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 7
 8 IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
 9 EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

10
 11 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
 12 Plaintiff,
 13 v.
 14 APPROXIMATELY 3,804 FIREARMS,
 15 Defendant.

1:14-CV-01999-JAM-SAB

**STIPULATION AND ORDER TO STAY
 FURTHER PROCEEDINGS**

16
 17 CALIFORNIA RIFLE PISTOL
 ASSOCIATION, INCORPORATED,
 18 Plaintiff,
 19 v.
 20 BUREAU OF ALCOHOL, TOBACCO,
 21 FIREARMS AND EXPLOSIVES; ATTORNEY
 22 GENERAL ERIC HOLDER, in his official
 23 capacity; B. TODD JONES, in his official
 24 capacity; and DOES 1 through 100, inclusive,
 25 Defendants.

1:14-CV-01211-JAM-SAB

26 The United States and claimant Chris Cook (“claimant”) hereby stipulate that a further stay is
 27 necessary in the above-entitled action, and request that the Court enter an order extending the stay of all
 28 further proceedings due to an on-going related criminal investigation against claimant Chris Cook.

1 1. Claimant has filed a claim in this *in rem* forfeiture action, asserting he has an interest, in
2 whole or in part, and directly, on behalf of, and/or as custodian, for each of the defendant assets in this
3 action. ECF No. 7.

4 2. The stay is requested pursuant to 18 U.S.C. §§ 981(g)(1) and 981(g)(2). The United States
5 contends that the defendant assets were involved in or used in a violation of federal law, 18 U.S.C. §
6 922(a)(1)(A) (unlicensed importing, manufacturing, or dealing in firearms, or in the course of such
7 business to ship, transport, or receive any firearm in interstate or foreign commerce). Claimant denies
8 these allegations.

9 3. The United States intends to depose claimant Cook regarding his claim and the allegations
10 as set forth in the complaint. If discovery proceeds at this time, claimant may be placed in the difficult
11 position of either invoking his Fifth Amendment rights against self-incrimination and losing the ability to
12 pursue his claim to the defendant assets, or waiving his Fifth Amendment rights and submitting to a
13 deposition and potentially incriminating himself. If he invokes his Fifth Amendment rights, the United
14 States will be deprived of the ability to explore the factual basis for the claim he filed with this court.

15 4. In addition, claimant intends to depose, among others, law enforcement involved with this
16 investigation, including but not limited to, the agents with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and
17 Explosives. Allowing depositions of the law enforcement officers at this time may adversely impact the
18 ability of the federal authorities to investigate the alleged underlying criminal conduct.

19 5. The parties recognize that proceeding with this action at this time has potential adverse
20 effects on the investigation of the underlying criminal conduct and/or upon the claimant's ability to assert
21 any defenses to forfeiture. For these reasons, and because the parties are attempting to settle the civil
22 forfeiture case, the parties jointly request that these matters be stayed until February 3, 2016, in
23 accordance with the terms of this stipulation.

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1 6. At that time the parties will advise the court of the status of the criminal investigation and
2 will advise the court whether a further stay is necessary.

3 Dated: December 28, 2015

BENJAMIN B. WAGNER
United States Attorney

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/s/ Kevin C. Khasigian
KEVIN C. KHASIGIAN
Assistant United States Attorney

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9 Dated: December 28, 2015

/s/ Anna M. Barvir
C. D. MICHEL
ANNA M. BARVIR
Attorneys for Claimant Chris Cook
(as approved by email on 12/28/15)

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ORDER

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14 For the reasons set forth above, this matter is stayed pursuant to 18 U.S.C. §§ 981(g)(1) and
15 981(g)(2) until February 3, 2016, in accordance with the terms of this stipulation. On or before that date
16 the parties will advise the court whether a further stay is necessary.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

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Dated: 12/29/2015

/s/ John A. Mendez
JOHN A. MENDEZ
United States District Court Judge

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