1 2 3 4 5 6 7 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT 8 9 FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA 10 11 GRACE DWYER, No. 2:18-cv-1554 KJM DMC 12 Plaintiff. 13 **ORDER** v. 14 CITY OF CHICO, et al., 15 Defendant. 16 17 Plaintiff initially commenced this action under the Americans with Disabilities Act 18 ("ADA") on May 29, 2018 (ECF No. 1) and amended the complaint on June 12, 2018. (ECF No. 19 5.) Defendants Bradley Fleshman and Michael Hart filed an answer to the amended complaint 20 and cross-claim of defendant City of Chico on July 25, 2018 (ECF 9); defendant City of Chico 21 filed an answer to the amended complaint on July 3, 2018 (ECF No. 7) and answer to the cross-22 claim on September 11, 2018 (ECF No. 11). 23 In the interest of avoiding the accumulation of fees and costs through potentially 24 unnecessary discovery and motion practice, and to allow the parties sufficient time to pursue an 25 early informal resolution of this matter, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that: 26 1. This action is STAYED except as set forth herein and all previously set deadlines and 27 hearings are VACATED pending further order of the court. ///// 28 1

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2.	The parties are directed to promptly meet and confer to discuss settlement of this
	action. Settlement discussions require focus and preparation and should involve the
	attorneys who will try the case and the person or persons having full authority to
	negotiate and settle the case on any terms. Plaintiff should initiate settlement
	discussions by providing a written itemization of damages and a meaningful
	settlement demand that includes an explanation of why the demand is appropriate.
	Defendant should respond with an acceptance of the offer or with a meaningful
	counteroffer, and which includes an explanation of why the counteroffer is reasonable.
	The parties should continue in this way until they reach settlement or have exhausted
	informal settlement efforts

- 3. If the parties have not been able to informally reach a settlement within 45 days, the parties shall initiate participation in the court's Voluntary Dispute Resolution Program ("VDRP") by contacting the court's VDRP administrator, Sujean Park, at (916) 930-4278 or SPark@caed.uscourts.gov.<sup>1</sup>
- 4. The parties shall carefully review and comply with Local Rule 271, which outlines the specifications and requirements of the VDRP.
- 5. No later than fourteen (14) days after completion of the VDRP session, the parties shall jointly file their VDRP Completion Report, consistent with Local Rule 271(o). IT IS SO ORDERED.

DATED: September 18, 2018.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The resources of the VDRP program are limited, and the parties are expected to make good faith efforts to timely and fully exhaust informal settlement efforts prior to initiating participation in the VDRP. The court will look with disfavor upon parties stalling or failing to participate in the above-mentioned initial informal discussions, prompting potentially unnecessary participation in the VDRP and straining the program's resources.