

1 IV. DISCOVERY

2 All discovery, with the exception of expert discovery, shall be completed by
3 **November 7, 2016**. In this context, “completed” means that all discovery shall have
4 been conducted so that all depositions have been taken and any disputes relative to
5 discovery shall have been resolved by appropriate order if necessary and, where
6 discovery has been ordered, the order has been obeyed. All motions to compel
7 discovery must be noticed on the magistrate judge’s calendar in accordance with the
8 local rules of this Court.

9 V. DISCLOSURE OF EXPERT WITNESSES

10 All counsel are to designate in writing, file with the Court, and serve upon all other
11 parties the name, address, and area of expertise of each expert that they propose to
12 tender at trial not later than **January 8, 2017**.¹ The designation shall be accompanied by
13 a written report prepared and signed by the witness. The report shall comply with Fed.
14 R. Civ. P. 26(a)(2)(B).

15 Within twenty (20) days after the designation of expert witnesses, any party may
16 designate a supplemental list of expert witnesses who will express an opinion on a
17 subject covered by an expert designated by an adverse party. The right to designate a
18 supplemental expert for rebuttal purposes only shall apply to a party who has not
19 previously disclosed an expert witness on the date set for expert witness disclosure by
20 this Pretrial Scheduling Order.

21 Failure of a party to comply with the disclosure schedule as set forth above in all
22 likelihood will preclude that party from calling the expert witness at the time of trial. An
23 expert witness not appearing on the designation will not be permitted to testify unless the
24 party offering the witness demonstrates: (a) that the necessity for the witness could not
25 have been reasonably anticipated at the time the list was proffered; (b) that the Court

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27 ¹ The discovery of experts will include whether any motions based on Daubert v. Merrell Dow
28 Pharmaceuticals, Inc., 509 U.S. 579 (1993) and/or Kumho Tire Co. v. Carmichael, 526 U.S. 137 (1999)
are anticipated.

1 and opposing counsel were promptly notified upon discovery of the witness; and (c) that
2 the witness was promptly made available for deposition.

3 For purposes of this Pretrial Scheduling Order, an “expert” is any person who may
4 be used at trial to present evidence under Rules 702, 703, and 705 of the Federal Rules
5 of Evidence, which include both “percipient experts” (persons who, because of their
6 expertise, have rendered expert opinions in the normal course of their work duties or
7 observations pertinent to the issues in the case) and “retained experts” (persons
8 specifically designated by a party to be a testifying expert for the purposes of litigation).

9 Each party shall identify whether a disclosed expert is percipient, retained, or
10 both. It will be assumed that a party designating a retained expert has acquired the
11 express permission of the witness to be so listed. Parties designating percipient experts
12 must state in the designation who is responsible for arranging the deposition of such
13 persons.

14 All experts designated are to be fully prepared at the time of designation to render
15 an informed opinion, and give their bases for their opinion, so that they will be able to
16 give full and complete testimony at any deposition taken by the opposing party. Experts
17 will not be permitted to testify at the trial as to any information gathered or evaluated, or
18 opinion formed, after deposition taken subsequent to designation.

19 Counsel are instructed to complete all discovery of expert witnesses in a timely
20 manner in order to comply with the Court’s deadline for filing dispositive motions.

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1 VI. MOTION HEARING SCHEDULE

2 The last day to hear dispositive motions shall be **May 4, 2017**. All papers should
3 be filed in conformity with the Local Rules. However, with respect to Motions for
4 Summary Judgment only, the parties shall comply with the following filing deadlines:

5 Motion for Summary Judgment filed at least 8 weeks prior to hearing

6 Opposition and any cross-motion filed at least 5 weeks prior to hearing

7 Reply and opposition to cross-motion filed at least 3 weeks prior to hearing

8 Reply to cross-motion filed at least 1 week prior to hearing

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12 Absent leave of the Court, all issues the parties wish to resolve on summary
13 judgment must be raised together in one (1) motion or cross-motion. Should the parties
14 wish to file additional motions for summary judgment, they must seek leave of the Court.

15 The parties are directed to the Court's website for available hearing dates.
16 (www.caed.uscourts.gov → choose Judges → choose Judge England → choose
17 Standard Information)

18 All purely legal issues are to be resolved by timely pretrial motions. When
19 appropriate, failure to comply with Local Rules 230 and 260, as modified by this Order,
20 may be deemed consent to the motion and the Court may dispose of the motion
21 summarily. With respect to motions for summary judgment, failure to comply with Local
22 Rules 230 and 260, as modified by this Order, may result in dismissal for failure to
23 prosecute (or failure to defend) pursuant to this Court's inherent authority to control its
24 docket and/or Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 41(b). Further, failure to timely oppose a
25 summary judgment motion² may result in the granting of that motion if the movant shifts

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28 ² The Court urges any party that contemplates bringing a motion for summary judgment or who
must oppose a motion for summary judgment to review Local Rule 260.

1 the burden to the nonmovant to demonstrate that a genuine issue of material fact
2 remains for trial.

3 The Court places a page limit for points and authorities (exclusive of exhibits and
4 other supporting documentation) of twenty (20) pages on all initial moving papers, twenty
5 (20) pages on oppositions, and ten (10) pages for replies. All requests for page limit
6 increases must be made in writing to the Court setting forth any and all reasons for any
7 increase in page limit at least seven (7) days prior to the filing of the motion.

8 For the Court's convenience, citations to the Supreme Court Lexis database
9 should include parallel citations to the Westlaw database.

10 The parties are reminded that a motion in limine is a pretrial procedural device
11 designed to address the admissibility of evidence. The Court will look with disfavor upon
12 dispositional motions presented at the Final Pretrial Conference or at trial in the guise of
13 motions in limine.

14 The parties are cautioned that failure to raise a dispositive legal issue that could
15 have been tendered to the court by proper pretrial motion prior to the dispositive motion
16 cut-off date may constitute waiver of such issue.

17 VII. TRIAL SETTING

18 The parties are ordered to file a Joint Notice of Trial Readiness not later than
19 thirty (30) days after receiving this Court's ruling(s) on the last filed dispositive motion. If
20 the parties do not intend to file dispositive motions, the parties are ordered to file a Joint
21 Notice of Trial Readiness not later than thirty (30) days after the close of discovery and
22 the notice must include statements of intent to forgo the filing of dispositive motions.

23 The parties are to set forth in their Notice of Trial Readiness, the appropriateness
24 of special procedures, whether this case is related to any other case(s) on file in the
25 Eastern District of California, the prospect for settlement, their estimated trial length, any
26 request for a jury, and their available trial dates. After review of the parties' Joint Notice
27 of Trial Readiness, the Court will issue an order that sets forth a final pretrial conference
28 and trial date.

1 VIII. SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE

2 At the Final Pretrial Conference, the Court may set a settlement conference if the
3 parties so request. In the event no settlement conference is requested, the parties are
4 free to continue to mediate or attempt to settle the case with the understanding that the
5 trial date is a firm date.

6 In the event a settlement conference is set by the Court, counsel are instructed to
7 have a principal with full settlement authority present at the Settlement Conference or to
8 be fully authorized to settle the matter on any terms. At least seven (7) calendar days
9 before the settlement conference, counsel for each party shall submit to the chambers of
10 the settlement judge a confidential Settlement Conference Statement. Such statements
11 are neither to be filed with the Clerk nor served on opposing counsel. Each party,
12 however, shall serve notice on all other parties that the statement has been submitted. If
13 the settlement judge is not the trial judge, the Settlement Conference Statement shall not
14 be disclosed to the trial judge.

15 Notwithstanding the foregoing, the parties may request a settlement conference
16 prior to the Final Pretrial Conference if they feel it would lead to the possible resolution of
17 the case. In the event an early settlement conference date is requested, the parties shall
18 file said request jointly, in writing. The request must state whether the parties waive
19 disqualification, pursuant to Local Rule 270(b), before a settlement judge can be
20 assigned to the case. Absent the parties' affirmatively requesting that the assigned
21 Judge or Magistrate Judge participate in the settlement conference AND waiver,
22 pursuant to Local Rule 270(b), a settlement judge will be randomly assigned to the case.

23 IX. VOLUNTARY DISPUTE RESOLUTION PROGRAM

24 Pursuant to Local Rule 271 parties will need to lodge a stipulation and proposed
25 order requesting referral to the Voluntary Dispute Resolution Program.

26 X. MODIFICATION OF PRETRIAL SCHEDULING ORDER

27 The parties are reminded that pursuant to Rule 16(b) of the Federal Rules of Civil
28 Procedure, the Pretrial Scheduling Order shall not be modified except by leave of court

1 upon a showing of **good cause**. Agreement by the parties pursuant to stipulation alone
2 to modify the Pretrial Scheduling Order does not constitute good cause. Except in
3 extraordinary circumstances, unavailability of witnesses or counsel will not constitute
4 good cause.

5 XI. OBJECTIONS TO PRETRIAL SCHEDULING ORDER

6 This Pretrial Scheduling Order will become final without further order of the Court
7 unless objections are filed within seven (7) court days of service of this Order.

8 IT IS SO ORDERED.

9 Dated: March 3, 2016

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MORRISON C. ENGLAND, JR., CHIEF JUDGE
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT