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IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE,

Plaintiff,

No. C 16-04815 WHA

v.

CITY OF BERKELEY,

Defendant.

**CASE MANAGEMENT ORDER
AND REFERENCE TO
MAGISTRATE JUDGE FOR
MEDIATION/SETTLEMENT**

After a case management conference, the Court enters the following order pursuant to Rule 16 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure (“FRCP”) and Civil Local Rule 16-10:

1. All initial disclosures under FRCP 26 must be completed by **DECEMBER 30, 2016**, on pain of preclusion under FRCP 37(c), including full and faithful compliance with FRCP 26(a)(1)(A)(iii).
2. Leave to add any new parties or pleading amendments must be sought by **FEBRUARY 28, 2017**.
3. The non-expert discovery cut-off date shall be **SEPTEMBER 29, 2017**.
4. The last date for designation of expert testimony and disclosure of full expert reports under FRCP 26(a)(2) as to any issue on which a party has the burden of proof (“opening reports”) shall be **SEPTEMBER 29, 2017**. Within **FOURTEEN CALENDAR DAYS** of said deadline, all other parties must disclose any expert reports on the same issue (“opposition reports”). Within **SEVEN CALENDAR DAYS** thereafter, the party with the

1 burden of proof must disclose any reply reports rebutting specific material in opposition
2 reports. Reply reports must be limited to true rebuttal and should be very brief. They
3 should not add new material that should have been placed in the opening report and the
4 reply material will ordinarily be reserved for the rebuttal or sur-rebuttal phase of the
5 trial. If the party with the burden of proof neglects to make a timely disclosure, the
6 other side, if it wishes to put in expert evidence on the same issue anyway, must disclose
7 its expert report within the fourteen-day period. In that event, the party with the burden
8 of proof on the issue may then file a reply expert report within the seven-day period,
9 subject to possible exclusion for “sandbagging” and, at all events, any such reply
10 material may be presented at trial only after, if at all, the other side actually presents
11 expert testimony to which the reply is responsive. The cutoff for all expert discovery
12 shall be **FOURTEEN CALENDAR DAYS** after the deadline for reply reports. In aid of
13 preparing an opposition or reply report, a responding party may depose the adverse
14 expert sufficiently before the deadline for the opposition or reply report so as to use the
15 testimony in preparing the response. Experts must make themselves readily available
16 for such depositions. Alternatively, the responding party can elect to depose the expert
17 later in the expert-discovery period. An expert, however, may be deposed only once
18 unless the expert is used for different opening and/or opposition reports, in which case
19 the expert may be deposed independently on the subject matter of each report. At least
20 **28 CALENDAR DAYS** before the due date for opening reports, each party shall serve a list
21 of issues on which it will offer any expert testimony in its case-in-chief (including from
22 non-retained experts). This is so that all parties will be timely able to obtain
23 counter-experts on the listed issues and to facilitate the timely completeness of all expert
24 reports. Failure to so disclose may result in preclusion.

- 25 5. As to damages studies, the cut-off date for *past damages* will be as of the expert report
26 (or such earlier date as the expert may select). In addition, the experts may try to project
27 *future damages* (*i.e.*, after the cut-off date) if the substantive standards for future
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- 1 damages can be met. With timely leave of Court or by written stipulation, the experts
2 may update their reports (with supplemental reports) to a date closer to the time of trial.
- 3 6. At trial, the direct testimony of experts will be limited to the matters disclosed in their
4 reports. Omitted material may not ordinarily be added on direct examination.
5 This means the reports must be complete and sufficiently detailed.
6 Illustrative animations, diagrams, charts and models may be used on direct examination
7 only if they were part of the expert's report, with the exception of simple drawings and
8 tabulations that plainly illustrate what is already in the report, which can be drawn by
9 the witness at trial or otherwise shown to the jury. If cross-examination fairly opens the
10 door, however, an expert may go beyond the written report on cross-examination and/or
11 redirect examination. By written stipulation, of course, all sides may relax these
12 requirements. For trial, an expert must learn and testify to the full amount of billing and
13 unbilled time by him or his firm on the engagement.
- 14 7. To head off a recurring problem, experts lacking percipient knowledge should avoid
15 vouching for the credibility of witnesses, *i.e.*, whose version of the facts in dispute is
16 correct. This means that they may not, for example, testify that based upon a review of
17 fact depositions and other material supplied by counsel, a police officer did (or did not)
18 violate standards. Rather, the expert should be asked for his or her opinion based —
19 explicitly — upon an assumed fact scenario. This will make clear that the witness is not
20 attempting to make credibility and fact findings and thereby to invade the province of
21 the jury. Of course, a qualified expert can testify to relevant customs, usages, practices,
22 recognized standards of conduct, and other specialized matters beyond the ken of a lay
23 jury. This subject is addressed further in the trial guidelines referenced in paragraph 15
24 below.
- 25 8. Counsel need not request a motion hearing date and may notice non-discovery motions
26 for any Thursday (excepting holidays) at 8:00 a.m. The Court sometimes rules on the
27 papers, issuing a written order and vacating the hearing. If a written request for oral
28 argument is filed before a ruling, stating that a lawyer of four or fewer years out of law

- 1 school will conduct the oral argument or at least the lion's share, then the Court will
2 hear oral argument, believing that young lawyers need more opportunities for
3 appearances than they usually receive. Discovery motions should be as per the
4 supplemental order referenced in paragraph 15 and shall be expedited.
- 5 9. The last date to file dispositive motions shall be **OCTOBER 5, 2017**. No dispositive
6 motions shall be heard more than 35 days *after* this deadline, *i.e.*, if any party waits until
7 the last day to file, then the parties must adhere to the 35-day track in order to avoid
8 pressure on the trial date.
- 9 10. The **FINAL PRETRIAL CONFERENCE** shall be at **2:00 P.M.** on **NOVEMBER 22, 2017**.
10 Although the Court encourages argument and participation by younger attorneys, lead
11 trial counsel must attend the final pretrial conference. For the form of submissions for
12 the final pretrial conference and trial, please see paragraph 15 below.
- 13 11. A **BENCH TRIAL** shall begin on **DECEMBER 4, 2017**, at **7:30 A.M.**, in Courtroom 8,
14 19th Floor, 450 Golden Gate Avenue, San Francisco, California, 94102. The trial
15 schedule and time limits shall be set at the final pretrial conference. Although almost all
16 trials proceed on the date scheduled, it may be necessary on occasion for a case to trail,
17 meaning the trial may commence a few days or even a few weeks after the date stated
18 above, due to calendar congestion and the need to give priority to criminal trials.
19 Counsel and the parties should plan accordingly, including advising witnesses.
- 20 12. Counsel may not stipulate around the foregoing dates without Court approval.
- 21 13. While the Court encourages the parties to engage in settlement discussions, please do
22 not ask for any extensions on the ground of settlement discussions or on the ground that
23 the parties experienced delays in scheduling settlement conferences, mediation or ENE.
24 The parties should proceed to prepare their cases for trial. No continuance (even if
25 stipulated) shall be granted on the ground of incomplete preparation without competent
26 and detailed declarations setting forth good cause.
- 27 14. To avoid any misunderstanding with respect to the final pretrial conference and trial, the
28 Court wishes to emphasize that all filings and appearances must be made — on pain of

United States District Court
For the Northern District of California

1 dismissal, default or other sanction — unless and until a dismissal fully resolving the
2 case is received. It will not be enough to inform the clerk that a settlement in principle
3 has been reached or to lodge a partially executed settlement agreement or to lodge a
4 fully executed agreement (or dismissal) that resolves less than the entire case.

5 Where, however, a fully-executed settlement agreement clearly and fully disposing of
6 the entire case is lodged reasonably in advance of the pretrial conference or trial and
7 only a ministerial act remains, the Court will arrange a telephone conference to work out
8 an alternate procedure pending a formal dismissal.


9 15. If you have not already done so, please read and follow the “Supplemental Order to
10 Order Setting Initial Case Management Conference in Civil Cases Before Judge William
11 Alsup” and other orders issued by the Clerk’s office when this action was commenced.
12 Among other things, the supplemental order explains when submissions are to go to the
13 Clerk’s Office (the general rule) versus when submissions may go directly to chambers
14 (rarely). With respect to the final pretrial conference and trial, please read and follow
15 the “Guidelines For Trial and Final Pretrial Conference in Civil Bench Cases Before The
16 Honorable William Alsup.” All orders and guidelines referenced in the paragraph are
17 available on the district court’s website at <http://www.cand.uscourts.gov>. The website
18 also includes other guidelines for attorney’s fees motions and the necessary form of
19 attorney time records for cases before Judge Alsup. If you do not have access to the
20 Internet, you may contact Deputy Clerk Dawn Logan at (415) 522-2020 to learn how to
21 pick up a hard copy.

22 16. All pretrial disclosures under FRCP 26(a)(3) and objections required by FRCP 26(a)(3)
23 must be made on the schedule established by said rule.

24 17. This matter is hereby **REFERRED** to **DONNA M. RYU** for **MEDIATION/SETTLEMENT**.

25 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

26
27 Dated: December 27, 2016.



WILLIAM ALSUP
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE