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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

ANDREW VARGAS,

NO. CIV. S-10-3130 LKK/GGH

Plaintiff,

v.

BP AMERICA, INC., JEFF
FERIS, JILL GEORGIKAS,
STEVE HONIG, TOM HORN,
DEB PORTELLO, WAYNE MALIK,
and DOES 1 through 50,
inclusive,

Defendants.

_____ /

STATUS (PRETRIAL SCHEDULING) CONFERENCE

READ THIS ORDER CAREFULLY. IT CONTAINS IMPORTANT DATES WHICH
THE COURT WILL STRICTLY ENFORCE AND WITH WHICH ALL COUNSEL AND
PARTIES MUST COMPLY. A FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THE TERMS OF THIS
ORDER MAY RESULT IN THE IMPOSITION OF MONETARY AND ALL OTHER
SANCTIONS WITHIN THE POWER OF THE COURT, INCLUDING DISMISSAL OR AN
ORDER OF JUDGMENT.

Pursuant to court order, a Status (Pretrial Scheduling)

1 Conference was held in chambers on January 31, 2011. Stanton T.
2 Mathews appeared telephonically as counsel for plaintiff; Candice
3 Zee appeared telephonically as counsel for defendants. After
4 hearing, the court makes the following findings and orders:

5 **SERVICE OF PROCESS**

6 All parties defendant have been served and no further service
7 is permitted except with leave of court, good cause having been
8 shown.

9 **JOINDER OF PARTIES/AMENDMENTS**

10 No further joinder of parties or amendments to pleadings is
11 permitted except with leave of court, good cause having been shown.
12 See Johnson v. Mammoth Recreations, Inc., 975 F.2d 604 (9th Cir.
13 1992).

14 **JURISDICTION/VENUE**

15 Jurisdiction is predicated upon 28 U.S.C. § 1332 is undisputed
16 and is hereby found to be proper, as is venue.

17 **FICTITIOUSLY-NAMED DEFENDANTS**

18 This action, including any counterclaims, cross-claims, and
19 third-party complaints is hereby DISMISSED as to all DOE or other
20 fictitiously-named defendants.

21 **MOTION HEARING SCHEDULES**

22 All law and motion except as to discovery is left open, save
23 and except that it shall be conducted so as to be completed by
24 January 30, 2012. The word "completed" in this context means that
25 all law and motion matters must be **heard** by the above date.
26 Because this date is not necessarily a date previously set aside

1 for law and motion hearings, it is incumbent upon counsel to
2 contact this court's courtroom deputy, Ana Rivas at (916) 930-4133,
3 sufficiently in advance so as to ascertain the dates upon which law
4 and motion will be heard and to properly notice its motion for
5 hearing before that date. Counsel are cautioned to refer to Local
6 Rule 230 regarding the requirements for noticing such motions on
7 the court's regularly scheduled law and motion calendar.
8 **Opposition or statement of non-opposition to all motions shall be**
9 **filed not later than 4:30 p.m. fourteen (14) days preceding the**
10 **hearing date, or by proof of service by mail not less than**
11 **seventeen (17) days preceding the hearing date.** This paragraph
12 does not preclude motions for continuances, temporary restraining
13 orders or other emergency applications, and is subject to any
14 special scheduling set forth in the "MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS"
15 paragraph below.

16 At the time of filing a motion, opposition, or reply, counsel
17 are directed to email a copy in word processing format to [lk-](mailto:lk-pleadings@caed.uscourts.gov)
18 pleadings@caed.uscourts.gov.

19 The parties should keep in mind that the purpose of law and
20 motion is to narrow and refine the legal issues raised by the case,
21 and to dispose of by pretrial motion those issues that are
22 susceptible to resolution without trial. To accomplish that
23 purpose, the parties need to identify and fully research the issues
24 presented by the case, and then examine those issues in light of
25 the evidence gleaned through discovery. If it appears to counsel
26 after examining the legal issues and facts that an issue can be

1 resolved by pretrial motion, counsel are to file the appropriate
2 motion by the law and motion cutoff set forth supra.

3 **Unless prior permission has been granted, memoranda of law in**
4 **support of and in opposition to motions are limited to thirty (30)**
5 **pages, and reply memoranda are limited to fifteen (15) pages. The**
6 **parties are also cautioned against filing multiple briefs to**
7 **circumvent this rule.**

8 Where the parties bring motions for summary judgment, the
9 court will deem facts which are apparently undisputed as undisputed
10 under Fed. R. Civ. P. 56(d), unless specifically reserved and that
11 party tenders evidence to support the reservation.

12 ALL PURELY LEGAL ISSUES ARE TO BE RESOLVED BY TIMELY PRETRIAL
13 MOTION AND A FAILURE TO MAKE SUCH A MOTION WILL ORDINARILY BE
14 VIEWED AS A WAIVER AT THE TIME OF PRETRIAL. COUNSEL ARE CAUTIONED
15 THAT IF ANY LEGAL ISSUE THAT SHOULD HAVE BEEN TENDERED TO THE COURT
16 BY PRETRIAL MOTION MUST BE RESOLVED BY THE COURT AFTER LAW AND
17 MOTION CUTOFF, FOR INSTANCE WHERE THE ISSUE IS JURISDICTION,
18 SUBSTANTIAL SANCTIONS WILL BE LEVIED AGAINST COUNSEL WHO FAIL TO
19 TIMELY FILE AN APPROPRIATE MOTION.

20 Counsel are further reminded that motions in limine are
21 procedural devices designed to address the admissibility of
22 evidence. COUNSEL ARE CAUTIONED THAT THE COURT WILL LOOK WITH
23 DISFAVOR UPON SUBSTANTIVE MOTIONS PRESENTED IN THE GUISE OF MOTIONS
24 IN LIMINE AT THE TIME OF TRIAL.

25 **DISCOVERY**

26 No modifications of the discovery requirements found in the

1 Federal Rules is ordered.

2 All discovery is left open, save and except that it shall be
3 so conducted as to be completed by November 30, 2011. The word
4 "completed" means that all discovery shall have been conducted so
5 that all depositions have been taken and any disputes relative to
6 discovery shall have been resolved by appropriate order if
7 necessary and, where discovery has been ordered, the order has been
8 complied with. Motions to compel discovery must be noticed on the
9 magistrate judge's calendar in accordance with the local rules of
10 this court and so that such motions will be heard not later than
11 October 30, 2011. In this regard, all counsel are to designate in
12 writing and file with the court and serve upon all other parties a
13 final list of the names of all experts that they propose to tender
14 at trial not later than sixty (60) days before the close of
15 discovery herein established. At the time of designation, all
16 experts shall submit a written report. The contents of the report
17 must comply with Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26 (A) (2) (b). All
18 experts so designated are to be fully prepared to render an
19 informed opinion at the time of designation so that they may fully
20 participate in any deposition taken by the opposing party. Experts
21 will not be permitted to testify at the trial as to any information
22 gathered or evaluated, or opinion formed, after deposition taken
23 subsequent to designation.

24 An expert witness not appearing on said lists will not be
25 permitted to testify unless the party offering the witness
26 demonstrates: (a) that the necessity of the witness could not have

1 been reasonably anticipated at the time the lists were exchanged;
2 (b) the court and opposing counsel were promptly notified upon
3 discovery of the witness; and (c) that the witness was promptly
4 proffered for deposition.

5 **MID-LITIGATION STATEMENTS**

6 Not later than fourteen (14) days prior to the close of
7 discovery, all parties shall file with the court and serve on all
8 other parties a brief statement summarizing all law and motion
9 practice heard by the court as of the date of the filing of the
10 statement, whether the court has disposed of the motion at the time
11 the statement is filed and served, and the likelihood that any
12 further motions will be noticed prior to the close of law and
13 motion. The filing of this statement shall not relieve the parties
14 or counsel of their obligation to timely notice all appropriate
15 motions as set forth above.

16 **FINAL PRETRIAL CONFERENCE**

17 The Final Pretrial Conference is **SET** for April 30, 2012, at
18 1:30 p.m. Counsel are cautioned that counsel appearing for
19 Pretrial will in fact try the matter.

20 Counsel for all parties are to be fully prepared for trial at
21 the time of the Pretrial Conference, with no matters remaining to
22 be accomplished except production of witnesses for oral testimony.
23 Counsel are referred to Local Rules 280 and 281 relating to the
24 contents of and time for filing Pretrial Statements. In addition
25 to those subjects listed in Local Rule 281(b), the parties are to
26 provide the court with a plain, concise statement which identifies

1 every non-discovery motion tendered to the court, and its
2 resolution. A FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH LOCAL RULES 280 AND 281 WILL
3 BE GROUNDS FOR SANCTIONS.

4 The parties shall file Separate Pretrial Statements, the
5 contents and timing of which are set forth in Local Rule 281,
6 except that the parties are to prepare a JOINT STATEMENT with
7 respect to the undisputed facts and disputed factual issues of the
8 case. See Local Rule 281(b)(3), (4), and (6). The parties are
9 reminded to include in their joint statement all disputed and
10 undisputed special factual information as required by Local Rule
11 281(b)(6).

12 The undisputed facts and disputed factual issues are to be set
13 forth in two separate sections. In each section, the parties
14 should identify first the general facts relevant to all causes of
15 action. After identifying the general facts, the parties should
16 then identify those facts which are relevant to each separate cause
17 of action. In this regard, the parties are to number each
18 individual fact or factual issue. Where the parties are unable to
19 agree as to what factual issues are properly before the court for
20 trial, they should nevertheless list in the section on "DISPUTED
21 FACTUAL ISSUES" all issues asserted by any of the parties and
22 explain by parenthetical the controversy concerning each issue.
23 Each individual disputed fact or factual issue shall include the
24 following introductory language: "Whether or not" The
25 parties should keep in mind that, in general, each fact should
26 relate or correspond to an element of the relevant cause of action.

1 Notwithstanding the provisions of Local Rule 281, the Joint
2 Statement of Undisputed Facts and Disputed Factual Issues is to be
3 filed with the court concurrently with the filing of plaintiff's
4 Pretrial Statement. If the case is tried to a jury, the undisputed
5 facts will be read to the jury.

6 Pursuant to Local Rule 281(b)(10) and (11), the parties are
7 required to provide in their Pretrial Statements a list of
8 witnesses and exhibits that they propose to proffer at trial, no
9 matter for what purpose. These lists shall not be contained in the
10 Pretrial Statement itself, but shall be attached as separate
11 documents to be used as addenda to the Final Pretrial Order.
12 Plaintiff's exhibits shall be listed **numerically**; defendant's
13 exhibits shall be listed **alphabetically**. In the event that the
14 alphabet is exhausted, defendant's exhibits shall be marked "2A-2Z,
15 3A-3Z, etc." The Pretrial Order will contain a stringent standard
16 for the proffering of witnesses and exhibits at trial not listed in
17 the Pretrial Order. Counsel are cautioned that the standard will
18 be strictly applied. On the other hand, the listing of exhibits or
19 witnesses which counsel do not intend to call or use will be viewed
20 as an abuse of the court's processes.

21 Pursuant to Local Rule 281(b)(12), a party is required to
22 provide a list of all answers to interrogatories and responses to
23 requests for admission that the party expects to offer at trial.
24 This list should include only those documents or portions thereof
25 which the party expects to offer in its case-in-chief. Unless
26 otherwise barred by a rule of evidence or order of this court, the

1 parties remain free to tender appropriate discovery documents
2 during trial for such purposes as, but not limited to, impeachment
3 or memory refreshment.

4 Pursuant to Local Rule 281(b)(8), the parties' Pretrial
5 Statements shall contain a "statement of legal theory, etc." Each
6 party shall commence this section by specifying as to each claim
7 whether federal or state law governs, and if state law, the state
8 whose law is applicable.

9 Counsel are also reminded that, pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P.
10 16, it will be their duty at the Pretrial Conference to aid the
11 court in (a) formulation and simplification of issues and the
12 elimination of frivolous claims or defenses; (b) settling of facts
13 which should be properly admitted; and (c) the avoidance of
14 unnecessary proof and cumulative evidence. Counsel must prepare
15 their Pretrial Statements, and participate in good faith at the
16 Pretrial Conference, with these aims in mind. A FAILURE TO DO SO
17 MAY RESULT IN THE IMPOSITION of SANCTIONS which may include
18 monetary sanctions, orders precluding proof, eliminations of claims
19 or defenses, or such other sanctions as the court deems
20 appropriate.

21 **TRIAL SETTING**

22 Trial is **SET** for July 31, 2012, at 10:30 a.m. Trial will be
23 by jury. The parties represent in good faith that the trial will
24 take approximately ten (10) days.

25 **SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE**

26 A Settlement Conference will be set before a judge other than

1 the trial judge at the time of the Pretrial Conference.

2 Counsel are cautioned to have a principal capable of
3 disposition present at the Settlement Conference or to be fully
4 authorized to settle the matter on any terms and at the Settlement
5 Conference.

6 **MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS**

7 Pursuant to the request of the parties, this matter is
8 referred to the court's Voluntary Dispute Resolution Program
9 (VDRP).

10 The parties are reminded that pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P.
11 16(b), the Status (pretrial scheduling) Order **shall not be modified**
12 **except by leave of court upon a showing of good cause.** Counsel are
13 cautioned that changes to any of the scheduled dates will
14 necessarily result in changes to all other dates. Thus, even where
15 good cause has been shown, the court will not grant a request to
16 change the discovery cutoff date without modifying the pretrial and
17 trial dates.

18 **Agreement by the parties pursuant to stipulation does not**
19 **constitute good cause. Nor does the unavailability of witnesses or**
20 **counsel, except in extraordinary circumstances, constitute good**
21 **cause.**

22 The parties are reminded of their continuing obligation to
23 supplement their statements relative to the identification of
24 parent corporations and any publicly held company that owns 10% or
25 more of the party's stock within a reasonable time of any change in
26 the information.

1 The parties are admonished that they are not to cite or refer
2 to any of the quotations inscribed in the pavers on the front plaza
3 of the United States Courthouse in any written or oral presentation
4 to the court or a jury.

5 There appear to be no other matters presently pending before
6 the court that will aid the just and expeditious disposition of
7 this matter.

8 IT IS SO ORDERED.

9 DATED: February 2, 2011.

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LAWRENCE K. KARLTON
SENIOR JUDGE
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT