
**UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549**

FORM 8-K

**CURRENT REPORT
Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d)
of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934**

Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported) August 6, 2018

Central Garden & Pet Company

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware
(State or other jurisdiction
of incorporation)

001-33268
(Commission
File Number)

68-0275553
(IRS Employer
Identification No.)

1340 Treat Boulevard, Suite 600, Walnut Creek, California
(Address of principal executive offices)

94597
(Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code (925)948-4000

(Former name or former address if changed since last report)

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions:

- Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)
- Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)
- Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
- Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is an emerging growth company as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act of 1933 (§230.405 of this chapter) or Rule 12b-2 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (§240.12b-2 of this chapter).

Emerging growth company

If an emerging growth company, indicate by check mark if the registrant has elected not to use the extended transition period for complying with any new or revised financial accounting standards provided pursuant to Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act.

Item 1.01. Entry into a Material Definitive Agreement.

On August 13, 2018, Central Garden & Pet Company (the “Company”) completed the sale of 5,000,000 shares of Class A common stock (the “Class A Common Stock”) at a public offering price of \$37.00 per share pursuant to an underwriting agreement, dated August 8, 2018 (the “Underwriting Agreement”), among the Company and Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith, J.P. Morgan Securities LLC, BMO Capital Markets Corp. and SunTrust Robinson Humphrey, Inc., as representatives of the several underwriters named in the Underwriting Agreement. Pursuant to the Underwriting Agreement, the Underwriters have a 30-day option to purchase up to 750,000 additional shares of Class A Common Stock. A copy of the Underwriting Agreement is filed herewith as Exhibit 1.1.

The offering of Class A Common Stock was registered under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the “Securities Act”), pursuant to an effective automatic shelf registration statement on Form S-3 filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on December 7, 2017 (file no.333-221935), as supplemented by a preliminary prospectus supplement dated August 6, 2018 and a final prospectus supplement dated August 8, 2018.

The Company intends to use the net proceeds from the offering for general corporate purposes, including funding potential acquisitions.

Item 7.01. Regulation FD Disclosure.

On August 6, 2018, the Company issued a press release announcing that it had launched the offering of up to \$200 million shares of Class A Common Stock. A copy of the press release is furnished herewith as Exhibit 99.1.

On August 8, 2018, the Company issued a press release announcing that it had priced the offering of 5,000,000 shares of Class A Common Stock. A copy of the press release is furnished herewith as Exhibit 99.2.

The information set forth in the attached Exhibit 99.1 and Exhibit 99.2 shall not be deemed “filed” for purposes of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the “Exchange Act”), or incorporated by reference in any filing under the Securities Act or the Exchange Act, except as shall be expressly set forth by specific reference in such filing.

Forward-Looking Statements

This report includes “forward-looking statements” concerning our intended use of proceeds of the Class A Common Stock. These forward-looking statements are based upon our current expectations and various assumptions. Our expectations, beliefs and projections are expressed in good faith, and we believe there is a reasonable basis for them, but we cannot assure you that our expectations, beliefs and projections will be realized.

There are a number of risks and uncertainties that could cause our actual results to differ materially from the forward-looking statements contained in this report. Important factors that could cause our actual results to differ materially from the forward-looking statements we make in this report are set forth in the section entitled “Risk Factors” in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2017 and in our other reports we file with the Securities and Exchange Commission. If any of these risks or uncertainties materializes, or if any of our underlying assumptions is incorrect, our actual results may differ significantly from the results that we express in, or imply by, any of our forward-looking statements. We do not undertake any obligation to revise these forward-looking statements to reflect future events or circumstances, except as required by law.

Item 9.01. Financial Statements and Exhibits.

<u>Exhibit Number</u>	<u>Description</u>
1.1	<u>Underwriting Agreement, dated August 8, 2018, by and among the Company and Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith, J.P. Morgan Securities LLC, BMO Capital Markets Corp. and SunTrust Robinson Humphrey, Inc., as representatives of the several underwriters named therein.</u>
5.1	<u>Opinion of Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP.</u>
23.1	<u>Consent of Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP (included in Exhibit 5.1).</u>
99.1	<u>Press Release, dated August 6, 2018, announcing the public offering of Class A Common Stock.</u>
99.2	<u>Press Release, dated August 8, 2018, announcing the pricing of the public offering of Class A Common Stock.</u>

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

CENTRAL GARDEN & PET COMPANY

By: /s/ George A. Yuhas
George A. Yuhas
General Counsel and Secretary

Dated: August 13, 2018

CENTRAL GARDEN & PET COMPANY

(a Delaware corporation)

5,000,000 Shares of Class A Common Stock

UNDERWRITING AGREEMENT

Dated: August 8, 2018

CENTRAL GARDEN & PET COMPANY

(a Delaware corporation)

5,000,000 Shares of Class A Common Stock

UNDERWRITING AGREEMENT

August 8, 2018

Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith
Incorporated
J.P. Morgan Securities LLC
BMO Capital Markets Corp.
SunTrust Robinson Humphrey, Inc.
as Representatives of the several Underwriters

c/o Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith
Incorporated
One Bryant Park
New York, New York 10036

c/o J.P. Morgan Securities LLC
383 Madison Avenue
New York, New York 10179

c/o BMO Capital Markets Corp.
3 Times Square
New York, New York 10036

c/o SunTrust Robinson Humphrey, Inc.
3333 Peachtree Road
Atlanta, Georgia 30326

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Central Garden & Pet Company, a Delaware corporation (the “Company”), confirms its agreement with Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated (“Merrill Lynch”), J.P. Morgan Securities LLC (“J.P. Morgan”), BMO Capital Markets Corp. (“BMO”), SunTrust Robinson Humphrey, Inc. (“SunTrust”) and each of the other Underwriters named in Schedule A hereto (collectively, the “Underwriters,” which term shall also include any underwriter substituted as hereinafter provided in Section 10 hereof), for whom Merrill Lynch, J.P. Morgan, BMO and SunTrust are acting as representatives (in such capacity, the “Representatives”), with respect to (i) the sale by the Company and the purchase by the Underwriters, acting severally and not jointly, of the respective numbers of shares of Class A common stock, par value \$0.01 per share, of the Company (“Class A Common Stock”) set forth in Schedule A hereto and (ii) the grant by the Company to the Underwriters, acting severally and not jointly, of the option described in Section 2(b) hereof to purchase all or any part of 750,000 additional shares of Class A Common Stock. The aforesaid 5,000,000 shares of Class A Common Stock (the “Initial Securities”) to be purchased by the Underwriters and all or any part of the 750,000 shares of Class A Common Stock subject to the option described in Section 2(b) hereof (the “Option Securities”) are herein called, collectively, the “Securities.”

The Company understands that the Underwriters propose to make a public offering of the Securities as soon as the Representatives deem advisable after this Agreement has been executed and delivered.

The Company has prepared and filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "Commission") an automatic shelf registration statement on Form S-3 (File No. 333-221935) covering the public offering and sale of certain securities, including the Securities, under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "1933 Act"), and the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder (the "1933 Act Regulations"), which automatic shelf registration statement became effective under Rule 462(e) under the 1933 Act Regulations ("Rule 462(e)"). Such registration statement, as of any time, means such registration statement as amended by any post-effective amendments thereto to such time, including the exhibits and any schedules thereto at such time, the documents incorporated or deemed to be incorporated by reference therein at such time pursuant to Item 12 of Form S-3 under the 1933 Act and the documents otherwise deemed to be a part thereof as of such time pursuant to Rule 430B under the 1933 Act Regulations ("Rule 430B"), is referred to herein as the "Registration Statement;" provided, however, that the "Registration Statement" without reference to a time means such registration statement as amended by any post-effective amendments thereto as of the time of the first contract of sale for the Securities, which time shall be considered the "new effective date" of such registration statement with respect to the Securities within the meaning of paragraph (f)(2) of Rule 430B, including the exhibits and schedules thereto as of such time, the documents incorporated or deemed incorporated by reference therein at such time pursuant to Item 12 of Form S-3 under the 1933 Act and the documents otherwise deemed to be a part thereof as of such time pursuant to the Rule 430B. Each preliminary prospectus used in connection with the offering of the Securities, including the documents incorporated or deemed to be incorporated by reference therein pursuant to Item 12 of Form S-3 under the 1933 Act, are collectively referred to herein as a "preliminary prospectus." Promptly after execution and delivery of this Agreement, the Company will prepare and file a final prospectus relating to the Securities in accordance with the provisions of Rule 424(b) under the 1933 Act Regulations ("Rule 424(b)"). The final prospectus, in the form first furnished or made available to the Underwriters for use in connection with the offering of the Securities, including the documents incorporated or deemed to be incorporated by reference therein pursuant to Item 12 of Form S-3 under the 1933 Act, are collectively referred to herein as the "Prospectus." For purposes of this Agreement, all references to the Registration Statement, any preliminary prospectus, the Prospectus or any amendment or supplement to any of the foregoing shall be deemed to include the copy filed with the Commission pursuant to its Electronic Data Gathering, Analysis and Retrieval system (or any successor system) ("EDGAR").

As used in this Agreement:

"Applicable Time" means 6:15 P.M., New York City time, on August 8, 2018 or such other time as agreed by the Company and the Representatives.

"General Disclosure Package" means any Issuer General Use Free Writing Prospectuses issued at or prior to the Applicable Time, the most recent preliminary prospectus (including any documents incorporated therein by reference) that is distributed to investors prior to the Applicable Time and the information included on Schedule B-1 hereto, all considered together.

"Issuer Free Writing Prospectus" means any "issuer free writing prospectus," as defined in Rule 433 of the 1933 Act Regulations ("Rule 433"), including without limitation any "free writing prospectus" (as defined in Rule 405 of the 1933 Act Regulations ("Rule 405")) relating to the Securities that is (i) required to be filed with the Commission by the Company, (ii) a "road show

that is a written communication” within the meaning of Rule 433(d)(8)(i), whether or not required to be filed with the Commission, or (iii) exempt from filing with the Commission pursuant to Rule 433(d)(5)(i) because it contains a description of the Securities or of the offering that does not reflect the final terms, in each case in the form filed or required to be filed with the Commission or, if not required to be filed, in the form retained in the Company’s records pursuant to Rule 433(g).

“Issuer General Use Free Writing Prospectus” means any Issuer Free Writing Prospectus that is intended for general distribution to prospective investors (other than a “*bona fide* electronic road show,” as defined in Rule 433), as evidenced by its being specified in ScheduleB-2 hereto.

“Issuer Limited Use Free Writing Prospectus” means any Issuer Free Writing Prospectus that is not an Issuer General Use Free Writing Prospectus.

All references in this Agreement to financial statements and schedules and other information which is “contained,” “included” or “stated” (or other references of like import) in the Registration Statement, any preliminary prospectus or the Prospectus shall be deemed to include all such financial statements and schedules and other information incorporated or deemed incorporated by reference in the Registration Statement, any preliminary prospectus or the Prospectus, as the case may be, prior to the execution and delivery of this Agreement; and all references in this Agreement to amendments or supplements to the Registration Statement, any preliminary prospectus or the Prospectus shall be deemed to include the filing of any document under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, and the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder (collectively, the “1934 Act”), incorporated or deemed to be incorporated by reference in the Registration Statement, such preliminary prospectus or the Prospectus, as the case may be, at or after the execution and delivery of this Agreement.

SECTION 1. Representations and Warranties.

(a) *Representations and Warranties by the Company.* The Company represents and warrants to each Underwriter as of the date hereof, the Applicable Time, the Closing Time (as defined below) and any Date of Delivery (as defined below), and agrees with each Underwriter, as follows:

(i) Registration Statement and Prospectuses. The Company meets the requirements for use of FormS-3 under the 1933 Act. The Registration Statement is an “automatic shelf registration statement” (as defined in Rule 405) and the Securities have been and remain eligible for registration by the Company on such automatic shelf registration statement. The Registration Statement has become effective under the 1933 Act. No stop order suspending the effectiveness of the Registration Statement has been issued under the 1933 Act, no order preventing or suspending the use of any preliminary prospectus or the Prospectus has been issued and no proceedings for any of those purposes have been instituted or are pending or, to the Company’s knowledge, contemplated. The Company has complied with each request (if any) from the Commission for additional information.

Each of the Registration Statement and any post-effective amendment thereto, at the time of its effectiveness, each deemed effective date with respect to the Underwriters pursuant to Rule 430B(f)(2) under the 1933 Act Regulations, the Applicable Time, the Closing Time and any Date of Delivery complied and will comply in all material respects with the requirements of the 1933 Act and the 1933 Act Regulations. Each preliminary prospectus, the Prospectus and any amendment or supplement thereto, at the time each was filed with the Commission, and, in each case, at the Applicable Time, the Closing Time and any Date of Delivery complied and will comply in all material respects with the requirements of the 1933 Act Regulations and each preliminary prospectus and the Prospectus delivered to the Underwriters for use in connection with this offering was identical to the electronically transmitted copies thereof filed with the Commission pursuant to EDGAR, except to the extent permitted by Regulation S-T.

The documents incorporated or deemed to be incorporated by reference in the Registration Statement and the Prospectus, when they became effective or at the time they were or hereafter are filed with the Commission, complied and will comply in all material respects with the requirements of the 1934 Act and the rules and regulations of the Commission under the 1934 Act (the "1934 Act Regulations").

(ii) Accurate Disclosure. Neither the Registration Statement nor any amendment thereto, at its effective time, on the date hereof, at the Closing Time or at any Date of Delivery, contained, contains or will contain an untrue statement of a material fact or omitted, omits or will omit to state a material fact required to be stated therein or necessary to make the statements therein not misleading. At the Applicable Time and any Date of Delivery, neither (A) the General Disclosure Package nor (B) any individual Issuer Limited Use Free Writing Prospectus, when considered together with the General Disclosure Package, included, includes or will include an untrue statement of a material fact or omitted, omits or will omit to state a material fact necessary in order to make the statements therein, in the light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading. Neither the Prospectus nor any amendment or supplement thereto, as of its issue date, at the time of any filing with the Commission pursuant to Rule 424(b), at the Closing Time or at any Date of Delivery, included, includes or will include an untrue statement of a material fact or omitted, omits or will omit to state a material fact necessary in order to make the statements therein, in the light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading. The documents incorporated or deemed to be incorporated by reference in the Registration Statement, the General Disclosure Package and the Prospectus, at the time the Registration Statement became effective or when such documents incorporated by reference were filed with the Commission, as the case may be, when read together with the other information in the Registration Statement, the General Disclosure Package or the Prospectus, as the case may be, did not and will not include an untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact required to be stated therein or necessary to make the statements therein not misleading.

The representations and warranties in this subsection shall not apply to statements in or omissions from the Registration Statement (or any amendment thereto), the General Disclosure Package or the Prospectus (or any amendment or supplement thereto) made in reliance upon and in conformity with written information furnished to the Company by any Underwriter through the Representatives expressly for use therein. For purposes of this Agreement, the only information so furnished shall be the information in the first paragraph under the heading "Underwriting—Commissions and Discounts," the information in the second and third paragraphs under the heading "Underwriting—Price Stabilization, Short Positions" and the information under the heading "Underwriting—Electronic Distribution" in each case contained in the Prospectus (collectively, the "Underwriter Information").

(iii) Issuer Free Writing Prospectuses. No Issuer Free Writing Prospectus conflicts or will conflict with the information contained in the Registration Statement or the Prospectus, including any document incorporated by reference therein, and any preliminary or other prospectus deemed to be a part thereof that has not been superseded or modified. Any offer that is a written communication relating to the Securities made prior to the initial filing of the Registration Statement by the Company or any person acting on its behalf (within the meaning, for this paragraph only, of Rule 163(c) of the 1933 Act Regulations) has been filed with the Commission in accordance with the exemption provided by Rule 163 under the 1933 Act Regulations ("Rule 163") and otherwise complied with the requirements of Rule 163, including without limitation the legending requirement, to qualify such offer for the exemption from Section 5(c) of the 1933 Act provided by Rule 163.

(iv) Well-Known Seasoned Issuer. (A) At the original effectiveness of the Registration Statement, (B) at the time of the most recent amendment thereto for the purposes of complying with Section 10(a)(3) of the 1933 Act (whether such amendment was by post-effective amendment, incorporated report filed pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the 1934 Act or form of prospectus), (C) at the time the Company or any person acting on its behalf (within the meaning, for this clause only, of Rule 163(c) under the 1933 Act) made any offer relating to the Securities in reliance on the exemption of Rule 163 under the 1933 Act, and (D) as of the Applicable Time, the Company was and is a “well-known seasoned issuer” (as defined in Rule 405).

(v) Company Not Ineligible Issuer. At the time of filing the Registration Statement, at the earliest time thereafter that the Company or another offering participant made a *bona fide* offer (within the meaning of Rule 164(h)(2) of the 1933 Act Regulations) of the Securities and at the date hereof, the Company was not and is not an “ineligible issuer,” as defined in Rule 405, without taking account of any determination by the Commission pursuant to Rule 405 that it is not necessary that the Company be considered an ineligible issuer.

(vi) Independent Accountants. Deloitte & Touche LLP, who has certified the financial statements of the Company and its subsidiaries included or incorporated by reference in each of the Registration Statement, the General Disclosure Package and the Prospectus, is an independent registered public accounting firm with respect to the Company and its subsidiaries within the applicable rules and regulations adopted by the Commission and the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States) and as required by the 1933 Act and the 1934 Act.

(vii) Financial Statements: Non-GAAP Financial Measures. The financial statements and the related notes thereto included or incorporated by reference in each of the Registration Statement, the General Disclosure Package and the Prospectus comply in all material respects with the applicable requirements of the 1933 Act and the 1934 Act and present fairly in all material respects the financial position of the Company and its subsidiaries as of the dates indicated and the results of their operations and the changes in their cash flows for the periods specified; such financial statements have been prepared in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles applied on a consistent basis throughout the periods covered thereby, and the supporting schedules, if any, included or incorporated by reference in each of the Registration Statement, the General Disclosure Package and the Prospectus present fairly in all material respects the information required to be stated therein; and the other financial information included or incorporated by reference in each of the Registration Statement, the General Disclosure Package and the Prospectus has been derived from the accounting records of the Company and its subsidiaries and presents fairly in all material respects the information shown thereby. The interactive data in eXtensible Business Reporting Language included or incorporated by reference in each of the Registration Statement, the General Disclosure Package and the Prospectus fairly presents the information called for in all material respects and is prepared in accordance with the Commission’s rules and guidelines applicable thereto. The selected financial data and the summary financial information included in each of the Registration Statement, the General Disclosure Package and the Prospectus present fairly in all material respects the information shown therein and have been compiled on a basis consistent with that of the audited financial statements included therein. Except as included therein, no historical or pro forma financial statements or supporting schedules are required to be included or incorporated by reference in each of the Registration Statement, the General

Disclosure Package or the Prospectus under the 1933 Act or the 1933 Act Regulations. All disclosures contained in each of the Registration Statement, the General Disclosure Package or the Prospectus, or incorporated by reference therein, regarding “non-GAAP financial measures” (as such term is defined by the rules and regulations of the Commission) comply in all material respects with Regulation G of the 1934 Act and Item 10 of Regulation S-K of the 1933 Act, to the extent applicable.

(viii) No Material Adverse Change in Business. Since the date of the most recent financial statements of the Company included or incorporated by reference in each of the Registration Statement, the General Disclosure Package and the Prospectus, (i) there has not been any change in the capital stock or long-term debt of the Company or any of its subsidiaries, or any dividend or distribution of any kind declared, set aside for payment, paid or made by the Company on any class of capital stock, (ii) there has not been any material adverse change, or any development involving a prospective material adverse change, in or affecting the business, properties, management, financial position or results of operations of the Company and its subsidiaries taken as a whole; (iii) neither the Company nor any of its subsidiaries has entered into any transaction or agreement (whether or not in the ordinary course of business) that is material to the Company and its subsidiaries taken as a whole or incurred any liability or obligation, direct or contingent, that is material to the Company and its subsidiaries taken as a whole; and (iv) neither the Company nor any of its subsidiaries has sustained any material loss or interference with its business from fire, explosion, flood or other calamity, whether or not covered by insurance, or from any labor disturbance or dispute or any action, order or decree of any court or arbitrator or governmental or regulatory authority, except in each case as otherwise disclosed in each of the Registration Statement, the General Disclosure Package and the Prospectus.

(ix) Organization and Good Standing. The Company and each of its subsidiaries have been duly organized and are validly existing and in good standing under the laws of their respective jurisdictions of organization, are duly qualified to do business and are in good standing in each jurisdiction in which their respective ownership or lease of property or the conduct of their respective businesses requires such qualification, and have all power and authority necessary to own or hold their respective properties and to conduct the businesses in which they are engaged, except where the failure to be so qualified, in good standing or have such power or authority would not, individually or in the aggregate, have a material adverse effect on the business, properties, management, financial position or results of operations of the Company and its subsidiaries taken as a whole, or on the performance by the Company of its obligations under this Agreement (a “Material Adverse Effect”). All the outstanding shares of capital stock or other equity interests of each subsidiary of the Company have been duly and validly authorized and issued, are fully paid and non-assessable (except, in the case of any foreign subsidiary, for directors’ qualifying shares and except as otherwise described in each of the Registration Statement, the General Disclosure Package and the Prospectus) and are owned directly or indirectly by the Company (except for Tech Pac, L.L.C. or as otherwise described in each of the Registration Statement, the General Disclosure Package and the Prospectus), free and clear of any lien, charge, encumbrance, security interest, restriction on voting or transfer or any other claim of any third party, except for any such lien, charge, encumbrance, security interest, restriction on voting or transfer or any other claim of any third party granted pursuant to the Amended and Restated Credit Agreement, dated as of April 22, 2016, governing the Company’s senior secured asset-based revolving credit facility. None of the outstanding shares of capital stock of any subsidiary of the Company were issued in violation of the preemptive or similar rights of any securityholder of such subsidiary. The only subsidiaries of the Company are (A) the subsidiaries listed on Exhibit 21 to the Registration Statement and (B) certain other subsidiaries which, considered in the aggregate as a single subsidiary, do not constitute a “significant subsidiary” as defined in Rule 1-02 of Regulation S-X.

(x) Capitalization. The Company has the capitalization as set forth in each of the Registration Statement, the General Disclosure Package and the Prospectus under the heading “Capitalization”; the outstanding shares of capital stock of the Company have been duly authorized and validly issued and are fully paid and non-assessable; and none of the outstanding shares of capital stock of the Company were issued in violation of the preemptive or other similar rights of any securityholder of the Company.

(xi) Authorization of Agreement. This Agreement has been duly authorized, executed and delivered by the Company.

(xii) Authorization and Description of Securities. The Securities to be purchased by the Underwriters from the Company have been duly authorized for issuance and sale to the Underwriters pursuant to this Agreement and, when issued and delivered by the Company pursuant to this Agreement against payment of the consideration set forth herein, will be validly issued and fully paid and non-assessable; and the issuance of the Securities is not subject to the preemptive or other similar rights of any securityholder of the Company. The Class A Common Stock conforms to all statements relating thereto contained in each of the Registration Statement, the General Disclosure Package and the Prospectus and such description conforms to the rights set forth in the instruments defining the same. No holder of Securities will be subject to personal liability by reason of being such a holder.

(xiii) Absence of Violations, Defaults and Conflicts. Neither the Company nor any of its subsidiaries is (i) in violation of its charter or by-laws or similar organizational documents; (ii) in default, and no event has occurred that, with notice or lapse of time or both, would constitute such a default, in the due performance or observance of any term, covenant or condition contained in any indenture, mortgage, deed of trust, loan agreement or other agreement or instrument to which the Company or any of its subsidiaries is a party or by which the Company or any of its subsidiaries is bound or to which any of the properties, rights or assets of the Company or any of its subsidiaries is subject; or (iii) in violation of any law or statute or any judgment, order, rule or regulation of any court or arbitrator or governmental or regulatory authority, except, in the case of clauses (ii) and (iii) above, for any such default or violation that would not, individually or in the aggregate, have a Material Adverse Effect. The execution, delivery and performance of this Agreement and the consummation of the transactions contemplated herein and in each of the Registration Statement, the General Disclosure Package and the Prospectus (including the issuance and sale of the Securities and the use of the proceeds from the sale of the Securities as described therein under the caption “Use of Proceeds”) and compliance by the Company with its obligations hereunder have been duly authorized by all necessary corporate action and do not and will not, whether with or without the giving of notice or passage of time or both, (i) conflict with or result in a breach or violation of any of the terms or provisions of, or constitute a default under, or result in the creation or imposition of any lien, charge or encumbrance upon any properties, rights or assets of the Company or any of its subsidiaries pursuant to, any indenture, note, mortgage, deed of trust, loan or credit agreement or other agreement or instrument to which the Company or any of its subsidiaries is a party or by which the Company or any of its subsidiaries is bound or to which any of the properties, rights or assets of the Company or any of its subsidiaries is subject, (ii) result in any violation of the provisions of the charter or by-laws or similar organizational documents of the Company or any of its subsidiaries or (iii) result in the violation of any law or statute or any judgment, order, rule or regulation of any court or arbitrator or governmental or regulatory authority or any other agency having jurisdiction over the Company or any of its subsidiaries or any of their respective properties, rights or assets, except, in the case of clauses (i) and (iii) above, for any such conflict, breach, violation, default, lien, charge or encumbrance that would not, individually or in the aggregate, have a Material Adverse Effect.

(xiv) No Consents Required. No consent, approval, authorization, order, registration or qualification of or with any court or arbitrator or governmental or regulatory authority is required for the execution, delivery and performance by the Company this Agreement, the issuance and sale of the Securities by the Company and compliance by the Company with the terms thereof, and the consummation of the transactions contemplated by this Agreement, except such as have been already obtained or as may be required under the 1933 Act, the 1933 Act Regulations, the rules of The Nasdaq Stock Market and applicable state securities laws in connection with the purchase and distribution of the Securities by the Underwriters.

(xv) Legal Proceedings. Except as otherwise disclosed in each of the Registration Statement, the General Disclosure Package and the Prospectus, there are no legal, governmental or regulatory investigations, actions, suits or proceedings pending to which the Company or any of its subsidiaries is a party or to which any property, right or asset of the Company or any of its subsidiaries is the subject wherein any such case (i) there is a reasonable possibility that such action, suit or proceeding might be determined adversely to the Company or such subsidiary, and (ii) any such action, suit or proceeding, if so determined adversely, would reasonably be expected to, individually or in the aggregate, have a Material Adverse Effect; no such investigations, actions, suits or proceedings are, to the best knowledge of the Company, threatened or contemplated by any governmental or regulatory authority or threatened by others; and there are no current or pending legal, governmental or regulatory actions, suits or proceedings that are required under the 1933 Act to be described in the Registration Statement or the Prospectus that are not so described in each of the Registration Statement, the General Disclosure Package and the Prospectus.

(xvi) Title to Real and Personal Property. The Company and its subsidiaries have good and marketable title to, or have valid rights to lease or otherwise use, all items of real and personal property that are material to the respective businesses of the Company and its subsidiaries, in each case free and clear of all liens, encumbrances, claims and defects and imperfections of title except those that (i) do not materially interfere with the use made and proposed to be made of such property by the Company and its subsidiaries or (ii) could not reasonably be expected to, individually or in the aggregate, have a Material Adverse Effect.

(xvii) Title to Intellectual Property. Except as otherwise disclosed in each of the Registration Statement, the General Disclosure Package and the Prospectus, the Company and its subsidiaries own or possess adequate rights to use all patents, trademarks, service marks, trade names, copyrights, licenses and know-how (including trade secrets and other unpatented and/or unpatentable proprietary or confidential information, systems or procedures) and all other proprietary rights reasonably necessary for the conduct of their respective businesses as now conducted; the conduct of their respective businesses does not and will not infringe or conflict with any intellectual property rights of others, except for any such infringement that would not reasonably be expected to, individually or in the aggregate, have a Material Adverse Effect; the Company and its subsidiaries have not received any notice of any claim of infringement or conflict with any asserted intellectual property rights of others which infringement or conflict, if the subject of an unfavorable decision, would have a Material Adverse Effect; and, to the knowledge of the Company, the intellectual property owned by the Company and its subsidiaries is not being infringed or violated by any third party.

(xviii) No Undisclosed Relationships. No relationship, direct or indirect, exists between or among the Company or any of its subsidiaries, on the one hand, and the directors, officers, stockholders, or other affiliates of the Company or any of its subsidiaries, on the other, that is required by the 1933 Act to be described in each of the Registration Statement and the Prospectus and that is not so described in such documents and in the General Disclosure Package.

(xix) Investment Company Act. The Company is not and, after giving effect to the offering and sale of the Securities and the application of the proceeds thereof as described in each of the Registration Statement, the General Disclosure Package and the Prospectus, will not be an “investment company” or an entity “controlled” by an “investment company” within the meaning of the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended, and the rules and regulations of the Commission thereunder (collectively, the “Investment Company Act”).

(xx) Taxes. Except as otherwise disclosed in each of the Registration Statement, the General Disclosure Package and the Prospectus, the Company and its subsidiaries have paid all federal, state, local and foreign taxes and filed all tax returns required to be paid or filed through the date hereof other than those filings or taxes being contested in good faith and for which appropriate reserves have been established. The Company has made adequate charges, accruals and reserves in the applicable financial statements referred to in Section 1(a)(vii) above in respect of all federal, state and foreign income and franchise taxes for all periods as to which the tax liability of the Company and any of its subsidiaries has not been finally determined.

(xxi) Licenses and Permits. Except as otherwise disclosed in each of the Registration Statement, the General Disclosure Package and the Prospectus, the Company and its subsidiaries possess all licenses, certificates, permits and other authorizations issued by, and have made all declarations and filings with, the appropriate federal, state, local or foreign governmental or regulatory authorities that are necessary for the ownership or lease of their respective properties or the conduct of their respective businesses as described in each of the Registration Statement, the General Disclosure Package and the Prospectus, except where the failure to possess or make the same would not, individually or in the aggregate, have a Material Adverse Effect; and except as described in each of the Registration Statement, the General Disclosure Package and the Prospectus, neither the Company nor any of its subsidiaries has received notice of any revocation or modification of any such license, certificate, permit or authorization, which individually or in the aggregate, if the subject of an unfavorable decision, ruling or finding, could reasonably be expected to have a Material Adverse Effect.

(xxii) No Labor Disputes. No labor disturbance by or dispute with employees of the Company or any of its subsidiaries exists or, to the best knowledge of the Company, is threatened.

(xxiii) Environmental Laws. (i) Except as otherwise disclosed in each of the Registration Statement, the General Disclosure Package and the Prospectus, (x) the Company and its subsidiaries are, and at all prior times were, in compliance with any and all applicable federal, state, local and foreign laws, rules, regulations, requirements, decisions and orders relating to the protection of human health or safety, the environment, natural resources, hazardous or toxic substances or wastes, pollutants or contaminants (collectively, “Environmental Laws”), (y) the Company and its subsidiaries have received and are in compliance with all permits, licenses, certificates or other authorizations or approvals required of them under applicable Environmental Laws to conduct their respective businesses and (z) there is no claim, action or cause of action filed with a court or government authority and no investigation with respect to which the Company has received notice, and no notice by any person or entity alleging any actual or potential liability under or relating to any Environmental Laws, including for the investigation or remediation of any disposal or release of hazardous or toxic substances or wastes, pollutants or contaminants, and the Company and its subsidiaries have no knowledge of any event or condition that would reasonably be expected to result in any such notice, (ii) there are no costs or liabilities associated with Environmental Laws of or relating to the Company or its subsidiaries, except in the case of each of (i) and (ii) above, for any such failure to comply, or failure to receive required permits, licenses, certificates, authorizations or approvals, or cost or liability, as would not, individually or in the

aggregate, have a Material Adverse Effect, and (iii) there are no proceedings that are pending, or that are known to be contemplated, against the Company or any of its subsidiaries under any Environmental Laws in which a governmental entity is also a party, other than such proceedings regarding which it is reasonably believed no monetary sanctions of \$100,000 or more will be imposed.

(xxiv) Environmental Reviews. In the ordinary course of its business, the Company periodically reviews the effect of Environmental Laws on the business, operations and properties of the Company and its subsidiaries, in the course of which it identifies and evaluates associated costs and liabilities (including, without limitation, any capital or operating expenditures required for clean-up, closure of properties or compliance with Environmental Laws, or any permit, license or approval, any related constraints on operating activities and any potential liabilities to third parties). On the basis of such review, the Company has reasonably concluded that such associated costs and liabilities would not, individually or in the aggregate, have a Material Adverse Effect, except as set forth in or contemplated in each of the Registration Statement, the General Disclosure Package and the Prospectus.

(xxv) Pension Plans. Except as would not, individually or in the aggregate, have a Material Adverse Effect, (i) each employee benefit plan, within the meaning of Section 3(3) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended (“ERISA”), for which the Company or any member of its “Controlled Group” (defined as any organization which is a member of a controlled group of corporations within the meaning of Section 414 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the “Code”)) would have any liability (each, a “Plan”) has been maintained in compliance with its terms and the requirements of any applicable statutes, orders, rules and regulations, including but not limited to ERISA and the Code; (ii) no prohibited transaction, within the meaning of Section 406 of ERISA or Section 4975 of the Code, has occurred with respect to any Plan excluding transactions effected pursuant to a statutory or administrative exemption with respect to which the conditions for exemptive relief thereunder are satisfied; (iii) no Plan has failed, or is reasonably expected to fail, to satisfy the minimum funding standards (within the meaning of Sections 412 or 430 of the Code or Section 302 of ERISA) applicable to such Plan whether or not waived; (iv) the fair market value of the assets of each Plan subject to the provisions of Title IV of ERISA or Section 412 of the Code or Section 302 of ERISA exceeds the present value of all benefits accrued under such Plan (determined based on those assumptions used to fund such Plan); (v) no “reportable event” (within the meaning of Section 4043(c) of ERISA) has occurred or is reasonably expected to occur; (vi) neither the Company nor any member of the Controlled Group has incurred, nor reasonably expects to incur, any liability under Title IV of ERISA (other than contributions to a Plan or premiums to the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, in the ordinary course and without default) in respect of a Plan (including a “multiemployer plan”, within the meaning of Section 4001(a)(3) of ERISA); and (vii) each Plan for which the Company or its subsidiaries would have any liability that is intended to be qualified under Section 401(a) of the Code has received a determination letter from the Internal Revenue Service to the effect that it is so qualified in form and nothing has occurred, whether by action or by failure to act, which is reasonably likely to cause the loss of such qualification.

(xxvi) Disclosure Controls. The Company maintains an effective system of “disclosure controls and procedures” (as defined in Rule 13a-15(e) of the 1934 Act) that is designed to ensure that information required to be disclosed by the Company in reports that it files or submits under the 1934 Act is recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the time periods specified in the Commission’s rules and forms, including controls and procedures designed to ensure that such information is accumulated and communicated to the Company’s management as appropriate to allow timely decisions regarding required disclosure. The Company has carried out evaluations of the effectiveness of its disclosure controls and procedures as required by Rule 13a-15 of the 1934 Act.

(xxvii) Accounting Controls. The Company maintains a system of “internal control over financial reporting” (as defined in Rule 13a-15(f) of the 1934 Act) that complies with the requirements of the 1934 Act and has been designed by, or under the supervision of, its principal executive and principal financial officers, or persons performing similar functions, to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, including, but not limited to internal accounting controls sufficient to provide reasonable assurance that: (i) transactions are executed in accordance with management’s general or specific authorizations; (ii) transactions are recorded as necessary to permit preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles and to maintain asset accountability; (iii) access to assets is permitted only in accordance with management’s general or specific authorization; (iv) the recorded accountability for assets is compared with the existing assets at reasonable intervals and appropriate action is taken with respect to any differences; and (v) the interactive data in eXtensible Business Reporting Language included or incorporated by reference in each of the Registration Statement, the General Disclosure Package and the Prospectus is prepared in accordance with the Commission’s rules and guidelines applicable thereto. There are no material weaknesses in the internal controls of the Company.

(xxviii) Insurance. The Company and its subsidiaries have insurance covering their respective properties, operations, personnel and businesses, including business interruption insurance, which insurance is in amounts and insures against such losses and risks as the Company believes are adequate to protect the Company and its subsidiaries and their respective businesses; and neither the Company nor any of its subsidiaries has (i) received notice from any insurer or agent of such insurer that capital improvements or other expenditures are required or necessary to be made in order to continue such insurance or (ii) any reason to believe that it will not be able to renew its existing insurance coverage as and when such coverage expires or to obtain similar coverage at a cost that would not, individually or in the aggregate, have a Material Adverse Effect from similar insurers as may be necessary to continue its business.

(xxix) No Unlawful Payments. Within the past five years, none of the Company or any of its subsidiaries nor, to the knowledge of the Company, any director, officer, agent, employee, affiliate or other person associated with or acting on behalf of the Company or any of its subsidiaries has (i) used any corporate funds for any unlawful contribution, gift, entertainment or other unlawful expense relating to political activity, (ii) made or taken an act in furtherance of an offer, promise or authorization of any direct or indirect unlawful payment or benefit to any foreign or domestic government official or employee, including of any government-owned or controlled entity or of a public international organization, or any person acting in an official capacity for or on behalf of any of the foregoing, or any political party or party official or candidate for political office, (iii) violated or is in violation of any provision of the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act of 1977, as amended, or any applicable law or regulation implementing the OECD Convention on Combating Bribery of Foreign Public Officials in International Business Transactions, or committed an offence under the Bribery Act of 2010 of the United Kingdom, or any other applicable anti-bribery or anti-corruption law, or (iv) made, offered, agreed, requested or taken an act in furtherance of any unlawful bribe or other unlawful benefit, including, without limitation, any rebate, payoff, influence payment, kickback or other unlawful or improper payment or benefit. The Company and its subsidiaries have instituted, maintain and enforce policies and procedures designed to promote and ensure compliance with all applicable anti-bribery and anti-corruption laws.

(xxx) Compliance with Anti-Money Laundering Laws. The operations of the Company and its subsidiaries are and have been conducted at all times in material compliance with applicable financial recordkeeping and reporting requirements, including those of the Currency and Foreign Transactions Reporting Act of 1970, as amended, the applicable money laundering statutes of all jurisdictions where the Company or any of its subsidiaries conducts business, the rules and regulations thereunder and any related or similar rules, regulations or guidelines, issued, administered or enforced by any governmental agency (collectively, the “Anti-Money Laundering Laws”) and no action, suit or proceeding by or before any court or governmental agency, authority or body or any arbitrator involving the Company or any of its subsidiaries with respect to the Anti-Money Laundering Laws is pending or, to the knowledge of the Company, threatened.

(xxxii) No Conflicts with Sanctions Laws. None of the Company or any of its subsidiaries nor, to the knowledge of the Company, any director, officer, agent, employee, affiliate or other person associated with or acting on behalf of the Company or any of its subsidiaries is currently the subject or the target of any sanctions administered or enforced by the U.S. Government (including, without limitation, the Office of Foreign Assets Control of the U.S. Department of the Treasury or the U.S. Department of State and including, without limitation, the designation as a “specially designated national” or “blocked person”), the United Nations Security Council, the European Union, Her Majesty’s Treasury, or other relevant sanctions authority (collectively, “Sanctions”), nor is the Company or any of its subsidiaries located, organized or resident in a country or territory that is the subject or target of Sanctions, including, without limitation, the region of Crimea, Cuba, Iran, North Korea and Syria (each, a “Sanctioned Country”); and the Company will not directly or indirectly use the proceeds of the offering of the Securities hereunder, or lend, contribute or otherwise make available such proceeds to any subsidiary, joint venture partner or other person or entity (i) to fund or facilitate any activities of or business with any person that, at the time of such funding or facilitation, is the subject or target of Sanctions, (ii) to fund or facilitate any activities of or business in any Sanctioned Country or (iii) in any other manner that will result in a violation by any person (including any person participating in the transaction, whether as underwriter, initial purchaser, advisor, investor or otherwise) of Sanctions. For the past five years, the Company and its subsidiaries have not knowingly engaged in, and are not now knowingly engaged in, any dealings or transactions with any person that at the time of the dealing or transaction is or was the subject or the legal target of Sanctions or with any Sanctioned Country, to the extent prohibited by Sanctions.

(xxxiii) No Restrictions on Subsidiaries. No subsidiary of the Company is currently prohibited, directly or indirectly, under any agreement or other instrument to which it is a party or is subject, from paying any dividends to the Company, from making any other distribution on such subsidiary’s capital stock or similar ownership interest, from repaying to the Company any loans or advances to such subsidiary from the Company or from transferring any of such subsidiary’s properties or assets to the Company or any other subsidiary of the Company, except as described in or contemplated by each of the Registration Statement, the General Disclosure Package and the Prospectus.

(xxxiiii) No Broker’s Fees. Neither the Company nor any of its subsidiaries is a party to any contract, agreement or understanding with any person (other than this Agreement) that would give rise to a valid claim against the Company or any of its subsidiaries or any Underwriter for a brokerage commission, finder’s fee or like payment in connection with the offering and sale of the Securities.

(xxxiv) No Registration Rights. No person has the right to require the Company or any of its subsidiaries to register any securities for sale under the 1933 Act pursuant to the Registration Statement or by reason of the issuance and sale of the Securities.

(xxxv) No Stabilization; Absence of Manipulation. Neither the Company nor any affiliate of the Company has taken, directly or indirectly, any action designed to or that could reasonably be expected to cause or result in any stabilization or manipulation of the price of the Securities or to result in a violation of Regulation M under the 1934 Act.

(xxxvi) Margin Rules. Neither the issuance, sale and delivery of the Securities nor the application of the proceeds thereof by the Company as described in each of the Registration Statement, the General Disclosure Package and the Prospectus will violate Regulation T, U or X of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System or any other regulation of such Board of Governors.

(xxxvii) Statistical and Market Data. Nothing has come to the attention of the Company that has caused the Company to believe that the statistical and market-related data included or incorporated by reference in each of the Registration Statement, the General Disclosure Package and the Prospectus is not based on or derived from sources that are reliable and accurate in all material respects.

(xxxviii) Sarbanes-Oxley Act. There is and has been no failure on the part of the Company or, to the knowledge of the Company, any of the Company's directors or officers, in their capacities as such, to comply in all material respects with any provision of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, as amended, and the rules and regulations promulgated in connection therewith (the "Sarbanes-Oxley Act"), including Section 402 related to loans and Sections 302 and 906 related to certifications

(xxxix) Cybersecurity. (A) To the knowledge of the Company, there has been no security breach or incident, unauthorized access or disclosure, or other compromise of or relating to the Company or its subsidiaries information technology and computer systems, networks, hardware, software, data and databases (including the data and information of their respective customers, employees, suppliers, vendors and any third party data maintained, processed or stored by the Company and its subsidiaries, and any such data processed or stored by third parties on behalf of the Company and its subsidiaries), equipment or technology (collectively, "IT Systems and Data"); (B) neither the Company nor its subsidiaries have been notified of, and have no knowledge of any event or condition that would result in, any security breach or incident, unauthorized access or disclosure or other compromise to their IT Systems and Data; and (C) the Company and its subsidiaries have implemented appropriate controls, policies, procedures, and technological safeguards to maintain and protect the integrity, continuous operation, redundancy and security of their IT Systems and Data reasonably consistent with industry standards and practices, or as required by applicable regulatory standards, except in the case of each of (A) and (B) above, for any such security breach or incident, unauthorized access or disclosure, or other compromises, as would not, individually or in the aggregate, have a Material Adverse Effect, or in the case of (C), where the failure to do so would not, individually or in the aggregate, have a Material Adverse Effect. The Company and its subsidiaries are presently in material compliance with all applicable laws or statutes and all judgments, orders, rules and regulations of any court or arbitrator or governmental or regulatory authority, internal policies and contractual obligations relating to the privacy and security of IT Systems and Data and to the protection of such IT Systems and Data from unauthorized use, access, misappropriation or modification.

(b) *Officer's Certificates.* Any certificate signed by any officer of the Company or any of its subsidiaries delivered to the Representatives or to counsel for the Underwriters shall be deemed a representation and warranty by the Company to each Underwriter as to the matters covered thereby.

SECTION 2. Sale and Delivery to Underwriters; Closing

(a) *Initial Securities.* On the basis of the representations and warranties herein contained and subject to the terms and conditions herein set forth, the Company agrees to sell to each Underwriter, severally and not jointly, and each Underwriter, severally and not jointly, agrees to purchase from the Company, at the price per share set forth in Schedule A, the number of Initial Securities set forth in Schedule A opposite the name of such Underwriter, plus any additional number of Initial Securities which such Underwriter may become obligated to purchase pursuant to the provisions of Section 10 hereof, subject, in each case, to such adjustments among the Underwriters as the Representatives in their sole discretion shall make to eliminate any sales or purchases of fractional shares.

(b) *Option Securities.* In addition, on the basis of the representations and warranties herein contained and subject to the terms and conditions herein set forth, the Company hereby grants an option to the Underwriters, severally and not jointly, to purchase up to an additional 750,000 shares of Class A Common Stock, at the price per share set forth in Schedule A, less an amount per share equal to any dividends or distributions declared by the Company and payable on the Initial Securities but not payable on the Option Securities. The option hereby granted may be exercised for 30 days after the date hereof and may be exercised in whole or in part at any time from time to time upon notice by the Representatives to the Company setting forth the number of Option Securities as to which the several Underwriters are then exercising the option and the time and date of payment and delivery for such Option Securities. Any such time and date of delivery (a "Date of Delivery") shall be determined by the Representatives, but shall not be later than seven full business days after the exercise of said option, nor in any event prior to the Closing Time. If the option is exercised as to all or any portion of the Option Securities, each of the Underwriters, acting severally and not jointly, will purchase that proportion of the total number of Option Securities then being purchased which the number of Initial Securities set forth in Schedule A opposite the name of such Underwriter bears to the total number of Initial Securities, subject, in each case, to such adjustments as the Representatives in their sole discretion shall make to eliminate any sales or purchases of fractional shares.

(c) *Payment.* Payment of the purchase price for, and delivery of certificates or security entitlements for, the Initial Securities shall be made at the offices of Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP, or at such other place as shall be agreed upon by the Representatives and the Company, at 9:00 A.M. (New York City time) on the second (third, if the pricing occurs after 4:30 P.M. (New York City time) on any given day) business day after the date hereof (unless postponed in accordance with the provisions of Section 10), or such other time not later than ten business days after such date as shall be agreed upon by the Representatives and the Company (such time and date of payment and delivery being herein called "Closing Time").

In addition, in the event that any or all of the Option Securities are purchased by the Underwriters, payment of the purchase price for, and delivery of certificates or security entitlements for, such Option Securities shall be made at the above-mentioned offices, or at such other place as shall be agreed upon by the Representatives and the Company, on each Date of Delivery as specified in the notice from the Representatives to the Company.

Payment shall be made to the Company by wire transfer of immediately available funds to a bank account designated by the Company and against delivery to the Representatives for the respective accounts of the Underwriters of certificates or security entitlements for the Securities to be purchased by them. It is understood that each Underwriter has authorized the Representatives, for its account, to accept delivery of,

receipt for, and make payment of the purchase price for, the Initial Securities and the Option Securities, if any, which it has agreed to purchase. Merrill Lynch, individually and not as representative of the Underwriters, may (but shall not be obligated to) make payment of the purchase price for the Initial Securities or the Option Securities, if any, to be purchased by any Underwriter whose funds have not been received by the Closing Time or the relevant Date of Delivery, as the case may be, but such payment shall not relieve such Underwriter from its obligations hereunder.

SECTION 3. Covenants of the Company. The Company covenants with each Underwriter as follows:

(a) *Compliance with Securities Regulations and Commission Requests*. The Company, subject to Section 3(b), will comply with the requirements of Rule 430B, and will notify the Representatives immediately, and confirm the notice in writing, (i) when any post-effective amendment to the Registration Statement shall become effective or any amendment or supplement to the Prospectus shall have been filed, (ii) of the receipt of any comments from the Commission, (iii) of any request by the Commission for any amendment to the Registration Statement or any amendment or supplement to the Prospectus, including any document incorporated by reference therein or for additional information, (iv) of the issuance by the Commission of any stop order suspending the effectiveness of the Registration Statement or any post-effective amendment or of any order preventing or suspending the use of any preliminary prospectus or the Prospectus, or of the suspension of the qualification of the Securities for offering or sale in any jurisdiction, or of the initiation or threatening of any proceedings for any of such purposes or of any examination pursuant to Section 8(d) or 8(e) of the 1933 Act concerning the Registration Statement and (v) if the Company becomes the subject of a proceeding under Section 8A of the 1933 Act in connection with the offering of the Securities. The Company will effect all filings required under Rule 424(b), in the manner and within the time period required by Rule 424(b) (without reliance on Rule 424(b)(8)), and will take such steps as it deems necessary to ascertain promptly whether the form of prospectus transmitted for filing under Rule 424(b) was received for filing by the Commission and, in the event that it was not, it will promptly file such prospectus. The Company will make every reasonable effort to prevent the issuance of any stop order, prevention or suspension and, if any such order is issued, to obtain the lifting thereof at the earliest possible moment. The Company shall pay the required Commission filing fees relating to the Securities within the time required by Rule 456(b)(1)(i) under the 1933 Act Regulations without regard to the proviso therein and otherwise in accordance with Rules 456(b) and 457(r) under the 1933 Act Regulations (including, if applicable, by updating the "Calculation of Registration Fee" table in accordance with Rule 456(b)(1)(ii) either in a post-effective amendment to the Registration Statement or on the cover page of a prospectus filed pursuant to Rule 424(b)).

(b) *Continued Compliance with Securities Laws*. The Company will comply with the 1933 Act, the 1933 Act Regulations, the 1934 Act and the 1934 Act Regulations so as to permit the completion of the distribution of the Securities as contemplated in this Agreement and in each of the Registration Statement, the General Disclosure Package and the Prospectus. If at any time when a prospectus relating to the Securities is (or, but for the exception afforded by Rule 172 of the 1933 Act Regulations ("Rule 172"), would be) required by the 1933 Act to be delivered in connection with sales of the Securities, any event shall occur or condition shall exist as a result of which it is necessary, in the opinion of counsel for the Underwriters or for the Company, to (i) amend the Registration Statement in order that the Registration Statement will not include an untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact required to be stated therein or necessary to make the statements therein not misleading, (ii) amend or supplement the General Disclosure Package or the Prospectus in order that the General Disclosure Package or the Prospectus, as the case may be, will not include any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact necessary in order to make the statements therein not misleading in the light of the circumstances existing at the time it is delivered to a purchaser or (iii) amend the Registration Statement or amend or supplement the General Disclosure Package or the Prospectus, as the case may be, in order to

comply with the requirements of the 1933 Act or the 1933 Act Regulations, the Company will promptly (A) give the Representatives notice of such event, (B) prepare any amendment or supplement as may be necessary to correct such statement or omission or to make each of the Registration Statement, the General Disclosure Package or the Prospectus comply with such requirements and, a reasonable amount of time prior to any proposed filing or use, furnish the Representatives with copies of any such amendment or supplement and (C) file with the Commission any such amendment or supplement; provided that the Company shall not file or use any such amendment or supplement to which the Representatives or counsel for the Underwriters shall object. The Company will furnish to the Underwriters such number of copies of such amendment or supplement as the Underwriters may reasonably request. The Company has given the Representatives notice of any filings made pursuant to the 1934 Act or 1934 Act Regulations within 48 hours prior to the Applicable Time; the Company will give the Representatives notice of its intention to make any such filing from the Applicable Time to the Closing Time and will furnish the Representatives with copies of any such documents a reasonable amount of time prior to such proposed filing, as the case may be, and will not file or use any such document to which the Representatives or counsel for the Underwriters shall reasonably object.

(c) *Delivery of Registration Statements.* The Company has furnished or will deliver to the Representatives and counsel for the Underwriters, without charge, signed copies of the Registration Statement as originally filed and each amendment thereto (including exhibits filed therewith or incorporated by reference therein and documents incorporated or deemed to be incorporated by reference therein) and signed copies of all consents and certificates of experts, and will also deliver to the Representatives, without charge, a conformed copy of the Registration Statement as originally filed and each amendment thereto (without exhibits) for each of the Underwriters. The copies of the Registration Statement and each amendment thereto furnished to the Underwriters will be identical to the electronically transmitted copies thereof filed with the Commission pursuant to EDGAR, except to the extent permitted by Regulation S-T.

(d) *Delivery of Prospectuses.* The Company has delivered to each Underwriter, without charge, as many copies of each preliminary prospectus as such Underwriter reasonably requested, and the Company hereby consents to the use of such copies for purposes permitted by the 1933 Act. The Company will furnish to each Underwriter, without charge, during the period when a prospectus relating to the Securities is (or, but for the exception afforded by Rule 172, would be) required to be delivered under the 1933 Act, such number of copies of the Prospectus (as amended or supplemented) as such Underwriter may reasonably request. The Prospectus and any amendments or supplements thereto furnished to the Underwriters will be identical to the electronically transmitted copies thereof filed with the Commission pursuant to EDGAR, except to the extent permitted by Regulation S-T.

(e) *Blue Sky Qualifications.* The Company will use its best efforts, in cooperation with the Underwriters, to qualify the Securities for offering and sale under the applicable securities laws of such states and other jurisdictions (domestic or foreign) as the Representatives may designate and to maintain such qualifications in effect so long as required to complete the distribution of the Securities; provided, however, that the Company shall not be obligated to file any general consent to service of process or to qualify as a foreign corporation or as a dealer in securities in any jurisdiction in which it is not so qualified or to subject itself to taxation in respect of doing business in any jurisdiction in which it is not otherwise so subject.

(f) *Rule 158.* The Company will timely file such reports pursuant to the 1934 Act as are necessary in order to make generally available to its securityholders as soon as practicable an earnings statement for the purposes of, and to provide to the Underwriters the benefits contemplated by, the last paragraph of Section 11(a) of the 1933 Act.

(g) *Use of Proceeds.* The Company will use the net proceeds received by it from the sale of the Securities in the manner specified in each of the Registration Statement, the General Disclosure Package and the Prospectus under “Use of Proceeds.”

(h) *Listing.* The Company will use its best efforts to effect and maintain the listing of the Securities on the Nasdaq Global Select Market.

(i) *Restriction on Sale of Securities.* During a period of 90 days from the date of the Prospectus, the Company will not, without the prior written consent of Merrill Lynch and J.P. Morgan, (i) directly or indirectly, offer, pledge, sell, contract to sell, sell any option or contract to purchase, purchase any option or contract to sell, grant any option, right or warrant to purchase or otherwise transfer or dispose of any shares of its common stock, par value \$0.01 per share (“Common Stock”), Class A Common Stock or Class B common stock, par value \$0.01 per share (“Class B Common Stock”), or any securities convertible into or exercisable or exchangeable for Common Stock, Class A Common Stock or Class B Common Stock or file any registration statement under the 1933 Act with respect to any of the foregoing or (ii) enter into any swap or any other agreement or any transaction that transfers, in whole or in part, directly or indirectly, the economic consequence of ownership of Common Stock, Class A Common Stock or Class B Common Stock, whether any such swap or transaction described in clause (i) or (ii) above is to be settled by delivery of Common Stock, Class A Common Stock, Class B Common Stock or other securities, in cash or otherwise. The foregoing sentence shall not apply to (A) the Securities to be sold hereunder, (B) any shares of Common Stock or Class A Common Stock issued by the Company upon the exercise of an option or warrant or the conversion of a security outstanding on the date hereof and referred to in each of the Registration Statement, the General Disclosure Package and the Prospectus, (C) any shares of Common Stock or Class A Common Stock issued or options to purchase Common Stock or Class A Common Stock granted pursuant to existing employee benefit plans of the Company referred to in each of the Registration Statement, the General Disclosure Package and the Prospectus or (D) any shares of Common Stock or Class A Common Stock issued pursuant to any non-employee director stock plan or dividend reinvestment plan referred to in each of the Registration Statement, the General Disclosure Package and the Prospectus.

(j) *Reporting Requirements.* The Company, during the period when a Prospectus relating to the Securities is (or, but for the exception afforded by Rule 172, would be) required to be delivered under the 1933 Act, will file all documents required to be filed with the Commission pursuant to the 1934 Act within the time periods required by the 1934 Act and 1934 Act Regulations. Additionally, the Company shall report the use of proceeds from the issuance of the Securities as may be required under Rule 463 under the 1933 Act.

(k) *Issuer Free Writing Prospectuses.* The Company agrees that, unless it obtains the prior written consent of the Representatives, it will not make any offer relating to the Securities that would constitute an Issuer Free Writing Prospectus or that would otherwise constitute a “free writing prospectus,” or a portion thereof, required to be filed by the Company with the Commission or retained by the Company under Rule 433; provided that the Representatives will be deemed to have consented to the Issuer Free Writing Prospectuses listed on Schedule B-2 hereto and any “road show that is a written communication” within the meaning of Rule 433(d)(8)(i) that has been reviewed by the Representatives. The Company represents that it has treated or agrees that it will treat each such free writing prospectus consented to, or deemed consented to, by the Representatives as an “issuer free writing prospectus,” as defined in Rule 433, and that it has complied and will comply with the applicable requirements of Rule 433 with respect thereto, including timely filing with the Commission where required, legending and record keeping. If at any time following issuance of an Issuer Free Writing Prospectus there occurred or occurs an event or development as a result of which such Issuer Free Writing Prospectus conflicted or would conflict with the information contained in the Registration Statement, any preliminary prospectus or the Prospectus or included or would

include an untrue statement of a material fact or omitted or would omit to state a material fact necessary in order to make the statements therein, in the light of the circumstances existing at that subsequent time, not misleading, the Company will promptly notify the Representatives and will promptly amend or supplement, at its own expense, such Issuer Free Writing Prospectus to eliminate or correct such conflict, untrue statement or omission.

SECTION 4. Payment of Expenses.

(a) *Expenses.* The Company will pay or cause to be paid all expenses incident to the performance of its obligations under this Agreement, including (i) the preparation, printing and filing of the Registration Statement (including financial statements and exhibits) as originally filed and each amendment thereto, (ii) the preparation, printing and delivery to the Underwriters of copies of each preliminary prospectus, each Issuer Free Writing Prospectus and the Prospectus and any amendments or supplements thereto and any costs associated with electronic delivery of any of the foregoing by the Underwriters to investors, (iii) the preparation, issuance and delivery of the certificates or security entitlements for the Securities to the Underwriters, including any stock or other transfer taxes and any stamp or other duties payable upon the sale, issuance or delivery of the Securities to the Underwriters, (iv) the fees and disbursements of the Company's counsel, accountants and other advisors, (v) the qualification of the Securities under securities laws in accordance with the provisions of Section 3(e) hereof, including filing fees and the reasonable fees and disbursements of counsel for the Underwriters (not to exceed \$7,550) in connection therewith and in connection with the preparation of the Blue Sky Survey and any supplement thereto, (vi) the fees and expenses of any transfer agent or registrar for the Securities, (vii) the costs and expenses of the Company relating to investor presentations on any "road show" undertaken in connection with the marketing of the Securities, including without limitation, expenses associated with the production of road show slides and graphics, fees and expenses of any consultants engaged in connection with the road show presentations, travel and lodging expenses of the representatives and officers of the Company and any such consultants, and the cost of aircraft and other transportation chartered in connection with the road show (provided that any expenses or costs associated with any chartered aircraft authorized by the Company and used in connection with any "road show" presentation to potential investors will be paid 50% by the Company and 50% by the Underwriters), (viii) the reasonable fees and disbursements of counsel to the Underwriters in connection with Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc. ("FINRA") matters relating to the sale of the Securities, (ix) the fees and expenses incurred in connection with the listing of the Securities on the Nasdaq Global Select Market and (x) the costs and expenses (including, without limitation, any damages or other amounts payable in connection with legal or contractual liability) associated with the reforming of any contracts for sale of the Securities made by the Underwriters caused by a breach of the representation contained in the third sentence of Section 1(a)(ii). Except as provided in Section 6 and this Section 4, the Underwriters shall pay their own expenses, including the fees and disbursements of their counsel.

(b) *Termination of Agreement.* If this Agreement is terminated by the Representatives in accordance with the provisions of Section 5, Section 9(a)(i) or (iii) or Section 10 hereof, the Company shall reimburse the Underwriters for all of their out-of-pocket expenses, including the reasonable fees and disbursements of counsel for the Underwriters.

SECTION 5. Conditions of Underwriters' Obligations. The obligations of the several Underwriters hereunder are subject to the accuracy of the representations and warranties of the Company contained herein or in certificates of any officer of the Company or any of its subsidiaries delivered pursuant to the provisions hereof, to the performance by the Company of its covenants and other obligations hereunder, and to the following further conditions:

(a) *Effectiveness of Registration Statement.* The Registration Statement has become effective and, at the Closing Time, no stop order suspending the effectiveness of the Registration Statement or any post-effective amendment thereto has been issued under the 1933 Act, no order preventing or suspending the use of any preliminary prospectus or the Prospectus has been issued and no proceedings for any of those purposes have been instituted or are pending or, to the Company's knowledge, contemplated; and the Company has complied with each request (if any) from the Commission for additional information. The Company shall have paid the required Commission filing fees relating to the Securities within the time period required by Rule 456(b)(1)(i) under the 1933 Act Regulations without regard to the proviso therein and otherwise in accordance with Rules 456(b) and 457(r) under the 1933 Act Regulations and, if applicable, shall have updated the "Calculation of Registration Fee" table in accordance with Rule 456(b)(1)(ii) either in a post-effective amendment to the Registration Statement or on the cover page of a prospectus filed pursuant to Rule 424(b).

(b) *Opinion of Counsel for Company.* At the Closing Time, the Representatives shall have received the written opinion and 10b-5 statement, dated the Closing Time, of Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP, counsel for the Company, in form and substance satisfactory to counsel for the Underwriters, to the effect set forth in Exhibit A hereto and to such further effect as counsel to the Underwriters may reasonably request.

(c) *Opinion of Counsel for Underwriters.* At the Closing Time, the Representatives shall have received the written opinion and 10b-5 statement, dated the Closing Time, of Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP, counsel for the Underwriters, with respect to such matters as the Representatives may reasonably request, and such counsel shall have received such documents and information as they may reasonably request to enable them to pass upon such matters.

(d) *Officer's Certificate.* At the Closing Time, there shall not have been, since the date hereof or since the respective dates as of which information is given in each of the Registration Statement, the General Disclosure Package or the Prospectus, any material adverse change in the condition, financial or otherwise, or in the earnings, business affairs or business prospects of the Company and its subsidiaries considered as one enterprise, whether or not arising in the ordinary course of business, and the Representatives shall have received a certificate of an executive officer of the Company who has specific knowledge of the Company's financial matters and is satisfactory to the Representatives, dated the Closing Time, to the effect that (i) there has been no such material adverse change, (ii) the representations and warranties of the Company in this Agreement are true and correct with the same force and effect as though expressly made at and as of the Closing Time, (iii) the Company has complied with all agreements and satisfied all conditions on its part to be performed or satisfied at or prior to the Closing Time and (iv) no stop order suspending the effectiveness of the Registration Statement under the 1933 Act has been issued, no order preventing or suspending the use of any preliminary prospectus or the Prospectus has been issued and no proceedings for any of those purposes have been instituted or are pending or, to its knowledge, contemplated.

(e) *Accountant's Comfort Letter.* At the time of the execution of this Agreement, the Representatives shall have received from Deloitte & Touche LLP a letter, dated such date, in form and substance satisfactory to the Representatives, containing statements and information of the type ordinarily included in accountants' "comfort letters" to underwriters with respect to the financial statements and certain financial information contained in each of the Registration Statement, the General Disclosure Package and the Prospectus.

(f) *Bring-down Comfort Letter.* At the Closing Time, the Representatives shall have received from Deloitte & Touche LLP a letter, dated as of the Closing Time, to the effect that they reaffirm the statements made in the letter furnished pursuant to subsection (e) of this Section, except that the specified date referred to shall be a date not more than three business days prior to the Closing Time.

(g) *Approval of Listing.* At the Closing Time, the Securities shall have been approved for listing on the Nasdaq Global Select Market, subject only to official notice of issuance.

(h) *Lock-up Agreements.* At the date of this Agreement, the Representatives shall have received an agreement substantially in the form of Exhibit B hereto signed by the persons listed on Schedule C hereto.

(i) *Maintenance of Rating.* Since the execution of this Agreement, there shall not have been any decrease in or withdrawal of the rating of any securities of the Company or any of its subsidiaries by any “nationally recognized statistical rating organization” (as defined in Section 3(a)(62) of the 1934 Act) or any notice given of any intended or potential decrease in or withdrawal of any such rating or of a possible change in any such rating that does not indicate the direction of the possible change.

(j) *Conditions to Purchase of Option Securities.* In the event that the Underwriters exercise their option provided in Section 2(b) hereof to purchase all or any portion of the Option Securities, the representations and warranties of the Company contained herein and the statements in any certificates furnished by the Company hereunder shall be true and correct as of each Date of Delivery and, at the relevant Date of Delivery, the Representatives shall have received:

(i) *Officer’s Certificate.* A certificate, dated such Date of Delivery, of an executive officer of the Company who has specific knowledge of the Company’s financial matters and is satisfactory to the Representatives, confirming that the certificate delivered at the Closing Time pursuant to Section 5(d) hereof remains true and correct as of such Date of Delivery.

(ii) *Opinion of Counsel for Company.* If requested by the Representatives, the written opinion and 10b-5 statement of Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP, in form and substance satisfactory to counsel for the Underwriters, dated such Date of Delivery, relating to the Option Securities to be purchased on such Date of Delivery and otherwise to the same effect as the opinion required by Section 5(b) hereof.

(iii) *Opinion of Counsel for Underwriters.* If requested by the Representatives, the written opinion and 10b-5 statement of Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP, counsel for the Underwriters, dated such Date of Delivery, relating to the Option Securities to be purchased on such Date of Delivery and otherwise to the same effect as the opinion required by Section 5(c) hereof.

(vi) *Bring-down Comfort Letter.* If requested by the Representatives, a letter from Deloitte & Touche LLP, in form and substance satisfactory to the Representatives and dated such Date of Delivery, substantially in the same form and substance as the letter furnished to the Representatives pursuant to Section 5(e) hereof, except that the “specified date” in the letter furnished pursuant to this paragraph shall be a date not more than three business days prior to such Date of Delivery.

(k) *Additional Documents.* At the Closing Time and at each Date of Delivery (if any) counsel for the Underwriters shall have been furnished with such documents and opinions as they may require for the purpose of enabling them to pass upon the issuance and sale of the Securities as herein contemplated, or in order to evidence the accuracy of any of the representations or warranties, or the fulfillment of any of the conditions, herein contained; and all proceedings taken by the Company in connection with the issuance and sale of the Securities as herein contemplated shall be satisfactory in form and substance to the Representatives and counsel for the Underwriters.

(l) *Termination of Agreement.* If any condition specified in this Section shall not have been fulfilled when and as required to be fulfilled, this Agreement, or, in the case of any condition to the purchase of Option Securities on a Date of Delivery which is after the Closing Time, the obligations of the several Underwriters to purchase the relevant Option Securities, may be terminated by the Representatives by notice to the Company at any time at or prior to Closing Time or such Date of Delivery, as the case may be, and such termination shall be without liability of any party to any other party except as provided in Section 4 and except that Sections 1, 6, 7, 8, 14, 15 and 16 shall survive any such termination and remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 6. Indemnification.

(a) *Indemnification of Underwriters.* The Company agrees to indemnify and hold harmless each Underwriter, its affiliates (as such term is defined in Rule 501(b) under the 1933 Act (each, an "Affiliate")), its selling agents and each person, if any, who controls any Underwriter within the meaning of Section 15 of the 1933 Act or Section 20 of the 1934 Act as follows:

(i) against any and all loss, liability, claim, damage and expense whatsoever, as incurred, arising out of any untrue statement or alleged untrue statement of a material fact contained in the Registration Statement (or any amendment thereto), including any information deemed to be a part thereof pursuant to Rule 430B, or the omission or alleged omission therefrom of a material fact required to be stated therein or necessary to make the statements therein not misleading or arising out of any untrue statement or alleged untrue statement of a material fact included (A) in any preliminary prospectus, any Issuer Free Writing Prospectus, the General Disclosure Package or the Prospectus (or any amendment or supplement thereto) or (B) in any materials or information provided to investors by, or with the approval of, the Company in connection with the marketing of the offering of the Securities ("Marketing Materials"), including any roadshow or investor presentations made to investors by the Company (whether in person or electronically), or the omission or alleged omission in any preliminary prospectus, Issuer Free Writing Prospectus, Prospectus or in any Marketing Materials of a material fact necessary in order to make the statements therein, in the light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading;

(ii) against any and all loss, liability, claim, damage and expense whatsoever, as incurred, to the extent of the aggregate amount paid in settlement of any litigation, or any investigation or proceeding by any governmental agency or body, commenced or threatened, or of any claim whatsoever based upon any such untrue statement or omission, or any such alleged untrue statement or omission; provided that (subject to Section 6(d) below) any such settlement is effected with the written consent of the Company;

(iii) against any and all expense whatsoever, as incurred (including the fees and disbursements of counsel chosen by the Representatives), reasonably incurred in investigating, preparing or defending against any litigation, or any investigation or proceeding by any governmental agency or body, commenced or threatened, or any claim whatsoever based upon any such untrue statement or omission, or any such alleged untrue statement or omission, to the extent that any such expense is not paid under (i) or (ii) above;

provided, however, that this indemnity agreement shall not apply to any loss, liability, claim, damage or expense to the extent arising out of any untrue statement or omission or alleged untrue statement or omission made in the Registration Statement (or any amendment thereto), including any information deemed to be a part thereof pursuant to Rule 430B, the General Disclosure Package or the Prospectus (or any amendment or supplement thereto) in reliance upon and in conformity with the Underwriter Information.

(b) *Indemnification of Company, Directors and Officers.* Each Underwriter severally agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the Company, its directors, each of its officers who signed the Registration Statement, and each person, if any, who controls the Company within the meaning of Section 15 of the 1933 Act or Section 20 of the 1934 Act, against any and all loss, liability, claim, damage and expense described in the indemnity contained in subsection (a) of this Section, as incurred, but only with respect to untrue statements or omissions, or alleged untrue statements or omissions, made in the Registration Statement (or any amendment thereto), including any information deemed to be a part thereof pursuant to Rule 430B, the General Disclosure Package or the Prospectus (or any amendment or supplement thereto) in reliance upon and in conformity with the Underwriter Information.

(c) *Actions against Parties; Notification.* Each indemnified party shall give notice as promptly as reasonably practicable to each indemnifying party of any action commenced against it in respect of which indemnity may be sought hereunder, but failure to so notify an indemnifying party shall not relieve such indemnifying party from any liability hereunder to the extent it is not materially prejudiced as a result thereof and in any event shall not relieve it from any liability which it may have otherwise than on account of this indemnity agreement. In the case of parties indemnified pursuant to Section 6(a) above, counsel to the indemnified parties shall be selected by the Representatives, and, in the case of parties indemnified pursuant to Section 6(b) above, counsel to the indemnified parties shall be selected by the Company. An indemnifying party may participate at its own expense in the defense of any such action; provided, however, that counsel to the indemnifying party shall not (except with the consent of the indemnified party) also be counsel to the indemnified party. In no event shall the indemnifying parties be liable for fees and expenses of more than one counsel (in addition to any local counsel) separate from their own counsel for all indemnified parties in connection with any one action or separate but similar or related actions in the same jurisdiction arising out of the same general allegations or circumstances. No indemnifying party shall, without the prior written consent of the indemnified parties, settle or compromise or consent to the entry of any judgment with respect to any litigation, or any investigation or proceeding by any governmental agency or body, commenced or threatened, or any claim whatsoever in respect of which indemnification or contribution could be sought under this Section 6 or Section 7 hereof (whether or not the indemnified parties are actual or potential parties thereto), unless such settlement, compromise or consent (i) includes an unconditional release of each indemnified party from all liability arising out of such litigation, investigation, proceeding or claim and (ii) does not include a statement as to or an admission of fault, culpability or a failure to act by or on behalf of any indemnified party.

(d) *Settlement without Consent if Failure to Reimburse.* If at any time an indemnified party shall have requested an indemnifying party to reimburse the indemnified party for fees and expenses of counsel, such indemnifying party agrees that it shall be liable for any settlement of the nature contemplated by Section 6(a)(ii) effected without its written consent if (i) such settlement is entered into more than 45 days after receipt by such indemnifying party of the aforesaid request, (ii) such indemnifying party shall have received notice of the terms of such settlement at least 30 days prior to such settlement being entered into and (iii) such indemnifying party shall not have reimbursed such indemnified party in accordance with such request prior to the date of such settlement.

SECTION 7. Contribution. If the indemnification provided for in Section 6 hereof is for any reason unavailable to or insufficient to hold harmless an indemnified party in respect of any losses, liabilities, claims, damages or expenses referred to therein, then each indemnifying party shall contribute to the aggregate amount of such losses, liabilities, claims, damages and expenses incurred by such indemnified party, as incurred, (i) in such proportion as is appropriate to reflect the relative benefits received by the Company, on the one hand, and the Underwriters, on the other hand, from the offering of the

Securities pursuant to this Agreement or (ii) if the allocation provided by clause (i) is not permitted by applicable law, in such proportion as is appropriate to reflect not only the relative benefits referred to in clause (i) above but also the relative fault of the Company, on the one hand, and of the Underwriters, on the other hand, in connection with the statements or omissions which resulted in such losses, liabilities, claims, damages or expenses, as well as any other relevant equitable considerations.

The relative benefits received by the Company, on the one hand, and the Underwriters, on the other hand, in connection with the offering of the Securities pursuant to this Agreement shall be deemed to be in the same respective proportions as the total net proceeds from the offering of the Securities pursuant to this Agreement (before deducting expenses) received by the Company, on the one hand, and the total underwriting discount received by the Underwriters, on the other hand, in each case as set forth on the cover of the Prospectus, bear to the aggregate initial public offering price of the Securities as set forth on the cover of the Prospectus.

The relative fault of the Company, on the one hand, and the Underwriters, on the other hand, shall be determined by reference to, among other things, whether any such untrue or alleged untrue statement of a material fact or omission or alleged omission to state a material fact relates to information supplied by the Company or by the Underwriters and the parties' relative intent, knowledge, access to information and opportunity to correct or prevent such statement or omission.

The Company and the Underwriters agree that it would not be just and equitable if contribution pursuant to this Section 7 were determined by pro rata allocation (even if the Underwriters were treated as one entity for such purpose) or by any other method of allocation which does not take account of the equitable considerations referred to above in this Section 7. The aggregate amount of losses, liabilities, claims, damages and expenses incurred by an indemnified party and referred to above in this Section 7 shall be deemed to include any legal or other expenses reasonably incurred by such indemnified party in investigating, preparing or defending against any litigation, or any investigation or proceeding by any governmental agency or body, commenced or threatened, or any claim whatsoever based upon any such untrue or alleged untrue statement or omission or alleged omission.

Notwithstanding the provisions of this Section 7, no Underwriter shall be required to contribute any amount in excess of the underwriting commissions received by such Underwriter in connection with the Shares underwritten by it and distributed to the public.

No person guilty of fraudulent misrepresentation (within the meaning of Section 11(f) of the 1933 Act) shall be entitled to contribution from any person who was not guilty of such fraudulent misrepresentation.

For purposes of this Section 7, each person, if any, who controls an Underwriter within the meaning of Section 15 of the 1933 Act or Section 20 of the 1934 Act and each Underwriter's Affiliates and selling agents shall have the same rights to contribution as such Underwriter, and each director of the Company, each officer of the Company who signed the Registration Statement, and each person, if any, who controls the Company within the meaning of Section 15 of the 1933 Act or Section 20 of the 1934 Act shall have the same rights to contribution as the Company. The Underwriters' respective obligations to contribute pursuant to this Section 7 are several in proportion to the number of Initial Securities set forth opposite their respective names in Schedule A hereto and not joint.

SECTION 8. Representations, Warranties and Agreements to Survive. All representations, warranties and agreements contained in this Agreement or in certificates of officers of the Company or any of its subsidiaries submitted pursuant hereto, shall remain operative and in full force and effect regardless of (i) any investigation made by or on behalf of any Underwriter or its Affiliates or selling agents, any person controlling any Underwriter, its officers or directors, or any person controlling the Company and (ii) delivery of and payment for the Securities.

SECTION 9. Termination of Agreement.

(a) *Termination.* The Representatives may terminate this Agreement, by notice to the Company, at any time at or prior to the Closing Time (i) if there has been, in the judgment of the Representatives, since the time of execution of this Agreement or since the respective dates as of which information is given in each of the Registration Statement, the General Disclosure Package or the Prospectus, any material adverse change in the condition, financial or otherwise, or in the earnings, business affairs or business prospects of the Company and its subsidiaries considered as one enterprise, whether or not arising in the ordinary course of business, or (ii) if there has occurred any material adverse change in the financial markets in the United States or the international financial markets, any outbreak of hostilities or escalation thereof or other calamity or crisis or any change or development involving a prospective change in national or international political, financial or economic conditions, in each case the effect of which is such as to make it, in the judgment of the Representatives, impracticable or inadvisable to proceed with the completion of the offering or to enforce contracts for the sale of the Securities, or (iii) if trading in any securities of the Company has been suspended or materially limited by the Commission or the Nasdaq Global Select Market, or (iv) if trading generally on the NYSE MKT or the New York Stock Exchange or in the Nasdaq Global Select Market has been suspended or materially limited, or minimum or maximum prices for trading have been fixed, or maximum ranges for prices have been required, by any of said exchanges or by order of the Commission, FINRA or any other governmental authority, or (v) a material disruption has occurred in commercial banking or securities settlement or clearance services in the United States or with respect to Clearstream or Euroclear systems in Europe, or (vi) if a banking moratorium has been declared by either Federal or New York authorities.

(b) *Liabilities.* If this Agreement is terminated pursuant to this Section, such termination shall be without liability of any party to any other party except as provided in Section 4 hereof, and provided further that Sections 1, 6, 7, 8, 14, 15 and 16 shall survive such termination and remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 10. Default by One or More of the Underwriters. If one or more of the Underwriters shall fail at the Closing Time or a Date of Delivery to purchase the Securities which it or they are obligated to purchase under this Agreement (the "Defaulted Securities"), the Representatives shall have the right, within 24 hours thereafter, to make arrangements for one or more of the non-defaulting Underwriters, or any other underwriters, to purchase all, but not less than all, of the Defaulted Securities in such amounts as may be agreed upon and upon the terms herein set forth; if, however, the Representatives shall not have completed such arrangements within such 24-hour period, then:

(i) if the number of Defaulted Securities does not exceed 10% of the number of Securities to be purchased on such date, each of the non-defaulting Underwriters shall be obligated, severally and not jointly, to purchase the full amount thereof in the proportions that their respective underwriting obligations hereunder bear to the underwriting obligations of all non-defaulting Underwriters, or

(ii) if the number of Defaulted Securities exceeds 10% of the number of Securities to be purchased on such date, this Agreement or, with respect to any Date of Delivery which occurs after the Closing Time, the obligation of the Underwriters to purchase, and the Company to sell, the Option Securities to be purchased and sold on such Date of Delivery shall terminate without liability on the part of any non-defaulting Underwriter.

No action taken pursuant to this Section shall relieve any defaulting Underwriter from liability in respect of its default.

In the event of any such default which does not result in a termination of this Agreement or, in the case of a Date of Delivery which is after the Closing Time, which does not result in a termination of the obligation of the Underwriters to purchase and the Company to sell the relevant Option Securities, as the case may be, either the Representatives or the Company shall have the right to postpone Closing Time or the relevant Date of Delivery, as the case may be, for a period not exceeding seven days in order to effect any required changes in each of the Registration Statement, the General Disclosure Package or the Prospectus or in any other documents or arrangements. As used herein, the term "Underwriter" includes any person substituted for an Underwriter under this Section 10.

SECTION 11. Notices. All notices and other communications hereunder shall be in writing and shall be deemed to have been duly given if mailed or transmitted by any standard form of telecommunication. Notices to the Underwriters shall be directed to Merrill Lynch at One Bryant Park, New York, New York 10036, attention of Syndicate Department (facsimile: (646) 855-3073), with a copy to ECM Legal (facsimile: (212)230-8730), to J.P. Morgan at 383 Madison Avenue, New York, New York 10179, attention of Equity Syndicate Desk (facsimile: (212) 622-8358), to BMO at 3 Times Square, New York, New York 10036, attention of Equity Syndicate (facsimile: (212) 885-4165), and to SunTrust at 3333 Peachtree Road NE, 11th Floor, Atlanta, Georgia 30326, attention of Equity Capital Origination (facsimile: (404) 926-5940), with a copy to Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP at 425 Lexington Avenue, New York, New York 10017, attention of David Azarkh (facsimile: (212) 455-2502); and notices to the Company shall be directed to it at Central Garden & Pet Company, 1340 Treat Boulevard, Suite 600, Walnut Creek, California 94597, attention of Chief Executive Officer (facsimile: (925) 947-0914), with a copy to Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP at 405 Howard Street, San Francisco, California 94105, attention of Brett Cooper (facsimile: (415) 773-5759).

SECTION 12. No Advisory or Fiduciary Relationship. The Company acknowledges and agrees that (a) the purchase and sale of the Securities pursuant to this Agreement, including the determination of the initial public offering price of the Securities and any related discounts and commissions, is an arm's-length commercial transaction between the Company, on the one hand, and the several Underwriters, on the other hand, (b) in connection with the offering of the Securities and the process leading thereto, each Underwriter is and has been acting solely as a principal and is not the agent or fiduciary of the Company, any of its subsidiaries or its stockholders, creditors, employees or any other party, (c) no Underwriter has assumed or will assume an advisory or fiduciary responsibility in favor of the Company with respect to the offering of the Securities or the process leading thereto (irrespective of whether such Underwriter has advised or is currently advising the Company or any of its subsidiaries on other matters) and no Underwriter has any obligation to the Company with respect to the offering of the Securities except the obligations expressly set forth in this Agreement, (d) the Underwriters and their respective affiliates may be engaged in a broad range of transactions that involve interests that differ from those of the Company, and (e) the Underwriters have not provided any legal, accounting, regulatory or tax advice with respect to the offering of the Securities and the Company has consulted its own respective legal, accounting, regulatory and tax advisors to the extent it deemed appropriate.

SECTION 13. Parties. This Agreement shall each inure to the benefit of and be binding upon the Underwriters and the Company and their respective successors. Nothing expressed or mentioned in this Agreement is intended or shall be construed to give any person, firm or corporation, other than the Underwriters and the Company and their respective successors and the controlling persons and officers and directors referred to in Sections 6 and 7 and their heirs and legal representatives, any legal or equitable right, remedy or claim under or in respect of this Agreement or any provision herein contained. This Agreement and all conditions and provisions hereof are intended to be for the sole and exclusive benefit of

the Underwriters and the Company and their respective successors, and said controlling persons and officers and directors and their heirs and legal representatives, and for the benefit of no other person, firm or corporation. No purchaser of Securities from any Underwriter shall be deemed to be a successor by reason merely of such purchase.

SECTION 14. Trial by Jury. The Company (on its behalf and, to the extent permitted by applicable law, on behalf of its stockholders and affiliates) and each of the Underwriters hereby irrevocably waives, to the fullest extent permitted by applicable law, any and all right to trial by jury in any legal proceeding arising out of or relating to this Agreement or the transactions contemplated hereby.

SECTION 15. GOVERNING LAW. THIS AGREEMENT AND ANY CLAIM, CONTROVERSY OR DISPUTE ARISING UNDER OR RELATED TO THIS AGREEMENT SHALL BE GOVERNED BY, AND CONSTRUED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LAWS OF, THE STATE OF NEW YORK WITHOUT REGARD TO ITS CHOICE OF LAW PROVISIONS.

SECTION 16. Consent to Jurisdiction: Waiver of Immunity. Any legal suit, action or proceeding arising out of or based upon this Agreement or the transactions contemplated hereby (“Related Proceedings”) shall be instituted in (i) the federal courts of the United States of America located in the City and County of New York, Borough of Manhattan or (ii) the courts of the State of New York located in the City and County of New York, Borough of Manhattan (collectively, the “Specified Courts”), and each party irrevocably submits to the exclusive jurisdiction (except for proceedings instituted in regard to the enforcement of a judgment of any such court (a “Related Judgment”), as to which such jurisdiction is non-exclusive) of such courts in any such suit, action or proceeding. Service of any process, summons, notice or document by mail to such party’s address set forth above shall be effective service of process for any suit, action or other proceeding brought in any such court. The parties irrevocably and unconditionally waive any objection to the laying of venue of any suit, action or other proceeding in the Specified Courts and irrevocably and unconditionally waive and agree not to plead or claim in any such court that any such suit, action or other proceeding brought in any such court has been brought in an inconvenient forum.

SECTION 17. TIME. TIME SHALL BE OF THE ESSENCE OF THIS AGREEMENT. EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE SET FORTH HEREIN, SPECIFIED TIMES OF DAY REFER TO NEW YORK CITY TIME.

SECTION 18. Counterparts. This Agreement may be executed in any number of counterparts, each of which shall be deemed to be an original, but all such counterparts shall together constitute one and the same Agreement.

SECTION 19. Effect of Headings. The Section headings herein are for convenience only and shall not affect the construction hereof.

If the foregoing is in accordance with your understanding of our agreement, please sign and return to the Company a counterpart hereof, whereupon this instrument, along with all counterparts, will become a binding agreement among the Underwriters and the Company in accordance with its terms.

Very truly yours,

CENTRAL GARDEN & PET COMPANY

By /s/ Nicholas Lahanas

Name: Nicholas Lahanas

Title: Chief Financial Officer

CONFIRMED AND ACCEPTED,
as of the date first above
written:

MERRILL LYNCH, PIERCE, FENNER & SMITH
INCORPORATED

By /s/ Kurt Sunderman
Name: Kurt Sunderman
Title: Managing Director

J.P. MORGAN SECURITIES LLC

By /s/ Jason Fournier
Name: Jason Fournier
Title: Managing Director

BMO CAPITAL MARKETS CORP.

By /s/ Steven Tuch
Name: Steven Tuch
Title: Managing Director

SUNTRUST ROBINSON HUMPHREY, INC.

By /s/ Patrick Garrett
Name: Patrick Garrett
Title: Managing Director

For themselves and as Representatives of the other Underwriters named in Schedule A hereto.

SCHEDULE A

The initial public offering price per share for the Securities shall be \$37.00.

The purchase price per share for the Securities to be paid by the several Underwriters shall be \$35.335, being an amount equal to the initial public offering price set forth above less \$1.665 per share, subject to adjustment in accordance with Section 2(b) for dividends or distributions declared by the Company and payable on the Initial Securities but not payable on the Option Securities.

<u>Name of Underwriter</u>	<u>Number of Initial Securities</u>
Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated	1,521,000
J.P. Morgan Securities LLC	1,217,000
BMO Capital Markets Corp.	913,000
SunTrust Robinson Humphrey, Inc.	913,000
Barclays Capital Inc.	218,000
KeyBanc Capital Markets Inc.	218,000
Total	<u>5,000,000</u>

Sch A-1

SCHEDULE B-1

Pricing Terms

1. The Company is selling 5,000,000 shares of Class A Common Stock.
2. The Company has granted an option to the Underwriters, severally and not jointly, to purchase up to an additional 750,000 shares of Class A Common Stock.
3. The initial public offering price per share for the Securities shall be \$37.00.

Sch B-1-1

SCHEDULE B-2

Free Writing Prospectuses

None.

