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- (2) consolidate the actions; or
- (3) issue any other orders to avoid unnecessary cost or delay.

The purpose of consolidation under Rule 42(a) is to enhance trial court efficiency by avoiding unnecessary duplication of proceedings and effort. *See Team Enterprises, LLC v. Western Inv. Real Estate Trust*, Case No. 1:08-cv-00872-LJO-SMS, 2008 WL 4712759, at * 1 (E.D. Cal. Oct. 23, 2008). Consolidation of cases also guards against the risk of inconsistent adjudications. *Id.* The Court “has broad discretion under this rule to consolidate cases pending in the same district.” *Investors Research Co. v. U.S. Dist. Court for the Central Dist. of Cal.*, 877 F.2d 777, 777 (9th Cir. 1989).

Both actions in this instance were filed under the Fair Credit Reporting Act and contend that the Defendant credit bureaus incorrectly reported a collection account on Plaintiff’s credit report. The complaints in the action are identical, allege identical claims against identical defendants, and the plaintiffs in the actions are a married couple. The Court agrees with Defendant Experian that the two cases raise common issues of law and fact and that consolidation is appropriate in this action. No other party has objected to consolidation of these two cases.

Accordingly, the Court orders that:

1. The Clerk of the Court is DIRECTED to consolidate *Ralph O. Duncan v. Equifax, Inc., et al.*, Case No. 1:16-cv-01633-AWI-EPG with the case *Yolanda Y. Duncan v. Equifax, Inc., et al.*, Case No. 1:16-cv-01637-AWI-EPG. Insofar as Case No. 1:16-cv-01633-AWI-EPG was the first action filed with the court, it will be considered the lead case. The Clerk of the Court is DIRECTED to close Case No. 1:16-cv-01637-AWI-EPG. The court will construe the consolidated cases as one action; and,

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2. The parties shall identify all future pleadings by the case number of the lead case,
Case No. 1:16-cv-01633-AWI-EPG.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated: January 9, 2017

/s/ Eric P. Gray
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE