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

DURRELL ANTHONY PUCKETT,  
Plaintiff,  
v.  
RONALD VOGEL,  
Defendant.

Case No. 1:13-cv-00525-AWI-SKO (PC)  
  
ORDER SETTING SETTLEMENT  
CONFERENCE

Plaintiff, a state prisoner proceeding *pro se* and *in forma pauperis*, filed this civil rights action pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983. On February 25, 2016, plaintiff filed a motion for a settlement conference. (Doc. 85.) On March 1, 2016, the Court ordered defendants to notify the Court whether a settlement conference would be beneficial. (Doc. 87.) On March 4, 2016, defendants filed a response indicating they believe a settlement conference would be beneficial. (Doc. 89.) As such, this case will be referred to Magistrate Judge Michael J. Seng to conduct a settlement conference at the U. S. District Court, 2500 Tulare Street, Fresno, California 93721 in Courtroom #6 on May 5, 2016, at 10:30 a.m.

A separate order and writ of habeas corpus ad testificandum will issue concurrently with this order.

In accordance with the above, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that:

1. A settlement conference has been set for May 5, 2016, at 10:30 a.m. in Courtroom #6

1 before Magistrate Judge Michael J. Seng at the U. S. District Court, 2500 Tulare  
2 Street, Fresno, California 93721.

- 3 2. Defendants' lead counsel and a person with full and unlimited authority to negotiate  
4 and enter into a binding settlement on defendants' behalf shall attend the settlement  
5 conference in person<sup>1</sup>.
- 6 3. Those in attendance must be prepared to discuss the claims, defenses and damages.  
7 The failure of any counsel, party or authorized person subject to this order to appear in  
8 person may result in the imposition of sanctions. In addition, the conference will not  
9 proceed and will be reset to another date.
- 10 4. Parties are directed to submit confidential settlement statements no later than April 28,  
11 2016, to [mjsorders@caed.uscourts.gov](mailto:mjsorders@caed.uscourts.gov). Plaintiff shall mail his confidential settlement  
12 statement to Sujean Park, ADR & Pro Bono Program Director, USDC CAED, 501 I  
13 Street, Suite 4-200, Sacramento, California 95814 so it arrives no later than April 28,  
14 2016. The envelope shall be marked "Confidential Settlement Statement." If a party  
15 desires to share additional confidential information with the Court, they may do so  
16 pursuant to the provisions of Local Rule 270(d) and (e). Parties are also directed to  
17 file a "Notice of Submission of Confidential Settlement Statement" (See L.R. 270(d)).  
18 Settlement statements **should not be filed** with the Clerk of the Court **nor served on**  
19 **any other party**. Settlement statements shall be clearly marked "confidential" with  
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21 <sup>1</sup> While the exercise of its authority is subject to abuse of discretion review, "the district court has the  
22 authority to order parties, including the federal government, to participate in mandatory settlement  
23 conferences... ." United States v. United States District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands, 694 F.3d 1051,  
24 1053, 1057, 1059 (9<sup>th</sup> Cir. 2012)("the district court has broad authority to compel participation in mandatory  
25 settlement conference[s]"). The term "full authority to settle" means that the individuals attending the  
26 mediation conference must be authorized to fully explore settlement options and to agree at that time to any  
27 settlement terms acceptable to the parties. G. Heileman Brewing Co., Inc. v. Joseph Oat Corp., 871 F.2d 648,  
28 653 (7<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1989), cited with approval in Official Airline Guides, Inc. v. Goss, 6 F.3d 1385, 1396 (9<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1993).  
The individual with full authority to settle must also have "unfettered discretion and authority" to change the  
settlement position of the party, if appropriate. Pitman v. Brinker Int'l, Inc., 216 F.R.D. 481, 485-86 (D. Ariz.  
2003), amended on recon. in part, Pitman v. Brinker Int'l, Inc., 2003 WL 23353478 (D. Ariz. 2003). The  
purpose behind requiring the attendance of a person with full settlement authority is that the parties' view of  
the case may be altered during the face to face conference. Pitman, 216 F.R.D. at 486. An authorization to  
settle for a limited dollar amount or sum certain can be found not to comply with the requirement of full  
authority to settle. Nick v. Morgan's Foods, Inc., 270 F.3d 590, 596-97 (8<sup>th</sup> Cir. 2001).

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the date and time of the settlement conference indicated prominently thereon.  
The confidential settlement statement shall be **no longer than five pages** in length, typed or neatly printed, and include the following:

- a. A brief statement of the facts of the case.
- b. A brief statement of the claims and defenses, i.e., statutory or other grounds upon which the claims are founded; a forthright evaluation of the parties' likelihood of prevailing on the claims and defenses; and a description of the major issues in dispute.
- c. A summary of the proceedings to date.
- d. An estimate of the cost and time to be expended for further discovery, pretrial, and trial.
- e. The relief sought.
- f. The party's position on settlement, including present demands and offers and a history of past settlement discussions, offers, and demands.
- g. A brief statement of each party's expectations and goals for the settlement conference.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated: March 10, 2016

/s/ Sheila K. Oberto  
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE