1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT 9 EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA 10 ----00000----11 12 SCOTT JOHNSON, CIV. NO. 2:16-2311 WBS CKD Plaintiff, 1.3 ORDER REFERRING CASE TO VDRP AND STAYING PROCEEDINGS 14 v. 15 A&J PETRO INC., a California corporation, and DOES 1 16 through 10, 17 Defendant. 18 ----00000----19 The court has determined that this case is appropriate 20 for an early settlement conference and will refer the action to 2.1 the court's Voluntary Dispute Resolution Program ("VDRP"). 22 IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that: 23 Within fourteen (14) days of this Order, the 24 parties shall contact the court's VDRP administrator, Sujean 25 Park, at (916) 930-4278 or SPark@caed.uscourts.gov, to start the 26 process of selecting an appropriate neutral. The parties shall 27

carefully review and comply with Local Rule 271, which outlines

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the specifications and requirements of the VDRP.

- 2. Any party that objects to this referral to the VDRP shall file its objections within seven (7) days of this Order. Such objections shall clearly outline why that party believes that the action is not appropriate for referral to the VDRP.
- 3. To avoid the unnecessary expenditure of costs and attorneys' fees, this action is hereby stayed to provide the parties time to complete the VDRP session. No later than five (5) days after completion of the VDRP session, the parties shall file a joint statement indicating whether a settlement was reached.
- 4. The parties shall complete the VDRP session no later than April 10, 2017. The court hereby resets the Status (Pretrial Scheduling) Conference for May 8, 2017. If a settlement is not reached through VDRP, the parties shall submit an Amended Joint Status Report no later than April 24, 2017.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated: February 7, 2017

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WILLIAM B. SHUBB

UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE