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1 PAUL HASTINGS LLP JAMES A. ZAPP (SB# 94584) (2 CAMERON W. FOX (SB# 218116) LOS ANGELES SUPERIOR COURT MELINDA GORDON (SB# 254203) 3 515 South Flower Street OCT 18 2011 Twenty-Fifth Floor 4 Los Angeles, CA 90071-2228 OHN A. CLARKE, CLERK Telephone: (213) 683-6000 Facsimile: (213) 627-0705 5 BY RAUT SANCHEZ DEPUTY Attorneys for Defendant 6 CALIFÓRNIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY 7 SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA 8 COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES 9 10 DAVID COPPEDGE, an Individual, Case No. BC435600 11 Plaintiff. 12 **DEFENDANT CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE** OF TECHNOLOGY'S RESPONSE TO 13 PLAINTIFF'S SUPPLEMENTAL SEPARATE STATEMENT OF JET PROPULSION LABORATORY, 14 ADDITIONAL DISPUTED FACTS IN form unknown; CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, form OPPOSITION TO CALTECH'S MOTION 15 unknown; GREGORY CHIN, an FOR SUMMARY JUDGMENT OR, IN THE Individual; CLARK A. BURGESS, an 16 ALTERNATIVE, SUMMARY Individual; KEVIN KLENK, an Individual: ADJUDICATION OF ISSUES and DOES 1 through 25, inclusive, 17 October 26, 2011 Date: 18 Time: 8:30 a.m. Dept: 54 Defendants. 19 Trial Date: December 14, 2011 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 LEGAL_US_W # 69358335

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Defendant California Institute of Technology ("Caltech") hereby submits this Response to Plaintiff David Coppedge's ("Coppedge") Supplemental Separate Statement of Additional Disputed Facts, which Plaintiff filed in Support of Plaintiff's Opposition to Caltech's Motion for Summary Judgment or, in the Alternative, Motion for Summary Adjudication.

As a preliminary matter, Coppedge's Supplemental Separate Statement of Additional Undisputed Facts is in a format non-compliant with the California Rules of Court, and should therefore be stricken and disregarded by this Court. See California Rule of Court 3.1350 (indicating that both "[s]upporting and opposing separate statements in a motion for summary judgment must follow [the] format" set forth in Rule 3.1350(h), with the purported undisputed material facts and alleged supporting evidence set forth in the left column, leaving the right column blank for response).

For the convenience of the Court, Caltech has reorganized the content of Coppedge's Supplemental Separate Statement of Additional Undisputed Facts, and will proceed with responding accordingly.

Plaintiff's Supplemental Additional Material

Facts and Supporting Evidence:

HR investigation into Coppedge's behavior in

March 2009, Chin briefed Cassini's program

turned to him for direction. Mitchell told Chin

Mitchell told Chin it was his problem and that

it was his problem and that he should fix it.

he should fix it. *Id.* Chin's solution was to

remove Coppedge from the Cassini program,

and Chin advised Clark Burgess, Coppedge's

manager, Bob Mitchell, on the matter and

After Chin's eruption had prompted an

Defendant's Response and Supporting Evidence:

Disputed, but irrelevant.

No. 152 consists of Coppedge's selfserving and argumentative mischaracterization of the record to suggest that Cassini program management sought Coppedge's removal from Cassini because of the March 2 incident and HR investigation, and that the decision was Chin's.

This portrayal of events lacks foundation, and contradicts Coppedge's own

Plaintiff's Supplemental Additional Material Facts and Supporting Evidence:

group supervisor, of *Chin's decision* Becker Decl., Exh. 49, Chin Dep.Tr., 378:12-24 ("I had briefed Bob."); id., 375:18-376:20 ("Bob Mitchell directed me or said that I needed to take care of this matter, and I relayed that [to Burgess])."; id., Exh. 50, Mitchell Dep.Tr., 55:4-7 ("What I said to Greg was, 'Greg, this is a problem. It's your problem. You've got to fix it."); id., 55:17-19 ("I didn't give him any direct orders about what to do. And no, he didn't get into a lot of discussions about what to do with me."); id., Exh. 49, Chin Dep.Tr., 376:21-25 (Q. "So you told Burgess that 'Bob Mitchell directed me or said that I needed to take care of this matter," and that's what you told him? A. Yes. I talked to Cab, and I [said], "You know, we need to move out

Defendant's Response and Supporting Evidence:

testimony and facts he does not or cannot dispute.