Sch B-2-1

SCHEDULE C

List of Persons and Entities Subject to Lock-up

William E. Brown
Nicholas Lahanas
William L. Lynch
George C. Roeth
Kay M. Schwichtenberg
George A. Yuhas

John B. Balousek
Thomas J. Colligan
Michael J. Edwards
Brooks M. Pennington III
John R. Ranelli
Mary Beth Springer
Andrew K. Woeber

Sch C-1

FORM OF OPINION OF COMPANY'S COUNSEL
TO BE DELIVERED PURSUANT TO SECTION 5(b)

August 13, 2018

Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith
Incorporated
J.P. Morgan Securities LLC
BMO Capital Markets Corp.
SunTrust Robinson Humphrey, Inc.
as Representatives of the several Underwriters

c/o Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith
Incorporated
One Bryant Park
New York, New York 10036

c/o J.P. Morgan Securities LLC
383 Madison Avenue
New York, New York 10179

c/o BMO Capital Markets Corp.
3 Times Square
New York, New York 10036

c/o SunTrust Robinson Humphrey, Inc.
3333 Peachtree Road
Atlanta, Georgia 30326

Re: Central Garden & Pet Company

Ladies and Gentlemen:

We have acted as special counsel to Central Garden & Pet Company, a Delaware corporation (the "Company") in connection with the purchase by you, subject to the terms and conditions set forth in the Underwriting Agreement, dated August 8, 2018 (the "Underwriting Agreement") by and between the Company and the representatives (the "Representatives") of the several underwriters named in Schedule A of the Underwriting Agreement (each an "Underwriter" and, collectively, the "Underwriters"), of 5,750,000 shares of the Company's Class A common stock, \$0.01 par value per share (the "Class A Common Stock"), consisting of (i) 5,000,000 shares to be sold by the Company (the "Firm Shares") and (ii) up to 750,000 shares that may be sold by the Company pursuant to an option (the "Optional Shares" and together with the Firm Shares, the "Shares"). This opinion is being delivered to you pursuant to Section 5(b) of the Underwriting Agreement. All capitalized terms used but not defined in this opinion shall have the meanings ascribed to such terms in the Underwriting Agreement. If the Underwriters have not exercised the option with respect to the Optional Shares as of the date hereof, "Shares" shall mean only the Firm Shares.

In such capacity, we have examined and relied on originals or copies, certified or otherwise identified to our satisfaction, of the following:

(a) The Certificate of Incorporation, as amended and restated ("Certificate of Incorporation"), and the Bylaws of the Company, as amended and restated ("Bylaws"), each as in effect at the date hereof, certified by the Secretary of State of the State of Delaware and the Secretary of the Company, respectively;

(b) Resolutions of the Board of Directors (the "Board") of the Company adopted on October 4, 2017 authorizing the preparation and filing of the Registration Statement and other actions with regard thereto, and resolutions of the Board adopted on August 3, 2018 authorizing the execution and delivery of the Underwriting Agreement and the issuance and sale of the Shares by the Company and the formation of the Pricing Committee of the Board, certified by the Secretary of the Company;

(c) Resolutions of the Pricing Committee of the Board adopted on August 8, 2018, authorizing the pricing of the Shares, certified by the Secretary of the Company;

(d) The registration statement on Form S-3 (File No. 333-221935) of the Company, which was filed on December 7, 2017 with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (the "Commission") under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "Securities Act"), and the general rules and regulations promulgated thereunder (the "Rules and Regulations") (such registration statement, as supplemented or amended at the date of the Underwriting Agreement, including all documents filed as part thereof or incorporated by reference therein, is referred to as the "Registration Statement");

(e) The base prospectus dated December 7, 2017, including all documents incorporated by reference therein (the "Base Prospectus") and the final prospectus supplement dated August 8, 2018, in the form filed by the Company with the Commission pursuant to Rule 424(b) of the Rules and Regulations, including all documents incorporated by reference therein (the "Prospectus Supplement" and, together with the Base Prospectus, the "Prospectus");

(f) The preliminary prospectus supplement that was filed with the Commission pursuant to Rule 424(b) and used prior to the filing of the Prospectus, including all documents incorporated by reference therein (together with the Base Prospectus, the "Preliminary Prospectus"), and the information identified on Schedule A attached hereto (together with the Preliminary Prospectus, the "General Disclosure Package");

(g) The Underwriting Agreement;

(h) The certificates of certain corporate officers delivered by the Company to you on the date hereof;

(i) The certificates of certain state authorities and filing officers, copies of which are being delivered to you on the date hereof;

- (j) The certificate of ComputerShare Trust Company, N.A. (the "Transfer Agent and Registrar") delivered to you on the date hereof;
- (k) The Company's instruction letter to the Transfer Agent and Registrar;
- (k) The other documents delivered on the Closing Date, including certificates of various corporate officers delivered by the Company to you on the date hereof;
- (l) A certificate from the Secretary of State of the State of Delaware indicating that the Company was in good standing as of August 8, 2018 (the "Company Good Standing Certificate");
- (m) The factual certificate of the Chief Financial Officer of the Company, of even date herewith; and
- (n) Such other instruments, corporate records, certificates, and other documents as we have deemed necessary as a basis for the opinion hereinafter expressed.

In our examination, we have assumed (a) the genuineness of all signatures of persons signing all documents in connection with which this opinion is rendered, (b) the authenticity of all documents submitted to us as originals, (c) the accuracy and completeness of all corporate records provided to us and the accuracy of the representations and warranties as to factual matters contained in or made pursuant to the Underwriting Agreement, (d) the conformity to original documents of all documents submitted to us as certified, conformed, reproduced, or photostatic copies and the authenticity of all originals of such documents and (e) the absence of any evidence extrinsic to the provisions of the written agreements between the parties that the parties intended a meaning contrary to that expressed by those provisions. We have not independently established the validity of the foregoing assumptions.

In rendering the opinions set forth below, we have relied, as to all matters of fact, solely upon and assumed, without independent investigation or verification, the truth, accuracy and completeness of the representations, warranties and statements contained in the Underwriting Agreement and records, documents, instruments and certificates we have reviewed, including without limitation, certificates of officers of the Company and certificates of public officials.

In rendering the opinions in paragraph 1 relating to the due incorporation, valid existence and good standing, as the case may be, of the Company, we have relied solely on the Certificate of Incorporation and the Good Standing Certificate.

Our opinion in paragraph 2 below is based solely upon our review of the Certificate of Incorporation and Bylaws of the Company provided to us by the Company, and upon certificates of officers of the Company and of the Transfer Agent and Registrar, and further assumes that the Company received the consideration approved by the Board of the Company for the Shares.

In rendering the opinion set forth in paragraph 4 below, the phrase “will not result in...the violation of any applicable law or statute or rule or regulation” means that such execution, delivery and performance by the Company is neither prohibited by, nor subjects the Company to, a fine, penalty or similar sanction that would be materially adverse to the Company and its subsidiaries, considered as one entity, under any federal, California, New York or Delaware statute or regulation that a lawyer in California or New York exercising customary professional diligence would reasonably recognize to be directly applicable to the Company or the transactions contemplated pursuant to the Underwriting Agreement, or both.

In rendering our opinion in paragraph 4 below with respect to Contractual Obligations, we have assumed that the agreements not governed under New York or California law will be interpreted and enforced in accordance with their plain meaning; and we have not reviewed the covenants in the Contractual Obligations that contain financial ratios or other similar financial restrictions, and no opinion is provided with respect thereto.

In rendering the opinion in paragraph 5 as to no violation, to our knowledge, of any judgment or order of any court or arbitrator or governmental or regulatory authority, we have not caused the search of any docket of any court or governmental authority.

With respect to our opinion in paragraph 9 below relating to no stop orders, we have relied solely on the <http://www.sec.gov/litigation/stoporders.shtml> webpage of the Commission’s website (<http://www.sec.gov>) as of [9:00] a.m. Eastern Time on the date hereof and to our knowledge no proceedings for that purpose have been initiated or are pending or are threatened by the Commission.

We express no opinion as to matters of law other than the laws of the State of California, the laws of the State of New York, the federal laws of the United States, and the General Corporation Law of the State of Delaware (the “DGCL”). We are not licensed to practice law in the State of Delaware, and our opinions herein as to such law are based solely on our review of the text of the DGCL as set forth in the Delaware Corporation Laws Annotated, 2017-2018 Edition, published by Lexis Nexis (the “Delaware Laws”), and the reported Delaware decisions interpreting the DGCL. We also express no opinion as to the enforceability of choice of law provisions in the documents described herein. In addition, we express no opinion as to the past, present or future market value of any securities. Finally, we note that our opinions are based upon current statutes, rules, regulations, cases and official interpretive opinions, and cover certain items that are not directly or definitively addressed by such authorities.

Whenever a statement herein is qualified by the phrase “to our knowledge,” it is intended to indicate that, during the course of our representation of the Company, no information that would give us current actual knowledge of the inaccuracy of such statement has come to the attention of those attorneys in this firm who have rendered legal services in connection with the representation described in the introductory paragraph of this opinion. However, we have not undertaken any independent investigation to determine the accuracy of such statement, and any limited inquiry or review undertaken by us during the preparation of this opinion should not be regarded as such an independent investigation, and no inference as to our knowledge of any matters bearing on the accuracy of any such statement should be drawn from the fact of our representation of the Company.

Based upon such examination and in reliance thereon and having regard for legal considerations which we deem relevant, subject to the assumptions set forth above and the limitations and qualifications set forth below, we are of the following opinion:

1. The Company has been duly incorporated and is validly existing as a corporation in good standing under the laws of the State of Delaware, with corporate power and corporate authority to own its properties and conduct its business as described in each of the General Disclosure Package and the Prospectus.

2. The Company has an authorized capitalization as set forth in each of the General Disclosure Package and the Prospectus, and the Shares have been duly authorized and validly issued, and are fully paid and non-assessable, and conform to the description thereof in each of the General Disclosure Package and the Prospectus.

3. The Underwriting Agreement has been duly authorized, executed and delivered by the Company.

4. The sale of the Shares being delivered on the date hereof and the compliance by the Company with the Underwriting Agreement and the consummation of the transactions therein contemplated will not conflict with or result in a breach or violation of any of the terms or provisions of, or constitute a default under, or result in the creation or imposition of any lien, charge or encumbrance upon any property or assets of the Company or any of its subsidiaries pursuant to, any agreement, indenture or other instrument to which the Company or any of its subsidiaries is a party that has been (i) filed pursuant to Item 601(b)(4) or Item 601(b)(10) of Regulation S-K of the Commission as an exhibit to the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended September 30, 2017 or the Company's Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the three months ended December 30, 2017, March 31, 2018 and June 30, 2018, or (ii) described as a "material definitive agreement" (pursuant to Item 1.01 of Form 8-K) in any Current Report on Form 8-K filed by the Company between June 30, 2018 and the Closing Date (collectively, the "Contractual Obligations").

5. The sale of the Shares being delivered on the date hereof and the compliance by the Company with the Underwriting Agreement and the consummation of the transactions therein contemplated will not result in (i) any violation of the provisions of the Certificate of Incorporation or Bylaws of the Company or (ii) the violation of any applicable law or statute or rule or regulation or, to our knowledge, any judgment or order of any court or arbitrator or governmental or regulatory authority, except, in the case of this clause (ii), for any such violation that would not, individually or in the aggregate, have a Material Adverse Effect.

6. No consent, approval, authorization, order, registration or qualification of or with any governmental or regulatory authority, or to our knowledge, any court or arbitrator, is required for the execution, delivery and performance by the Company of the Underwriting Agreement and the sale of the Shares or the consummation by the Company of the transactions contemplated by the Underwriting Agreement, except such as have been

obtained under the Securities Act, and such consents, approvals, authorizations, orders, registrations or qualifications as may be required under applicable state securities or blue sky laws (as to which we express no opinion) in connection with the purchase and distribution of the Shares by the Underwriters.

7. The statements set forth in the Preliminary Prospectus and the Prospectus under the headings "Description of Capital Stock" and "Certain U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations," to the extent that they constitute summaries of certain provisions of the Shares or matters of law or regulation or legal conclusions, fairly summarize the matters described therein in all material respects.

8. The Company is not, and after receipt of payment for the Shares and the application of the proceeds thereof as contemplated under the caption "Use of Proceeds" in the Prospectus will not be, required to register as an "investment company" within the meaning of Investment Company Act.

9. The Registration Statement has become effective under the Securities Act; no stop order suspending the effectiveness of the Registration Statement has been issued and, to our knowledge, no proceedings for that purpose have been threatened or instituted by, or are pending before, the Commission.

10. There are no preemptive rights under Delaware law to subscribe for or purchase shares of the Class A Common Stock. There are no preemptive rights or other rights to subscribe for or purchase, or any restriction upon the voting or transfer of, any shares of the Class A Common Stock pursuant to the Certificate of Incorporation or Bylaws of the Company, or any agreement or other instrument filed or incorporated by reference as an exhibit to the Registration Statement, except that pursuant to Section 2 of paragraph FIFTH of the Certificate of Incorporation, shares of the Class A Common Stock have no voting rights except as stated therein.

11. To our knowledge, there are no contracts or agreements between the Company and any person granting such person the right (other than rights which have been waived or satisfied) to require the Company to include any securities of the Company owned or to be owned by such persons in the securities registered pursuant to the Registration Statement.

August 13, 2018

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This opinion letter is solely for the benefit of the several Underwriters to assist you in establishing defenses under applicable securities laws relating to the offer and sale of the Shares and may not be relied upon or used by, circulated, quoted or referred to for any other purpose or by any other person, including any person purchasing any of the Shares from you, nor may copies hereof be delivered to any other person, without our express written consent. We disclaim any obligation to update this opinion letter for circumstances, events or changes in law occurring or coming to our attention after the date hereof.

Very truly yours,

ORRICK, HERRINGTON & SUTCLIFFE LLP

Schedule A

Pricing Terms

1. The public offering price per share for the Shares is \$37.00.
2. The number of Firm Shares purchased by the Underwriters is 5,000,000, plus up to 750,000 Optional Shares.

FORM OF LOCK-UP AGREEMENT

August 6, 2018

Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith
Incorporated
J.P. Morgan Securities LLC
BMO Capital Markets Corp.
SunTrust Robinson Humphrey, Inc.
as Representatives of the several Underwriters
to be named in the within-mentioned Underwriting Agreement

c/o Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith
Incorporated
One Bryant Park
New York, New York 10036

c/o J.P. Morgan Securities LLC
383 Madison Avenue
New York, New York 10179

c/o BMO Capital Markets Corp.
3 Times Square
New York, New York 10036

c/o SunTrust Robinson Humphrey, Inc.
3333 Peachtree Road
Atlanta, Georgia 30326

Re: Proposed Public Offering by Central Garden & Pet Company

Dear Sirs:

The undersigned, a stockholder and an officer and/or director of Central Garden & Pet Company, a Delaware corporation (the "Company"), understands that Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated ("Merrill Lynch"), J.P. Morgan Securities LLC ("J.P. Morgan"), BMO Capital Markets Corp. and SunTrust Robinson Humphrey, Inc., as representatives of the several underwriters (the "Representatives"), propose to enter into an Underwriting Agreement (the "Underwriting Agreement") with the Company providing for the public offering of shares of the Company's Class A common stock, par value \$0.01 per share (the "Class A Common Stock"). In recognition of the benefit that such an offering will confer upon the undersigned as a stockholder and an officer and/or director of the Company, and for other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, the undersigned agrees with each underwriter to be named in the Underwriting Agreement that, during the period beginning on the date hereof and ending on the date that is 90 days from the date of the Underwriting Agreement (the "Lock-Up Period"), the undersigned will not, without the prior written consent of Merrill Lynch and J.P. Morgan, (i) directly or indirectly, offer, pledge, sell, contract to sell, sell any option or contract to purchase, purchase any option or contract to sell, grant any option, right or warrant to purchase or otherwise transfer or dispose of any shares of the Company's common stock, par value \$0.01 per share

("Common Stock"), Class A Common Stock or Class B common stock, par value \$0.01 per share ("Class B Common Stock"), or any securities convertible into or exercisable or exchangeable for Common Stock, Class A Common Stock or Class B Common Stock, whether now owned or hereafter acquired by the undersigned or with respect to which the undersigned has or hereafter acquires the power of disposition (collectively, the "Lock-Up Securities"), or exercise any right with respect to the registration of any of the Lock-up Securities, or file or cause to be filed any registration statement in connection therewith, under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or (ii) enter into any swap or any other agreement or any transaction that transfers, in whole or in part, directly or indirectly, the economic consequence of ownership of the Lock-Up Securities, whether any such swap or transaction is to be settled by delivery of Common Stock, Class A Common Stock, Class B Common Stock or other securities, in cash or otherwise.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, and subject to the conditions below, the undersigned may transfer the Lock-Up Securities without the prior written consent of Merrill Lynch and J.P. Morgan, provided that (1) the Representatives receive a signed lock-up agreement for the balance of the Lock-Up Period from each donee, trustee, distributee, or transferee, as the case may be, (2) any such transfer shall not involve a disposition for value, (3) such transfers are not required to be reported with the Securities and Exchange Commission on Form 4 in accordance with Section 16 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act"), and (4) the undersigned does not otherwise voluntarily effect any public filing or report regarding such transfers:

- (i) as a *bona fide* gift or gifts; or
- (ii) to any trust for the direct or indirect benefit of the undersigned or the immediate family of the undersigned (for purposes of this lock-up agreement, "immediate family" shall mean any relationship by blood, marriage or adoption, not more remote than first cousin); or
- (iii) as a distribution to limited partners or stockholders of the undersigned; or
- (iv) if the transfer occurs solely by operation of law, including a qualified domestic order; or
- (v) to the undersigned's affiliates or to any investment fund or other entity controlled or managed by the undersigned.

Furthermore, the undersigned may sell shares of Common Stock and Class A Common Stock of the Company purchased by the undersigned on the open market following the Public Offering if and only if (i) such sales are not required to be reported in any public report or filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission, or otherwise and (ii) the undersigned does not otherwise voluntarily effect any public filing or report regarding such sales.

Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this agreement, the undersigned may: (i) sell any Lock-Up Securities pursuant to an existing sales plan in accordance with Rule 10b5-1 promulgated under the Exchange Act (a "Sales Plan"); (ii) enter into a Sales Plan; *provided* that no sales may be made pursuant to such Sales Plan until the expiration or termination of this agreement; *provided, further*, that if any public report or filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission is required or made in connection with such Sales Plan, such report or filing shall include a statement to the effect that no sales will be made during the Lock-Up Period; or (iii) net share settle any stock option or restricted stock award pursuant to the Company's equity plans by having the Company withhold shares to cover any exercise price or tax withholding obligation; *provided* that any Lock-Up Securities received upon such exercise shall be subject to the terms of this agreement; *provided, further*, that if any public report or filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission is required or made in connection with such net settlement, such report or filing shall include a statement to the effect that all transfers of Lock-Up Securities upon such net settlement are made to the Company to cover the exercise price or tax withholding obligation, as applicable.

The undersigned also agrees and consents to the entry of stop transfer instructions with the Company's transfer agent and registrar against the transfer of the Lock-Up Securities except in compliance with the foregoing restrictions.

This agreement will terminate and the undersigned will be released from all of its obligations hereunder if (i) the Underwriting Agreement is executed but is terminated prior to payment for and delivery of the Class A Common Stock to be sold thereunder or (ii) the Representatives advise the Company, or the Company advises the Representatives, in writing, prior to execution of the Underwriting Agreement, that they have determined not to proceed with the public offering.

Very truly yours,

Signature: _____

Print Name: _____



Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP
The Orrick Building
405 Howard Street
San Francisco, CA 94105-2669

+1 415 773 5700
orrick.com

August 13, 2018

Central Garden & Pet Company
1340 Treat Boulevard, Suite 600
Walnut Creek, CA 94597

Re: Central Garden & Pet Company
Registration Statement (File No. 333-221935)

Ladies and Gentlemen:

We have advised Central Garden & Pet Company, a Delaware corporation (the "Company"), in connection with (i) the Registration Statement on Form S-3 (File No. 333-221935) (the "Registration Statement"), filed by the Company with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "Commission") for the purpose of registering various securities under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "Act"), including, among other securities, the Company's Class A common stock, par value \$0.01 per share, to be offered by the Company on terms to be determined at the time of the offering, and (ii) the offer and sale by the Company of up to 5,750,000 shares of its Class A common stock, par value \$0.01 per share (the "Shares"), as described in the Company's prospectus, dated December 7, 2017, as supplemented by the final prospectus supplement, dated August 8, 2018 (together, the "Prospectus"). The Shares are being offered to the public in accordance with an Underwriting Agreement, dated August 8, 2018 (the "Underwriting Agreement"), between the Company and Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated, J.P. Morgan Securities LLC, BMO Capital Markets Corp. and SunTrust Robinson Humphrey, Inc. as representatives of the several underwriters named in Schedule A of the Underwriting Agreement. The Company is filing the Underwriting Agreement and this opinion letter with the Commission on a Current Report on Form 8-K (the "Current Report").

We have examined the Registration Statement, the Prospectus, the Underwriting Agreement and copies of the Company's Fourth Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation and Amended and Restated Bylaws, each as certified to us by an officer of the Company. We have also examined the originals, or copies identified to our satisfaction, of such corporate records of the Company, certificates of public officials, officers of the Company and other persons, and such other documents, agreements and instruments as we have deemed relevant and necessary for the basis of the opinions hereinafter expressed. In such examination, we have assumed the following: (a) the authenticity of original documents and the genuineness of all signatures; (b) the conformity to the originals of all documents submitted to us as copies; and (c) the truth, accuracy and completeness of the information, representations and warranties contained in the records, documents, instruments and certificates we have reviewed.



Central Garden & Pet Company
August 13, 2018
Page 2

On the basis of such examination and review, we advise you that, in our opinion, as of the date hereof, the Shares have been duly authorized for issuance and sale pursuant to the Underwriting Agreement; and when issued, delivered and paid for in accordance with the terms of the Registration Statement, the Prospectus and the Underwriting Agreement, such Shares will be validly issued, fully paid and nonassessable.

The opinion expressed herein is limited to the Delaware General Corporation Law.

We hereby consent to the reference to our firm under the heading "Legal Matters" in the Prospectus and to the filing of this opinion letter as an exhibit to the Current Report and its incorporation by reference into the Registration Statement.

By giving this consent, we do not admit that we are within the category of persons whose consent is required under Section 7 of the Act and the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder.

Very truly yours,

/s/ Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP

ORRICK, HERRINGTON & SUTCLIFFE LLP



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Central Garden & Pet Announces Public Offering of Class A Common Stock

WALNUT CREEK, CALIFORNIA, August 6, 2018 – Central Garden & Pet Company (NASDAQ: CENT) (NASDAQ: CENTA) (“Central”), announced today it has commenced a public offering, subject to market and other conditions, of up to \$200 million of Class A common stock. In addition, Central has granted the underwriters a 30-day option to purchase up to an additional 15% of the number of shares of Class A common stock in the offering. Central intends to use the net proceeds from the offering for general corporate purposes, including funding potential acquisitions.

BofA Merrill Lynch, J.P. Morgan, BMO Capital Markets and SunTrust Robinson Humphrey will serve as joint book-running managers for the offering, and Barclays and KeyBanc Capital Markets will serve as co-managers.

Copies of the prospectus relating to the offering may be obtained by contacting BofA Merrill Lynch, NC1-004-03-43, 200 North College Street, 3rd Floor, Charlotte, NC 28255-0001, Attention: Prospectus Department; J.P. Morgan, 1155 Long Island Avenue, Edgewood, NY 11717, Attention: Broadridge Financial Solutions or by calling (866) 803-9204; BMO Capital Markets, 3 Times Square, New York, NY 10036, Attention: Equity Syndicate Desk or by calling (800) 414-3627; or SunTrust Robinson Humphrey, 3333 Peachtree Road NE, 9th Floor, Atlanta, GA 30326, Attention: Prospectus Department or by emailing strh.prospectus@suntrust.com or calling (404) 926-5744. The prospectus may also be obtained from the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission’s website at <http://www.sec.gov>.

This press release does not constitute an offer to sell or a solicitation of an offer to buy any securities. Offers of securities will be made only by means of a prospectus filed with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. The prospectus is part of a shelf registration statement that has become effective under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended.

About Central Garden & Pet

Central Garden & Pet Company is a leading innovator, producer and distributor of branded and private label products for the lawn & garden and pet supplies markets. Committed to new product innovation, our products are sold to specialty independent and mass retailers. Participating categories in Lawn & Garden include: Grass seed and the brands PENNINGTON®, and THE REBELS®; wild bird feed and the brand PENNINGTON®; weed and insect control and the brands AMDRO®, SEVIN®, and OVER-N-OUT®; fertilizer and the brands PENNINGTON® and IRONITE®; live plants from BELL NURSERY; and decorative outdoor patio products under the PENNINGTON® brand. We also provide a host of other regional and application-specific garden brands and supplies. Participating categories in Pet include: Animal health and the brands ADAMS™, COMFORT ZONE®, FARNAM®, HORSE HEALTH™ and VITAFLEX®; aquatics and reptile and the brands AQUEON®, CORALIFE®, SEGREST™ and ZILLA®; bird & small animal and the brands KAYTEE®, Forti-Diet® and CRITTER TRAIL®; and dog & cat and the brands TFH™, NYLABONE®, FOUR PAWS®, IMS®, CADET®, DMC™, K&H Pet Products™, PINNACLE® and AVODERM®. We also provide a host of other application-specific pet brands and supplies. Central Garden & Pet Company is based in Walnut Creek, California, and has approximately 5,000 employees, primarily in North America.

“Safe Harbor” Statement under the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995

The statements contained in this release which are not historical facts are forward-looking statements that are subject to risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results to differ materially from those set forth in or implied by forward-looking statements. These risks are described in Central’s Annual Report on Form 10-K, filed on November 29, 2017, Central’s Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q, filed on August 3, 2018, as well as Central’s other U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission filings. Central undertakes no obligation to publicly update these forward-looking statements to reflect new information, subsequent events or otherwise.

Contact: Steve Zenker
VP Finance - Investor Relations, FP&A & Communications
Central Garden & Pet Company
925-948-3657



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Central Garden & Pet Prices Public Offering of Class A Common Stock

WALNUT CREEK, CALIFORNIA, August 8, 2018 – Central Garden & Pet Company (NASDAQ: CENT) (NASDAQ: CENTA) (“Central”), announced today the pricing of an offering of 5,000,000 shares of Class A common stock at \$37.00 per share. In addition, Central has granted the underwriters a 30-day option to purchase up to an additional 750,000 shares of Class A common stock in the offering. The offering is expected to close on August 13, 2018, subject to customary closing conditions. Central intends to use the net proceeds from the offering for general corporate purposes, including funding potential acquisitions.

BofA Merrill Lynch, J.P. Morgan, BMO Capital Markets and SunTrust Robinson Humphrey will serve as joint book-running managers for the offering, and Barclays and KeyBanc Capital Markets will serve as co-managers.

Copies of the prospectus relating to the offering may be obtained by contacting BofA Merrill Lynch, NC1-004-03-43, 200 North College Street, 3rd Floor, Charlotte, NC 28255-0001, Attention: Prospectus Department; J.P. Morgan, 1155 Long Island Avenue, Edgewood, NY 11717, Attention: Broadridge Financial Solutions or by calling (866) 803-9204; BMO Capital Markets, 3 Times Square, New York, NY 10036, Attention: Equity Syndicate Desk or by calling (800) 414-3627; or SunTrust Robinson Humphrey, 3333 Peachtree Road NE, 9th Floor, Atlanta, GA 30326, Attention: Prospectus Department or by emailing strh.prospectus@suntrust.com or calling (404) 926-5744. The prospectus may also be obtained from the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission’s website at <http://www.sec.gov>.

This press release does not constitute an offer to sell or a solicitation of an offer to buy any securities. Offers of securities will be made only by means of a prospectus filed with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. The prospectus is part of a shelf registration statement that has become effective under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended.

About Central Garden & Pet

Central Garden & Pet Company is a leading innovator, producer and distributor of branded and private label products for the lawn & garden and pet supplies markets. Committed to new product innovation, our products are sold to specialty independent and mass retailers. Participating categories in Lawn & Garden include: Grass seed and the brands PENNINGTON®, and THE REBELS®; wild bird feed and the brand PENNINGTON®; weed and insect control and the brands AMDRO®, SEVIN®, and OVER-N-OUT®; fertilizer and the brands PENNINGTON® and IRONITE®; live plants from BELL NURSERY; and decorative

outdoor patio products under the PENNINGTON® brand. We also provide a host of other regional and application-specific garden brands and supplies. Participating categories in Pet include: Animal health and the brands ADAMS™, COMFORT ZONE®, FARNAM®, HORSE HEALTH™ and VITAFLEX®; aquatics and reptile and the brands AQUEON®, CORALIFE®, SEGREST™ and ZILLA®; bird & small animal and the brands KAYTEE®, Forti-Diet® and CRITTER TRAIL®; and dog & cat and the brands TFH™, NYLABONE®, FOUR PAWS®, IMS®, CADET®, DMC™, K&H Pet Products™, PINNACLE® and AVODERM®. We also provide a host of other application-specific pet brands and supplies. Central Garden & Pet Company is based in Walnut Creek, California, and has approximately 5,000 employees, primarily in North America.

“Safe Harbor” Statement under the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995

The statements contained in this release which are not historical facts are forward-looking statements that are subject to risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results to differ materially from those set forth in or implied by forward-looking statements. These risks are described in Central’s Annual Report on Form 10-K, filed on November 29, 2017, Central’s Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q, filed on August 3, 2018, Central’s Preliminary Prospectus Supplement, filed on August 6, 2018 as well as Central’s other U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission filings. Central undertakes no obligation to publicly update these forward-looking statements to reflect new information, subsequent events or otherwise.

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