

1 **III. CIVIL DISCOVERY**

2 **1. Evidence Preservation.** After a party has notice of this order, it must take the steps needed
3 to preserve information relevant to the issues in this action, including suspending any document-
4 destruction programs (including destruction programs for electronically maintained material).

5 **2. Production of Documents In Original Form.** When searching for material under Federal
6 Rule of Civil Procedure 26(a)(1) or after a Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 34(a) request, parties
7 (a) must search all locations — electronic and otherwise — where responsive materials might
8 plausibly exist, and (b) to the extent feasible, produce or make available for copying and/or
9 inspection the materials in their original form, sequence, and organization (including, for example,
10 file folders).

11 **3. Privilege Logs.** If a party withholds material as privileged, *see* Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(b)(5) and
12 45(d)(2)(A), it must produce a privilege log that is sufficiently detailed for the opposing party to
13 assess whether the assertion of privilege is justified. The log must be produced as quickly as
14 possible but no later than fourteen days after the party’s disclosures or discovery responses are due
15 unless the parties stipulate to, or the court sets, another date. Unless the parties agree to a different
16 logging method, privilege logs must contain the following: (a) the title and description of the
17 document, the number of pages, and the Bates-number range; (b) the subject matter or general
18 nature of the document (without disclosing its contents); (c) the identity and position of its author;
19 (d) the date it was communicated (or prepared, if that is the more relevant date); (e) the identity
20 and position of all addressees and recipients of the communication; (f) the document’s present
21 location; (g) the specific basis for the assertion that the document is privileged or protected
22 (including a brief summary of any supporting facts); and (h) the steps taken to ensure the
23 confidentiality of the communication, including an affirmation that no unauthorized persons
24 received the communication.

25 **4. Expedited Procedures for Discovery Disputes.** The parties may not file formal discovery
26 motions. Instead, and as required by the federal rules and local rules, the parties must meet and
27 confer to try to resolve their disagreements. *See* Fed. R. Civ. P. 37(a)(1); Civil L. R. 37-1. Counsel
28 may confer initially by email, letter, or telephone to try to narrow their disputes. After trying those

1 means, lead trial counsel then must meet and confer **in person** to try to resolve the dispute. (If
2 counsel are located outside of the Bay Area and cannot confer in person, lead counsel may meet
3 and confer by telephone.) Either party may demand such a meeting with ten days' notice. If the
4 parties cannot agree on the location, the location for meetings will alternate. The plaintiff's
5 counsel will select the first location, defense counsel will select the second location, and so forth.
6 If the parties do not resolve their disagreements through this procedure, lead counsel must file a
7 joint letter brief no later than five days after lead counsels' in-person meet-and-confer. The letter
8 brief must be filed under the Civil Events category of "Motions and Related Filings > Motions —
9 General > Discovery Letter Brief." It may be **no more than five pages** (12-point font or greater,
10 margins of no less than one inch) without leave of the court. Lead counsel for both parties must
11 sign the letter and attest that they met and conferred in person. Each issue must be set forth in a
12 separate section that includes (1) a statement of the unresolved issue, (2) a summary of each
13 parties' position (with citations to supporting facts and legal authority), and (3) each party's final
14 proposed compromise. (This process allows a side-by-side, stand-alone analysis of each disputed
15 issue.) If the disagreement concerns specific discovery that a party has propounded, such as
16 interrogatories, requests for production of documents, or answers or objections to such discovery,
17 the parties must reproduce the question/request and the response in full either in the letter or, if the
18 page limits in the letter are not sufficient, in a single joint exhibit. The court then will review the
19 letter brief and determine whether formal briefing or future proceedings are necessary. In
20 emergencies during discovery events such as depositions, the parties may contact the court
21 through the court's courtroom deputy pursuant to Civil Local Rule 37-1(b) but first must send a
22 short joint email describing the nature of the dispute to lbpo@cand.uscourts.gov.

23 **IV. CONSENT CASES**

24 1. In cases that are assigned to Judge Beeler for all purposes, the parties must file their written
25 consent or declination of consent to the assignment of a United States Magistrate Judge for all
26 purposes as soon as possible. If a party files a dispositive motion (such as a motion to dismiss or a
27 motion for remand), the moving party must file the consent or declination simultaneously with the
28 motion, and the party opposing the motion must file the consent or declination simultaneously

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with the opposition.

2. The first joint case-management conference statement in a case must contain all of the information in the Northern District’s standing order titled “Contents of Joint Case Management Statement.” Subsequent statements for further case-management conferences must not repeat information contained in an earlier statement and instead must report only progress or changes since the last case-management conference and any new recommendations for case management.

V. SUMMARY-JUDGMENT MOTIONS

The parties may not file separate statements of undisputed facts. *See* Civil L. R. 56-2. Joint statements of undisputed facts are not required but are helpful. Any joint statement must include — for each undisputed fact — citations to admissible evidence. A joint statement generally must be filed with the opening brief, and the briefs should cite to that statement. A reasonable process for drafting a joint statement is as follows: (1) two weeks before the filing date, the moving party proposes its undisputed facts, and (2) one week later, the responding party replies and the parties meet and confer about any disagreements. For oppositions, a responding party may propose additional undisputed facts to the moving party within seven days after the motion is filed and ask for a response within two business days.

IT IS SO ORDERED.



LAUREL BEELER
United States Magistrate Judge