reform or modify the terms of any policy; (12) any rights to recover damages for breach of contract or tort (including punitive damages), penalties or equitable relief; (13) any claims of violations of statutory or regulatory obligations; or (14) any claim for unfair business acts or practices.

3. The Insurer agrees to release and waive any right to make claim for any amount paid to the Claimant pursuant to the Fire Victim Trust or to assert as a defense, offset or reduction, the money paid to the Claimant from the Fire Victim Trust, which belongs solely to the Claimant. The Claimant agrees to make no claim on the money paid to the Insurer from the Subrogation Wildfire Trust. In agreeing to this limited release, Insurer is not releasing any claim, cause of action, defense, or remedy it may have against the Claimant other than Claimant's foregoing release of any Made Whole Doctrine claim.

4. The Insurer is not releasing any claims the Insurer may have against Claimant other than the Insurer's foregoing waiver set forth in Paragraph 3. The Parties to this Release further agree and acknowledge that the Insurer is not releasing any claims, except and only to the extent set forth above, it might have against the Claimant, including but not limited to those claims related to: (1) the policy of insurance and what is still owed or to be paid under the policy terms and conditions; (2) defenses to garden variety claims handling issues unrelated to the Made Whole Doctrine; (3) defenses related to delay in paying claims under the policy; (4) defenses to alleged inadequate or untimely communication relating to the claim; (5) defenses to alleged unreasonable positions taken relating to coverage, payment of the claim, acknowledging coverage, or day-today claims decisions; (6) defenses to actions or inactions of insurance agents or brokers in securing coverage; (7) coverage issues over policy language unrelated to Made Whole Doctrine; or (8) defenses to any common law action for bad faith unrelated to Made Whole Doctrine.

5. The Insurer further agrees that the Total Allocation Award shall not be the subject of discovery or mentioned in any pleadings in any state or federal court action or admissible in evidence in any state or federal court action for any of the causes of action or claims for relief identified in Paragraphs 2 or 4. Claimant agrees that the amount paid to Insurer from the Subrogation Wildfire Trust shall not be the subject of discovery or mentioned in any pleadings in any state or federal court action.

6. To the extent that the Claimant brings a claim for breach of contract, wrongful denial of coverage and/or bad faith against the Insurer, the Insurer shall not assert in any way or at any time that the Claimant should have or could have pursued that claim against the Debtors, the Fire Victim Trust, or any other party. The Insurer agrees that that it will not assert in any action or proceeding covered under Paragraph 2 or 4 that the Claimant has been compensated as a result of the Claimant's settlement with the Debtors.

7. Both the Claimant and the Insurer agree that this Release gives the parties released the status of third-party beneficiary of the Release, and such Releasees may enforce this Release and any rights or remedies set forth herein.

8. This Release contains the entire agreement between the parties as to the subject matter hereof and is effective immediately upon signing. Likewise, the release in Paragraph 1 is

effective immediately upon signing. If there is a conflict between this Release and any other prior or contemporaneous agreement between the parties concerning the subject matter of the Release, the Release controls.

9. The law of the State of California shall govern the interpretation of this Release. The Bankruptcy Court has jurisdiction to resolve any disputes under this agreement.

10. Each Releasor states that he, she, or it is of legal age, with no mental disability of any kind, is fully and completely competent, and is duly authorized to execute this Release on Releasor's own behalf. Releasor further states that this Release has been explained to Releasor and that Releasor knows the contents as well as the effect thereof. Releasor further acknowledges that Releasor executed this Release after consulting with Releasor's attorney or the opportunity to consult with an attorney.

11. For avoidance of doubt, the Made Whole Doctrine is described herein. Subrogation is a doctrine that permits an insurance company, or its assignees, to assert the rights and remedies of an insured against a third-party tortfeasor. The Made Whole Doctrine is a common law exception to insurer's right of subrogation. The Made Whole Doctrine, under certain circumstances, could preclude an insurer from recovering any third-party funds unless and until the insured has been made whole for the loss. Both the Claimant and Insurer agree that this Release does not modify, abrogate or affect any prior release or waiver between the Parties arising from the Fire.

