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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

GORDON et al.,

No. C-09-05794 WHA (DMR)

Plaintiffs,

v.

**NOTICE OF SETTLEMENT  
CONFERENCE AND SETTLEMENT  
CONFERENCE ORDER**

CITY OF OAKLAND et al.,

Defendants.

TO ALL PARTIES AND COUNSEL OF RECORD:

The above matter was referred to Magistrate Judge Donna M. Ryu for settlement purposes.

You are hereby notified that a settlement conference is scheduled for **Wednesday, June 23, 2010, at 1:00 p.m.**, in Courtroom 4, 3rd Floor, U.S. District Court, 1301 Clay Street, Oakland, California 94612. Counsel shall be informed prior to the settlement conference should there be any change in its location.

It is the responsibility of counsel to ensure that whatever discovery is needed for all sides to evaluate the case for settlement purposes is completed by the date of the settlement conference. Counsel shall cooperate in providing discovery informally and expeditiously.

**A. Meet and Confer Requirement.**

No later than **fourteen (14) calendar days before** the settlement conference and prior to the preparation of their Exchanged Settlement Conference Statements and Confidential Settlement Letters, counsel for the parties must meet and confer (in person or by phone) to discuss matters pertinent to improving the prospects that the settlement negotiations will be productive. During the

1 meet and confer, counsel may address any subjects they feel are appropriate, but they **must** discuss  
2 the following:

3 1. Who will attend the conference on behalf of each party, including counsel  
4 and identification of the person(s) with full authority to make the final decision as to whether any  
5 settlement offer is made, accepted, or rejected (e.g., either the party or another person(s) if full  
6 authority does not rest with the party).

7 2. Which persons or entities must approve a proposed settlement agreement before it  
8 can be executed, as well as the nature and duration of any such approval process.

9 3. Whether insurance is available to cover all or part of the claimed losses or to fund all  
10 or part of any party's defense; whether tenders have been made to any insurance companies; and if  
11 insurance is available, the name of and position held by each claims representative who will be  
12 attending the settlement conference.

13 4. Whether it would be useful for settlement demands and/or offers to be made before  
14 the settlement conference is convened.

15 5. Whether there are particular documents or other tangible things that should be  
16 brought to the conference (e.g., to educate the settlement judge or to support or explain significant  
17 contentions).

18 6. Any unusual issues or factors that could come into play in the settlement negotiations  
19 or any especially sensitive matters that other counsel should be alerted to before the conference.

20 **B. Lodged Settlement Conference Documents.**

21 **No later than ten (10) calendar days prior to the settlement conference**, each party shall  
22 submit the following:

23 (1) an **Exchanged Settlement Conference Statement**; and

24 (2) a **Confidential Settlement Letter**.

25 **Two copies of each** document shall be **LODGED (not filed)** with the U.S. District Court Clerk's  
26 Office in **Oakland**, located at 1301 Clay Street, Suite 400S, 4th Floor, Oakland, California 94612.

27 The documents shall be submitted in a sealed envelope addressed to Magistrate Judge Ryu and  
28 prominently marked "**SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE DOCUMENTS - DO NOT FILE.**"

1           **1.       Exchanged Settlement Conference Statements.**

2           Counsel **shall serve** a copy of the Settlement Conference Statement on all parties.

3           Furthermore, counsel are **strongly encouraged** prior to the settlement conference to share with their  
4           clients the contents of the Settlement Conference Statement(s) received from opposing counsel.

5           The Settlement Conference Statement shall not exceed ten (10) pages of text. Parties are  
6           encouraged to include as exhibits any key documents and deposition excerpts up to twenty (20)  
7           pages. The Settlement Conference Statement **shall include** the following:

- 8                   a.       A brief statement of the facts of the case.
- 9                   b.       A brief statement of the **principal** claims and defenses.
- 10                  c.       A description of the **key** factual and legal issues that are in dispute and a plain  
11                   and concise statement of the **specific** evidence relevant to their determination.  
12                   Portions of any exhibits relied upon by the parties shall be referenced and  
13                   highlighted.
- 14                  d.       A summary of the proceedings to date and a description of any pending  
15                   motions.
- 16                  e.       The bases for any damages calculations and a description of any non-  
17                   monetary relief sought or non-monetary components of settlement offers or  
18                   demands.
- 19                  f.       A description of each component of each party's most recently communicated  
20                   settlement demand or offer (describing specifically any non-monetary terms  
21                   that were demanded or offered).
- 22                  g.       For each party, a list of the names, titles, and positions of all persons who will  
23                   be attending the conference.
- 24                  h.       Where the party is a governmental entity, a description of which persons or  
25                   entities must approve a proposed settlement agreement before it can be  
26                   executed, as well as the nature and duration of that approval process.

27           **2.       Confidential Settlement Letters.**

28           The Confidential Settlement Letter **shall not be served** upon other parties.

1           The Confidential Settlement Letter shall not exceed five (5) pages of text and **shall include**  
2 the following:

- 3           a.       Separately for each principal claim and defense, a forthright evaluation of the  
4                   strengths and weaknesses and likelihood that the party submitting the  
5                   Confidential Letter will prevail. Citations to any key legal authorities relied  
6                   upon by the parties as part of this evaluation shall be provided.
- 7           b.       An estimate of the out-of-pocket expenses, attorneys' fees, and time: (a) **spent**  
8                   **to date** and (b) **to be expended** for further discovery, pretrial, and trial. If  
9                   plaintiff seeks attorneys' fees and costs, plaintiff's counsel shall be prepared at  
10                  the conference to provide sufficient information to enable the fee claim to be  
11                  evaluated for purposes of settlement.
- 12          c.       A history of past settlement discussions (without revealing communications  
13                   whose disclosure to a settlement judge is prohibited), a description of the  
14                   principal obstacles (factual, legal, or other) to reaching agreement, and the  
15                   reason the parties' assessments of the settlement value of the case differ.
- 16          d.       A realistic settlement figure or terms (including any non-monetary terms) that,  
17                   given all the circumstances, the party submitting the Confidential Letter  
18                   would consider seriously.
- 19          e.       Where the party is insured or is a governmental entity, any foreseeable  
20                   barriers to insurance coverage or approval of a proposed settlement, or special  
21                   concerns that the insurer or governmental entity might want addressed.
- 22          f.       A brief discussion of any of the subjects identified in Section A of this Order  
23                   that might be significant in the settlement dynamic.

24 **C.    Mandatory Personal Attendance.**

25           **Lead trial counsel** shall appear at the settlement conference with the **parties and with the**  
26 **person(s) having full authority** to make the final decision as to whether any settlement offer is  
27 made, accepted, or rejected (if full authority does not rest with the party). A person who needs to  
28 call another person not present before making, accepting, or rejecting any settlement offer does **not**

1 have such full authority. If a party is a **governmental entity**, its governing body shall designate one  
2 of its members or a senior executive to appear at the settlement conference with authority to  
3 participate in the settlement conference and, if a tentative settlement agreement is reached, to  
4 recommend the agreement to the governmental entity for its approval. An **insured party** shall  
5 appear with a representative of the carrier with **full authority to negotiate up to the limits of**  
6 **coverage.**

7 Personal attendance is mandatory and will rarely be excused by the Court, and then only  
8 upon a written request that is timely under the circumstances and that demonstrates extraordinary or  
9 unjustifiable hardship. Personal attendance may be excused only upon written authorization from  
10 the Court. If the Court permits attendance by telephone, the person who is excused from personally  
11 appearing must be available to participate by telephone throughout the entire conference.

12 **D. Duration and Content of Settlement Conference.**

13 It is not unusual for settlement conferences to last three (3) or more hours. Parties and their  
14 representatives should be prepared to devote the entire day to the conference if necessary. Parties  
15 are encouraged to participate in the settlement conference and frankly discuss their case. Statements  
16 they make during the conference will not be admissible at trial in the event the case does not settle.  
17 The parties and their representatives should be prepared to discuss such issues as their settlement  
18 objectives; any impediments to settlement they perceive; whether they have enough information to  
19 discuss settlement and if not, what additional information is needed; and the possibility of a creative  
20 resolution of the dispute.

21 **E. Continuances.**

22 Any request to continue the settlement conference shall state the reason therefor and be  
23 submitted in writing as soon as possible after consultation with the opposing party but well in  
24 advance of the scheduled conference date. The request must demonstrate **a compelling reason for a**  
25 **continuance and shall state whether it is joined or opposed by the other party(ies).** Submission  
26 of such request shall be **filed** with the Court; a courtesy copy must be provided no later than 12:00  
27 noon on the day after the document is filed and may be submitted by facsimile (510-637-1014).  
28

1 **Parties must appear on the calendared date unless the Court issues an Order continuing the**  
2 **matter.**

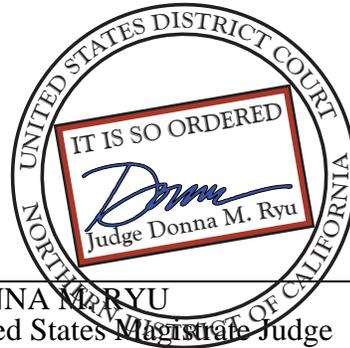
3 If the date to which a continuance is sought would be past a deadline for holding the  
4 settlement conference that was set by the judge to whom the case is assigned for trial, the party  
5 seeking the continuance must secure permission from the trial judge to hold the settlement  
6 conference during the proposed new time frame **before seeking the continuance from Judge Ryu.**  
7 A writing evidencing the trial judge's extension of the deadline must accompany the party's request  
8 to Judge Ryu for the continuance.

9 The parties shall immediately notify Judge Ryu's Courtroom Deputy, Ivy Garcia, at (510)  
10 637-3639, if this case settles prior to the date set for the settlement conference.

11 Any failure to comply with the requirements of this Order may subject the parties and/or  
12 counsel to sanctions.

13 IT IS SO ORDERED.

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15 Dated: April 16, 2010



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17 DONNA M. RYU  
United States Magistrate Judge

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