

forces in determining prices and SRO revenues and, also, recognized that current regulation of the market system “has been remarkably successful in promoting market competition in its broader forms that are most important to investors and listed companies.”¹⁶ The fact that this market is competitive has also long been recognized by the courts. In *NetCoalition v. Securities and Exchange Commission*, the D.C. Circuit stated as follows: “[n]o one disputes that competition for order flow is ‘fierce.’ . . . As the SEC explained, ‘[i]n the U.S. national market system, buyers and sellers of securities, and the broker-dealers that act as their order-routing agents, have a wide range of choices of where to route orders for execution’; [and] ‘no exchange can afford to take its market share percentages for granted’ because ‘no exchange possesses a monopoly, regulatory or otherwise, in the execution of order flow from broker dealers’. . . .”¹⁷ Accordingly, the Exchange does not believe its proposed fee change imposes any burden on competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act.

C. Self-Regulatory Organization’s Statement on Comments on the Proposed Rule Change Received From Members, Participants, or Others

The Exchange neither solicited nor received comments on the proposed rule change.

III. Date of Effectiveness of the Proposed Rule Change and Timing for Commission Action

The foregoing rule change has become effective pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A) of the Act¹⁸ and paragraph (f) of Rule 19b-4¹⁹ thereunder. At any time within 60 days of the filing of the proposed rule change, the Commission summarily may temporarily suspend such rule change if it appears to the Commission that such action is necessary or appropriate in the public interest, for the protection of investors, or otherwise in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. If the Commission takes such action, the Commission will institute proceedings to determine whether the proposed rule change should be approved or disapproved.

¹⁶ See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 51808 (June 9, 2005), 70 FR 37496, 37499 (June 29, 2005).

¹⁷ *NetCoalition v. SEC*, 615 F.3d 525, 539 (D.C. Cir. 2010) (quoting Securities Exchange Act Release No. 59039 (December 2, 2008), 73 FR 74770, 74782–83 (December 9, 2008) (SR–NYSEArca–2006–21)).

¹⁸ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).

¹⁹ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f).

IV. Solicitation of Comments

Interested persons are invited to submit written data, views and arguments concerning the foregoing, including whether the proposed rule change is consistent with the Act. Comments may be submitted by any of the following methods:

Electronic Comments

- Use the Commission’s internet comment form (<https://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml>); or
- Send an email to rule-comments@sec.gov. Please include file number SR–CboeBZX–2024–034 on the subject line.

Paper Comments

- Send paper comments in triplicate to Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 100 F Street NE, Washington, DC 20549–1090.

All submissions should refer to file number SR–CboeBZX–2024–034. This file number should be included on the subject line if email is used. To help the Commission process and review your comments more efficiently, please use only one method. The Commission will post all comments on the Commission’s internet website (<https://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml>). Copies of the submission, all subsequent amendments, all written statements with respect to the proposed rule change that are filed with the Commission, and all written communications relating to the proposed rule change between the Commission and any person, other than those that may be withheld from the public in accordance with the provisions of 5 U.S.C. 552, will be available for website viewing and printing in the Commission’s Public Reference Room, 100 F Street NE, Washington, DC 20549, on official business days between the hours of 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. Copies of the filing also will be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of the Exchange. Do not include personal identifiable information in submissions; you should submit only information that you wish to make available publicly. We may redact in part or withhold entirely from publication submitted material that is obscene or subject to copyright protection. All submissions should refer to file number SR–CboeBZX–2024–034 and should be submitted on or before June 5, 2024.

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.²⁰

Sherry R. Haywood,

Assistant Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2024–10591 Filed 5–14–24; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8011–01–P

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34–100089; File No. SR–C2–2024–006]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Cboe C2 Exchange, Inc.; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of a Proposed Rule Change Relating To Amend Its Fees Schedule

May 9, 2024.

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the “Act”),¹ and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,² notice is hereby given that on May 1, 2024, Cboe C2 Exchange, Inc. (the “Exchange” or “C2”) filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the “Commission”) the proposed rule change as described in Items I, II, and III below, which Items have been prepared by the Exchange. The Commission is publishing this notice to solicit comments on the proposed rule change from interested persons.

I. Self-Regulatory Organization’s Statement of the Terms of Substance of the Proposed Rule Change

Cboe C2 Exchange, Inc. (the “Exchange” or “C2”) proposes to amend its Fees Schedule. The text of the proposed rule change is provided in Exhibit 5.

The text of the proposed rule change is also available on the Exchange’s website (http://markets.cboe.com/us/options/regulation/rule_filings/ctwo/), at the Exchange’s Office of the Secretary, and at the Commission’s Public Reference Room.

II. Self-Regulatory Organization’s Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change

In its filing with the Commission, the Exchange included statements concerning the purpose of and basis for the proposed rule change and discussed any comments it received on the proposed rule change. The text of these statements may be examined at the places specified in Item IV below. The Exchange has prepared summaries, set

²⁰ 17 CFR 200.30–3(a)(12).

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

forth in sections A, B, and C below, of the most significant aspects of such statements.

A. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change

1. Purpose

The Exchange proposes to amend its Fees Schedule, effective May 1, 2024.

The Exchange first notes that it operates in a highly competitive market in which market participants can readily direct order flow to competing venues if they deem fee levels at a particular venue to be excessive or incentives to be insufficient. More specifically, the Exchange is only one of 17 options venues to which market participants may direct their order flow. Based on publicly available information, no single options exchange has more than approximately 15% of the market share.³ Thus, in such a low-concentrated and highly competitive market, no single options exchange, including the Exchange, possesses significant pricing power in the execution of option order flow. The Exchange believes that the ever-shifting market share among the exchanges from month to month demonstrates that market participants can shift order flow or discontinue to reduce use of certain categories of products, in response to fee changes. Accordingly, competitive forces constrain the Exchange's transaction fees, and market participants can readily trade on competing venues if they deem pricing levels at those other venues to be more favorable.

Fee Code Updates

The Exchange first proposes to increase fees for Non-Customer, Non-Market Maker and Market-Maker orders that remove liquidity in Penny Classes. Currently, the Exchange assesses a fee of \$0.49 per contract for Non-Customer, Non-Market Maker orders and Market-Maker orders that remove liquidity in Penny Classes (which orders yield fee codes "PP" and "PR", respectively). The Exchange proposes to increase the Penny Class Remove transaction fee for Non-Customer, Non-Market Maker orders and Market-Maker orders, from \$0.49 per contract to \$0.50 per contract.⁴

Additionally, the Exchange proposes to amend fees for Public Customer

orders in SPY, AAPL, QQQ, IWM, SLV, AMC, AMD, AMZN, HYG, PLTR, TSLA⁵ and XLF that remove liquidity. Currently, the Exchange assesses a fee of \$0.37 per contract for Public Customer orders in SPY, AAPL, QQQ, IWM, SLV, AMC, AMD, AMZN, HYG, PLTR, TSLA and XLF that remove liquidity (which orders yield fee code "SC"). The Exchange proposes to amend the transaction fee for Public Customer orders in SPY, AAPL, QQQ, IWM, SLV, AMC, AMD, AMZN, HYG, PLTR, TSLA and XLF that remove liquidity (and yield fee code SC) from \$0.37 per contract to \$0.40 per contract.⁶

The Exchange next proposes to amend the rebate for C2 Market-Maker orders in SPY, AAPL, QQQ, IWM, SLV, AMC, AMD, AMZN, HYG, PLTR, TSLA and XLF that add liquidity. Currently, the Exchange provides a rebate of \$0.20 per contract for C2 Market-Maker orders in SPY, AAPL, QQQ, IWM, SLV, AMC, AMD, AMZN, HYG, PLTR, TSLA and XLF that add liquidity (which orders yield fee code "SM"). The Exchange proposes to amend the rebate provided for C2 Market-Maker orders in SPY, AAPL, QQQ, IWM, SLV, AMC, AMD, AMZN, HYG, PLTR, TSLA and XLF that add liquidity (and yield fee code "PM"), from \$0.20 per contract to \$0.28 per contract.⁷

Additionally, the Exchange proposes to amend Footnote 1 (Market Maker Volume Tiers), applicable to qualifying C2 Market-Maker orders yielding fee code SM. Pursuant to Footnote 1 of the Fee Schedule, the Exchange currently offers four Market-Maker Volume Tiers, which provide enhanced rebates between \$0.26 and \$0.32 per contract for qualifying Market-Maker orders yielding fee code SM where a TPH meets required criteria. Specifically, Tier 1 provides an enhanced rebate of \$0.26 per contract where a TPH: (1) has an ADAV⁸ in Market-Maker orders in SPY, AAPL, QQQ, IWM, SLV, AMC, AMD, AMZN, HYG, PLTR, TSLA, and XLF (*i.e.*, yielding fee codes SM or SL) greater than or equal to 0.15% of Average OCV.⁹ Tier 2 provides a higher

rebate of \$0.28 per contract where a TPH meets the more stringent criteria of having an ADAV in Market-Maker orders in SPY, AAPL, QQQ, IWM, SLV, AMC, AMD, AMZN, HYG, PLTR, TSLA, and XLF (*i.e.*, yielding fee codes SM or SL) greater than or equal to 0.35% of Average OCV. Tier 3 provides a rebate of \$0.31 per contract if a TPH has an ADAV in Market-Maker orders in SPY, AAPL, QQQ, IWM, SLV, AMC, AMD, AMZN, HYG, PLTR, TSLA, and XLF (*i.e.*, yielding fee codes SM or SL) greater than or equal to 0.60% of Average OCV. Finally, Tier 4 provides an enhanced rebate of \$0.32 per contract if a TPH has an ADAV in Market-Maker orders in SPY, AAPL, QQQ, IWM, SLV, AMC, AMD, AMZN, HYG, PLTR, TSLA, and XLF (*i.e.*, yielding fee codes SM or SL) greater than or equal to 0.70% of Average OCV.

The Exchange proposes to amend the required criteria for Tiers 1 through 4, as well as the associated enhanced rebates. Specifically, the Exchange proposes to: amend Tier 1 criteria to state that a TPH must have an ADAV in Market-Maker orders in SPY, AAPL, QQQ, IWM, SLV, AMC, AMD, AMZN, HYG, PLTR, TSLA, and XLF (*i.e.*, yielding fee codes SM or SL) greater than or equal to 0.35% of Average OCV; amend Tier 2 criteria to state that a TPH must have an ADAV in Market-Maker orders in SPY, AAPL, QQQ, IWM, SLV, AMC, AMD, AMZN, HYG, PLTR, TSLA, and XLF (*i.e.*, yielding fee codes SM or SL) greater than or equal to 0.65% of Average OCV; amend Tier 3 criteria to state that a TPH must have an ADAV in Market-Maker orders in SPY, AAPL, QQQ, IWM, SLV, AMC, AMD, AMZN, HYG, PLTR, TSLA, and XLF (*i.e.*, yielding fee codes SM or SL) greater than or equal to 0.85% of Average OCV; and amend Tier 4 criteria to state that a TPH must have an ADAV in Market-Maker orders in SPY, AAPL, QQQ, IWM, SLV, AMC, AMD, AMZN, HYG, PLTR, TSLA, and XLF (*i.e.*, yielding fee codes SM or SL) greater than or equal to 1.05% of Average OCV. Additionally, the Exchange proposes to change the enhanced rebate for Tier 1 from \$0.26 per contract to \$0.30 per contract, for Tier 2 from \$0.28 per contract to \$0.32 per contract, for Tier 3 from \$0.31 to \$0.34 per contract, and for Tier 4 from \$0.32 per contract to \$0.36.

Finally, the Exchange proposes to amend the Access Fees section of the Fees Schedule. Currently, the Fees Schedule states that Trading Permit

month for which the fees apply, excluding volume on any day that the Exchange experiences an Exchange System Disruption and on any day with a scheduled early market close.

⁵ As part of the proposed rule change, the Exchange proposes to correct the spelling of "TSLA" (from "TLA") throughout the Fees Schedule.

⁶ The Exchange also proposes to update the rate for fee code SC within the Transactions Fees section of the Fees Schedule.

⁷ The Exchange also proposes to update the rate for fee code SM within the Transactions Fees section of the Fees Schedule.

⁸ "ADAV" means average daily added volume calculated as the number of contracts added, per day.

⁹ "OCV" means, the total equity and ETF options volume that clears in the Customer range at the Options Clearing Corporation ("OCC") for the

³ See Cboe Global Markets U.S. Options Market Volume Summary by Month (April 29, 2024), available at https://markets.cboe.com/us/options/market_statistics/.

⁴ The Exchange also proposes to update the rate for fee codes PP and PR within the Transactions Fees section of the Fees Schedule.

Holders will only be assessed a single monthly fee for each type of Trading Permit it holds and provides the example that a TPH with two Market-Maker Permits and one Electronic Access Permit would be assessed a total of \$6,000 per month (\$5,000 for a Market-Maker Permit and \$1,000 for an Electronic Access Permit). The Exchange proposes to correct an inaccuracy contained within the example. Specifically, the Exchange proposes to remove reference to two Market-Maker Permits, as TPHs are not permitted to hold two Market-Maker permits. As amended the language would read that a TPH with one Market-Maker Permit and one Electronic Access Permit would be assessed a total of \$5,000 per month (\$5,000 for a Market-Maker Permit and \$1,000 for an Electronic Access Permit).

2. Statutory Basis

The Exchange believes the proposed rule change is consistent with the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the “Act”) and the rules and regulations thereunder applicable to the Exchange and, in particular, the requirements of Section 6(b) of the Act.¹⁰ Specifically, the Exchange believes the proposed rule change is consistent with the Section 6(b)(5)¹¹ requirements that the rules of an exchange be designed to prevent fraudulent and manipulative acts and practices, to promote just and equitable principles of trade, to foster cooperation and coordination with persons engaged in regulating, clearing, settling, processing information with respect to, and facilitating transactions in securities, to remove impediments to and perfect the mechanism of a free and open market and a national market system, and, in general, to protect investors and the public interest. Additionally, the Exchange believes the proposed rule change is consistent with the Section 6(b)(5)¹² requirement that the rules of an exchange not be designed to permit unfair discrimination between customers, issuers, brokers, or dealers. The Exchange also believes the proposed rule change is consistent with Section 6(b)(4) of the Act,¹³ which requires that Exchange rules provide for the equitable allocation of reasonable dues, fees, and other charges among its Trading Permit Holders and other persons using its facilities.

As described above, the Exchange operates in a highly competitive market in which market participants can

readily direct order flow to competing venues if they deem fee levels at a particular venue to be excessive or incentives to be insufficient. Further, the Exchange notes that other exchanges offer tiered product-specific pricing and/or incentives.¹⁴ The proposed changes to Exchange execution fees and rebates are intended to attract order flow to the Exchange by continuing to offer competitive pricing while also creating additional incentives to providing aggressively priced displayed liquidity, which the Exchange believes would enhance market quality to the benefit of all market participants.