12. Consistent with the foregoing, it is expressly understood and agreed by claimant that claimant is waiving and releasing all known or unknown claims under the Made Whole Doctrine. It is expressly understood and agreed by insurer that insurer is waiving and releasing all known or unknown claims under the Made Whole Doctrine as to claimant.

Executed on this  $[\bullet]$  day of  $[\bullet]$ , 20 $[\bullet]$ .

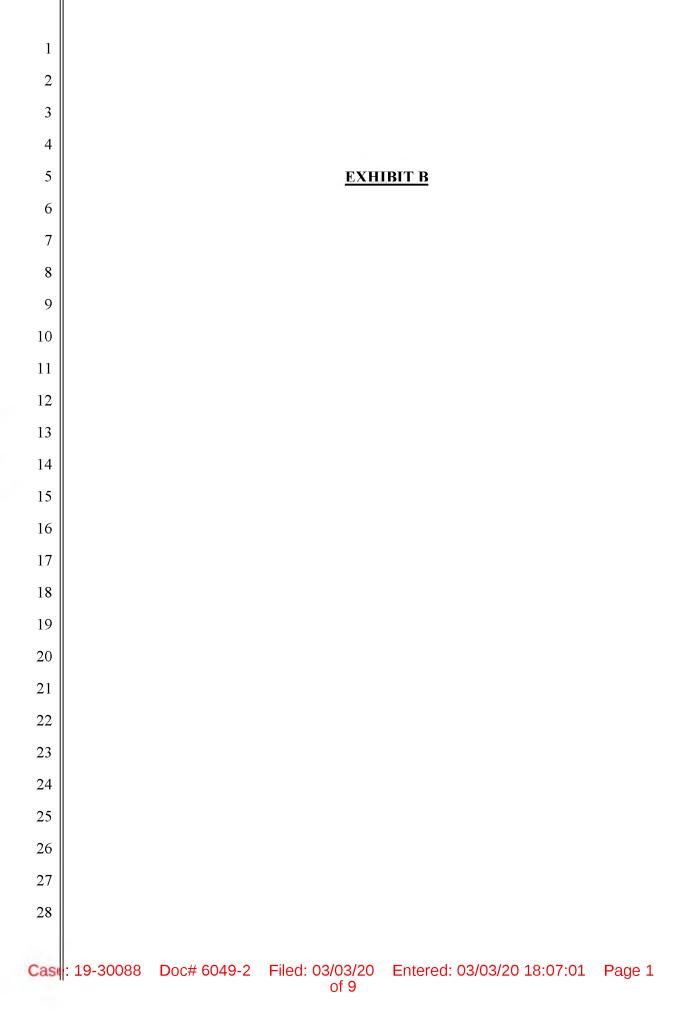
# BY CLAIMANT [Add Name]:

Signature of Claimant or Representative

Printed Name of Signatory

Capacity of Signatory

BAKER & HOSTETLER LLP ATTORNEYS AT LAW SAN FRANCISCO



### FIRE VICTIM CLAIMS RESOLUTION PROCEDURES

#### **PREAMBLE**

The goal of the Fire Victim Trust<sup>1</sup> is to provide an efficient process to fairly compensate the holders of timely filed Fire Victim Claims (respectively, "Claimants" and "Claims") in an equitable manner consistent with the terms of the Trust Agreement, Plan, and California and federal law. These Fire Victim Claims Resolution Procedures ("CRP") apply to all Claims. The Claims Administrator shall implement and administer the CRP in consultation with the Trustee, Claims Processor, Neutrals, and Trust Professionals with the goal of securing the just, speedy, and cost-efficient determination of every Claim. Those entrusted with the consideration and determination of Claims shall treat all Claimants with abiding respect and shall strive to balance the prudent stewardship of the Trust with care in its administration, allocation, and distribution.

The speed of any distribution in a program involving thousands of claimants relies on multiple variables impacting administrative expediency. To achieve maximum fairness and efficiency, the CRP is founded on the following principles:

- 1. Objective eligibility criteria;
- 2. Clear and reliable proof requirements;
- 3. Administrative transparency;
- 4. Rigorous review processes that generate consistent outcomes; and
- 5. Independence of the Trustee, Claims Administrator, Claims Processor, Neutrals, and Trust Professionals.

The Trustee and Claims Administrator will consult with the Claims Processor and other Trust Professionals to develop claims valuation processes that result in fair and reasonable compensation of eligible Claims in accordance with the Trust Agreement and CRP.

#### I. **CLAIMANT ELIGIBILITY**

To be eligible to receive compensation from the Trust, a Claimant must: (1) have a Claim related to an Included Fire; (2) have timely filed a Proof of Claim; and (3) submit supporting documentation outlined in Section II of this CRP or required by the Claims Administrator ("Supporting Documents"). Upon submission of the Supporting Documents, the Trust will review each Claim and consider all damages and costs recoverable under California law.

**A. Included Fires.** The Trust is established to administer Claims related to the fires identified in Exhibit 1 (each a "Fire" and collectively the "Fires"). Any Claims unrelated to the Fires are ineligible for payment by the Trust and, pursuant to the process described herein, shall

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> All capitalized terms not otherwise defined herein shall have their respective meanings as set forth in the PG&E Fire Victim Trust Agreement (the "Trust Agreement") and the Debtors' Amended Joint Chapter 11 Plan of Reorganization dated January 31, 2020 (as it may be amended, modified, or supplemented, the "Plan").

be held to be ineligible on a final basis. For the purposes of the CRP, all Fires set forth in Exhibit 1 are deemed to have been caused by PG&E's equipment and as a result of PG&E's negligence.

- **B.** Proof of Claim. All Claimants must have filed a Proof of Claim for their claims or those of their family in the Bankruptcy Cases on or before December 31, 2019, and as amended, which was the extended Bar Date for Fire Claimants. Claims that were not timely submitted to the Bankruptcy Cases are ineligible for payment by the Trust, unless the claimant obtains relief from the Bankruptcy Court to file a late Claim and submits the Claim to the Bankruptcy Cases and Trust within 30 days after the Bankruptcy Court order allowing such late filing. Claims that have been disallowed or that have been withdrawn from the official claims registry in the Bankruptcy Cases are ineligible for payment by the Trust.
- C. Supporting Documents. Section II sets forth each Claim Type the Trust will consider and the Supporting Documents that may be submitted for each. In addition to the Supporting Documents outlined in Section II, Claimants will be required to submit a Claims Questionnaire, as explained in Section V.

#### II. **CLAIM TYPES AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS**

The Trust will use all information that assists in objectively valuing Claims and alleviates the burden on Claimants. This includes, but is not limited to, data from a Claimant's (a) Bankruptcy Proof of Claim Form; (b) Wildfire Assistance Program Claim Form; (c) Damages Questionnaire established under Case Management Order 5 in the California North Bay Fire Cases (JCCP 4955); and (d) other reasonably ascertainable and reliable information. Claimants may be required to submit additional facts and documents to support their Claims for each of the following Claim Types:

## A. Real Property.

- 1. Description of Real Property Claim. Real Property Claims include claims for damage to structures on residential or commercial real property, landscaping, forestry, and other real property improvements (e.g., hardscape, fencing, retaining walls, pools, and solar panels) as a result of the Fires. Real Property damages may be measured in one of two ways: (1) the loss in fair market value to the property ("Diminution in Value"); or (2) the reasonable costs to rebuild or repair the property ("Cost of Repair"). Whether Diminution in Value or Cost of Repair is awarded will depend on the facts of each Claim.
  - (a) *Diminution in Value*. Diminution in Value will be calculated by subtracting the fair market value of the property immediately after the Fire from the fair market value of the property immediately before the Fire.
  - (b) Cost of Repair. The reasonable costs to rebuild or repair the property will be determined based on: (1) the use of the structure(s) and other improvement(s); (2) the extent of damage to the structure(s) [e.g., burn damage versus smoke and soot

damage]; (3) the square footage of structure(s); (4) the geographic location of the property; (5) the size of the vegetation on the property immediately before the Fire; (6) the extent of damage to vegetation; (7) the type of vegetation damaged; and (8) the fair market value of the property immediately before the Fire. In addition, the Claimant may claim the value of trees lost.

- (c) *Consequential Damages.* Claimants also may make a claim for other reasonably foreseeable economic losses directly caused by destruction of or damage to real property.
- 2. *Types of Supporting Documents.* Claimants may provide the following documents to support a Real Property Claim:
  - (a) Verification of ownership;
  - (b) Appraisals;
  - (c) Tax records;
  - (d) Purchase records;
  - (e) Mortgage or loan documentation showing the pre-Fire condition or value of the property;
  - (f) Pre-Fire and post-Fire photos or videos of the structures (interior or exterior) or other damaged areas of the property;
  - (g) Architectural or engineering drawings;
  - (h) Permits;
  - (i) Contractor rebuild or repair estimates or invoices;
  - (j) Arborist reports, timber surveys, or documents relating to landscaping; and
  - (k) Other supporting documents within the Claimant's possession.

## **B.** Personal Property.

- 1. *Description of Personal Property Claim.* Personal Property Claims include claims for loss of or damages to personal property, such as household items (*e.g.*, clothes, furniture, or tools) and automobiles, as a result of the Fires.
- 2. *Types of Supporting Documents*. Claimants may provide the following documents to support a Personal Property Claim:
  - (a) List of items destroyed or damaged in the residency;
  - (b) Proofs of purchase;
  - (c) Pre-Fire and post-Fire photos;
  - (d) Appraisals; and
  - (e) Other supporting documents within the Claimant's possession.

## C. Personal Income Loss.

1. *Description of Personal Income Loss Claim.* Personal Income Loss Claims include claims of individuals who lost income because (a) they were displaced by the Fires; (b)

their employer suffered Business Losses and reduced or stopped paying wages to the Claimant as a result of the Fires; or (c) the Fires or resulting injuries or conditions otherwise interfered with their ability to earn income.

- 2. Loss of Rental Income. Personal Income Loss Claims also include loss of income from rental of a damaged or destroyed property.
- 3. Types of Supporting Documents. Claimants may provide the following documents to support a Personal Income Loss Claim:
  - (a) Tax returns, including all schedules and attachments;
  - (b) W-2 Forms;
  - (c) 1099 Forms;
  - (d) Lease agreements or canceled rent checks;
  - (e) Bank account statements identifying earnings;
  - (f) Paycheck stubs or payroll records; and
  - (g) Other supporting documents within the Claimant's possession.

## **D.** Business Loss.

- 1. Description of Business Loss Claim. Business Loss Claims include claims for economic losses suffered by a business as a result of the Fires, including loss of business property or inventory used to conduct business and lost profits or revenue.
- 2. Types of Supporting Documents. Claimants may provide the following documents to support a Business Loss Claim:
  - (a) Description of the business, including its mission statement;
  - (b) Tax returns, including all schedules or attachments;
  - (c) Financial statements, including profit and loss statements;
  - (d) Articles of Incorporation, bylaws, shareholder lists, or partnership or limited partnership agreements;
  - (e) Leases, deeds, titles, or other documents identifying the property owned or occupied by the business;
  - (f) Canceled contracts;
  - (g) Photos, videos, or other documentary evidence of fire damage to the Claimant's home or business; and
  - (h) Other supporting documents within the Claimant's possession.

#### E. Other Out of Pocket Expenses.

1. Description of Other Out of Pocket Loss Claim. Other Out of Pocket Loss Claims include claims for out of pocket expenses that are not considered in any other claim type. These may include additional living expenses, medical and counseling expenses, and other out of pocket expenses as a result of the Fires.

- 2. *Types of Supporting Documents*. Claimants may provide the following documents to support an Other Out of Pocket Loss Claim:
  - (a) Documentation supporting a claim for additional living expenses;
  - (b) Medical bills;
  - (c) Counseling bills; and
  - (d) Other supporting documents within the Claimant's possession.

## F. Wrongful Death and Serious Personal Injury.

- 1. Description of Wrongful Death and Serious Personal Injury Claim. Wrongful Death and Serious Personal Injury Claims include claims relating to individuals who died or suffered serious personal injury as a result of the Fires. The Trustee and Claims Administrator will devise procedures ensuring a streamlined and sensitive process providing Claimants and their family members the dignity that is critical to successfully resolving Claims relating to these extraordinary losses.
- 2. *Types of Supporting Documents.* Claimants may provide medical records and other documents supporting a Wrongful Death or Serious Personal Injury Claim, as well as documents supporting a claim for loss of relationship, love, support, and companionship.

## G. Emotional Distress.

- 1. Description of Emotional Distress Claim. Emotional Distress Claims include claims arising from: (a) zone of danger evacuation from the Fires; (b) physical injury as a result of the Fires; and (c) substantial interference with the use and enjoyment of or invasion of property occupied by the Claimant, as well as the impact of the loss of the community.
- 2. *Types of Supporting Documents*. Claimants may provide the following documents to support an Emotional Distress Claim:
  - (a) A written narrative or an audio or video recording detailing the Claimant's evacuation and impact of the Fire on the Claimant and his or her family, including impact related to the loss of property and any sentimental items in the home;
  - (b) Texts, emails, or social media content the Claimant created during the evacuation;
  - (c) Photos or videos taken during the evacuation;
  - (d) Pre-Fire and post-Fire photos and videos of the Claimant's property;
  - (e) Records describing bodily injury or mental health counseling or treatment;
  - (f) Documentation of medical and counseling expenses; and
  - (g) Other supporting documents in the Claimant's possession.

#### H. Previously Settled Claims.

- 1. *Description of Previously Settled Claim.* Previously Settled Claims includes claims that a Claimant previously settled with PG&E by entering into a settlement agreement with PG&E, thereby liquidating their Claim, but for which the Claimant did not receive payment before the Bankruptcy Cases commenced.
- 2. *Types of Supporting Documents*. Claimants may provide a copy of their executed settlement agreement, or other documentation indicating a settlement was reached, to support a Previously Settled Claim.

## III. OTHER DAMAGES

The Trustee and Claims Administrator will devise procedures to evaluate any additional categories of recoverable damages. These other damages may include:

- 1. Statutory attorney's fees and litigation, expert and consulting costs;
- 2. Statutory interest;
- 3. Punitive/exemplary damages; and
- 4. Damages multipliers.

## IV. <u>CLAIMS SUBMISSION</u>

The Claims Processor will maintain a secure, web-based portal (a "Portal") for Claimants to submit Claims Questionnaires, Supporting Documents, Releases, and any other relevant information or documents. After submitting a Claim, Claimants will be able to use the Portal check their Claim status, receive and respond to determination notices, submit supplementary materials, and update contact information and other demographic information, if necessary.

## V. <u>CLAIMS QUESTIONNAIRE</u>

In addition to the Claim-specific Supporting Documents identified in Section II, the Claims Administrator will require Claimants to complete a Claims Questionnaire that provides sufficient information to: (1) verify the Claimant's identity; (2) identify and support the claimed damages; and (3) demonstrate the Claimant's authority to assert the Claims.

Individual Claimants may submit Claims Questionnaires by household. The Claims Processor will pre-populate Claims Questionnaires with information already in its possession, including but not limited to data from a Claimant's (a) Bankruptcy Claim Proof of Claim Form; (b) Wildfire Assistance Program Claim Form; (c) Damages Questionnaire established under Case Management Order 5 in the California North Bay Fire Cases (JCCP 4955); and (d) information that is otherwise reasonably ascertainable and reliable.

The Trustee will use reasonable efforts to obtain insurance claim files directly from a Claimant's insurance carrier but may require certain insurance information directly from the Claimant in support of their Claim. The Claim Questionnaire may include a consent by the

Claimant to the Trust obtaining any and all information related to the Claim from Claimant's insurer. The Plan does not absolve the insurance carriers of their duty to fulfill their coverage obligations under their policies of insurance with a Claimant.

## VI. <u>RELEASE</u>

Before receiving payment from the Trust, Claimants must submit signed releases in substantially the same form and content as the Claimant Release and Mutual Made Whole Release, attached to the Trust Agreement as Exhibits 4 and 5, respectively.

## VII. <u>NOTICE OF CLAIMS DETERMINATION</u>

The CRP will govern the process by which each Claim is reviewed, including whether the Claim is eligible or ineligible for payment and, if eligible, the amount approved for payment ("Claims Determination"). After the Trust has fully evaluated a Claim, the Claims Processor will issue a notice to the Claimant explaining the review result ("Determination Notice"). If the Claim has been approved and is eligible for payment ("Approved Claim"), the notice will include the specific amount that the Trust has approved for payment ("Approved Claim Amount") and the stages in which payment may occur. If the Claim is missing documents or information required for the Trust to fully evaluate the Claim ("Deficient Claim"), the notice will explain what is required and provide a timeline within which the Claimant may resolve the deficiencies. If the Claim is ineligible for payment from the Trust pursuant to the CRP ("Disallowed Claim"), the notice will explain the reason(s) that the Claim is ineligible.

#### VIII. <u>DISPUTE RESOLUTION</u>

Claimants dissatisfied with their Claims Determination will have the opportunity to dispute the determination and to provide supplemental information or documents to support their dispute. The Trust will implement the following three-tiered process:

- 1. *Reconsideration.* If a Claimant contests a Claims Determination, the Claims Administrator and Claims Processor will review the Claim again and will consider any newly submitted information and documents and all previously submitted information. Afterwards, the Claims Processor will issue a Reconsideration Determination. The Claimant may accept the Reconsideration Determination or may appeal to a Neutral.
- 2. *Appeal.* If a Claimant appeals a Reconsideration Determination, the Claims Administrator will assign the Claim to a Neutral for further consideration. The Neutral will hold a hearing in a manner jointly agreed to by the Claimant and Neutral (*e.g.*, in person, by telephone, or on paper). The Neutral will consider the appeal based on all documents and information the Claimant previously provided and anything new the Claimant provides before or during the hearing. After the hearing, the Neutral will issue an Appeals Determination, which may increase, decrease, or confirm the Reconsideration Determination. The Claimant may accept the Appeals Determination or may request Panel Review.

**3.** *Panel Review.* If a Claimant requests Panel Review, the Claims Administrator will assign a panel of three Neutrals to review the Claim. The Neutral who reviewed the Claimant's Appeal will be excluded from the Claimant's Panel Review. No new documents or information may be submitted for Panel Review. After the reviewing the Appeal record, the Panel will submit to the Trustee a Panel Determination, which may increase, decrease, or confirm the Appeals Determination. The Trustee may accept, reject, or revise the Panel Determination and then will issue a Trustee Determination to the Claimant. The Trustee Determination is the final Claims Determination regarding both eligibility and payment amount, if any. The Trustee Determination will be final, binding, and non-appealable and is not subject to review by any Court, **including right to trial by jury.**<sup>2</sup>

## IX. <u>CONFIDENTIALITY OF CLAIMS INFORMATION</u>

All personal information, facts, and documents submitted to the Trust by or regarding any Claimant or Claim shall be kept confidential and shall only be disclosed: (1) to the Trustee, Claims Administrator, Claims Processor, Neutrals, and Trust Professionals to the extent necessary to process and pay Claims; or (2) as may be required by applicable law, ethical requirements, or legitimate business uses associated with administering the Trust.

 $<sup>^{2}</sup>$  As of the Effective Date, all Fire Victim Claims against PG&E are discharged and channeled into this Trust. Any trial would be against the Trust and against the interests of fellow Fire Victims, not against PG&E. As such, the procedures in this Trust are set up to protect Fire Victims' due process rights and create fair, just, and expedient results.