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**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
WESTERN DIVISION**

*) Case No. CV DMG (x)
Plaintiff/s,)
v.) **INITIAL STANDING ORDER**
*)
Defendant/s.)
_____)

**PLEASE READ THIS ORDER CAREFULLY. IT GOVERNS THIS
CASE AND DIFFERS IN SOME RESPECTS FROM THE LOCAL RULES.**

COUNSEL FOR PLAINTIFFS SHALL SERVE THIS ORDER
IMMEDIATELY ON ALL PARTIES AND/OR THEIR COUNSEL, INCLUDING
ANY NEW PARTIES TO THE ACTION. IF THIS CASE WAS REMOVED
FROM STATE COURT, DEFENDANT WHO REMOVED THE CASE SHALL
SERVE THIS ORDER ON ALL OTHER PARTIES.

This case has been assigned to the calendar of Judge Dolly M. Gee. Both
the Court and counsel bear responsibility for the progress of this litigation in
federal court. To “secure the just, speedy, and inexpensive determination” of this
case, as called for in Fed. R. Civ. P. 1, all parties or their counsel are ordered to

1 become familiar with the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, the Local Rules of the
2 Central District of California, and this Court’s standing orders.

3 **1. SERVICE OF THE COMPLAINT**

4 Plaintiff shall promptly serve the complaint in accordance with Fed. R. Civ.
5 P. 4 and file the proofs of service pursuant to Local Rule 5-3.1. Any defendant not
6 timely served under Fed. R. Civ. P. 4(m) shall be dismissed from the action
7 without prejudice.

8 **2. ASSIGNMENT TO A MAGISTRATE JUDGE**

9 Under 28 U.S.C. § 636, the parties may consent to have a Magistrate Judge
10 preside over all proceedings, including trial. The Magistrate Judges who accept
11 those designations are identified on the Central District’s website, which also
12 contains the consent form.

13 **3. DISCOVERY**

14 **a. Discovery Matters Referred to Magistrate Judge**

15 All discovery matters have been referred to the assigned United States
16 Magistrate Judge, who will hear all discovery disputes. The Magistrate Judge's
17 initials follow the District Judge's initials next to the case number. All discovery-
18 related documents must include the words “DISCOVERY MATTER” in the
19 caption to ensure proper routing. Counsel are directed to contact the Magistrate
20 Judge's courtroom deputy clerk to schedule matters for hearing. Please comply
21 with Local Rule 37 and deliver mandatory chambers copies of discovery-related
22 papers to the Magistrate Judge assigned to this case rather than to this Court.

23 In accordance with 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1)(A), the Court will not reverse any
24 order of the Magistrate Judge unless it has been shown that the Magistrate Judge’s
25 order is clearly erroneous or contrary to law.

26 Any party may file and serve a motion for review and reconsideration before
27 this Court. *See* Local Rule 72-2. The moving party must file and serve the motion
28 within fourteen (14) days of service of a written ruling or within fourteen (14) days

1 of an oral ruling that the Magistrate Judge states will not be followed by a written
2 ruling. The motion must specify which portions of the ruling are clearly erroneous
3 or contrary to law and support the contention with points and authorities. Counsel
4 shall deliver a conformed copy of the moving papers and responses to the
5 Magistrate Judge’s courtroom deputy clerk at the time of filing.

6 **b. Compliance with Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(a)**

7 Unless there is a likelihood that upon motion by a party the Court would
8 order that any or all discovery is premature, **it is advisable for counsel to begin to**
9 **conduct discovery actively before the Scheduling Conference.** At the very
10 least, the parties shall comply fully with the letter and spirit of Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(a)
11 and thereby obtain and produce most of what would be produced in the early stage
12 of discovery, because at the Scheduling Conference the Court will impose firm
13 deadlines to complete discovery.

14 **4. MOTIONS - GENERAL REQUIREMENTS**

15 **a. Time for Filing and Hearing Motions**

16 Motions shall be filed in accordance with Local Rule 7. This Court hears
17 motions on **Fridays, beginning at 9:30 a.m.** If Friday is a national holiday,
18 motions will be heard on the next Friday. It is not necessary to clear a hearing date
19 with the court clerk before filing a motion, except for motions for summary
20 judgment or preliminary injunction. If the motion date selected is not available,
21 the Court will issue a minute order continuing the date.

