

1 2. Requests for continuance of status conferences are not favored and will not be granted
2 in the absence of a true emergency and, in any event, will not be entertained unless made in writing at
3 least five (5) days prior to the scheduled conference.

4 3. Plaintiff(s) shall complete service of process on all parties within ninety (90) days of the
5 date of the filing of the complaint, to allow the court to comply with Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 16(b).

6 4. Concurrently with the service of process, or as soon thereafter as possible, plaintiff(s) shall
7 serve upon each of the parties named in the complaint, and upon all parties subsequently joined, a copy
8 of this order, and shall file with the Clerk of the Court a certificate reflecting such service. Any party
9 who impleads a third-party defendant shall serve upon that party a copy of this order and shall file with
10 the Clerk of the Court a certificate reflecting such service.

11 5. In the event this action was originally filed in a state court and was thereafter removed to
12 this court, the removing party or parties shall, immediately following such removal, serve upon each of
13 the other parties named in the complaint, and upon all parties subsequently joined, a copy of this order
14 and shall file with the Clerk of the Court a certificate reflecting such service.

15 6. At least twenty-eight (28) calendar days before the Status Conference is held, parties
16 shall confer as contemplated by Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26 and Local Rule 240(b). The
17 parties shall submit, at least fourteen (14) days prior to the Status Conference, a Joint Status Report
18 that includes the Rule 26(f) discovery plan, with all named parties participating in the preparation
19 and completion of the report. The status report shall address the following matters:

- 20 a. a brief summary of the claims and legal theories under which recovery is sought or
- 21 liability is denied;
- 22 b. status of service upon all defendants and cross-defendants;
- 23 c. possible joinder of additional parties;
- 24 d. contemplated amendments to the pleadings, including to simplify or clarify the issues
- 25 and eliminate previous claims and defenses;
- 26 e. the statutory bases for jurisdiction and venue;
- 27 f. anticipated discovery and the scheduling of discovery, including:

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- i. what changes, if any, should be made in the timing, form, or requirement for disclosures under Rule 26(a), including a statement as to when disclosures under Rule 26(a)(1) were made or will be made, and whether further discovery conferences should be held;
 - ii. the subjects on which discovery may be needed, when discovery should be completed, and whether discovery should be conducted in phases;
 - iii. what changes, if any, should be made in the limitations on discovery imposed under the Civil Rules and what other limitations, if any, should be imposed;
 - iv. the timing of the disclosure of expert witnesses and information required by Rule 26(a)(2); and
 - v. proposed dates for discovery cut-off.
- g. contemplated dispositive or other motions and a proposed date by which all non-discovery motions shall be heard;
- h. methods that can be used from the outset to avoid unnecessary proof and cumulative evidence, and anticipated limitations or restrictions on the use of testimony under Federal Rule of Evidence 702;
- i. a proposed date for final pretrial conference;
 - j. a proposed date for trial, estimated number of days of trial, and whether any party has demanded a jury;
 - k. appropriateness of special procedures such as reference to a special master or agreement to try the matter before the assigned magistrate judge pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 636(c);
 - l. proposed modification of standard pretrial procedures because of the simplicity or complexity of the case;
 - m. whether the case is related to any other case pending in this district, including the bankruptcy court of this district;

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- 1 n. optimal timing and method for settlement discussions, including whether a court-convened
2 settlement conference should be scheduled, whether in the case of a jury trial the parties
3 will stipulate to the trial judge acting as a settlement judge, and the parties' positions with
4 respect to Voluntary Dispute Resolution (VDRP) as required by Local Rule 271(d); and
5 o. any other matters that may be conducive to the just and expeditious disposition of the case.

6 7. The court, upon review of the joint status report and following the status conference, will
7 issue a scheduling order governing the future course of the litigation. Counsel are directed to read that
8 order carefully once it is issued. Requests to modify or vacate any date set forth in the order will not be
9 favored and will not be granted absent good cause.

10 8. In the extraordinary event the parties are not able to file a joint status report, each party
11 must file an individual status report and attach a declaration setting forth, in detail, the extraordinary
12 circumstances that prevented the parties from filing a joint status report.

13 9. Any non-governmental corporate party to an action in this court shall file a statement
14 identifying all its parent corporations and listing any publicly held company that owns (10%) or more of
15 the party's stock. Plaintiff(s) shall file the statement not later than fourteen (14) days after filing the
16 complaint, and defendant(s) shall file the statement with the initial pleading(s) filed in the court. The
17 parties shall supplement the statement within a reasonable time of any change in the information
18 required by this paragraph.

19 10. Counsel are reminded of their continuing duty as provided by Local Rule 160 to
20 immediately notify the courtroom deputy and chambers of any settlement or other disposition of the
21 case. *See also* Local Rule 272.

22 DATED: March 8, 2023



DALE A. DROZD
U.S. DISTRICT COURT JUDGE

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8 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**
9 **FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

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11 **OUR WATCH WITH TIM THOMPSON,**

NO. 2:23-CV-00422-DAD-DB

12 Plaintiff,

STANDING ORDER IN CIVIL CASES

13 v.

14 **ROB BONTA,**

15 Defendant.

16
17 I. LAW AND MOTION

18 A. Calendar

19 The civil law and motion calendar for District Judge Drozd is held on the first and third Tuesday
20 of every month commencing at 1:30 p.m., with hearings held by Zoom only. Parties will receive a
21 Zoom ID number and password for the hearing by email from Judge Drozd's Courtroom Deputy
22 Pete Buzo (PBuzo@caed.uscourts.gov). Any other interested parties or members of the public may
23 access the hearing telephonically by dialing 888-557-8511 and using access code 9683466, at the
24 time of the hearing. Because several matters may be set for hearing on the same afternoon, the parties
25 will be notified in advance of the hearing at what specific time the court anticipates calling their case so
26 they can join the Zoom at that time.

27 All motions shall be noticed for hearing. It is not necessary to clear a date prior to scheduling
28 a civil law and motion matter for hearing. The parties may indicate in their papers if they wish to

1 submit any motion for decision without oral argument. The court may elect to submit any motion for
2 decision without oral argument, taking the matter under submission pursuant to Local Rule 230(g),
3 and will so advise the parties by minute order in advance of any noticed hearing date. The parties
4 are required to comply with Local Rule 230, or other applicable rules and notice requirements with
5 respect to motions.

6 B. Briefing

7 All briefs must be submitted using Times New Roman font of no less than 12pt size. Footnotes
8 must be no more than one size smaller than the text size.

9 Unless prior leave of court is obtained, all moving and opposition briefs or legal memorandum
10 in civil cases shall not exceed 25 pages. Reply briefs filed by moving parties shall not exceed 15 pages.
11 Only for good cause shown will the court grant an application to extend these page limitations. Briefs
12 that exceed the page limitations or are sought to be filed without leave of court may not be considered.
13 Finally, no supplemental briefs shall be filed without prior leave of court.

14 C. Meet and Confer Requirement

15 Prior to filing a motion in a case in which the parties are represented by counsel, counsel shall
16 engage in a pre-filing meet and confer to discuss thoroughly the substance of the contemplated motion
17 and any potential resolution. Counsel should resolve minor procedural or other non-substantive matters
18 during the meet and confer process so that briefing on motions that proceed to hearing is directed only
19 to those substantive issues requiring resolution by the court. **A notice of motion shall contain a**
20 **certification by counsel filing the motion that meet and confer efforts have been exhausted,**
21 **with a very brief summary of meet and confer efforts.**

22 D. Tentative Rulings

23 Judge Drozd does not issue tentative rulings.

24 E. Proposed Orders

25 The parties are not required to submit proposed orders with civil motions set for hearing before
26 Judge Drozd, with the exception that proposed orders shall be submitted with motions for a temporary
27 restraining order and motions for a preliminary injunction. In addition, parties shall provide proposed
28 consent decrees where applicable, and proposed findings of fact and conclusions of law following

1 a bench trial. Any such required proposed order shall be submitted in compliance with Local Rule
2 137(b) and emailed in Microsoft Word format to dadorders@caed.uscourts.gov.

3 F. Courtesy Copies

4 Counsel shall have delivered to the Clerk's Office clearly marked conformed courtesy copies
5 of all manually filed documents and courtesy copies of all electronically filed documents that exceed
6 twenty-five (25) pages (including exhibits and attachments), bearing the ECF date/page stamp at the
7 top of the page, by either personally delivering them or sending them by guaranteed overnight delivery.
8 See Local Rule 133(f). The parties need not provide courtesy copies of answers or shorter pleadings.
9 If a courtesy copy is sent by guaranteed overnight delivery, the sender shall notify the delivery service
10 that the signature of the recipient is not required.

11 G. TROs and Injunctions

12 Parties seeking emergency or provisional relief shall comply with Federal Rule of Civil Procedure
13 65 and Local Rule 231. The court typically will not rule on any application for such relief for at least
14 twenty-four (24) hours after the party subject to the requested order has been served; such party may
15 file opposing or responding papers in the interim. The parties shall lodge a courtesy copy with chambers
16 of all papers relating to proposed TROs and injunctions, conformed to reflect that they have been filed.

17 II. TRANSCRIPTS

18 If you wish to order a transcript, please contact the Court Reporter who covered the hearing or
19 trial directly. Contact information for individual court reporters can be found on the U.S. District Court
20 for the Eastern District of California's website.

21 III. EX PARTE APPLICATIONS

22 *Ex parte* applications typically are not heard but are submitted by the court unless otherwise
23 notified. The filer is required to contact the courtroom deputy and the opposing party prior to the filing
24 of the *ex parte* application in order to advise that such request is being made. In addition, the
25 document(s) must indicate whether or not an opposition will be filed. The filer shall include an affidavit
26 indicating a satisfactory explanation for the following: (1) the need for the issuance of such an order,
27 (2) the inability of the filer to obtain a stipulation for the issuance of such an order from other counsel

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1 or parties in the action, and (3) why such request cannot be noticed on the court's motion calendar as
2 provided by Local Rule 230.

3 **IV. MOTIONS FOR ADMINISTRATIVE RELIEF**

4 The parties are required to comply with Local Rule 233 when filing miscellaneous administrative
5 matters. As stated in that rule, such matters may include "motions to exceed applicable page limitations;
6 requests to shorten time on a motion; requests to extend a response deadline; requests to alter a briefing
7 schedule; or requests to alter a discovery schedule that does not affect dispositive motion filing dates,
8 trial dates, or the final pre-trial conference." *See* L.R. 233. Parties shall comply will all procedural
9 requirements set forth in Local Rule 233, including that a motion for administrative relief be accompanied
10 by a proposed order. L.R. 233(a).

11 **V. SEALING, REDACTING, AND PROTECTIVE ORDERS**

12 No document will be sealed, nor shall a redacted be filed, without the prior approval of the court.
13 If a document for which sealing or redaction is sought relates to the record on a motion to be decided by
14 Judge Drozd, the request to seal or redact should be directed to him and not the assigned Magistrate
15 Judge. All requests to seal or redact shall be governed by Local Rules 141 (sealing) and 140 (redaction).

16 **Protective orders covering the discovery phase shall not govern the filing of sealed or**
17 **redacted documents on the public docket. The court will only consider requests to seal or**
18 **redact filed by the proponent of sealing or redaction.** If a party plans to make a filing that includes
19 material an opposing party has identified as confidential and potentially subject to sealing or redacting,
20 the filing party shall provide the opposing party with sufficient notice in advance of filing to allow for the
21 seeking of an order of sealing or redaction from the court.

22 Pursuant to Local Rule 141, a Notice of Request to Seal Document(s) must be filed electronically.
23 The Request to Seal, a proposed sealing order (in Word), and all documents covered by the request
24 must be emailed to dadorders@caed.uscourts.gov. If the request is approved and notice of electronic
25 filing of the sealing order is received, all documents covered by the order must be emailed to
26 ApprovedSealed@caed.uscourts.gov for filing under seal.

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1 VI. ELECTRONIC FILING

2 The United States District Court for the Eastern District of California requires electronic filing
3 of documents in all new and pending civil cases in which parties are represented by counsel. A party
4 proceeding without counsel may request authorization to file electronically. Information about the court's
5 Electronic Case Filing system ("ECF") is available on the court's website at
6 www.caed.uscourts.gov/cmecf. See also Local Rule 133.

7 VII. TRIAL

8 A. Pretrial Statements and Final Pretrial Conference

9 In those cases in which Judge Drozd is conducting the Final Pretrial Conference, the parties are
10 required to submit a Joint Pretrial Statement pursuant to Local Rule 281. The parties' Joint Pretrial
11 Statement must be filed seven days before the date set for the Final Pretrial Conference and must also
12 be e-mailed as a Word document to: dadorders@caed.uscourts.gov. **Separate pretrial statements**
13 **are not permitted unless a party is not represented by counsel.**

14 The Joint Pretrial statement must cover all topics detailed in Local Rule 281 with the following
15 clarifications:

- 16 i. the parties must include a neutral joint statement of case;
- 17 ii. all duplicative or overlapping exhibits between parties must be
18 listed as joint exhibits on a separate joint exhibit list, identified
as JX-1, JX-2, etc.
- 19 iii. plaintiff's exhibits shall be listed numerically, and defendant's
20 exhibits shall be listed alphabetically;
- 21 iv. all exhibits must be identified with a reasonable amount of detail
(e.g., date, Bates-stamp number, description, estimated page
22 length) so that there is no confusion as to what exhibit is
identified;
- 23 v. all remaining issues (e.g., claims, affirmative defenses, forms of
24 relief) asserted in the action must be stated under the points of
law section or identified as an abandoned issue; and
- 25 vi. motions *in limine* listed should be limited to those which the
26 parties reasonably anticipate filing.

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1 The parties shall not file motions in limine prior to the pretrial conference. Following the pretrial
2 conference, the court will issue a pretrial order that will set dates for the filing of motions *in limine*, the
3 submission of exhibits, and other trial-related documents/deadlines.

4 B. Trial Schedule and Courtroom

5 Trials will be conducted in Courtroom 4 on the 15th floor. Trials will begin on Mondays at
6 9:00 a.m. If Monday falls on a federal holiday, then trial will begin on Wednesday at 9:00 a.m. Trials
7 will be held on Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays.

8 To bring large physical items, demonstrative exhibits, or electronic equipment, etc., to the
9 courtroom, counsel must make arrangements with the Courtroom Deputy, who will contact Court
10 Security for clearance to enter the building with the items.

11 Conference rooms are available on either side of the courtroom (out in the hallway) for use
12 during trial.

13 C. Audio and Video Equipment

14 The Courtroom has a variety of audio/visual equipment available to use for trial purposes.
15 Available equipment includes: ELMOs, projectors, plasma screens, microphones, assisted listening
16 devices and laptop connections. Attorneys should arrange through the Courtroom Deputy a time to
17 meet with court Information Technology staff for training on electronic equipment prior to trial.

18 VII. NOTICE OF THIS ORDER

19 Counsel for plaintiff shall immediately serve this order on all parties, including any new parties
20 added to the action in the future, unless this case came to the court by noticed removal, in which case
21 defendant shall serve this order on all other parties.

22 DATED: March 8, 2023



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24 **DALE A. DROZD**
U.S. DISTRICT COURT JUDGE

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
501 I STREET, SUITE 15-220
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814

Chambers of
KIMBERLY J. MUELLER
Chief United States District Judge

(916) 930-4260

Magistrate Judge Consent in Civil Cases: Know Your Rights!

Delay, congestion, uncertainty, and expense are concerns often expressed by civil litigants. These concerns have reached a crisis level in the Eastern District of California.

Despite the population of our District nearly doubling since 1979 and a corresponding tremendous increase in case filings, for the past 40 years our court has only 6 authorized District Judgeship positions. The U.S. Judicial Conference, the policy-making arm of the federal courts, has recommended for decades that Congress authorize between 5 and 11 new judgeships for this court. While the court is doing what it can to ensure Congress is fully informed regarding our current proposed allocation of 5 new judgeships, we cannot at this point say there is a realistic hope of new District Judgeships in the foreseeable future.

Compounding our challenges, while we have welcomed one new District Judge as of December 2021, we continue to have one vacancy among our 6 authorized judgeships. The Sacramento Division has experienced a net loss of one District Judge's services, with Senior District Judge Garland E. Burrell's taking inactive senior status and District Judge Morrison C. England's taking active senior status and reducing his caseload. Our Fresno courthouse has been even harder hit, with former Chief District Judge Lawrence J. O'Neill's taking inactive senior status at the end of January 2020; for nearly two years the Fresno District Court operated with only one active Article III judge to handle all criminal cases and a heavy share of civil cases, and one senior Article III judge who assists the court by taking a half civil caseload. The Eastern District has been significantly congested for many years, consistently carrying average weighted caseloads equal or close to twice the national average for federal trial courts. Given our current more dire circumstances, civil litigants are having to vie for less and less District Judge time and attention. Civil litigants therefore may wish to consider consenting to Magistrate Judge jurisdiction, given that the court has a full complement of experienced Magistrate Judges available to preside to the full extent allowed by law.

The Magistrate Judge consent process can help bring about the "just, speedy, and inexpensive determination" of federal cases. Fed. R. Civ. P. 1. Although their title has changed periodically, Magistrate Judges, as they currently are known, have had a role in the federal courts since passage of the Judiciary Act of 1789. Over time, Congress has expanded and enhanced the position in the interests of maximizing judicial efficiency. Specifically, Magistrate Judges are authorized "to conduct any or all proceedings in a jury or non-jury civil matter and order the entry of judgment in the case" with the consent of the parties. 28 U.S.C. § 636(c). Consent can maximize access to the courts and ease court congestion through effective use of judicial resources. It can provide numerous benefits to litigants including the prospect of an early and firm trial date, when District Judges may not be available to try a civil case given the need to prioritize felony criminal cases.

In civil cases, the assigned Magistrate Judge already is responsible for resolving discovery disputes, deciding other non-dispositive motions and in some instances handling pre-trial proceedings; as a result that judge may be intimately familiar with the case history. Consenting in any civil case allows the Magistrate Judge to decide dispositive motions and preside over trial, and so can avoid the

uncertainty parties may face while waiting for the District Judge to identify time on his or her calendar for trial. Just as with a judgment issued by a District Judge, a judgment issued by a Magistrate Judge to whom the parties in a civil case have consented is appealable directly to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

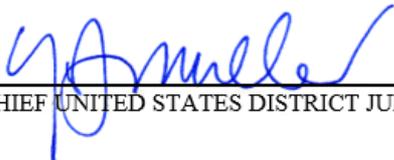
As their professional biographies posted on our court's website show, our Magistrate Judges are well-qualified to preside over the cases assigned them. They are experienced, high-caliber judges with diverse experiences in civil and criminal litigation who have been selected on the merits, taking into account their education, experience, knowledge of the court system, personal attributes and other criteria. Our Magistrate Judges are well-qualified to preside over the civil cases brought in our court.

To consent to magistrate judge jurisdiction, a party simply signs and files a consent form. The form is available on the court's website, at this link:

<http://www.caed.uscourts.gov/caednew/index.cfm/forms/civil/>.

Parties may consent or withhold consent without any adverse consequences. Once all parties to a case consent, then the assigned District Judge is notified and considers whether to approve the consent. Once the District Judge accepts, then the Magistrate Judge determines whether to accept consent jurisdiction, taking the opportunity to consider any conflicts or bases for recusal.

All litigants before the federal courts deserve justice delivered in a fair, prompt, and efficient manner. Our Magistrate Judges play a critical role in providing essential access to justice, particularly in our overburdened court. Consenting to Magistrate Judge jurisdiction in civil cases may represent one of the best ways to secure "just, speedy, and inexpensive determination" of your case, which is why we want to be sure you are fully aware of your right and ability to consent, and the means of doing so.


CHIEF UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF A MAGISTRATE JUDGE
TO EXERCISE JURISDICTION AND APPEAL INSTRUCTIONS**

You are hereby notified in accordance with 28 U.S.C §636(c), F.R.Civ.P.73 and Local Rule 305, the United States Magistrate Judges sitting in Sacramento and Fresno are available to exercise the court's case–dispositive jurisdiction and to conduct any or all case–dispositive proceedings in this action, including motions to dismiss, motions for summary judgment, a jury or non jury trial, and entry of a final judgment. Exercise of this jurisdiction by a Magistrate Judge is however, permitted only if all parties voluntarily consent. You may, without adverse substantive consequences, withhold your consent, but this will prevent the court's case–dispositive jurisdiction from being exercised by a Magistrate Judge.

Any appeal from a judgment entered by a Magistrate Judge is taken directly to the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit or, where appropriate, for the Federal Circuit in the same manner as an appeal from any other judgment of a District Court.

Whether or not the parties consent pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 636(c), the assigned Magistrate Judge will hear all motions except those case–dispositive motions set forth in 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1)(A).

A copy of the Form for "Consent to / Decline of Jurisdiction of United States Magistrate Judge" is attached hereto for pro per use and attorney information. This form is available in fillable .pdf format on the court's web site at www.caed.uscourts.gov for all attorney ECF filers. This form may be filed through CM/ECF or by pro se litigants at the appropriate Clerk's Office location.

Office of the Clerk
501 I Street, Room 4–200
Sacramento, CA 95814

Office of the Clerk
2500 Tulare Street, Suite 1501
Fresno, CA 93721

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

OUR WATCH WITH TIM THOMPSON ,
Plaintiff(s) / Petitioner(s),

CASE NO: 2:23-CV-00422-DAD-DB

vs.

CONSENT / DECLINE OF U.S.
MAGISTRATE JUDGE JURISDICTION

ROB BONTA ,
Defendant(s) / Respondent(s).

IMPORTANT

**IF YOU CHOOSE TO CONSENT OR DECLINE TO CONSENT TO JURISDICTION OF
A UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE, CHECK AND SIGN THE APPROPRIATE
SECTION OF THIS FORM AND RETURN IT TO THE CLERK'S OFFICE.**

CONSENT TO JURISDICTION OF UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

In accordance with the provisions of Title 28, U.S.C Sec. 636(c)(1), the undersigned hereby voluntarily consents to have a United States Magistrate Judge conduct all further proceedings in this case, including trial and entry of final judgment, with direct review by the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, in the event an appeal is filed.

Date: _____

Signature: _____

Print Name: _____

() Plaintiff / Petitioner () Defendant / Respondent

Counsel for _____*

DECLINE OF JURISDICTION OF UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

Pursuant to Title 28, U.S.C. Sec 636(c)(2), the undersigned acknowledges the availability of a United States Magistrate Judge but hereby declines to consent.

Date: _____

Signature: _____

Print Name: _____

() Plaintiff / Petitioner () Defendant / Respondent

Counsel for _____*

**If representing more than one party, counsel must indicate the name of each party responding.*

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY

VOLUNTARY DISPUTE RESOLUTION

Pursuant to the findings and directives of Congress in 28 U.S.C. §§ 651 *et seq.*, and in recognition of the economic burdens and delay in the resolution of disputes that can be imposed by full formal litigation, Local Rule 271 governs the referral of certain actions to the Voluntary Dispute Resolution Program ("VDRP") at the election of parties. Plaintiff or removing party is to provide all other parties with copies of the notice at the time service is effected or, for parties already served, no more than fourteen (14) days after receiving notice from the Court. After filing of the original complaint or removal action, any party who causes a new party to be joined in the action shall promptly serve a copy of the notice on the new party.

It is the Court's intention that the VDRP shall allow the participants to take advantage of a wide variety of alternative dispute resolution methods. These methods may include, but are not limited to, mediation, negotiation, early neutral evaluation and settlement facilitation. The specific method or methods employed will be determined by the Neutral and the parties.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that pursuant to Local Rule 271, *this Local Rule applies to* all civil actions pending before any District Judge or Magistrate Judge in the District except that actions in the following categories are exempt from presumptive inclusion: (i) prisoner petitions and actions, including habeas corpus petitions, (ii) actions in which one of the parties is appearing *pro se*, (iii) voting rights actions, (iv) social security actions, (v) deportation actions, (vi) Freedom of Information Act actions, and (vii) actions involving the constitutionality of federal, state or local statutes or ordinances. The fact that a case falls in a category that is exempt from the presumptive applicability of this Local Rule neither (1) precludes the parties to such a case from agreeing to participate in an Alternative Dispute Resolution ("ADR") process, nor (2) deprives the Court of authority to compel participation in an appropriate ADR proceeding.

Parties may elect Voluntary Dispute Resolution with the Court indicating that all parties to the action agree to submit the action to VDRP pursuant to Local Rule 271. Actions may not be assigned to VDRP over the objection of a party. (Copy of sample stipulation attached hereto.) **At the time of filing, a copy of the stipulation shall be provided to the VDRP Administrator designated below:**

Sacramento Cases

Voluntary Dispute Resolution
Program Administrator
United States District Court
501 "I" Street, Suite 4-200
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 930-4278

Fresno Cases

Voluntary Dispute Resolution
Program Administrator
United States District Court
2500 Tulare Street, Suite 1501
Fresno, CA 93721
(559) 499-5600

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**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

OUR WATCH WITH TIM THOMPSON ,

NO: 2:23-CV-00422-DAD-DB

Plaintiff(s)

v.

STIPULATION TO ELECT REFERRAL
OF ACTION TO VOLUNTARY DISPUTE
RESOLUTION PROGRAM (VDRP)
PURSUANT TO LOCAL RULE 271

ROB BONTA ,

Defendant(s)

Pursuant to Local Rule 271, the parties hereby agree to submit the above-entitled action to
the Voluntary Dispute Resolution Program.

DATED: **MARCH 8, 2023**

Name:
Attorney for Plaintiff(s)

Name:
Attorney for Defendant(s)