Coppedge was aware Mitchell wanted him off the project before the March 2, 2009 incident. Tr. 204:12-205:6 ("Q. Did Mr. Chin ever tell you that Program Management asked him several times to replace you? A. He said that...Q. How many times did Mr. Chin tell you that Program Management had come to him and asked that you be replaced? A. I don't know. At least two.").

Chin and Mitchell testified to that effect as well. Chin 188:11-189:12; 190:17-191:2; 373:2-374:1; Mitchell 48:24-49:12; 55:4-19. Mitchell wanted Coppedge off the project because of performance and communication issues, not the harassment investigation. See, e.g., Chin 375:8-376:2.

Coppedge has also acknowledged that it was Mitchell who requested his removal from Cassini, not Chin, and that Chin had actually tried to protect him. Tr. 205:6-12 ("And [Mr. Chin] would say, 'And Dave, I stood up for you, and I defended you.' Q. And is that true? You believe that he did stand up and defend

on this."")

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Plaintiff's Supplemental Additional Material Facts and Supporting Evidence:

HR's "strategy" included: (1) issuing a written warning "for inappropriate conduct/harassment"; (2) removing Coppedge as the team lead; (3) monitoring Coppedge "to ensure no further incidents"; and (4) recording "conduct/communication issues" as part of Coppedge's annual performance evaluations ("ECAPS").

Becker Decl. Exh. 52, Burgess Dep.Tr., Exh. 72 attached thereto ("Basically we told Cab to discuss this matter with Kevin, and come up with a strategy to approach Cassini management. We suggested the following:

- Contact Cassini to let them know that there is no other work.
- Assure them that line management will deal with employee conduct/communication issues through performance management.
- Advise them that Coppedge is to receive a FWW [Final Written Warning] for inappropriate conduct/harassment, and he will be monitored by his line manager (not Chen) [sic] going forward.
- Remove Coppedge as the Lead SA to the project.

Defendant's Response and Supporting **Evidence:**

Coppedge's portrayal of events is pure argument without any basis in the record. Nothing in the April 7 email suggests there was a plan to "marginalize and diminish Coppedge's role within Cassini." Far from it. The email makes clear that HR told Burgess that Coppedge could not be laid off, because work was available at the time. Burgess Ex. 72. None of the numbered suggestions set forth in the April 7 email supports the existence of a plan to "marginalize" Coppedge either. To the contrary, the suggestions were ideas for ensuring that Coppedge would not make the same mistakes in the future that led to coworkers feeling harassed, and for addressing the complaints lodged by customers.

- (1) The written warning was a disciplinary action that resulted from Huntley's investigation, and was later rescinded anyway. Huntley Decl. ¶ 12, 14; Tr. 167:4-14; 572:2-12; 573:18-575:4; Klenk 441:7-11; 456:16-19.
- (2) The lead removal was an action taken by Burgess to manage Coppedge's performance issues (namely, customer complaints about him). Tr. 432:16-433:19;

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Plaintiff's Supplemental Additional Material Facts and Supporting Evidence:

nary meeting, on April 15, Coppedge asked Burgess to clarify whether he had been investigated and reprimanded due to his sharing of intelligent design DVDs or "for some other activity, personal flaw or deficiency in job performance." Burgess responded the next day, conceding the trigger was Coppedge's discussing intelligent design. Becker Decl., Exh. 55, Coppedge Dep. Tr., Exh. 1022 attached thereto, 4/15/2009 e-mail from D.Coppedge to C.Burgess ("Hi Cab, Per our meeting this afternoon, I just wanted to be sure I didn't misconstrue what you told me. Is it correct to say that the allegation of harassment was limited to the activity of my handing out DVDs on intelligent design to coworkers, and that if I had not done that to anyone here in the building, I would still be in good standing? (i.e., I would not have been investigated or gotten the written warning)? Or would you word it some other way? I just want to be crystal clear I was not being investigated/reprimanded for some other activity, personal flaw or deficiency in job

performance. Thanks for the clarification.")

Defendant's Response and Supporting Evidence:

No. 158 consists of Coppedge's mischaracterization of the April 15, 2009 email from Coppedge to Burgess, and Burgess's April 16, 2009 reply. Coppedge's misrepresentation is irrelevant, argumentative, and as to Burgess's email, lacks foundation; the documents speak for themselves.

Coppedge brazenly mischaracterizes Burgess's email. First, Burgess indicated that the issue was Coppedge's actions in "passing out DVDs and discussing them," not their content. Tr. Ex. 1022. Indeed, Burgess never even refers to "intelligent design;" the bracketed modifier "intelligent design" in No. 158 was inserted by Coppedge. Second, the email makes clear that Burgess was talking solely about the written warning, not the lead removal (which had nothing to do with the harassment investigation).

Further, Burgess did not "concede" anything. Burgess's reply simply acknowledges the uncontested fact that HR's investigation was triggered by the March 2 incident, and confirms that it was the

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Plaintiff's Supplemental Additional Material Facts and Supporting Evidence:

Klenk to S.Curtis and W.Haggins, "Coppedge

Written Warning Meeting Summary" ("The

primary focus of the meeting was the findings

Mr. Burgess. We went through them point by

point.... Mr. Burgess and I repeatedly informed

investigation of the situation."); id., Exh. 57,

Klenk Dep. Tr., 236:7-237:9: "(Q. What was

your purpose, do you know, for sending this e-

mail? A. I wanted to have a written summary

of the meeting from my point of view for the

record. Q. And after reviewing it here, is it an

happening at that meeting? A. Yes, it is. Q. Is

it a complete statement of what you recall

happening? ... THE WITNESS: This is a

written summary I wrote after the meeting,

detailing what I thought occurred in the

meeting. By MR. BECKER: Q. Do you

mail? ... THE WITNESS: This was a

believe you hit all the high points in this e-

summary of the meeting as I saw it, to the best

of my recollection. By MR. BECKER: Q. Is

there anything you feel that you omitted from

accurate statement of what you recall

summarized in the written warning by

him of the results of Ms. Huntley's

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Defendant's Response and Supporting Evidence:

This portrayal of events is also argumentative and contrary to the facts.

First, the record establishes that the written warning and lead removal were not connected. The written warning was a disciplinary action that resulted from Huntley's investigation, and was later rescinded. Huntley Decl. ¶¶ 12, 14; Tr. 167:4-14; 572:2-8; 573:18-575:4; Klenk 441:7-11; 456:16-19. The lead removal was an action taken by Burgess to manage Coppedge's performance issues (namely, customer complaints about him). Tr. 432:16-433:19; Burgess 96:18-97:4; 231:10-232:1; Klenk Ex. 44, at page 20.

Second, that Burgess and Klenk's email summaries regarding the April 13 meeting focus on the written warning and investigation in no way suggests that the lead removal likewise stemmed from the investigation. Burgess addresses the lead removal, and makes clear that it took place "in order to remove the strife that seemed to exist" on the project – not because of the investigation. Burgess Ex. 50. Klenk does not discuss the lead removal at all. Zapp Supp.

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Plaintiff's Supplemental Additional Material Facts and Supporting Evidence:

animus. Chin complained that Coppedge was trying to "convert" him to Coppedge's religious beliefs when Coppedge left a DVD about Jesus Christ as a Christmas gift in his mail slot. Chin scolded Coppedge for discussing intelligent design, contending it is "religion." Chin was "tired" of fielding complaints that Coppedge was "harassing people with his religious viewpoints during business hours," and advised Huntley that people had specifically complained to him that Coppedge was harassing them during business hours with his religious beliefs. See Plf.'s Opp. Sep. Stat. of Add'l Facts ¶ 66; Becker Decl., Exh 54, Huntley Dep. Tr., 122:10-19 ("Q. By the way, did Greg tell you, during those initial discussions with him on or about March 2 and 3 that people had complained about David talking about religion, specifically? A. Yes. Q. What did he say in those initial conversations about that? In other words, what were they complaining specifically that David had been doing? A. Harassing them with his religious beliefs during work hours."); id., 228:6-19 ("Q. Then the next line, it says,

Defendant's Response and Supporting Evidence:

No. 161 consists of Coppedge's characterization of Huntley's deposition testimony. This is irrelevant and lacks foundation; the testimony speaks for itself.

Coppedge's suggestion that Chin complained is belied by his acknowledgment that Edgington was the other complaining employee. See, e.g., Opp'n at 9; Plaintiff's Separate Statement of Additional Undisputed Facts, Nos. 93-102.

Coppedge's contention of religious animus is unsupported by any facts, either as set forth here or in the record as a whole. The record establishes an absence of animus: Chin believes in Christian principles. Chin 170:20-22. There is no dispute that Coppedge and Chin had a good relationship for years, throughout which Chin was fully aware of Coppedge's religious beliefs. Tr. 141:25-142:4; 328:20-24; Chin 200:6-9. It was only following Weisenfelder's complaint of harassment that Chin spoke to Coppedge regarding his religious and political speech. Tr. 271:10-16; Chin 128:11-129:8; 140:2-9.

CALTECH'S RESPONSE TO PLAINTIFF'S SUPPLEMENTAL SEPARATE STATEMENT OF ADDITIONAL DISPUTED FACTS IN OPPOSITION TO CALTECH'S MSJ

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