1 2 IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT 3 EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA 4 5 REAMEL CURTIS, CASE NO. 1:15-cv-00553-LJO-EPG (PC) 6 Plaintiff, SCHEDULING ORDER AND ORDER DIRECTING CLERK TO SEND PLAINTIFF 7 A COPY OF LOCAL RULE 281(b) 8 **Exhaustion Motion** v. Deadline: August 25, 2017 9 Telephonic Discovery 10 Status Conference: September 11, 2017 Time: 1:30 p.m. J. GONZALES and J. BUGARIN, 11 Courtroom 10 (EPG) Defendants. Nonexpert 12 Discovery Cut-off: November 17, 2017 13 Dispositive Motion Filing Deadline: December 20, 2017 14 Telephonic Trial Confirmation Hearing: October 11, 2018 15 Time: 8:15 a.m. 16 Courtroom 4 (LJO) 17 Jury Trial: December 11, 2018 Time: 8:30 a.m. 18 Courtroom 4 (LJO) 19 This Court conducted a scheduling conference on May 2, 2017. Plaintiff Reamel Curtis 20 telephonically appeared on his own behalf. Counsel Lucas L. Hennes telephonically appeared on 21 behalf of Defendants. Pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 16(b), this Court now sets a schedule for this 22 action. 23 I. **DISCOVERY PROCEDURES** 24 The parties are now granted leave to serve discovery in addition to that provided as part of 25 initial disclosures. Pursuant to Federal Rules of Civil Procedure 1, 16, and 26-36, discovery shall 26 proceed as follows: 27 1. Discovery requests shall be served by the parties pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil 28 1

Procedure 5 and Local Rule 135. Discovery requests and responses shall not be filed with the Court unless required by Local Rules 250.2, 250.3, or 250.4 (providing that discovery requests shall not be filed unless or until there is a proceeding in which the document or proof of service is at issue). A party may serve on any other party no more than 15 interrogatories, 15 requests for production of documents, and 10 requests for admission. On motion, these limits may be increased for good cause.

- 2. Plaintiff has already served discovery on Defendants, including interrogatories. Plaintiff served more than 15 interrogatories on each defendant. As discussed at the scheduling conference, Plaintiff has seven days from May 2, 2017, to notify Defendants which of the fifteen interrogatories each defendant is to answer. If Plaintiff does not specify which interrogatories he wants each defendant to answer, each defendant only needs to answer the first fifteen interrogatories that were served on that defendant.
- 3. Responses to written discovery requests shall be due **forty-five** (**45**) **days** after the request is first served. Boilerplate objections are disfavored and may be summarily overruled by the Court. Responses to document requests shall include all documents within a party's possession, custody or control. Fed. R. Civ. P. 34(a)(1). Documents are deemed within a party's possession, custody, or control if the party has actual possession, custody, or control thereof, or the legal right to obtain the property on demand.¹
- 4. If any party or third party withholds a document on the basis of privilege, they shall provide a privilege log to the requesting party identifying the date, author, recipients, general subject matter, and basis of the privilege within **thirty** (30) **days** after the date that responses are due. Failure to provide a privilege log within this time shall result in a waiver of the privilege. To the extent the requesting party disputes whether a

¹ Defendant(s)' responses should be consistent with their right to request documents pursuant to California Government Code § 3306.5 ("Each employer shall keep each public safety officers' personnel file or a true and correct copy thereof, and shall make the file or copy thereof available within a reasonable period of time after a request thereof by the officer.").

document is privileged, it can raise that issue to the Court's attention in its statement of a discovery dispute to be discussed at the discovery conference (see below). If a party or third party withholds a document on the basis of the official information privilege, the requesting party may request that the Court conduct an *in camera* review of such document so that the Court can balance the moving party's need for the documents in the litigation against the reasons that are asserted in defending their confidentiality. In any such request for *in camera* review, the party requesting review shall identify, with specificity, the document(s) for which review is sought.

- 5. The parties are required to act in good faith during the course of discovery and the failure to do so may result in the payment of expenses pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 37(a)(5) or other appropriate sanctions authorized by the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure or the Local Rules.
- 6. Pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 30(a)(2)(B), Defendant(s) may depose Plaintiff and any other witness confined in a prison on the condition that, at least fourteen (14) days before such a deposition, Defendant(s) serve all parties with the notice required by Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 30(b)(1). Plaintiff's failure to participate in a properly noticed deposition could result in sanctions against Plaintiff, including monetary sanctions and/or dismissal of this case. Pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 30(b)(4), the parties may take any deposition under this section by video conference without a further motion or order of the Court. Due to security concerns and institutional considerations not applicable to Defendant(s), Plaintiff must seek leave from the Court to depose incarcerated witnesses pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 30(a)(2). Nothing herein forecloses a party from bringing a motion for protective order pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(c)(1) if necessary.
- 7. With the Court's permission, Plaintiff may serve third party subpoenas, including on the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation and/or the Office of the Inspector General if Plaintiff seeks documents from them and the entities are not presently defendants in this case. To issue a subpoena on these entities, or any other

third parties, Plaintiff must file a request for the issuance of a subpoena *duces tecum* with the Court. If the Court approves the request, it may issue Plaintiff a subpoena *duces tecum*, commanding the production of documents from a non-party, and may command service of the subpoena by the United States Marshal Service. Fed. R. Civ. P. 45; 28 U.S.C. 1915(d). However, the Court will consider granting such a request *only if* the documents sought from the non-party are not equally available to Plaintiff and are not obtainable from Defendant(s) through a request for production of documents. Fed. R. Civ. P. 34. In any request for a subpoena, Plaintiff must: (1) identify with specificity the documents sought and from whom, and (2) make a showing in the request that the records are only obtainable through that third party. The documents requested must also fall within the scope of discovery allowed in this action. See Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(b)(1).

8. A discovery conference has been set for **September 11, 2017, at 1:30 p.m**. Parties have leave to appear by phone. To join the conference, each party is directed to call the toll-free number (888) 251–2909 and use **Access Code 1024453.** Up until three weeks before the discovery conference, the parties may file a motion to compel further discovery responses. One week before the discovery conference, the responding party may file a response to the motion to compel. The motion should include a copy of the request(s) and any response to the request(s) at issue. Unless there is a need for discovery prior to the discovery conference, motions to compel will not be considered until the discovery conference. Motions to compel will not be permitted after the discovery conference absent good cause. The parties should be prepared to address all discovery disputes at the discovery conference.

II. PAGE LIMITS

The parties are advised that unless prior leave of the Court is obtained before the filing deadline, all moving and opposition briefs or legal memoranda filed in civil cases before Magistrate Judge Grosjean shall not exceed twenty-five (25) pages. Reply briefs by the moving

² Parties may seek by filing a short motion.

party shall not exceed ten (10) pages. These page limits do not include exhibits.

III. NON-EXPERT DISCOVERY DEADLINE

The deadline for the completion of all non-expert discovery is **November 17, 2017**. All non-expert discovery must be provided by this date, including discovery compelled following the discovery conference.

IV. EXPERT DISCLOSURES

At the scheduling conference, all parties stated that they did not intend to use expert witnesses in this case. Therefore, absent a showing of good cause, the parties will not be allowed to use expert witnesses in this case.

V. EXHAUSTION MOTIONS

The deadline for Defendant(s) to present any challenge for failure to exhaust administrative remedies is **August 25, 2017**. The exhaustion issue may be raised only by filing a motion for summary judgment under Fed. R. Civ. P. 56. Failure to raise the exhaustion issue by the deadline will result in waiver of the defense. *See Albino v. Baca*, 747 F.3d 1162, 1170 (9th Cir.) (providing that the exhaustion question should be decided as early as feasible), *cert. denied sub nom. Scott v. Albino*, 135 S. Ct. 403, 190 L. Ed. 2d 307 (2014).

VI. DISPOSITIVE MOTIONS DEADLINE

The deadline for filing all dispositive motions pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 56 (except for dispositive motions based on failure to exhaust administrative remedies) is **December 20, 2017**.

VII. SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE

The Court is not setting a settlement conference at this time.

VIII. MAGISTRATE JUDGE JURISDICTION

The parties have declined the jurisdiction of a Magistrate Judge pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 636(c). (ECF No. 29).

IX. TELEPHONIC TRIAL CONFIRMATION HEARING

The Telephonic Trial Confirmation Hearing is set for **October 11, 2018, at 8:15 a.m.,** in Courtroom 4, before District Judge Lawrence J. O'Neill. Counsel for Defendant(s) is required to arrange for the participation of Plaintiff in the Telephonic Trial Confirmation Hearing and to

initiate the telephonic hearing by arranging a one line conference call and telephoning the Court at (559) 499-5680.

In addition to the matters already required to be addressed in the pretrial statement in accordance with Local Rule 281, Plaintiff will be required to make a particularized showing in order to obtain the attendance of witnesses. The procedures and requirements for making such a showing are outlined in detail below. Plaintiff is advised that failure to comply with the procedures set forth below may result in the preclusion of any or all witnesses named in his pretrial statement.

At the trial of this case, Plaintiff must be prepared to introduce evidence to prove each of the alleged facts that support the claims raised in the lawsuit. In general, there are two kinds of trial evidence: (1) exhibits and (2) the testimony of witnesses. It is Plaintiff's responsibility to produce all of the evidence to prove his case, whether that evidence is in the form of exhibits or witness testimony. If Plaintiff wants to call witnesses to testify, he must follow certain procedures to ensure that the witnesses will be at the trial and available to testify.

1. Procedures for Obtaining Attendance of Incarcerated Witnesses Who Agree to Testify Voluntarily - An incarcerated witness who agrees voluntarily to attend trial to give testimony cannot come to court unless this Court orders the warden or other custodian to permit the witness to be transported to court. This Court will not issue such an order unless it is satisfied that: (a) the prospective witness is willing to attend; and (b) the prospective witness has actual knowledge of relevant facts.

A party intending to introduce the testimony of incarcerated witnesses who have agreed voluntarily to attend the trial must serve and file concurrent with the pretrial statement a written motion for a court order requiring that such witnesses be brought to court at the time of trial. The motion must: (1) state the name, address, and prison identification number of each such witness; and (2) be accompanied by declarations showing that each witness is willing to testify and that each witness has actual knowledge of relevant facts. The motion should be entitled "A Motion for Attendance of Incarcerated Witnesses."

The willingness of the prospective witness can be shown in one of two ways: (1) the party

himself can swear by declaration under penalty of perjury that the prospective witness has informed the party that he or she is willing to testify voluntarily without being subpoenaed, in which declaration the party must state when and where the prospective witness informed the party of this willingness; or (2) the party can serve and file a declaration, signed under penalty of perjury by the prospective witness, in which the witness states that he or she is willing to testify without being subpoenaed.

The prospective witness's actual knowledge of relevant facts can be shown in one of two ways: (1) if the party has actual firsthand knowledge that the prospective witness was an eyewitness or an ear-witness to the relevant facts (i.e., if an incident occurred in plaintiff's cell and, at the time, plaintiff saw that a cellmate was present and observed the incident, plaintiff may swear to the cellmate's ability to testify), the party himself can swear by declaration under penalty of perjury that the prospective witness has actual knowledge; or (2) the party can serve and file a declaration signed under penalty of perjury by the prospective witness in which the witness describes the relevant facts to which the prospective witness was an eye- or ear witness. Whether the declaration is made by the party or by the prospective witness, it must be specific about the incident, when and where it occurred, who was present, and how the prospective witness happened to be in a position to see or to hear what occurred at the time it occurred.

The Court will review and rule on the motion for attendance of incarcerated witnesses, specifying which prospective witnesses must be brought to Court. Subsequently, the Court will issue the order necessary to cause the witness's custodian to bring the witness to Court.

Motions for the attendance of incarcerated witnesses, if any, must be filed on or before **August 10, 2018**. Oppositions, if any, must be filed on or before **September 10, 2018**.

2. Procedures for Obtaining Attendance of Incarcerated Witnesses Who Refuse to Testify Voluntarily - If a party seeks to obtain the attendance of incarcerated witnesses who refuse to testify voluntarily, the party should submit with his pretrial statement a motion for the attendance of such witnesses. Such motion should be in the form described above. In addition, the party must indicate in the motion that the incarcerated witnesses are not willing to testify voluntarily.

- 3. Procedures for Obtaining Attendance of Unincarcerated Witnesses Who Agree to Testify Voluntarily It is the responsibility of the party who has secured an unincarcerated witness's voluntary attendance to notify the witness of the time and date of trial. No action need be sought or obtained from the Court.
- 4. Procedures for Obtaining Attendance of Unincarcerated Witnesses Who Refuse to Testify Voluntarily If a prospective witness is not incarcerated, and he or she refuses to testify voluntarily, the witness must be served with a subpoena. Fed. R. Civ. P. 45. In addition, the party seeking the witness's presence must tender an appropriate sum of money for the witness. Id. In the case of an unincarcerated witness, the appropriate sum of money is the daily witness fee of \$40.00 plus the witness's travel expenses. 28 U.S.C. § 1821.

If Plaintiff wishes to obtain the attendance of one or more unincarcerated witnesses who refuse to testify voluntarily, Plaintiff must first notify the Court in writing of the name and location of each unincarcerated witness. The Court will calculate the travel expense for each unincarcerated witness and notify Plaintiff of the amount(s). Plaintiff must then, for each witness, submit a money order made payable to the witness for the full amount of the witness's travel expenses plus the daily witness fee of \$40.00. The subpoena will not be served upon the unincarcerated witness by the United States Marshal unless the money order is tendered to the Court. Because no statute authorizes the use of public funds for these expenses in civil cases, the tendering of witness fees and travel expenses is required even if the party was granted leave to proceed *in forma pauperis*.

If Plaintiff wishes to have the Marshal serve any unincarcerated witnesses who refuse to testify voluntarily, Plaintiff must submit the money orders to the Court no later than **September 10, 2018**. In order to ensure timely submission of the money orders, Plaintiff must notify the Court of the names and locations of his witnesses, in compliance with step 4 above, no later than **August 10, 2018**.

Plaintiff shall file and serve a pretrial statement as described in this order on or before **August 10, 2018**. Defendant(s) shall file and serve a pretrial statement as described in this order on or before **September 10, 2018**.

1 The parties are advised that failure to file pretrial statements as required by this order may 2 result in the imposition of appropriate sanctions, which may include dismissal of the action or 3 entry of default. The Clerk is DIRECTED to send Plaintiff a copy of Local Rule 281(b). 4 5 X. TRIAL DATE 6 A 1-3 day jury trial is set for **December 11, 2018 at 8:30 a.m.**, in Courtroom 4, before 7 District Judge Lawrence J. O'Neill. XI. 8 **EFFECT OF THIS ORDER** 9 This order represents the Court and the parties' best estimated schedule to complete this 10 case. Any party unable to comply with the dates outlined in this order shall immediately file an 11 appropriate motion or stipulation identifying the requested modification(s). 12 The dates set in this Order are considered to be firm and will not be modified absent a showing of good cause, even if a stipulation to modify is filed. Due to the impacted nature of the 13 14 civil case docket, this Court disfavors requests to modify established dates. 15 Failure to comply with this order may result in the imposition of sanctions. 16 IT IS SO ORDERED. 17 /s/ Encir P. Shorp— UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE 18 Dated: **May 2, 2017** 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27

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