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Explore General, Inc., Jaime Gonzales, Paul K. Gong, Explore General, Inc. 401(k) Profit  
14 Sharing Plan

15  
16 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
17 EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

18 HILDA L. SOLIS, Secretary of Labor,  
United States Department of Labor,

19 Plaintiff,

20 vs.

21 EXPLORE GENERAL, INC., a California  
22 corporation; JAIME GONZALEZ, an  
individual; PAUL GONG, an individual;  
23 and, EXPLORE GENERAL, INC. 401(K)  
24 PROFIT SHARING PLAN, an employee  
benefit plan,

25 Defendants.

Case No. 1:10-CV-01157-AWI-JLT

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28  
STIPULATION AND PROPOSED ORDER  
TO AMEND SCHEDULING ORDER

1 IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED by and between the Plaintiff, Hilda L. Solis, Secretary  
2 of Labor (the “Secretary”), and Defendants Explore General, Inc. (“Explore General”), Jaime  
3 Gonzalez, Paul Gong, and Explore General, Inc. 401(k) Profit Sharing Plan, through their  
4 designated counsel that all dates for the above-captioned case set in the Scheduling Order dated  
5 December 15, 2010 shall be extended by two months, with the exception of the date for the  
6 Mid-Discovery Status Conference and the Deadline for service of Initial Disclosures.

7 The parties believe that good cause exists for extending the dates set in the Scheduling  
8 Order.

9 This case was filed by the Secretary alleging, inter alia, that Defendants Jaime Gonzalez,  
10 Paul Gong, and Explore General, Inc. (“Explore General”) breached their fiduciary duties under  
11 the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (“ERISA”), 29 U.S.C. §§ 1001-1191c,  
12 by failing to collect and remit mandatory employer prevailing-wage contributions to the  
13 Explore General, Inc. 401(k) Profit Sharing Plan (the “Plan”), an employee benefit plan.  
14 (Declaration of Laura C. Bremer in Support of Stipulation and Proposed Order to Amend the  
15 Scheduling Order (“Bremer Decl.”) ¶ 2.)

16 On December 15, 2010, United States Magistrate Judge Jennifer L. Thurston entered a  
17 Scheduling Order in the above-captioned case, setting the deadlines for discovery and trial.

18 On December 28 and 29, 2010, Department of Labor Investigator Donald Hawkey  
19 traveled to Fresno to conduct informal discovery. (Declaration of Donald Hawkey in Support  
20 of Stipulation and Proposed Order to Amend the Scheduling Order (“Hawkey Decl.”) ¶ 6.) He  
21 met with the Defendants’ attorney, Defendant Jaime Gonzalez and Explore General’s  
22 bookkeeper. (*Id.*) They provided him with approximately fifteen boxes of documents,  
23 including payroll documents, bank records, documentation of participant payments, and  
24 documents that Explore General received from the Third Party Administrator of the Plan. (*Id.*)

25 On January 14, 2011, the Secretary served her Initial Disclosures, along with over  
26 25,000 pages of documents on the Defendants. (Bremer Decl. ¶ 5.) On March 11, 2011,  
27 Defendants served Initial Disclosures on the Secretary. (Bremer Decl. ¶ 9.)

28 Shortly after receiving the payroll data from Explore General on December 28 and 29,

1 2011, Mr. Hawkey began to analyze the records received through the informal discovery  
2 conducted. (Hawkey Decl. ¶ 8.) As he reviewed the data, he determined that the payroll  
3 records were inconsistent with the amounts of mandatory employer prevailing-wage  
4 contributions that summaries Explore General had previously provided to the U.S. Department  
5 of Labor stated were owing to employees. (*Id.*) In addition, he determined that there were  
6 employees who were owed mandatory employer prevailing-wage contributions that were not  
7 previously identified by Explore General. (*Id.*)

8 Based on the inconsistencies discovered and the fact that Explore General did not have  
9 paper copies of all the relevant payroll records, Explore General has agreed to provide  
10 electronic copies of its accounting data. (Bremer Decl. ¶ 7.) On March 10, 2011, counsel for  
11 the Secretary requested a copy of the software needed to review the electronic data and is  
12 awaiting its receipt. (Bremer Decl. ¶ 8.)

13 In January 2011, Mr. Hawkey began inputting the amounts of mandatory prevailing-  
14 wage contributions withheld from each employee's paycheck each week from payroll records  
15 that are organized by job, rather than employee, to determine the amount of mandatory  
16 employer prevailing-wage contributions owed by Explore General to each individual employee.  
17 (Hawkey Decl. ¶ 9.) To date, he has reviewed 9,878 pages of the 25,445 pages of evidence.  
18 (Hawkey Decl. ¶ 10.)

19 On March 11, 2011, the Secretary propounded written discovery which may yield  
20 further production requiring Mr. Hawkey's analysis. (Bremer Decl. ¶ 10.)

21 Since December 28, 2010, Mr. Hawkey has spent 76.5 hours on the case, primarily  
22 analyzing the evidence. (Hawkey Decl. ¶ 11.) At his current rate of review, Mr. Hawkey  
23 anticipates completing his analysis by late May, at which time he will audit the spreadsheets to  
24 ensure their accuracy and determine the total amount due the Plan. (*Id.*) Once this amount is  
25 determined, the parties have agreed to engage in settlement negotiations. (*Id.*)

26 The analysis described above needs to be completed prior to completing discovery in the  
27 case. However, the discovery cut-off date is currently May 6, 2011. At the Mid-Discovery  
28 Status Conference on March 8, 2011, Ms. Bremer explained the discovery and analysis that had

1 taken place and suggested moving the discovery cut-off dates. (Bremer Decl. ¶ 7.) The  
2 Honorable Jennifer L. Thurston advised that she did not see any room in the schedule that  
3 would permit moving only the discovery cut-off dates. (*Id.*) She suggested that counsel file a  
4 stipulation to extend all the dates in the case and indicated that she would speak to Judge Ishii  
5 about the good cause for doing so. (*Id.*)

6 Therefore, the Parties Agree and Stipulate to Amend the Scheduling Order to extend the  
7 dates in the case by two months, as follows:

- 8 Pleading Amendment Deadline: May 30, 2011
- 9 Non Expert Discovery: July 5, 2011
- 10 Expert Discovery: September 8, 2011
- 11 Filing of Non-Dispositive Motions: September 16, 2011
- 12 Hearing on Non-Dispositive Motions: October 14, 2011
- 13 Filing of Dispositive Motions: October 19, 2011
- 14 Hearing on Dispositive Motions: December 5, 2011
- 15 Pre-Trial Conference: February 1, 2012, 2011 at 8:30 a.m., Courtroom 2
- 16 Trial: March 28, 2011 at 8:30 a.m., Courtroom 2

17  
18 Dated: March 25, 2011

M. PATRICIA SMITH  
Solicitor of Labor  
  
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Regional Solicitor  
  
DANIELLE L. JABERG  
Counsel for ERISA  
  
By:  /s/ Laura C. Bremer  
LAURA C. BREMER  
Trial Attorney  
Attorneys for Plaintiff  
United States Department of Labor

1 Dated: March 25, 2011

LAW OFFICE OF MYRON F. SMITH

2  
3 By: /s/ Myron F. Smith (as authorized on 3/25/11)

4 MYRON F. SMITH

5 Attorney for Defendants Explore General, Inc., Jaime  
6 Gonzalez, Paul Gong, and Explore General, Inc. 401(k)  
7 Profit Sharing Plan

8 **ORDER**

9 **GOOD CAUSE APPEARING**, the Court **ORDERS** the Scheduling Order to be  
10 amended as follows:

11 Pleading Amendment Deadline: 5/30/11

12 Non Expert Discovery: 7/5/11

13 Expert Discovery: 9/8/11

14 Filing of Non-Dispositive Motions: 9/16/11

15 Hearing on Non-Dispositive Motions: 10/17/11

16 Filing of Dispositive Motions: 10/21/11

17 Hearing on Dispositive Motions: 12/5/11, 1:30 p.m., Courtroom 2

18 Pre-Trial Conference: 2/1/12, 8:30 a.m., Courtroom 2

19 Trial: 4/3/12, 8:30 a.m., Courtroom 2

20  
21 IT IS SO ORDERED.

22 Dated: March 30, 2011

23 /s/ Jennifer L. Thurston  
24 UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE