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

JESUS BONILLA CASTANEDA,)	Case No.: 1:16-cv-01562-LJO-SKO (PC)
)	
Plaintiff,)	
)	ORDER REFERRING THE CASE TO
v.)	POST-SCREENING ADR PROJECT AND
)	STAYING THE CASE FOR 90 DAYS
SHERMAN, et al.,)	
)	
Defendants.)	
)	

When at least one Defendant has been served or appeared, the Court is referring all post-screening, civil rights cases filed by *pro se* inmates to the Post-Screening Alternative Dispute Resolution Project to attempt to resolve cases more quickly and less expensively. Defense counsel from the Office of the California Attorney General has agreed to participate in this pilot project. No defenses or objections are waived by participation.

As set forth in the screening order, the Court has found Plaintiff has stated at least one cognizable civil rights claim. Thus, the Court **STAYS this action for 90 days** to allow the parties to investigate Plaintiff’s claims, meet and confer and participate in a settlement conference.

There is a presumption that all post-screening civil rights cases assigned to the undersigned will proceed to settlement conference.¹ However, if after investigating Plaintiff’s claims

¹ If the case does not settle during the stay, Court will set a deadline for the responsive pleading at the conference.

1 and speaking with Plaintiff, and after conferring with defense counsel's supervisor, counsel finds in
2 good faith that a settlement conference would be a waste of resources², defense counsel may move to
3 opt out of this pilot project.

4 **Within 35 days**, the assigned Deputy Attorney General **SHALL** contact the Courtroom
5 Deputy Clerk at WKusamura@caed.uscourts.gov, to schedule the settlement conference. If the
6 settlement conference cannot be set quickly due to the court's calendar, the parties may seek an
7 extension of the initial 90-day stay.

8 Based upon the foregoing, the Court **ORDERS**:

9 1. **This action is STAYED for 90 days** to allow the parties an opportunity to settle their
10 dispute before a responsive pleading is filed, or the discovery process begins. No other pleadings or
11 other documents may be filed in this case during the stay. The parties **SHALL NOT** engage in formal
12 discovery, but they may jointly agree to engage in informal discovery.

13 2. **Within 30 days from the date of this order**, the parties **SHALL** file the attached
14 notice, indicating their agreement to proceed to an early settlement conference or whether they believe
15 settlement is not achievable at this time. In addition, they **SHALL** indicate whether they object to the
16 undersigned conducting the settlement conference.

17 3. **Within 35 days from the date of this order**, if a court supervised settlement
18 conference is likely to be beneficial, the assigned Deputy Attorney General **SHALL** contact this
19 court's Courtroom Deputy Clerk at WKusamura@caed.uscourts.gov, to schedule the settlement
20 conference and the parties **SHALL** initiate settlement discussions;

21 4. If the parties settle their case during the stay of this action, they **SHALL** file a Notice
22 of Settlement as required by Local Rule 160;

23 5. The Clerk of the Court **SHALL** serve via email, a copy of this order to ADR
24 Coordinator Sujean Park;

25 6. **The parties are reminded of their obligation to keep the court informed of any changes**
26 **of addresses during the stay and while the action is pending.** Changes of address must be reported

27
28 ² By way of guidance, if the defense intends to file an exhaustion motion and believes in good faith that it has a significant chance of success, this would be a likely circumstance where the opt-out provision should be employed.

1 promptly in a separate document entitled "Notice of Change of Address." See L.R. 182(f).

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3 IT IS SO ORDERED.

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Dated: March 28, 2019

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/s/ Sheila K. Oberto
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

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

JESUS BONILLA CASTANEDA,
Plaintiff,
v.
SHERMAN, et al.,
Defendants.

Case No.: 1:16-cv-01562-LJO-SKO (PC)
NOTICE REGARDING EARLY SETTLEMENT
CONFERENCE

As required by the Court's order:

1. The party or counsel for the party signing below, agrees that there is a good chance that an early settlement conference will resolve this action and wishes to engage in an early settlement conference.

Yes _____ No _____

2. The party or counsel for the party signing below, agrees the assigned Magistrate Judge may conduct the settlement conference.

Yes _____ No _____

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3. Plaintiff (Check one):

_____ Would like to participate in the settlement conference in person, OR

_____ Would like to participate in the settlement conference by video conference.

Dated:

Plaintiff or Counsel for Defendants