MARCIA L. MITCHELL, SBN 18122 (WA) JAMES H. BAKER JR, SBN 291836 (CA)						
KENA C. CADOR, SBN 321094 (CA) U.S. EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION						
San Francisco District Office 450 Golden Gate Ave., 5 th Floor West P.O. Poy 26025						
P.O. Box 36025 San Francisco, CA 94102 Telephone No. (650) 684-0950						
tom.hill@hklaw.com Attorneys for Defendant TESLA_INC						
Attorneys for Defendant TESLA, INC. (Additional counsel listed on next page)						
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1 2	SARA A. BEGLEY (<i>admitted</i> HOLLAND & KNIGHT LLP 1650 Market Street, Suite 330 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19	0 9103	ce)		
3	Telephone No. (215) 252-960 Fax No. (215) 867-6070	0			
4 5 6 7	SAMUEL J. STONE, SBN 31 MARY T. VU, SBN 323088 (HOLLAND & KNIGHT LLP 400 South Hope Street, 8th F1 Los Angeles, California 9007 Telephone No. (213) 896-240	(CA) oor '1			
8	Fax No. (213) 896-2450 PAUL W. MATTHIAS-BEN	NETCH, SI	3N 318545	5 (CA)	
9	HOLLAND & KNIGHT LLP 601 SW Second Avenue, Suit				
10	Portland, Oregon 97204 Telephone No. (503) 243-230	0			
11	Fax No. (503) 241-8014	SDN 17274	$(C \Lambda)$		
12	RAYMOND A. CARDOZO, REED SMITH LLP 101 Second Street, Suite 1800		5 (CA)		
13	San Francisco, California 941 Telephone No. (415) 543-870	05-3659			
14	Fax No. (415) 391-8269	-			
15 16	TYREE P. JONES JR., SBN REED SMITH LLP	[*]	A)		
17	1301 K Street, N.W., Suite 10 Washington, DC 20005-3317 Telephone No. (202) 414-920	,			
18	Fax No. (202) 414-9299	•			
19	Attorneys for Defendant TESI	A, INC.			
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1 Pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(f)(2), Local Rule 16-9, and the Court's Order 2 Re: Motion to Dismiss and Motion to Stay (ECF 43), Plaintiff U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity 3 Commission (EEOC) and Defendant Tesla, Inc. (Tesla), (collectively, the parties), hereby submit the 4 following Joint Case Management Conference (CMC) Statement. 5 1. **Jurisdiction and Service** 6 On September 28, 2023, the EEOC initiated this lawsuit against Tesla. See ECF 1. As pled, 7 the Court has original jurisdiction over the EEOC's claims pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 451, 1331, 8 1337, 1343 and 1345. This action is brought pursuant to Sections 706(f)(1) and (3) of Title VII of the 9 Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, 42 U.S.C. §§ 2000e-5(f)(1) and (3) (Title VII), and Section 10 102 of the Civil Rights Act of 1991, 42 U.S.C. § 1981a. 11 Tesla reserves the right to challenge the Court's jurisdiction over this action pursuant to 12 Tesla's Twelfth (Failure to Meet Pre-Suit Obligations) and Fourteenth (Lack of Jurisdiction) 13 Affirmative Defenses, and based on Tesla's position that EEOC failed to comply with its statutory 14 pre-suit notice and investigative obligations prior to initiating this lawsuit. 15 The parties agree that Tesla, the only defendant in this action, has been properly served. 16 2. **Summary of Claims** 17 **EEOC's Position** a. 18 The EEOC alleges that since May 29, 2015, Tesla has subjected Black employees at its 19 manufacturing hub in Fremont, California (Fremont Factory) to severe or pervasive racial 20 harassment and created and maintained a hostile work environment because of their race in a 21 continuing violation of Title VII. The EEOC alleges that Black employees faced frequent and 22 offensive, race-based misconduct, including racial slurs such as the N-Word, and other race-based 23 slurs, insults, taunts, and stereotyping, as well as prevalent displays of racist imagery and graffiti. 24 The EEOC further alleges that: 1) Tesla's management and/or human resources employees knew or 25 should have known of the harassment and/or racially hostile work environment, 2) Tesla failed to 26 take appropriate actions to prevent or promptly correct the harassment and/or racially hostile work 27 environment, and 3) Tesla unlawfully retaliated against Black employees who opposed actions they 28 perceived to constitute unlawful employment discrimination, also in violation of Title VII. These

unlawful employment practices caused Black employees to suffer damages, including emotional 2 distress and lost wages.

b. **Tesla's Position**

4 Tesla denies EEOC's allegations of race-based discrimination, harassment and retaliation, 5 and denies having failed to take action to prevent or correct unlawful discrimination, harassment or 6 retaliation at its Fremont plant. Tesla highly values the diverse workforce that it has attracted to its 7 Fremont plant, and is proud to provide well-paying, industry-leading jobs to its Fremont workforce. 8 EEOC's allegation that race-based harassment and retaliation have been "pervasive" and "ongoing" 9 at the Fremont plant since 2015 is false, and belied by the declarations of hundreds of Black 10 employees filed in a concurrent state court action in which similarly baseless claims are alleged. 11 Throughout the entire period covered by EEOC's Complaint, Tesla's has maintained anti-harassment 12 and -discrimination policies that confirm Tesla's commitment to providing a workplace that is free 13 from unlawful discrimination and harassment. Tesla has also maintained robust systems and 14 processes for employees to report what they perceive to be unlawful conduct, and for Tesla to 15 respond effectively and appropriately to such reports.

3. Legal Issues

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EEOC's Position

The key disputed legal issues raised by the EEOC's Complaint are whether:

- 19 i. Tesla violated Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, 42 20 U.S.C. §§ 2000e-5(f)(1) and (3) (Title VII).
 - ii. Tesla violated Section 102 of the Civil Rights Act of 1991, 42 U.S.C. § 1981a.
 - iii. Black employees faced race-based misconduct.
 - iv. Black employees found any such race-based misconduct offensive.
- 24 The race-based misconduct experienced by Black employees was sufficiently v. 25 severe or pervasive to alter the terms and conditions of their employment with 26 Telsa, and did so.
- 27 vi. Tesla's management or human resources employees knew or should have 28 known of the harassment and/or racially hostile work environment.

1	vii. Tesla failed to take appropriate actions to prevent or promptly correct the			
2	harassment and/or racially hostile work environment.			
3	viii. Black employees engaged in protected activity by opposing race-based			
4	4 misconduct and were subjected to adverse employment actions f			
5		in such protective activity.		
6	ix.	The adversely affected Black employees suffered damages, including		
7		emotional pain, suffering, inconvenience, mental anguish, humiliation, loss of		
8		enjoyment of life, back pay, and out-of-pocket expenses.		
9	х.	The adversely affected Black employees are entitled to affirmative relief,		
10		including but not limited to back pay, reinstatement, front pay, and interest.		
11	xi.	The EEOC is entitled to injunctive relief, including permanent injunctions		
12	enjoining Tesla from engaging in unlawful employment practices that			
13		discriminate based on race.		
14	xii.	The alleged unlawful employment practices were done with malice or in		
15		reckless indifference to the federally protected rights of the Tesla's Black		
16	employees warranting an award of punitive damages.			
17	xiii.	xiii. To what extent there is factual support for Tesla's remaining affirmative		
18		defenses.		
19	b. <u>Tesla</u>	's Position		
20	In addition to	what EEOC has outlined above in Section 3.a, EEOC's Complaint and Tesla's		
21	Answer raise the following key legal issues:			
22	As to every purportedly aggrieved individual on whose behalf EEOC seeks monetary relief			
23	for a hostile work environment or retaliation on the basis of race:			
24	i.	Whether the aggrieved individual is a Tesla "employee" under Title VII.		
25	ii.	Whether Tesla took reasonable care to prevent and promptly correct any		
26		unlawful race discrimination or harassment, and whether the aggrieved		
27		individual failed to take advantage of any preventative or corrective		
28		opportunities that Tesla provided.		

1	iii. Whether the aggrieved individual engaged in a protected activity by opposing				
2	or objecting to unlawful race discrimination or harassment, and whether the				
3	individual suffered an adverse employment decision because of his or her				
4	opposition or objection to unlawful race discrimination or harassment.				
5	iv. Whether the aggrieved individual experienced at least one instance of				
6	unlawful retaliation or race discrimination or harassment within the 300-day				
7	statutory period before the EEOC filed its Charge in May 2019 (i.e., since				
8	August 2018).				
9	v. Whether EEOC disclosed (or Telsa reasonably had notice of) and investigated				
10	the factual predicates of the unlawful race discrimination, harassment and/or				
11	retaliation claims it alleges in the Complaint.				
12	vi. Whether Tesla is entitled to attorney's fees as a prevailing party.				
13	4. <u>Motions</u>				
14	There are no pending motions. Tesla previously filed motions to dismiss the Complaint and				
15	to stay the lawsuit, both of which the Court denied. See ECF 43. The parties have met and conferred				
16	in an effort to stipulate to a Protective Order, 502(d) Order, and an initial ESI Protocol, and are				
17	continuing these efforts. The parties respectfully ask that the Court set a deadline for the parties to				
18	submit stipulated proposals on the Protective Order, 502(d) Order, and ESI Protocol or seek Court				
19	intervention within 60 days of the Court's Order on the CMC.				
20	The parties also anticipate eventually filing motions for summary judgment and/or summary				
21	adjudication of certain issues.				
22	5. <u>Amendment of Pleadings</u>				
23	a. <u>EEOC's Position</u>				
24	The EEOC does not currently anticipate adding or dismissing any parties or claims. But				
25	given the complexity of this case, however, the EEOC requests that the deadline to amend pleadings				
26	without a showing of good cause be set for July 9, 2024. The parties are also in the process of				
27	meeting and conferring concerning several of Tesla's more than 30 alleged affirmative defenses, and				
28	Tesla has thus far said it will voluntarily withdraw its Fourth (Speculative Damages), Sixteenth				

(Failure to Join), and Thirty-Second (Unjust Penalties) affirmative defenses, though it has not yet amended its answer.

b. <u>Tesla's Position</u>

4 Tesla proposes that the parties' deadline to amend their pleadings as of right should be 21 5 days from entry of the Court's CMC Order. EEOC had three years to fully investigate its claims as 6 required by Title VII prior to filing the Complaint, and since that filing EEOC has had another seven 7 months to amend the Complaint if necessary. Tesla does not see any reason why EEOC needs more 8 than the three-week time frame Rule 15(a) envisions to further consider amending its pleading. 9 The parties have met and conferred regarding five Affirmative Defenses that EEOC has questioned. 10 Tesla voluntarily agreed to withdraw three of those Affirmative Defenses (the Fourth, Sixteenth and 11 Thirty-Second), and declined to withdraw the other two (the Twelfth and Fourteenth). EEOC has not 12 raised any issues as to any Affirmative Defenses other than the five cited above, and Tesla's 13 agreement to withdraw three Affirmative Defenses has no bearing on why EEOC purportedly needs 14 an additional 60 days to amend its Complaint.

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Evidence Preservation

The parties have reviewed the Guidelines Relating to the Discovery of Electronically Stored
Information (ESI Guidelines) and plan to schedule a conference during the week of May 13
concerning the preservation of ESI that will include their E-Discovery Liaisons. The parties have
identified EEOC Assistant General Counsel (Technology), Maria Salacuse, and Holland & Knight
LLP eDiscovery Senior Project Manager, Arnulfo Flores, as their respective E-Discovery Liaisons
for this case. The parties' initial ESI Protocol will focus on matters directly applicable to their Initial
Disclosures, including production formatting and metadata.

7. <u>Disclosures</u>

The parties propose to exchange Initial Disclosures within 75 days after the Court's order on
the CMC, though, as discussed below, the parties are not in agreement about the scope of the Initial
Disclosures.

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8. Discovery

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The parties have not yet engaged in formal discovery. The parties are in the process of negotiating the protective order, as well as a 502(d) Order, and the initial ESI protocol with a goal of 4 finalizing these documents no later than 60 days from the Court's CMC order. The parties agree that a protective order needs to be in place before they can exchange Initial Disclosures or other discovery.

7 As for the Discovery Plan, the parties propose to begin formal discovery after their exchange 8 of Initial Disclosures (due 75 days after the Court's CMC order), as hereinafter proposed. Because 9 those Initial Disclosures are anticipated to be voluminous, consisting, in part, of EEOC's three-year 10 investigative file and relevant portions of Tesla's discovery productions in the *CRD* and *Vaughn¹* 11 state court actions time will be needed for the parties to review those Disclosures. After Initial 12 Disclosures and a review period, the parties will meet and confer and propose a Discovery Plan and 13 supplemental ESI Protocol to the Court. The parties' supplemental ESI Protocol will address issues 14 of ESI sources, relevant custodians, document searches and review, and privilege log exclusions.

15 The parties do have differing proposals regarding the timing and scope of their Initial 16 Disclosures and the timing of their presentation of a formal Discovery Plan to the Court.

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a.

Discovery Plan Proposals

i. **EEOC's Proposal**

19 The EEOC proposes 60 days more than Tesla for reviewing Initial Disclosures and finalizing 20 a discovery plan. Given the voluminous records involved, Tesla's proposal of 60 days is too short. 21 For instance, Tesla has represented that the discovery in *Vaughn* and *CRD* alone is over 20,000 22 records (and 80,000 pages). The EEOC sees the Initial Disclosures period as an opportunity for the 23 parties to refine their discovery objectives and limit, to the extent possible, duplicating the discovery 24 completed in *Vaughn* and *CRD*. To accomplish this, the EEOC will need time to consume the 25 produced records, which may require contracting an external vendor, and to modify its discovery

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²⁷ ¹ Department of Fair Employment and Housing v. Tesla, Inc., Alameda County Superior Court No. 22CV006830, and Vaughn, et al. v. Tesla, Inc., et al., Alameda County Superior Court No. RG 28 17882082.

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1 proposal accordingly before meeting and conferring with Tesla to finalize a discovery plan. The 2 parties may also need to meet and confer about the Initial Disclosures² and to negotiate a 3 supplemental ESI protocol, including the relevant custodians and sources of ESI revealed in the 4 Initial Disclosures. Thus, the EEOC proposes that the initial disclosure and review period be as 5 follows: 6 Initial Disclosures due 75 days following the Court's Order on the CMC³; 7 A status conference with the Court 30 days after the Initial Disclosures to monitor the 8 status of discovery and the parties' progress towards preparing a proposed discovery 9 plan; 10 A proposed discovery plan outlining the process for formal discovery due to the 11 Court 120 days after the Initial Disclosures. 12 The EEOC also proposes that the parties disclose the following information and records in 13 their Initial Disclosures: 14 **EEOC's Disclosures** (1) 15 Non-privileged⁴ records (facts) from the investigative file, including: 16 List of respondents to survey/questionnaire that EEOC issued during its i. 17 investigation. 18 ii. Contact information of individuals interviewed by the EEOC during its 19 investigation, to the extent this information was maintained in the ordinary 20 course of business within the EEOC's investigative files, and excluding 21 individuals who have asked the EEOC to provide them with legal advice and 22 assistance or to seek relief for them in connection with this lawsuit.⁵ 23 ² Tesla proposes producing portions of discovery from *Vaughn* and *CRD* that it deems to be "relevant" (see infra, at p. 14), but so far has not detailed with any specificity which records it 24 believes are relevant or irrelevant. Consequently, the EEOC has no way to assess the volume or content of information Tesla will produce. 25 ³ This assumes that a protective order will be in place by this time to cover these documents. 26 ⁴ Privileged records include those protected by attorney-client, attorney-work product, governmental deliberative process, and conciliation (42 U.S.C. § 2000e-5(b)) privileges. 27 ⁵ The parties are negotiating a protective order concerning *ex parte* communications with any of 28 these individuals.

1	iii.	Copies of responses to any survey/questionnaire that EEOC sent to any	
2		current or former Tesla employees during its investigation.	
3	iv.	EEOC Investigator notes of witness interviews.	
4	v.	Policies, personnel files, investigative records, and emails obtained from	
5		Tesla.	
6	vi.	discovery responses, trial and arbitration briefs and exhibits, deposition and	
7		trial and/or arbitration testimony, declarations, affidavits, and statements.	
8		(2) Tesla's Disclosures	
9	All discovery	produced by Tesla in Vaughn and CRD, including copies of:	
10	i.	Written discovery requests and responses propounded or received by Tesla,	
11		including Requests for Production, Requests for Admission, and	
12		Interrogatories.	
13	ii.	Signed declarations, affidavits, and other statements from witnesses in	
14		Vaughn and CRD, excluding formal, signed, and unfiled declarations and	
15		affidavits and related drafts.	
16	iii.	Copies of deposition transcripts from any witnesses deposed in CRD/Vaughn.	
17	iv.	Race harassment and retaliation complaints and related investigation records	
18		concerning Black employees working at Fremont facilities from May 29,	
19		2015, to the present, if any.	
20	v.	List of Black Employees at Fremont facilities employed from January 1, 2015,	
21		to the present, including names, last-known contact information, job title(s),	
22		department(s), dates of employment, supervisor(s), reason for separation, if	
23		any.	
24	The EEOC p	roposes producing virtually all the evidence it collected during its investigation	
25	of Tesla. The EEOC therefore objects to Tesla's proposal that the EEOC, in the form of a		
26	"disclosure" create d	letailed, factual summaries "for every purported aggrieved employee." See, infra	
27	at p. 11. This reques	t is excessive, unnecessary, and unwarranted particularly at the Initial	
28	Disclosures phase of this case. For instance, hundreds of individuals have already submitted		

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declarations in *Vaughn* alone attesting to their exposure to Tesla's hostile work environment. See

2 ECF 22-7 (Exh A to Tesla's Motion to Stay) p. 50. A compendium of victim accounts would be 3 premature, excessive, and objectionable even as a contention interrogatory in discovery. See e.g. 4 Aldapa v. Fowler Packing Co. Inc., 310 F.R.D. 583, 591 (E.D. Cal. 2015) ("Parties are not tasked 5 with laying out every jot and tittle of their evidentiary case in response to interrogatories.") (internal 6 citations omitted); see also, Amgen Inc. v. Sandoz Inc., No. 14-CV-04741-RS (MEJ), 2016 WL 7 1039029, at *3 (N.D. Cal. Mar. 15, 2016) (burden of justification on propounding party "who seeks 8 answers to contention interrogatories before substantial documentary or testimonial discovery has 9 been completed.") (internal citations omitted). 10 Lastly, EEOC objects to Tesla's refusal to disclose "witness statements" in Vaughn and CRD 11 to the extent this phrase contemplates anything other than signed and unfiled formal declarations and 12 affidavits and related drafts. See, infra, at p. 15. While unfiled, formal declarations and affidavits and 13 related drafts may be attorney work-product, other "witness statements," which could plausibly 14 encompass statements obtained during the course of EEO investigations or even informal email 15 harassment complaints from percipient witnesses to Human Resources, are discoverable. 16 **Tesla's Proposal** b. 17 As noted, the parties agree that an Initial Disclosures period during which formal discovery is 18 stayed would benefit both sides and result in a more efficient discovery process. 19 Tesla proposes the following Initial Disclosures and review timeline: 20 Initial Disclosures due within 75 days of the Court's CMC Order; • 21 A proposed Discovery Plan and stipulated supplemental ESI Protocol due to the 22 Court 60 days after the Initial Disclosures cut-off date; 23 A follow-on case management conference with the Court to address any issues 24 regarding the parties' proposed Discovery Plan[s]; and 25 Formal discovery stayed until the Court enters a discovery scheduling order and 26 stipulated supplemental ESI Protocol pursuant to the parties' proposed 27 Discovery Plan[s]. 28 Tesla believes EEOC's proposed 120-day review and conferral period after the parties'

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exchange of Disclosures to be excessive and unnecessary. The parties need not undertake a granular
analysis of the other side's Initial Disclosures in order to formulate a formal Discovery Plan for the
Court's consideration. Moreover, EEOC purportedly conducted a three-year investigation of Tesla's
Fremont plant prior to filing this lawsuit, and so presumably now has much (if not most) of what it
believes it needs to prove its case. Finally, with the assistance of existing e-discovery technology,
60 days is adequate time for the parties to review and meet and confer regarding even a voluminous
number of documents.

Tesla further proposes that the parties share the following information and records in their Initial Disclosures:

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(1) **EEOC's Disclosures**

11	i.	Identity and contact information of purportedly aggrieved employees on
12		whose behalf EEOC currently purports to be seeking individual relief,
13		although EEOC need not provide contact information for those purportedly
14		aggrieved employees whom EEOC has agreed to represent in this proceeding;
15	ii.	Identity and contact information of all persons EEOC interviewed as part of
16		its investigation, and any facts gathered during those interviews;
17	iii.	Copies of responses to any survey/questionnaire that EEOC sent to any
18		current or former Tesla employees during its investigation, including the name
19		and contact information of the survey respondent;
20	iv.	Identity of all purportedly quoted speakers in the Complaint and their
21		corresponding quotes;
22	v.	To the extent not captured in the above (a)–(d), a summary of factual
23		particulars of the grievances of each purportedly aggrieved employee that
24		EEOC has currently identified, including facts sufficient for Tesla to ascertain
25		for each aggrieved employee, insofar as it is currently known by EEOC: (1)
26		the location and approximate date of the harassment or retaliation; (2) specific
27		nature of the harassment or retaliation; (3) position and race or ethnic
28		background of the alleged harasser or retaliator; (4) witnesses to the

1		harassment or retaliation, including any supervisors or managers; (5) whether
2		the purportedly aggrieved employee made a formal or informal complaint, and
3		the identity of any HR or ER personnel who were purportedly made aware of
4		the complaint; (6) how the purportedly aggrieved employee's complaint (if
5		any) was handled or resolved by Tesla.
6	vi.	Identity and contact information of all current and former Tesla employees
7		whom EEOC contacted regarding its survey/questionnaire or a potential
8		interview, and who did not respond to the survey or participate in an
9		interview;
10	vii.	Policies, personnel files, investigative records, and emails obtained from
11		Tesla;
12	viii.	Communications between the Parties relating to EEOC's investigation;
13	ix.	Discovery responses, trial and arbitration briefs and exhibits, deposition and
14		trial testimony, declarations, affidavits, and statements.
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15		(2) Tesla's Disclosures
15 16	i.	(2) Testa's DisclosuresCopies of (1) all documents Tesla produced and Tesla's responses to requests
	i.	
16	i.	Copies of (1) all documents Tesla produced and Tesla's responses to requests
16 17	i.	Copies of (1) all documents Tesla produced and Tesla's responses to requests for production of documents, (2) Tesla's responses to requests for admission;
16 17 18	i.	Copies of (1) all documents Tesla produced and Tesla's responses to requests for production of documents, (2) Tesla's responses to requests for admission; (3) Tesla's responses to interrogatories, (4) deposition transcripts, and (5)
16 17 18 19	i.	Copies of (1) all documents Tesla produced and Tesla's responses to requests for production of documents, (2) Tesla's responses to requests for admission; (3) Tesla's responses to interrogatories, (4) deposition transcripts, and (5) signed employee witness declarations that Tesla has filed in the <i>Vaughn/CRD</i>
16 17 18 19 20	i.	Copies of (1) all documents Tesla produced and Tesla's responses to requests for production of documents, (2) Tesla's responses to requests for admission; (3) Tesla's responses to interrogatories, (4) deposition transcripts, and (5) signed employee witness declarations that Tesla has filed in the <i>Vaughn/CRD</i> cases, to the extent those materials are relevant to EEOC's allegations of race-
16 17 18 19 20 21	i.	Copies of (1) all documents Tesla produced and Tesla's responses to requests for production of documents, (2) Tesla's responses to requests for admission; (3) Tesla's responses to interrogatories, (4) deposition transcripts, and (5) signed employee witness declarations that Tesla has filed in the <i>Vaughn/CRD</i> cases, to the extent those materials are relevant to EEOC's allegations of race- based harassment and retaliation, and assuming the parties agree to a
 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 	i. ii.	Copies of (1) all documents Tesla produced and Tesla's responses to requests for production of documents, (2) Tesla's responses to requests for admission; (3) Tesla's responses to interrogatories, (4) deposition transcripts, and (5) signed employee witness declarations that Tesla has filed in the <i>Vaughn/CRD</i> cases, to the extent those materials are relevant to EEOC's allegations of race- based harassment and retaliation, and assuming the parties agree to a stipulated protective order that permits the disclosure of information covered
 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 		Copies of (1) all documents Tesla produced and Tesla's responses to requests for production of documents, (2) Tesla's responses to requests for admission; (3) Tesla's responses to interrogatories, (4) deposition transcripts, and (5) signed employee witness declarations that Tesla has filed in the <i>Vaughn/CRD</i> cases, to the extent those materials are relevant to EEOC's allegations of race- based harassment and retaliation, and assuming the parties agree to a stipulated protective order that permits the disclosure of information covered by protective orders in the <i>Vaughn/CRD</i> cases;
 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 		Copies of (1) all documents Tesla produced and Tesla's responses to requests for production of documents, (2) Tesla's responses to requests for admission; (3) Tesla's responses to interrogatories, (4) deposition transcripts, and (5) signed employee witness declarations that Tesla has filed in the <i>Vaughn/CRD</i> cases, to the extent those materials are relevant to EEOC's allegations of race- based harassment and retaliation, and assuming the parties agree to a stipulated protective order that permits the disclosure of information covered by protective orders in the <i>Vaughn/CRD</i> cases; Race harassment and retaliation complaints and related non-privileged
 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 		Copies of (1) all documents Tesla produced and Tesla's responses to requests for production of documents, (2) Tesla's responses to requests for admission; (3) Tesla's responses to interrogatories, (4) deposition transcripts, and (5) signed employee witness declarations that Tesla has filed in the <i>Vaughn/CRD</i> cases, to the extent those materials are relevant to EEOC's allegations of race- based harassment and retaliation, and assuming the parties agree to a stipulated protective order that permits the disclosure of information covered by protective orders in the <i>Vaughn/CRD</i> cases; Race harassment and retaliation complaints and related non-privileged investigation records concerning Black employees working at Fremont
 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 		Copies of (1) all documents Tesla produced and Tesla's responses to requests for production of documents, (2) Tesla's responses to requests for admission; (3) Tesla's responses to interrogatories, (4) deposition transcripts, and (5) signed employee witness declarations that Tesla has filed in the <i>Vaughn/CRD</i> cases, to the extent those materials are relevant to EEOC's allegations of race- based harassment and retaliation, and assuming the parties agree to a stipulated protective order that permits the disclosure of information covered by protective orders in the <i>Vaughn/CRD</i> cases; Race harassment and retaliation complaints and related non-privileged investigation records concerning Black employees working at Fremont facilities since January 1, 2016, as reasonably up-to-date as practicable in light

 List of current and former employees at the Fremont factory since January 1,
 2016, who identify as Black or African American, including their names, lastknown contact information, job title(s), and dates of employment, as
 reasonably up-to-date as practicable in light of how Tesla maintains the
 constituent information in the ordinary course of business; and

iv. Communications between the Parties relating to EEOC's investigation. Tesla opposes EEOC's requests that Tesla produce signed witness statements in the *Vaughn/CRD* cases that Tesla has not included in litigation filings or otherwise publicly disclosed. Undisclosed signed witness statements that a party gathers in the course of litigation fall squarely within the protections of the work product doctrine. *See, e.g., In re Convergent Techs. Second Half 1984 Sec. Litig.*, 122 F.R.D. 555, 558 (N.D. Cal. 1988) (relying on *Hickman v. Taylor*, 329 U.S. 495 (1947)).

13 As to EEOC's claim that Tesla unreasonably requests "detailed, factual summaries" for 14 "every aggrieved employee," EEOC either misreads or mischaracterizes Tesla's proposal. What 15 Tesla requests is basic factual information (who?, what?, when?, where?, why?) relating to 16 individual claims of harassment and/or retaliation by "aggrieved employees" upon whose behalf 17 EEOC seeks relief in this action. To the extent this information is included in documents that EEOC 18 agrees to produce, no additional summary is requested. But to the extent this factual information is 19 contained in a document that EEOC considers privileged and withholds from disclosure, Tesla seeks 20 a summary of the non-privileged, factual information previously discussed and specified in Section 21 8a.iv.(1)(e). Moreover, this is not—as EEOC frames it—a premature "contention interrogatory." 22 Tesla only seeks relevant facts that EEOC gathered during its administrative investigation, not "all 23 facts" that support EEOC's claims in this lawsuit.

- 9. <u>Class Actions</u>
- This case is not a class action and the <u>Procedural Guidance for Class Action Settlements</u> is
 inapplicable.
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10. <u>Related Cases</u>

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EEOC's Position

The EEOC does not believe that any cases meet the standard for a related case under Local Rule 3-12(a), which requires the related case to contain "substantially the same parties, property, transaction, or event." The parties and the Court are, of course, aware of the *Vaughn* and *CRD* cases and the EEOC will endeavor to avoid duplicating discovery in those cases to the extent it can.

Tesla's Position

Under Local Rule 3-12(a)'s definition, the following are related cases to this action: (1) *Department of Fair Employment and Housing v. Tesla, Inc.*, Alameda County Superior Court No. 22CV006830; and (2) *Vaughn, et al. v. Tesla, Inc., et al.*, Alameda County Superior Court No. RG 17882082.

11. <u>Relief</u>

a.

b.

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EEOC's Position

14 The EEOC detailed the relief it seeks in its Complaint. See ECF 1, pg. 8-9. The relief 15 includes permanent injunctions against further discrimination, an order for Tesla to institute and 16 implement policies, practices, and programs as may be necessary to afford equal employment 17 opportunities for Black employees and to eradicate any prior discrimination. *Id.* The EEOC also 18 seeks monetary damages, including for back pay and pecuniary and non-pecuniary losses, such as 19 emotional distress for aggrieved individuals and punitive damages. Id. While the exact computation 20 of monetary damages is currently uncertain, Title VII claims are subject to a \$300,000 statutory cap 21 on compensatory and punitive damages per aggrieved individual. See 42 U.S.C. § 1981a(b).

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Tesla's Position

Tesla believes that EEOC is not entitled to any relief and reserves the right to seek costs and
fees from the EEOC, *see* 42 U.S.C. § 2000e-5(k). Given the vague nature of EEOC's allegations,
and the failure to identify any particularized facts regarding any identified employees, Tesla cannot
provide a description of the bases for any potential damages calculations at this time.

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12. <u>Settlement and ADR</u>

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The parties previously engaged in confidential, conciliation negotiations prior to the filing of

1 this lawsuit, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 2000e-5(b). 2 The parties believe that additional discovery and/or motions practice is needed before 3 conducting additional ADR or proposing an ADR plan in accordance with ADR L.R. 3-5. Therefore, 4 the parties request that the Court set November 9, 2024, as the deadline for the parties to revisit 5 selection of an ADR process and, if appropriate, to propose an appropriate deadline for completion 6 of ADR. 7 13. **Other References** 8 This case is not suitable for referral to binding arbitration, a special master, or the Judicial 9 Panel on Multidistrict Litigation. 10 14. **Stipulated Narrowing of Any Issues** 11 Please see the parties' proposals regarding the Discovery Plan, at Section 8(a), *supra*. 12 15. Scheduling 13 Please see the parties' proposals regarding the Discovery Plan, at Section 8(a), supra. 14 16. Trial 15 The parties believe that it is currently premature to determine the length of a trial on any of 16 the issues in this case. The parties anticipate that they will be able to further inform the Court about 17 the timing of a trial when they present their Discovery Plan[s]. See supra, Section 8. 18 17. **Disclosure of Non-Party Interested Entities or Persons** 19 The EEOC is not subject to the disclosure requirements of L.R. 3-15(a). Tesla filed its 20 disclosure statement on December 26, 2023 (ECF 25) and will file any updated disclosures by May 21 2, 2024. 22 **Professional Conduct** 18. 23 a. EEOC 24 The EEOC confirms that its attorneys of record have reviewed the Guidelines for 25 Professional Conduct for the Northern District of California. 26 b. Tesla 27 Tesla confirms that its attorneys of record have reviewed the Guidelines for Professional 28 Conduct for the Northern District of California.

1		uch o 1atter		<u>matters</u>	as may facilitate the just, speedy, and inexpensive disposition of this
2	a	•	<u>Privi</u>	ilege	
3	The parties are negotiating whether certain categories of documents need not be included on				
4	a privilege log.				
5	b	•	Elect	tronic S	ervice
6	Т	he pa	rties s	stipulate	to electronic service, with documents being deemed timely served if
7	they are	email	ed to	the parti	es' attorneys of record and to their respective email lists (below) on or
8	before th	e date	e that	the docu	ments would otherwise be due to be served.
9			i.	EEOO	C's Current Email List:
10				(a)	James.baker@eeoc.gov
11				(b)	Kena.cador@eeoc.gov
12				(c)	Roberta.steele@eeoc.gov
13				(d)	Marcia.mitchell@eeoc.gov
14				(e)	SFDO_tesla@eeoc.gov
15			ii.	Tesla	Email List:
16				(a)	Tom.hill@hklaw.com
17				(b)	Sara.begley@hklaw.com
18				(c)	Christina.tellado@hklaw.com
19				(d)	Rcardozo@reedsmith.com
20				(e)	Paul.bennetch@hklaw.com
21				(f)	Billy.sahachartsiri@hklaw.com
22				(g)	Deborah.rzepela-auch@hklaw.com
23					
24	///				
25	///				
26	///				
27	///				
28	///				

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1	1 Dated: May 2, 2024				
2	ROBERTY STELLE	KARLA GILBRIDE			
3	3	General Counsel			
4		CHRISTOPHER LAGE Deputy General Counsel			
5	JAMES II. DAILER	Office of the General Counsel			
6	6	31 M Street, N.E. Washington, D.C. 20507			
7	7 KENA C. CADOR Trial Attorney				
8	D1. <u>/3/ Junes 11. Duker</u>				
9					
10	Sall Francisco District Office				
11	450 Golden Gate Ave., 5th Floor West P.O. Box 36025				
12	12 San Francisco, CA 94102 Telephone (650) 684-0950				
13	iames baker@eeoc gov				
14	Attorneys for Plaintiff EEC	DC			
15					
	BY: /s/ Thomas E Hill				
16	Thomas E. Hill				
17	Christina T. Tellado				
18	18 <u>christina.tellado@hklaw.com</u> HOLLAND & KNIGHT LLP				
19	19 400 South Hope Street, 8th Floor				
20	Los Angeles, California 90071 Telephone: (213) 896-2400				
21	Facsimile: (213) 896-2450				
22	Attorneys for Defendant Tesla Inc.				
23	23				
24	24 LOCAL RULE 5-1(i)(3) ATTES	TATION			
25	I, James H. Baker, am the ECF User whose ID and pass	sword are being used to file the Joint			
26	Case Management Conference Statement In compliance with				
27	Dated. May 2, 2024				
28	James H. Baker, S	Senior Trial Attorney			