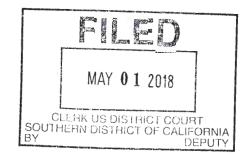
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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

 \mathbf{v} .

WALTER ROVIDIO IPINA,

Defendant.

Case No. 17cr648-GPC

PLEA AGREEMENT

IT IS HEREBY AGREED between the plaintiff, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, through its counsel, Adam L. Braverman, United States Attorney, and Lawrence A. Casper, Assistant United States Attorney, and Defendant WALTER ROVIDIO IPINA, with the advice and consent of Kurt Hermansen, counsel for Defendant, as follows:

I

THE PLEA

Defendant agrees to plead guilty to Count 1 of the Indictment charging Defendant as follows:

Beginning on a date unknown to the grand jury, but not later than April 2016, and continuing up to and including the date of this Superseding Indictment, within the Southern District and elsewhere, defendant WALTER ROVIDIO IPINA, aka "Gusano", aka "40 Rounds", did knowingly and intentionally conspire with others known and unknown to the grand jury to distribute a controlled substance, to wit: 5 kilograms and more of a mixture and substance containing a detectable amount of

cocaine, a Schedule II Controlled Substance; all in violation of Title 21 U.S.C. §§ 841(a)(1) and 846.

Defendant agrees that, following entry of Defendant's guilty plea, the Government need not hold or preserve any evidence seized in connection with this case. For any controlled substance seized in connection with this case, Defendant agrees that, following entry of Defendant's guilty plea, the Government may destroy the controlled substance 30 days after the Government has provided Defendant with the laboratory analysis report. If Defendant believes that additional testing is needed, Defendant will arrange for and complete such testing within that 30-day period, unless that period is extended by joint written agreement or Court order, in which case the Government shall preserve the controlled substance for the agreed-upon or judicially mandated period. If the court has issued a preservation order in connection with any seized evidence, Defendant will request that the Court lift or revoke the preservation order following entry of Defendant's guilty plea.

In addition, the attached forfeiture addendum shall govern forfeiture in this case.

ΙI

NATURE OF THE OFFENSE

A. ELEMENTS EXPLAINED

The offense to which Defendant is pleading guilty has the following elements:

- 1. There was an agreement between two or more persons to commit the crime of distributing cocaine or some other prohibited drug; and
- 2. The defendant became a member of the conspiracy knowing of its object to distribute cocaine or some other prohibited drug and intending to help accomplish that object.

B. ELEMENTS UNDERSTOOD AND ADMITTED - FACTUAL BASIS

Defendant has fully discussed the facts of this case with defense counsel. Defendant has committed each element of the crime and admits that there is a factual basis for this guilty plea. The following facts are true and undisputed:

- 1. In or about early 2016, defendant agreed with one or more other persons to further the distribution of cocaine entering the United States via the Southern District of California by using his family owned trucking business' tractor-trailer to transport cocaine in exchange for financial compensation. Defendant acknowledges he was involved with efforts to move cocaine in this manner from at least April 2016 until September 30, 2016.
- 2. On September 30, 2016, defendant was the driver and sole occupant of his trucking business' tractor-trailer in which he was transporting approximately 32 kilograms of cocaine hidden in a non-factory compartment a coconspirator arranged to have installed in the trailer. Defendant knowingly intended to further the conspiracy by transporting that and other cocaine from Southern California to the Chicago, Illinois area for delivery. On September 30, 2016, law enforcement stopped his tractor-trailer and seized the cocaine.
- 3. On September 21, 2016, before that transportation venture began, defendant communicated with the Mexicanbased narcotics trafficker (who used the moniker "El-99") regarding the preparations underway for the truck to smuggle narcotics. On September 25, 2016, defendant informed the Mexican-based narcotics trafficker that the tractor-trailer was "ready." At the request, however, of the Mexican-based trafficker, defendant agreed to try to change out the license plates. On September 26, 2016, defendant sent the Mexican-based trafficker photos of his tractor-trailer and explained that he had claimed his "plates were stolen" and that, "we will be able to change all the numbers and I'll be ready on Wednesday." The Mexican-based trafficker then confirmed that a "load" was forthcoming.

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- 4. Promptly following the September 30, 2016 seizure, defendant informed the Mexican-based trafficker of the seizure, explaining that, "[t]hings went to hell."
- 5. Defendant further acknowledges that the tractor and trailer described in the forfeiture addendum to this plea agreement are the same tractor and trailer that were used to transport the cocaine that was seized by law enforcement on September 30, 2016.

III

PENALTIES

The crime to which Defendant is pleading guilty carries the following penalties:

- A. a maximum of life in prison, and a mandatory minimum 10 years;
- B. a maximum 10,000,000 fine;
- C. a mandatory special assessment of \$100 per count;
- D. a term of supervised release of at least 5 years and up to life. Failure to comply with any condition of supervised release may result in revocation of supervised release, requiring Defendant to serve in prison, upon revocation, all or part of the statutory maximum term of supervised release;
- E. possible ineligibility for certain Federal benefits; and
- F. criminal forfeiture of the tractor and trailer alleged for criminal forfeiture in the Indictment.

ΤV

DEFENDANT'S WAIVER OF TRIAL RIGHTS AND UNDERSTANDING OF CONSEQUENCES

This guilty plea waives Defendant's right at trial to:

- A. Continue to plead not guilty and require the Government to prove the elements of the crime beyond a reasonable doubt;
- B. A speedy and public trial by jury;
- C. The assistance of counsel at all stages;

- D. Confront and cross-examine adverse witnesses;
- E. Testify and present evidence and to have witnesses testify on behalf of Defendant; and,
- F. Not testify or have any adverse inferences drawn from the failure to testify.

V

DEFENDANT ACKNOWLEDGES NO PRETRIAL RIGHT TO BE PROVIDED WITH IMPEACHMENT AND AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE INFORMATION

Any information establishing the factual innocence of Defendant known to the undersigned prosecutor in this case has been turned over to Defendant. The Government will continue to provide such information establishing the factual innocence of Defendant.

If this case proceeded to trial, the Government would be required to provide impeachment information for its witnesses. In addition, if Defendant raised an affirmative defense, the Government would be required to provide information in its possession that supports such a defense. By pleading guilty Defendant will not be provided this information, if any, and Defendant waives any right to this information. Defendant will not attempt to withdraw the guilty plea or to file a collateral attack based on the existence of this information.

VI

DEFENDANT'S REPRESENTATION THAT GUILTY PLEA IS KNOWING AND VOLUNTARY

Defendant represents that:

A. Defendant has had a full opportunity to discuss all the facts and circumstances of this case with defense counsel and has a clear understanding of the charges and the consequences of this plea. By pleading guilty, Defendant may be giving up, and rendered ineligible to receive, valuable government benefits and civic rights, such as the right to vote, the right to possess a firearm, the right to hold office, and the right to serve on a jury. The conviction in this case may subject Defendant to various collateral consequences,

including but not limited to revocation of probation, parole, or supervised release in another case; debarment from government contracting; and suspension or revocation of a professional license, none of which can serve as grounds to withdraw Defendant's guilty plea.

- B. No one has made any promises or offered any rewards in return for this guilty plea, other than those contained in this agreement or otherwise disclosed to the Court.
- C. No one has threatened Defendant or Defendant's family to induce this guilty plea.
- D. Defendant is pleading guilty because Defendant is guilty and for no other reason.

VII

AGREEMENT LIMITED TO U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

This plea agreement is limited to the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of California, and cannot bind any other authorities in any type of matter, although the Government will bring this plea agreement to the attention of other authorities if requested by Defendant.

VIII

APPLICABILITY OF SENTENCING GUIDELINES

The sentence imposed will be based on the factors set forth in 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a). In imposing the sentence, the sentencing judge must consult the United States Sentencing Guidelines (Guidelines) and take them into account. Defendant has discussed the Guidelines with defense counsel and understands that the Guidelines are only advisory, not mandatory. The Court may impose a sentence more severe or less severe than otherwise applicable under the Guidelines, up to the maximum in the statute of conviction. The sentence cannot be determined until a presentence report is prepared by the U.S. Probation Office and defense counsel and the Government have an opportunity to review and challenge

the presentence report. Nothing in this plea agreement limits the Government's duty to provide complete and accurate facts to the district court and the U.S. Probation Office.

IX

SENTENCE IS WITHIN SOLE DISCRETION OF JUDGE

This plea agreement is made pursuant to Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 11(c)(1)(B). The sentence is within the sole discretion of the sentencing judge who may impose the maximum sentence provided by statute. It is uncertain at this time what Defendant's sentence will be. The Government has not made and will not make any representation about what sentence Defendant will receive. Any estimate of the probable sentence by defense counsel is not a promise and is not binding on the Court. Any recommendation by the Government at sentencing also is not binding on the Court. If the sentencing judge does not follow any of the parties' sentencing recommendations, Defendant will not withdraw the plea.

X

PARTIES' SENTENCING RECOMMENDATIONS

A. SENTENCING GUIDELINE CALCULATIONS

Although the Guidelines are only advisory and just one factor the Court will consider under 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a) in imposing a sentence, the parties will jointly recommend the following Base Offense Level, Specific Offense Characteristics, Adjustments, and Departures:

1.	Base Offense Level [USSG § 2D1.1(4)]	32
2.	Safety Valve (if applicable)	-2*
	[$$$ \$ 2D1.1(b)(17) and 5C1.2]	
3.	Acceptance of Responsibility [§ 3E1.1]	-3

*If Defendant truthfully discloses to the government all information and evidence Defendant has concerning the offense and

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relevant conduct, and if Defendant otherwise qualifies for the "safety valve" reduction contained in § 5C1.2, the government will recommend a two-level reduction under § 2D1.1(b)(17) and relief from any statutory mandatory minimum sentence pursuant to § 5C1.2. If Defendant does not qualify under § 5C1.2, Defendant may be subject to a statutory mandatory minimum sentence.

B. ACCEPTANCE OF RESPONSIBILITY

Despite paragraph A above, the Government need not recommend an adjustment for Acceptance of Responsibility if Defendant engages in conduct inconsistent with acceptance of responsibility including, but not limited to, the following:

- 1. Fails to truthfully admit a complete factual basis as stated in the plea at the time the plea is entered, or falsely denies, or makes a statement inconsistent with, the factual basis set forth in this agreement;
- 2. Falsely denies prior criminal conduct or convictions;
- 3. Is untruthful with the Government, the Court or probation officer; or
- 4. Breaches this plea agreement in any way.

C. FURTHER ADJUSTMENTS AND SENTENCE REDUCTIONS INCLUDING THOSE UNDER 18 U.S.C. § 3553

Defendant may request or recommend additional downward adjustments, departures, or variances from the Sentencing Guidelines under 18 U.S.C. § 3553. The Government will oppose any downward adjustments, departures, or variances not set forth in Section X, paragraph A above.

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D. NO AGREEMENT AS TO CRIMINAL HISTORY CATEGORY

The parties have **no** agreement as to Defendant's Criminal History Category.

E. "FACTUAL BASIS" AND "RELEVANT CONDUCT" INFORMATION

The facts in the "factual basis" paragraph of this agreement are true and may be considered as "relevant conduct" under USSG § 1B1.3 and as the nature and circumstances of the offense under 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a)(1).

F. PARTIES' RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING CUSTODY

The Government will recommend that Defendant be sentenced to the low end of the advisory guideline range recommended by the Government at sentencing or, if applicable, to the mandatory minimum sentence, whichever is greater.

G. SPECIAL ASSESSMENT/FINE/RESTITUTION/FORFEITURE

1. Special Assessment

The parties will jointly recommend that Defendant pay a special assessment in the amount of \$100.00 per felony count of conviction to be paid forthwith at time of sentencing. Special assessments shall be paid through the office of the Clerk of the District Court by bank or cashier's check or money order made payable to the "Clerk, United States District Court."

2. Fine

The parties will not recommend imposition of a fine due to Defendant's limited financial prospects and because the cost of collection, even taking into account the Inmate Responsibility Program, likely would exceed the amounts that could reasonably be expected to be collected.

H. SUPERVISED RELEASE

If the Court imposes a term of supervised release, Defendant will not seek to reduce or terminate early the term of supervised release until Defendant has served at least 2/3 of the term of supervised release and has fully paid and satisfied any special assessments, fine, criminal forfeiture judgment, and restitution judgment.

XI

DEFENDANT WAIVES APPEAL AND COLLATERAL ATTACK

Defendant waives (gives up) all rights to appeal and to collaterally attack every aspect of the conviction and sentence, including any restitution order. The only exception is that Defendant may collaterally attack the conviction or sentence on the basis that Defendant received ineffective assistance of counsel.

XII

BREACH OF THE PLEA AGREEMENT

Defendant and Defendant's attorney know the terms of this agreement and shall raise, before the sentencing hearing is complete, any claim that the Government has not complied with this agreement. Otherwise, such claims shall be deemed waived (that is, deliberately not raised despite awareness that the claim could be raised), cannot later be made to any court, and if later made to a court, shall constitute a breach of this agreement.

Defendant breaches this agreement if Defendant violates or fails to perform any obligation under this agreement. The following are nonexhaustive examples of acts constituting a breach:

1. Failing to plead guilty pursuant to this agreement;

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- Failing to fully accept responsibility as established in 2. Section X, paragraph B, above;
- Failing to appear in court; 3.
- Attempting to withdraw the plea; 4.
- 5. Failing to abide by any court order related to this case;
- 6. Appealing (which occurs if a notice of appeal is filed) or collaterally attacking the conviction or sentence in violation of Section XI of this plea agreement; or
- 7. Engaging in additional criminal conduct from the time of arrest until the time of sentencing.

If Defendant breaches this plea agreement, Defendant will not be able to enforce any provisions, and the Government will be relieved of all its obligations under this plea agreement. For example, the Government may proceed to sentencing but recommend a different sentence than what it agreed to recommend above. Or the Government may pursue any charges including those that were dismissed, promised to be dismissed, or not filed as a result of this agreement (Defendant agrees that any statute of limitations relating to such charges is tolled indefinitely as of the date all parties have signed this agreement; Defendant also waives any double jeopardy defense to such charges). In addition, the Government may move to set aside Defendant's guilty plea. Defendant may not withdraw the guilty plea based on the Government's pursuit of remedies for Defendant's breach.

Additionally, if Defendant breaches this plea agreement: (i) any statements made by Defendant, under oath, at the guilty plea hearing (before either a Magistrate Judge or a District Judge); (ii) the factual basis statement in Section II.B in this agreement; and (iii) any

evidence derived from such statements, are admissible against Defendant 1 in any prosecution of, or any action against, Defendant. This includes 2 the prosecution of the charge(s) that is the subject of this plea 3 agreement or any charge(s) that the prosecution agreed to dismiss or not file as part of this agreement, but later pursues because of a 5 breach voluntarily, and intelligently waives any argument that the statements 7 and any evidence derived from the statements should be suppressed, 8 cannot be used by the Government, or are inadmissible under the United States Constitution, any statute, Rule 410 of the Federal Rules of 10

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any other federal rule.

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the

XIII

Evidence, Rule 11(f) of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, and

Additionally,

Defendant

Defendant.

CONTENTS AND MODIFICATION OF AGREEMENT

This plea agreement and the forfeiture addendum embody the entire agreement between the parties and supersede any other agreement, written or oral. No modification of this plea agreement shall be effective unless in writing signed by all parties.

XIV

DEFENDANT AND COUNSEL FULLY UNDERSTAND AGREEMENT

By signing this agreement, Defendant certifies that Defendant has read it (or that it has been read to Defendant in Defendant's native language). Defendant has discussed the terms of this agreement with defense counsel and fully understands its meaning and effect.

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DEFENDANT SATISFIED WITH COUNSEL

counsel's representation. This is Defendant's independent opinion, and

Defendant's counsel did not advise Defendant about what to say in this

Defendant has consulted with counsel and is satisfied with

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ADAM L. BRAVERMAN

United States Attorney

LAWRENCE A. CASPER

Assistant U.S. Attorney

KURT HERMANSEN Defense Counsel

IN ADDITION TO THE FOREGOING PROVISIONS TO WHICH I AGREE, I SWEAR UNDER PENALTY OF PERJURY THAT THE FACTS IN THE "FACTUAL BASIS" SECTION ABOVE ARE TRUE.

4.17.18 DATED

WALTER ROVIDIO IPINA

Defendant

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Plea Agreement

Def. Initials WM 17CR0648-GPC

FORFEITURE ADDENDUM TO PLEA AGREEMENT

UNITED STATES v. WALTER ROVIDIO IPINA

CASE NO. 17cr0648-GPC

Defendant understands and agrees that this Forfeiture Addendum to the main Plea Agreement will be filed with the Court at the same time as the filing of the main Plea Agreement. The Court at the time of the Fed. R. Crim. P. Rule 11 plea colloquy will have both the main plea agreement and this addendum before the Court, and any reference during the hearing to the "plea agreement" will be understood to be a reference to the main plea agreement together with this addendum. Both parties will insure that the Court is aware of and is considering both the plea agreement and this addendum at the Rule 11 hearing. If this issue is not raised by either party at the Rule 11 hearing, any objection relating to that issue will be considered waived.

I, the defendant, certify that I have read the preceding paragraph (or it has been read to me in my native language) and that I have discussed it with my counsel and fully understand its meaning and effect. I am satisfied with counsel's representation.

4.17.18

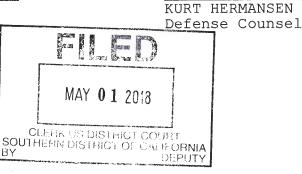
4.17.18

WALTER ROVIDIO IPINA

Defendant

Acknowledgment by Defense Counsel:

lac:3/28/18



A. PROPERTY SUBJECT TO FORFEITURE

In addition to pleading guilty to Count 1 of the Indictment, as set forth in Section I of the main Plea Agreement, defendant agrees to forfeit the following assets, which are: (a) one white 2012 Freightliner Tractor cab bearing California license plate number WP76291, and Vehicle Identification Number (VIN)1FUJGLBG1CLB1201; and (b) one white 1999 TRMLO Refer Trailer/Container bearing California license plate number 4PR7572, and Vehicle Identification Number ("VIN") 1PT01ANH0X9012026, (collectively "the vehicles") pursuant to Title 21, United States Code, Section 853(a)(1) and (2).

Defendant agrees to the immediate entry of a preliminary order of forfeiture as to these vehicles. Defendant further agrees that, upon entry of the preliminary order of forfeiture, such order will be considered final as to his interests in the vehicles. Defendant agrees to immediately withdraw any claims to the vehicles in any pending administrative or civil forfeiture proceeding, and consents to the forfeiture of the vehicles to the United States in any and all actions taken by the United States. Defendant agrees to execute any and all documents requested by the Government to facilitate or complete the forfeiture process(es). Defendant further agrees not to contest or to assist any other person or entity in contesting the forfeiture of the vehicles in the forfeiture proceedings ancillary to this criminal case or in any related civil forfeiture proceeding.

B. BASIS OF FORFEITURE

Defendant acknowledges that the vehicles, and each of them, are subject to criminal forfeiture as property used to facilitate the commission of the crimes alleged in Count 1 of the Indictment.

C. IMMEDIATE ENTRY OF PRELIMINARY ORDER OF FORFEITURE

Defendant consents and agrees to the immediate entry of a preliminary order of forfeiture upon entry of the guilty plea(s). Defendant further agrees that upon entry of the preliminary order of forfeiture, such order will be considered final as to defendant's interests in the vehicles. Defendant agrees to immediately withdraw any claims to the vehicles in any pending administrative and civil forfeiture proceeding, and consents to the forfeiture of all properties seized in connection with this case to the United States. Defendant agrees to execute any and all documents requested by the Government to facilitate or complete the forfeiture process(es). Defendant further agrees not to contest or to assist any other person or entity in contesting the forfeiture of the vehicles.

D. ENTRY OF ORDERS OF FORFEITURE AND WAIVER OF NOTICE

Defendant consents and agrees to the entry of orders of forfeiture for such property and waives the requirements of Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure 32.2 and 43(a) regarding notice of the forfeiture in the charging instrument, announcement of the forfeiture at sentencing, and incorporation of the forfeiture in the judgment. Defendant acknowledges that defendant understands that the forfeiture of assets is part of the sentence that may be imposed in this case and waives any failure by the Court to advise defendant of this, pursuant to Rule 11(b)(1)(J), at the time the Court accepts the guilty plea(s).

E. WAIVER OF CONSTITUTIONAL AND STATUTORY CHALLENGES

Defendant further agrees to waive all constitutional and statutory challenges in any manner (including direct appeal, habeas corpus, or any other means) to any forfeiture carried out in accordance with this agreement on any grounds, including that the forfeiture constitutes an

excessive fine or punishment. Defendant agrees to take all steps as requested by the United States to pass clear title to forfeitable assets to the United States, and to testify truthfully in any judicial forfeiture proceeding.

F. AGREEMENT SURVIVES DEFENDANT; NO FORFEITURE ABATEMENT

Defendant agrees that the forfeiture provisions of this plea agreement are intended to, and will, survive defendant, notwithstanding the abatement of any underlying criminal conviction after the execution of this agreement. The forfeitability of any particular property pursuant to this agreement shall be determined as if defendant had survived, and that determination shall be binding upon defendant's heirs, successors and assigns until the agreed forfeiture, including any agreed money judgment amount, is collected in full.

Date

WALTER ROVIDIO IPINA
Defendant

Acknowledgment by Counsel:

4.17.18 Date

4.30-18

Kurt Devel Henrange KURT HERMANSEN

Counsel Defense Counsel

(LAWRENCE A. CASPER Assistant U.S. Attorney