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Apple to pay up to \$500 million to settle U.S. lawsuit over slow iPhones

Los Angeles.—Apple Inc has agreed to pay up to \$500 million to settle litigation accusing it of quietly slowing down older iPhones as it launched new models, to induce owners to buy replacement phones or batteries.

The preliminary proposed class-action settlement was disclosed on Friday night and requires approval by U.S. District Judge Edward Davila in San Jose, California.

It calls for Apple to pay consumers \$25 per iPhone, which may be adjusted up or down depending on how many iPhones are eligible, with a minimum total payout of \$310 million. Apple denied wrongdoing and settled the nationwide case to avoid the burdens and

costs of litigation, court papers show.

The Cupertino, California-based company did not immediately respond yesterday to requests for comment.

Friday's settlement covers U.S. owners of the iPhone 6, 6 Plus, 6s, 6s Plus, 7, 7Plus or SE that ran the iOS 10.2.1 or later operating system. It also covers U.S. owners of the iPhone 7 and 7 Plus that ran iOS 11.2 or later before Dec. 21, 2017.

Consumers contended that their phones' performance suffered after they installed Apple software updates. They said this misled them into believing their phones were near the end of their lifecycles.

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GALE FORCE MAJORCA

Thirteen people being monitored after coming into contact with coronavirus victim

- Woman who tested positive for the virus is in Palma hospital.
- Balearic tourist industry to visit Germany after top fair is cancelled: See Page Three.