The Exchange believes the proposed change to increase the standard fee for Non-Customer, Non-Market Maker and Market-Maker orders that remove liquidity in Penny Classes (*i.e.*, yield fee codes fee codes “PP” and “PR”, respectively) and Public Customer orders in SPY, AAPL, QQQ, IWM, SLV, AMC, AMD, AMZN, HYG, PLTR, TSLA and XLF that remove liquidity (which orders yield fee code “SC”) are reasonable because they are modest increases and are still in line with (and in some instances lower than) fees assessed for similar transactions at other exchanges.¹⁵ The Exchange believes the proposed changes are equitable and not unfairly discriminatory as they will apply to all Non-Customer, Non-Market Maker and Market-Maker orders that remove liquidity in Penny Classes (*i.e.*, yield fee codes fee codes “PP” and “PR”, respectively) and all Public Customer orders in SPY, AAPL, QQQ, IWM, SLV, AMC, AMD, AMZN, HYG, PLTR, TSLA and XLF that remove liquidity (which orders yield fee code “SC”) equally, as applicable.

Further, the Exchange believes the proposed change to increase the rebate

for C2 Market-Maker orders in SPY, AAPL, QQQ, IWM, SLV, AMC, AMD, AMZN, HYG, PLTR, TSLA and XLF that add liquidity (which yield fee code “SM”) is reasonable, because such market participants are providing liquidity in SPY, AAPL, QQQ, IWM, SLV, AMC, AMD, AMZN, HYG, PLTR, TSLA and XLF options to the benefit of all market participants. Increased add volume order flow, particularly by liquidity providers, contributes to a deeper, more liquid market, which, in turn, provides for increased execution opportunities and thus overall enhanced price discovery and price improvement opportunities on the Exchange. As such, this benefits all market participants by contributing towards a robust and well-balanced market ecosystem, offering additional flexibility for all investors to enjoy cost savings, supporting the quality of price discovery, promoting market transparency and improving investor protection.

The Exchange believes its proposed change is reasonable as it is competitive and in line with pricing of at least one other exchange.¹⁶ Additionally, the Exchange believes that it is equitable and not unfairly discriminatory to assess higher rebates to Market-Makers that add liquidity as compared to other market participants, because Market-Makers, unlike other market participants, take on a number of obligations, including quoting obligations, which other market participants do not have. Further, these rebates are intended to incentivize Market-Makers to quote and trade more on the Exchange, thereby providing more trading opportunities for all market participants. The Exchange notes that the proposed changes to Market-Maker rebates for orders in SPY, AAPL, QQQ, IWM, SLV, AMC, AMD, AMZN, HYG, PLTR, TSLA and XLF that add liquidity will be applied equally to all Market-Makers.

The Exchange believes the Market-Maker Volume Tiers, as amended, continue to be a reasonable means to encourage Market-Makers to increase their order flow to specific multiply-listed options on the Exchange (*i.e.*, SPY, AAPL, QQQ, IWM, SLV, AMC, AMD, AMZN, HYG, PLTR, TSLA, and XLF). The Exchange notes that increased Market-Maker activity, particularly, facilitates tighter spreads and an increase in overall liquidity provider activity, both of which signal additional corresponding increase in

¹⁰ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

¹¹ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

¹² *Id.*

¹³ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(4).

¹⁴ See, e.g., MIAx Pearl Fee Schedule, Section 1 Transaction Rebates/Fees, which provides for product-specific pricing for SPY, QQQ, and IWM; and Nasdaq ISE Pricing Schedule, Section 3, Footnote 5, which provides for tiered rebates for Market Maker SPY, QQQ, IWM orders that add liquidity between \$0.10 and \$0.26 per contract, as well as tiered [sic] rebates for Market Maker orders in similar, single-name options (AMZN, META, and NVDA) between \$0.15 and \$0.22.

¹⁵ See, e.g., MIAx Pearl Fee Schedule, Section 1 Transaction Rebates/Fees, which provides for fees of \$0.42 to \$0.46 per contract for priority customer SPY orders that remove liquidity, \$0.45 to \$0.48 per contract for priority customer IWM and QQQ orders that remove liquidity, \$0.47 to \$0.48 per contract for priority customer orders in Penny Classes other than SPY, QQQ and IWM orders that remove liquidity, \$0.50 per contract for Non-Priority Customer, Firm, BD and Non-MIAx Pearl Market Maker orders in Penny Classes that remove liquidity, and \$0.50 per contract for all MIAx Pearl Market Maker orders in Penny Classes that remove liquidity. See also Nasdaq ISE Pricing Schedule, Section 3, Footnote 5, which provides for fees of \$0.46 per contract for Priority Customer orders in Select Symbols that remove liquidity.

¹⁶ See, e.g., MIAx Pearl Fee Schedule, Section 1 Transaction Rebates/Fees, which provides for rebates ranging between \$0.22 and \$0.48 for all MIAx Pearl Market Maker orders in Penny Classes that add liquidity.

order flow from other market participants, contributing towards a robust, well-balanced market ecosystem, particularly in multiply-listed options on the Exchange. The Exchange also believes that the proposed enhanced rebates offered under Tiers 1 through 4 are reasonably based on the difficulty of satisfying the tiers' amended criteria and ensures the proposed rebate and thresholds appropriately reflect the incremental difficulty in achieving the Market-Maker Volume Tier. The Exchange believes that the proposed enhanced rebates are also in line with the enhanced rebates currently offered by another exchange for similar products.¹⁷

The Exchange believes that the Market-Maker Volume Tiers, as amended, represent an equitable allocation of fees and is not unfairly discriminatory because it applies uniformly to all Market-Makers, in that all Market-Makers have the opportunity to compete for and achieve the proposed tiers. The enhanced rebates will apply automatically and uniformly to all Market-Makers that achieve the proposed corresponding criteria. While the Exchange has no way of knowing whether this proposed rule change would definitively result in any particular Market-Maker qualifying for the proposed tiers, the Exchange believes that approximately five Market-Makers will reasonably be able to achieve the amended criteria in Tier 1; approximately one Market-Makers [sic] will be able to achieve the amended criteria in Tier 2; and currently no Market-Makers would be able to achieve the amended criteria in Tiers 3 and 4. The Exchange notes that the tiers are open to any Market-Maker that satisfies the tiers' criteria.

The Exchange lastly notes that it does not believe the tiers, as amended, will adversely impact any TPH's pricing. Rather, should a TPH not meet the proposed criteria, the TPH will merely not receive the enhanced rebates corresponding to the tiers, and will instead receive the standard rebate.

Finally, the Exchange believes the proposed change to the Access Fees section of the Fees Schedule is reasonable, as the proposed change corrects an inaccurate reference within the Fees Schedule, thereby mitigating any potential confusion for TPHs.

B. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Burden on Competition

The Exchange does not believe that the proposed rule change will impose any burden on competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. The Exchange believes the proposed rule change does not impose any burden on intramarket competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. Particularly, the proposed change applies to all similarly situated TPHs equally. As noted above, the changes to increase the standard transaction fees for Non-Customer, Non-Market Maker and Market-Maker orders that remove liquidity in Penny Classes (*i.e.*, yield fee codes "PP" and "PR", respectively) and Public Customer orders in SPY, AAPL, QQQ, IWM, SLV, AMC, AMD, AMZN, HYG, PLTR, TSLA and XLF that remove liquidity (which orders yield fee code "SC") will be applied equally to all Non-Customer, Non-Market Maker and Market-Maker orders that remove liquidity in Penny Classes (*i.e.*, yield fee codes "PP" and "PR", respectively) and all Public Customer orders in SPY, AAPL, QQQ, IWM, SLV, AMC, AMD, AMZN, HYG, PLTR, TSLA and XLF that remove liquidity (which orders yield fee code "SC") equally, as applicable.

Further, the proposed changes to Market-Maker rebates for orders in SPY, AAPL, QQQ, IWM, SLV, AMC, AMD, AMZN, HYG, PLTR, TSLA and XLF that add liquidity will be applied equally to all Market-Makers. The Exchange believes that the proposed change to increase the C2 Market-Maker rebate for orders in SPY, AAPL, QQQ, IWM, SLV, AMC, AMD, AMZN, HYG, PLTR, TSLA, and XLF will incentivize entry on the Exchange of more aggressive SPY, AAPL, QQQ, IWM, SLV, AMC, AMD, AMZN, HYG, PLTR, TSLA, and XLF orders that will maintain tighter spreads, benefitting both TPHs and public investors criteria and, as a result, provide for deeper levels of liquidity, increasing trading opportunities for other market participants, thus signaling further trading activity, ultimately incentivizing more overall order flow and improving price transparency on the Exchange. Finally, as noted above, the changes to the Market-Maker Volume Tiers apply uniformly to all Market-Makers, in that all Market-Makers have the opportunity to compete for and achieve the tiers, as amended; the enhanced rebates, as amended, will apply automatically and uniformly to all Market-Makers that achieve the proposed corresponding criteria.

Finally, the Exchange believes the proposed change to the Access Fees section of the Fees Schedule will not impose a burden on competition, as the proposed change merely corrects an inaccurate reference within the Fees Schedule, thereby mitigating any potential confusion for TPHs.

Next, the Exchange believes the proposed rule change does not impose any burden on intermarket competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. As previously discussed, the Exchange operates in a highly competitive market. TPHs have numerous alternative venues that they may participate on and director [sic] their order flow, including 16 other options exchanges and off-exchange venues. Additionally, the Exchange represents a small percentage of the overall market. Based on publicly available information, no single options exchange has more than 15% of the market share.¹⁸ Therefore, no exchange possesses significant pricing power in the execution of option order flow. Indeed, participants can readily choose to send their orders to other exchange and off-exchange venues if they deem fee levels at those other venues to be more favorable. Moreover, the Commission has repeatedly expressed its preference for competition over regulatory intervention in determining prices, products, and services in the securities markets. Specifically, in Regulation NMS, the Commission highlighted the importance of market forces in determining prices and SRO revenues and, also, recognized that current regulation of the market system "has been remarkably successful in promoting market competition in its broader forms that are most important to investors and listed companies." The fact that this market is competitive has also long been recognized by the courts. In *NetCoalition v. Securities and Exchange Commission*, the D.C. Circuit stated as follows: "[n]o one disputes that competition for order flow is 'fierce.' . . . As the SEC explained, '[i]n the U.S. national market system, buyers and sellers of securities, and the broker-dealers that act as their order-routing agents, have a wide range of choices of where to route orders for execution'; [and] 'no exchange can afford to take its market share percentages for granted' because 'no exchange possesses a monopoly, regulatory or otherwise, in the execution of order flow from broker dealers'. . . .". Accordingly, the Exchange does not believe its proposed fee change imposes any burden on competition that is not necessary or

¹⁷ See, e.g., MIAx Pearl Fee Schedule, Section 1 Transaction Rebates/Fees, which provides for rebates ranging between \$0.22 and \$0.48 for all MIAx Pearl Market Maker orders in Penny Classes that add liquidity.

¹⁸ See *supra* note 3.

appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act.

C. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Comments on the Proposed Rule Change Received From Members, Participants, or Others

The Exchange neither solicited nor received comments on the proposed rule change.

III. Date of Effectiveness of the Proposed Rule Change and Timing for Commission Action

The foregoing rule change has become effective pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A) of the Act¹⁹ and paragraph (f) of Rule 19b-4²⁰ thereunder. At any time within 60 days of the filing of the proposed rule change, the Commission summarily may temporarily suspend such rule change if it appears to the Commission that such action is necessary or appropriate in the public interest, for the protection of investors, or otherwise in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. If the Commission takes such action, the Commission will institute proceedings to determine whether the proposed rule change should be approved or disapproved.

