

1 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
 2 NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
 3

4
 5 Christopher Surbey,

6 Plaintiff,

7 v.

8 Pacific Gas & Electric Company, et al

9 Defendant.
 10

No. C 13-2402 TEH

ORDER FOR PRETRIAL
 PREPARATION

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 13 Good cause appearing, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that:

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- 15 1. **TRIAL DATE.** Trial before the COURT JURY will begin in Courtroom No. 2 on
 16 JUNE 2, 2015 at 9:00 AM. If the Court advises counsel that they must be
 17 prepared to go to trial on a trailing basis, then the trial will begin as soon after the scheduled
 18 date as possible. The trial shall last for an estimated 6 trial days. The trial of liability
 19 and damages issues SHALL SHALL NOT be separate.
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- 21 2. **PRETRIAL CONFERENCE.** The Court will hold a pretrial conference on Monday,
 22 MAY 18, 2015, at 3:00 PM. Counsel who intend to try the case must attend the
 23 pretrial conference.
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- 25 3. **DISCOVERY.**
- 26 (a) **Discovery Cutoff.** All discovery, except for depositions of expert witnesses,
 27 shall be **completed** on or before FEB 16, 2015. All depositions of expert
 28 witnesses shall be completed no later than 7 calendar days before the pretrial conference.

1 (b) **Disclosures Regarding Expert Witnesses.** Plaintiffs shall comply with Federal
2 Rule of Civil Procedure 26(a)(2)(A) (i.e., disclose the identity of any person who may be
3 used at trial to present expert testimony) no later than 45 calendar days before the pretrial
4 conference. Defendants shall disclose the identity of their expert witnesses no later than
5 30 calendar days before the pretrial conference. The parties shall comply with the written
6 report requirements of Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(a)(2)(B) within 14 calendar days
7 of disclosing the identity of their experts. Failure to comply with these deadlines will prevent
8 a witness from testifying as an expert.

9
10 (c) **Discovery Disputes.** Unless otherwise ordered by the Court, all discovery matters
11 are hereby referred for assignment to a magistrate judge. Please call the Courtroom Deputy
12 at (415) 522-2047 to obtain a random assignment to a specific Magistrate Judge before filing
13 any papers relating to discovery.

14
15 **4. PRETRIAL MOTIONS (EXCEPT MOTIONS IN LIMINE).**

16 The parties should file pretrial motions to resolve any purely legal substantive issues.
17 Such issues may **not** be resolved by motions in limine (see page 6, paragraph 6(a)). **Any**
18 **party that attempts to resolve a purely legal substantive issue by a motion in limine, or**
19 **by any motion filed after the deadline below, may expect the imposition of substantial**
20 **sanctions for failure to comply with this order.**

21 All pretrial motions, except motions in limine, shall be heard no later than 45 calendar
22 days before the scheduled trial date. Accordingly, all such motions must be noticed for
23 hearing no later than Monday, APRIL 13, 2015. They must be filed at least 35 days
24 in advance of the hearing date, or no later than Monday, MARCH 9, 2015. Civ.
25 L.R. 7-2(a).

1 **5. PRETRIAL CONFERENCE STATEMENT.**

2 (a) **Required Meeting and Disclosure Prior to Pretrial Conference.** Lead
3 counsel who will try the case shall meet and confer on or before APRIL 17, 2015 (at
4 least 30 calendar days before the pretrial conference). At that time, they shall discuss:

5 (1) Prospects for settling the action;

6 (2) The preparation and content of the joint pretrial conference statement;

7 (3) The preparation and exchange of pretrial materials to be served and lodged
8 with the Court; and

9 (4) Resolution of any differences between the parties regarding items (2) and (3)
10 above. To the extent such differences are not resolved, the parties must present the issues in
11 the joint pretrial conference statement so that the Judge may rule on the disputes at the
12 pretrial conference.

13 Within one week after meeting and conferring, the parties shall file a joint statement,
14 signed by all counsel, stating that they have met and conferred on the above issues.

15
16 (b) **Joint Pretrial Conference Statement.** The parties shall file a joint pretrial
17 conference statement no later than 10 calendar days before the pretrial conference. If the
18 parties disagree over the wording of the statement, each party may state its position in its own
19 words. All parties or their counsel must sign the statement. The statement shall contain the
20 following information:

21 (1) **The Action.**

22 (A) **Substance of the Action.** A brief description of the substance of
23 claims and defenses that remain to be decided.

24 (B) **Relief Prayed.** A detailed statement of the relief claimed, including
25 an itemization of all claimed damages, along with a list of witnesses, documents, or other
26 evidentiary material to be presented on the amount of damages.

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(2) The Factual Basis of the Action.

(A) Undisputed Facts. A plain and concise statement of all relevant facts not reasonably disputable. This should include a statement of facts which the parties stipulate may be incorporated into the trial record without supporting testimony or exhibits.

(B) Disputed Factual Issues. A plain and concise statement of all disputed factual issues that remain to be decided.

(C) Agreed Statement. A statement assessing whether all or part of the action may be presented upon an agreed statement of facts.

(D) Stipulations. A statement of stipulations requested or proposed for pretrial or trial purposes.

(3) Trial Preparation.

(A) Estimate of Trial Time. An estimate of the number of court days needed for the presentation of each party's case, indicating possible reductions in time through proposed stipulations, agreed statements of facts, or expedited means of presenting testimony and exhibits.

(B) Witnesses to be Called. A list of all witnesses likely to be called at trial, other than solely for impeachment or rebuttal, together with a brief statement following each name describing the substance of the testimony to be given. Parties must indicate any objections to the use of the listed witnesses and shall certify that counsel have met and conferred regarding such objections. No party shall be permitted to call any witness in their case in chief that is not disclosed in the pretrial conference statement unless the Court grants leave for good cause shown.

(C) Use of Discovery Responses. A list of evidence that may be presented at trial, other than solely for impeachment or rebuttal, through use of excerpts from depositions, interrogatory answers, or responses to requests for admission. Parties must indicate any objections to use of these materials and shall certify that counsel have met and conferred regarding such objections.

1 **(D) Exhibits, Schedules, and Summaries.** A list of all documents and
2 other items to be offered as exhibits at the trial, other than solely for impeachment or rebuttal,
3 with a brief statement following each item describing its substance or purpose and the
4 identity of its sponsoring witness. The statement shall include a list of all exhibits that the
5 parties agree may be admitted into evidence. Parties must indicate any objections to the
6 receipt in evidence of the listed exhibits and shall certify that counsel have met and conferred
7 regarding such objections. No party shall be permitted to introduce any exhibit in their case
8 in chief that is not disclosed in the pretrial conference statement unless the Court grants leave
9 for good cause shown.

10 **(E) Further Discovery or Motions.** A statement of all outstanding
11 discovery or motions, including motions in limine.

12
13 **(4) Trial Alternatives and Options.**

14 **(A) Settlement Discussion.** A statement summarizing the status of
15 settlement negotiations and indicating whether further negotiations are likely to be
16 productive.

17 **(B) Consent to Trial Before a Magistrate Judge.** A statement explaining
18 whether reference of all or part of the action to a special master or magistrate judge is
19 feasible, including whether the parties consent to a court or jury trial before a magistrate
20 judge with appeal directly to the Ninth Circuit.

21 **(C) Amendments or Dismissals.** A statement of requested or proposed
22 amendments to pleadings or dismissals of parties, claims, or defenses.

23 **(D) Bifurcation of Issues.** A statement of whether bifurcation (i.e.,
24 separate trials) of specific issues is feasible and desired.

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26 **(5) Miscellaneous.** Any other subjects relevant to the just, speedy, and
27 inexpensive resolution of this action.
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1 (c) **Pretrial Order**. The Court may, as appropriate, make pretrial orders at or
2 following the pretrial conference. Such orders shall control the subsequent course of the
3 action as provided in Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 16.
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5 **6. TRIAL PREPARATION DEADLINES.**

6 (a) **Motions in Limine**. The only appropriate purpose for a motion in limine is to
7 obtain, in advance of trial, an evidentiary ruling on the admissibility of a specific piece of
8 evidence. Unless otherwise allowed by the Court, all motions in limine shall be filed no later
9 than 21 calendar days before the scheduled trial date, and written opposition to such motions
10 shall be filed no later than 14 calendar days before the trial date. **All motions in limine must**
11 **be accompanied by a declaration stating that counsel have met and conferred in good**
12 **faith regarding the motions prior to their filing, and that the parties are unable to**
13 **resolve informally any remaining disputes.**
14

15 (b) **Exhibits**. Two sets of all exhibits to be offered at trial, together with a list of
16 exhibits, shall be lodged with the Court no later than 7 calendar days before the scheduled
17 trial date. Exhibits must be placed in three-ring binders of no more than three inches each
18 and must be pre-marked in accordance with the attached forms.
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20 (c) **Objections to Evidence**. Counsel shall meet and confer with respect to any
21 evidentiary objections in advance of the pretrial conference. They shall advise the Court at
22 the pretrial conference if any objections contained in their joint pretrial conference statement
23 have been subsequently resolved.
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25 (d) **Jury Instructions**. If a jury trial has been demanded, the parties shall meet and
26 confer to discuss proposed jury instructions. The Court uses its own set of standard
27 instructions regarding the role of jurors, organization of the jury, communication with the
28 Court, etc., and the parties need not discuss such instructions during their meeting and

1 conferring. No later than 10 calendar days before the pretrial conference, the parties shall
2 file (a) proposed jury instructions upon which all parties have agreed and (b) jury instructions
3 upon which any other party does not agree. The proposed jury instructions must be
4 accompanied by a declaration stating that the parties have met and conferred in good faith in
5 an attempt to agree upon as many jury instructions as possible. The chambers copies of all
6 proposed jury instructions shall be accompanied by an electronic copy of the instructions in
7 Word or Word Perfect format.

8 For each disputed instruction, the offering party shall indicate the corresponding
9 instruction(s), if any, being proposed by other parties. The parties shall file written
10 objections to all disputed instructions no later than 7 calendar days before the scheduled trial
11 date.

12 All proposed jury instructions shall be concise and free from argument; cover only one
13 subject to be indicated in the caption; show the identity of the offering party; be typewritten
14 out in full on a separate page or pages; be consecutively numbered; and set forth specific
15 citations to supporting authority. Case citations must include pinpoint citations to the exact
16 page or pages that support the proposed instruction.

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18 (e) **Voir Dire**. If a jury trial has been demanded, the parties may, at their option,
19 submit proposed questions for voir dire. Any such questions must be filed no later than 10
20 calendar days before the pretrial conference.

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22 (f) **Special Verdict Forms**. If a jury trial has been demanded, the parties shall meet
23 and confer to discuss any desired special verdict forms. The parties shall follow the
24 procedure outlined in paragraph 6(d) in filing their proposed verdict forms.

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26 7. **TRANSCRIPTS**. Arrangements must be made with the Courtroom Deputy at least
27 14 calendar days before the scheduled trial date if the parties desire daily transcripts and/or
28 realtime reporting.


1 **8. SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE.** The parties SHALL/SHALL NOT arrange for a
2 mandatory settlement conference before Magistrate Judge SPERO of this Court.
3 This conference shall be scheduled to take place no later than 5 calendar days before the
4 pretrial conference.

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6 **9. FURTHER CASE MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE.** A further case management
7 conference will be held on Monday, N/A, at 1:30 PM.

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9 **10. PROCEDURE FOR AMENDING THIS ORDER.** No provision of this order may
10 be changed except by written order of this Court. The Court may enter such an order upon its
11 own motion or upon motion of one or more of the parties. The parties must make any such
12 motion in accordance with the Civil Local Rules and with a demonstration of very good
13 cause. The mere fact that the parties have stipulated to a change does not constitute good
14 cause, nor does a conflict with a court date set after the date of this order.

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16 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

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18 Dated: 10/6/14


THELTON E. HENDERSON, JUDGE
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

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21 The parties request the Court to make the foregoing order.

22 Attorney(s) for Plaintiff(s):

Attorney(s) for Defendant(s):

23
24  Dow W. PATTEN  GAY T. LaGrotte
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Case No. _____ Case No. _____
PLTF Exhibit No. 1 DEFT Exhibit No. A
Date Entered _____ Date Entered _____
Signature _____ Signature _____

Case No. _____ Case No. _____
PLTF Exhibit No. 2 DEFT Exhibit No. B
Date Entered _____ Date Entered _____
Signature _____ Signature _____

Case No. _____ Case No. _____
PLTF Exhibit No. 3 DEFT Exhibit No. C
Date Entered _____ Date Entered _____
Signature _____ Signature _____

Case No. _____ Case No. _____
PLTF Exhibit No. 4 DEFT Exhibit No. D
Date Entered _____ Date Entered _____
Signature _____ Signature _____

Case No. _____ Case No. _____
PLTF Exhibit No. 5 DEFT Exhibit No. E
Date Entered _____ Date Entered _____
Signature _____ Signature _____

Case No. _____ Case No. _____
PLTF Exhibit No. 6 DEFT Exhibit No. F
Date Entered _____ Date Entered _____
Signature _____ Signature _____