22 **b. Pre-Filing Requirement To Meet and Confer**

23 Counsel must comply with Local Rule 7-3, which requires counsel to engage
24 in a pre-filing conference “to discuss thoroughly . . . the substance of the
25 contemplated motion and any potential resolution.” Counsel should discuss the
26 issues to a sufficient degree that if a motion is still necessary, the briefing may be
27 directed to those substantive issues requiring resolution by the Court. Counsel
28 should resolve minor procedural or other non-substantive matters during the

1 conference. The *pro se* status of one or more parties does not negate this
2 requirement.

3 **c. Length and Format of Motion Papers**

4 Memoranda of points and authorities shall not exceed 25 pages. *See* Local
5 Rule 11-6. Only in rare instances and for good cause shown will the Court grant
6 an application to extend these page limitations. **No supplemental brief shall be
7 filed without prior leave of Court.**

8 If documentary evidence in support of or in opposition to a motion exceeds
9 50 pages, the evidence must be separately bound and tabbed and include an index.
10 If such evidence exceeds 200 pages, the documents shall be placed in a Slant D-
11 Ring binder, with an index and with each item of evidence separated by a tab
12 divider on the right side.

13 **d. Citations to Case Law**

14 Citations to case law must identify not only the case cited, but the specific
15 page referenced.

16 **e. Citations to Other Sources**

17 Statutory references should identify with specificity the sections and
18 subsections referenced. Citations to treatises, manuals, and other materials should
19 include the volume, section, and pages being referenced.

20 **f. Oral Argument**

21 If the Court deems a matter appropriate for decision without oral argument,
22 the Court will notify the parties in advance.

23 **5. SPECIFIC MOTION REQUIREMENTS**

24 **a. Motions Pursuant to Rule 12**

25 Many motions to dismiss or to strike can be avoided if the parties confer in
26 good faith (as required by Local Rule 7-3), especially for perceived defects in a
27 complaint, answer, or counterclaim that could be corrected by amendment. *See*
28 *Chang v. Chen*, 80 F.3d 1293, 1296 (9th Cir. 1996) (where a motion to dismiss is

1 granted, a district court should provide leave to amend unless it is clear that the
2 complaint could not be saved by any amendment). Moreover, a party has the right
3 to amend the complaint “once as a matter of course at any time before a responsive
4 pleading is served.” Fed. R. Civ. P. 15(a). A Rule 12(b)(6) motion is not a
5 responsive pleading and therefore plaintiff might have a right to amend. See, e.g.,
6 *St. Michael’s Convalescent Hospital v. California*, 643 F.2d 1369, 1374 (9th Cir.
7 1981); *Nolen v. Fitzharris*, 450 F.2d 958, 958-59 (9th Cir. 1971). Even after a
8 complaint has been amended or a responsive pleading has been served, the Federal
9 Rules provide that leave to amend should be “freely given when justice so
10 requires.” Fed. R. Civ. P. 15(a). The Ninth Circuit requires that this policy
11 favoring amendment be applied with “extreme liberality.” *Morongo Band of*
12 *Mission Indians v. Rose*, 893 F.2d 1074, 1079 (9th Cir. 1990).

13 These principles require that plaintiff’s counsel carefully evaluate
14 defendant’s contentions as to the deficiencies in the complaint. In most instances,
15 the moving party should agree to any amendment that would cure the defect.

16 **b. Motions to Amend**

17 In addition to the requirements of Local Rule 15-1, all motions to amend
18 pleadings shall: (1) state the effect of the amendment and (2) identify the page and
19 line number(s) and wording of any proposed change or addition of material. The
20 proposed amended pleading shall be serially numbered to differentiate it from
21 previously amended pleadings.

22 In addition to Local Rule 15-1's requirement of electronic filing of the
23 proposed amended pleading as a document separate from the motion, counsel shall
24 attach as an appendix to the moving papers a “redlined” version of the proposed
25 amended pleading indicating all additions and deletions of material.

26 **c. Motions for Class Certification**

27 Notwithstanding Local Rule 23-3, the deadline for the filing of a motion for
28 class certification will be set pursuant to the parties’ stipulation, during the

1 Scheduling Conference, or in a Scheduling Order. No request for relief from Local
2 Rule 23-3 is necessary.

3 **d. Summary Judgment Motions**

4 Parties need not wait until the motion cutoff to bring motions for summary
5 judgment or partial summary judgment. The hearing on any such motion shall be
6 set for a date in advance of the Final Pretrial Conference. Each side may bring **one**
7 motion for summary judgment or partial summary judgment. The parties shall not
8 attempt to evade the page limitations for briefs by filing multiple motions.

9 **Whenever possible, the party moving for summary judgment should provide**
10 **more than the minimum 28-day notice for motions.** The parties should prepare
11 papers in a fashion that will assist the Court in absorbing the mass of facts (e.g.,
12 generous use of tabs, tables of contents, headings, indices, etc.). The parties are to
13 comply with Local Rule 56-1 through 56-2, taking into account the Court's
14 additional requirements described below.

15 **i. Statements of Uncontroverted Facts and Genuine Disputes**

16 The separate Statement of Uncontroverted Facts required under Local Rule
17 56-1 shall be prepared in a two-column format. The left hand column sets forth the
18 allegedly undisputed fact. The right hand column sets forth the evidence that
19 supports the factual statement. The factual statements should be set forth in
20 sequentially numbered paragraphs. Each paragraph should contain a narrowly
21 focused statement of fact. Each numbered paragraph should address a single
22 subject as concisely as possible. The "Conclusions of Law" portion of the
23 Statement should be inserted after the Statement of Uncontroverted Facts.

24 The opposing party's Statement of Genuine Disputes of Material Fact must
25 be in two columns and track the movant's separate statement exactly as prepared.
26 The left hand column must restate the allegedly undisputed fact, and the right hand
27 column must state either that it is undisputed or disputed. The opposing party may
28 dispute all or only a portion of the statement, but if disputing only a portion, it

1 must clearly indicate what part is being disputed, followed by the opposing party's
2 evidence controverting the fact. To demonstrate that a fact is disputed, the
3 opposing party must briefly state why it disputes the moving party's asserted fact,
4 cite to the relevant exhibit or other piece of evidence, and describe what it is in that
5 exhibit or evidence that refutes the asserted fact. No legal argument should be set
6 forth in this document.

7 The opposing party may submit additional material facts that bear on or
8 relate to the issues raised by the movant, which shall follow the format described
9 above for the moving party's separate statement. These additional facts shall
10 continue in sequentially numbered paragraphs and shall set forth in the right hand
11 column the evidence that supports that statement.

12 **ii. Supporting Evidence**

13 No party shall submit evidence other than the specific items of evidence or
14 testimony necessary to support or controvert a proposed statement of undisputed
15 fact. For example, entire deposition transcripts, entire sets of interrogatory
16 responses, and documents that do not specifically support or controvert material in
17 the separate statement shall not be submitted in opposition to a motion for
18 summary judgment.

19 Evidence submitted in support of or in opposition to a motion should be
20 submitted either by way of stipulation or as exhibits to declarations sufficient to
21 authenticate the proffered evidence, and should not be attached to the
22 memorandum of points and authorities. Documentary evidence as to which there
23 is no stipulation regarding foundation must be accompanied by the testimony,
24 either by declaration or properly authenticated deposition transcript, of a witness
25 who can establish authenticity.

26 **iii. Objections to Evidence**

27 If a party disputes a fact based in whole or in part on an evidentiary
28 objection, the ground of the objection should be succinctly stated in a separate

1 statement of evidentiary objections in a two-column format. The left column
2 should identify the items objected to (including page and line number if applicable)
3 and the right column should set forth a concise objection (e.g., hearsay, lacks
4 foundation, etc.) with a citation to the Federal Rules of Evidence or, where
5 applicable, a case citation.

6 **6. PROPOSED ORDERS**

7 Each party filing or opposing a motion or seeking the determination of any
8 matter shall serve and electronically lodge a proposed order setting forth the relief
9 or action sought and a brief statement of the rationale for the decision with
10 appropriate citations. In addition, a copy of the Proposed Order in Word or
11 WordPerfect format shall be emailed to chambers at
12 *dmg_chambers@cacd.uscourts.gov* on the day the document is e-filed.

13 **7. COURTESY COPIES**

14 All original filings are to be filed electronically pursuant to Local Rule 5-4.
15 The Court requires ONE mandatory chambers copy of the following filed
16 documents to be delivered to the box located outside Room 218P (312 N. Spring
17 Street) no later than 12:00 p.m. the next business day after filing:

- 18 a. All motions and related documents and exhibits;
- 19 b. All *ex parte* applications and related documents and exhibits;
- 20 c. Criminal matters: all motions and related documents and exhibits,
21 plea agreements, and sentencing position papers.

22 Courtesy copies **DO NOT** need to be blue-backed. All mandatory chambers copies
23 shall be two-hole punched at the top.

24 **8. TELEPHONIC HEARINGS**

25 The Court may permit appearances or arguments by way of telephone
26 conference calls upon a showing that a personal appearance will cause undue
27 hardship. If you wish to appear by telephone, you must (a) email the courtroom
28 deputy clerk and copy opposing counsel at least three (3) days in advance of the

1 scheduled appearance; (b) provide the court clerk with the telephone number (land
2 lines only; no cell phones) at which the Court can reach you; and (c) be available at
3 that number for at least one-half hour before the time of the scheduled hearing.

4 **9. EX PARTE APPLICATIONS**

5 The Court considers *ex parte* applications on the papers and does not usually
6 set these matters for hearing. If a hearing is necessary, the parties will be notified.
7 *Ex parte* applications are solely for extraordinary relief and should be used with
8 discretion. Sanctions may be imposed for misuse of *ex parte* applications. *See*
9 *Mission Power Engineering Co. v. Continental Casualty Co.*, 883 F. Supp. 488
10 (C.D. Cal. 1995).

11 Counsel's attention is directed to the Local Rules. *Ex parte* applications that
12 fail to conform to Local Rule 7-19 and 7-19.1, **including a statement of opposing**
13 **counsel's position**, will not be considered except on a specific showing of good
14 cause. The moving party shall electronically serve the opposing party, if possible.
15 A party is considered served once the *ex parte* application has been e-filed (all
16 parties set up for electronic service are sent a notification of ECF filing each time a
17 document is e-filed with a link to the document for one free view). Parties set up
18 for service by fax or mail must be served the *ex parte* application by fax or
19 personal service.

20 Following service of the *ex parte* papers by electronic service, fax, or
21 personal service, the moving party shall notify the opposition that opposing papers
22 must be filed no later than twenty-four (24) hours (or one court day) following
23 service, except in cases where the opposing party has not previously appeared (i.e.,
24 responded to the Complaint). In those cases where the opposing party has not
25 previously appeared, the moving party shall, following service of the *ex parte*
26 papers, notify the opposition that opposing papers must be filed no later than forty-
27 eight (48) hours following service. **On the day the documents are e-filed**, a
28 conformed courtesy copy of moving, opposition, or notice of non-opposition

1 papers are to be hand-delivered to the courtesy box outside the entrance to Judge
2 Gee's chambers at Room 218P, 312 North Spring Street. Counsel will be notified
3 by the clerk of the Court's ruling. If counsel does not intend to oppose an *ex parte*
4 application, he or she must inform the courtroom deputy clerk at (213) 894-5452.

5 **10. CONTINUANCES**

6 This Court has a strong interest in keeping scheduled dates certain. Changes
7 in dates are disfavored. Trial dates set by the Court are firm and will rarely be
8 changed. Therefore, a stipulation to continue or extend the date of any matter
9 before this Court **must** be supported by a sufficient factual basis that demonstrates
10 good cause why the change in the date is essential. Without such compelling
11 factual support, stipulations continuing dates set by this Court will not be
12 approved. Counsel requesting a continuance or extension of time must
13 electronically file a stipulation and lodge a proposed order including a **detailed**
14 declaration of the grounds for the requested continuance or extension of time.
15 Failure to comply with the Local Rules and this Order will result in rejection of the
16 request without further notice to the parties. Proposed stipulations extending
17 scheduling dates do not become effective unless and until this Court so orders.
18 Counsel wishing to know whether a stipulation has been signed shall comply with
19 the applicable Local Rule. **Counsel shall avoid submitting requests for**
20 **continuance or extension of time less than five (5) court days prior to the**
21 **expiration of the scheduled date.**

22 **11. ORDER SETTING SCHEDULING CONFERENCE**

23 Pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P.16(b), the Court will issue an Order setting a
24 Scheduling Conference as required by Fed. R. Civ. P. 26 and the Local Rules of
25 this Court. Strict compliance with Fed. R. Civ. P. 16 and 26 is required.

26 IT IS SO ORDERED.

27 DATED:

28 _____
DOLLY M. GEE
United States District Judge