IV. Solicitation of Comments

Interested persons are invited to submit written data, views and arguments concerning the foregoing, including whether the proposed rule change is consistent with the Act. Comments may be submitted by any of the following methods:

Electronic Comments

- Use the Commission's internet comment form (<https://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml>); or
- Send an email to rule-comments@sec.gov. Please include file number SR-C2-2024-006 on the subject line.

Paper Comments

- Send paper comments in triplicate to Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 100 F Street NE, Washington, DC 20549-1090.
- All submissions should refer to file number SR-C2-2024-006. This file number should be included on the subject line if email is used. To help the Commission process and review your comments more efficiently, please use only one method. The Commission will post all comments on the Commission's internet website (<https://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml>). Copies of the submission, all subsequent amendments, all written statements

with respect to the proposed rule change that are filed with the Commission, and all written communications relating to the proposed rule change between the Commission and any person, other than those that may be withheld from the public in accordance with the provisions of 5 U.S.C. 552, will be available for website viewing and printing in the Commission's Public Reference Room, 100 F Street NE, Washington, DC 20549, on official business days between the hours of 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. Copies of the filing also will be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of the Exchange. Do not include personal identifiable information in submissions; you should submit only information that you wish to make available publicly. We may redact in part or withhold entirely from publication submitted material that is obscene or subject to copyright protection.

All submissions should refer to file number SR-C2-2024-006 and should be submitted on or before June 5, 2024.

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.²¹

Sherry R. Haywood,

Assistant Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2024-10590 Filed 5-14-24; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8011-01-P

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

[Disaster Declaration #20324; CALIFORNIA Disaster Number CA-20017 Declaration of Economic Injury]

Administrative Declaration of an Economic Injury Disaster for the State of California

AGENCY: Small Business Administration.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This is a notice of an Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) declaration for the State of California dated 05/09/2024.

Incident: Highway 1 Collapse and Closure.

Incident Period: 03/30/2024 and continuing.

DATES: Issued on 05/09/2024.

Economic Injury (EIDL) Loan Application Deadline Date: 02/10/2025.

ADDRESSES: Visit the MySBA Loan Portal at <https://lending.sba.gov> to apply for a disaster assistance loan.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Alan Escobar, Office of Disaster Recovery & Resilience, U.S. Small

Business Administration, 409 3rd Street SW, Suite 6050, Washington, DC 20416, (202) 205-6734.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Notice is hereby given that as a result of the Administrator's EIDL declaration, applications for disaster loans may be submitted online using the MySBA Loan Portal <https://lending.sba.gov> or other locally announced locations. Please contact the SBA disaster assistance customer service center by email at disastercustomerservice@sba.gov or by phone at 1-800-659-2955 for further assistance.

The following areas have been determined to be adversely affected by the disaster:

Primary Counties: Monterey.

Contiguous Counties:

California: Fresno, Kings, San Benito,

San Luis Obispo, Santa Cruz

The Interest Rates are:

	Percent
Business and Small Agricultural Cooperatives without Credit Available Elsewhere	4.000
Non-Profit Organizations without Credit Available Elsewhere	3.250

The number assigned to this disaster for economic injury is 203240.

The State which received an EIDL Declaration is California.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number 59008)

Isabella Guzman,
Administrator.

[FR Doc. 2024-10621 Filed 5-14-24; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8026-09-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Highway Administration

[Docket No. FHWA-2024-0039]

Agency Information Collection Activities: Request for Comments for a New Information Collection

AGENCY: Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The FHWA invites public comments about our intention to request the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) approval for a new information collection, which is summarized below under **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**. We are required to publish this notice in the **Federal Register** by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

¹⁹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).

²⁰ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f).

²¹ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).