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1 Personal attendance by counsel will not be excused under any circumstances and personal 2 attendance by a party will rarely be excused. Permission for a party to attend by telephone may be 3 granted, in the Court's discretion, upon written request made at least two weeks in advance of the 4 conference, if the party lives and works outside of the Northern District of California and the Court 5 determines that personal attendance would constitute a hardship and is not needed in order to have an 6 effective settlement conference. The nature of the hardship must be explained. A copy of the written 7 request must be served on all other parties. Any objection to the request must be submitted within forty-8 eight (48) hours of receipt. Both the request and objection may be submitted in letter form either by 9 mail or facsimile to (415) 522-2002. If telephone attendance is allowed, the party must be available 10 throughout the entire conference.

On or before August 24, 2009, the parties shall deliver directly to the Magistrate Judge a
Confidential Settlement Conference Statement which should not be filed with the Clerk of the
Court or served upon other parties.

The Confidential Settlement Conference Statement shall not exceed twenty-five (25) pages of
text exclusive of exhibits. (Parties are encouraged to include as exhibits any key documents and
deposition excerpts). The Confidential Settlement Conference Statement shall include the following:

A brief statement of the facts of the case.

A brief statement of the claims and defenses including, but not limited to, statutory or
 other grounds upon which the claims are founded, a candid, forthright evaluation of the parties'
 likelihood of prevailing on the claims and defenses and a description of the major issues in dispute.

21 3. A list of the key facts in dispute and a brief statement of the specific evidence relevant
22 to those facts.

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4. A summary of the proceedings to date and any pending motions.

24 5. An estimate of the out of pocket expenses, attorney's fees and time to be expended for
25 further discovery, pretrial and trial.

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6. The relief sought, including an itemization of damages.

27 7. The party's position on settlement, including present demands and offers and a history28 of past settlement discussions.

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8. If there have been no prior settlement discussions, plaintiff must serve a demand letter outlining its theories for recovery, supporting facts and damages in writing at least 7 days before the conference, and defendant must respond in writing at least 3 days before the conference.

It is not unusual for conferences to last two to three hours or more. No participant in the settlement conference will be permitted to leave the settlement conference before it is concluded without the permission of the settlement conference judge.

Parties are encouraged to participate and frankly discuss their case. Statements they make during the conference will not be admissible at trial to prove or disprove liability in the event the case does not settle. The parties should be prepared to discuss such items as their settlement objectives, any impediments to settlement that they perceive, whether they have enough information to discuss settlement and, if not, what additional information is needed and the possibility of a creative resolution of the dispute.

Any request to continue the settlement conference shall be submitted in writing as soon as possible after consultation with the opposing party. The request must demonstrate a compelling reason for a continuance, and state whether the opposing party(ies) agree or oppose the request. Any 16 party who objects to the continuance should submit a written response within 2 business days. 17 Submission by facsimile is acceptable at facsimile number (415) 522-2002. A paper copy of all 18 electronically filed documents must be delivered to chambers no later than 12:00 noon on the day 19 after the document is electronically filed.

20 The parties shall notify Magistrate Judge Laporte's Courtroom Deputy **immediately** at (415) 522-3694 if this case settles prior to the date set for settlement conference.

22 Dated: March 25, 2009

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BETH D. LAPORTE United States Magistrate Judge