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4 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
5 NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
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7 CHASOM BROWN, et al.,

8 Plaintiffs,

9 v.

10 GOOGLE LLC,

11 Defendant.

Case No. 20-cv-03664-LHK (SVK)

**ORDER GRANTING IN PART AND  
DENYING IN PART  
ADMINISTRATIVE MOTIONS TO  
FILE UNDER SEAL**

Re: Dkt. Nos. 308, 309, 310, 321

12 Before the Court are several administrative motions to file under seal materials associated  
13 with discovery disputes in this case. Dkt. 308, 309, 310, 321; *see also* Dkt. 315.

14 Courts recognize a “general right to inspect and copy public records and documents,  
15 including judicial records and documents.” *Kamakana v. City & Cnty. Of Honolulu*, 447 F.3d  
16 1172, 1178 (9th Cir. 2006) (quoting *Nixon v. Warner Communs., Inc.*, 435 U.S. 589, 597 & n.7  
17 (1978)). A request to seal court records therefore starts with a “strong presumption in favor of  
18 access.” *Kamakana*, 447 F.3d at 1178 (quoting *Foltz v. State Farm Mut. Auto. Ins. Co.*, 331 F.3d  
19 1122, 1135 (9th Cir. 2003)). The standard for overcoming the presumption of public access to  
20 court records depends on the purpose for which the records are filed with the court. A party  
21 seeking to seal court records relating to motions that are “more than tangentially related to the  
22 underlying cause of action” must demonstrate “compelling reasons” that support secrecy. *Ctr. For*  
23 *Auto Safety v. Chrysler Grp.*, 809 F.3d 1092, 1099 (9th Cir. 2016). For records attached to  
24 motions that re “not related, or only tangentially related, to the merits of the case,” the lower  
25 “good cause” standard of Rule 26(c) applies. *Id.*; *see also Kamakana*, 447 F.3d at 1179. A party  
26 moving to seal court records must also comply with the procedures established by Civil Local  
27 Rule 79-5.  
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1 Here, the “good cause” standard applies because the information the parties seek to seal  
 2 was submitted to the Court in connection with discovery-related motions, rather than a motion that  
 3 concerns the merits of the case. The Court may reach different conclusions regarding sealing  
 4 these documents under different standards or in a different context. Having considered the  
 5 motions to seal, supporting declarations, and the pleadings on file, and good cause appearing, the  
 6 Court **ORDERS** as follows:

7 **1. Dkt. 308**

Document Sought to be Sealed	Court’s Ruling on Motion to Seal	Reason(s) for Court’s Ruling
October 20, 2021 Special Master’s Report	GRANTED as to redacted portions at:  Page 5, line 10;  Exhibit A, Page 1, Column “Special Master’s Order”, lines 11-17; 19  Exhibit A, Page 3, Column “Special Master’s Order”, lines 15-16, 20, 38-41, 43	Narrowly tailored to protect confidential and proprietary information regarding sensitive features of Google’s internal systems and operations, including details about internal identifiers, projects, and data structures, that Google maintains as confidential in the ordinary course of its business and is not generally known to the public or Google’s competitors.

19 **2. Dkt. 309**

Document Sought to be Sealed	Court’s Ruling on Motion to Seal	Reason(s) for Court’s Ruling
Plaintiffs’ Objections to the Special Master’s Report and Orders on Referred Discovery Disputes (“Plaintiffs’ Objections”)	GRANTED as to redacted portions on Pages 1-5.	Narrowly tailored to protect confidential and proprietary information regarding sensitive features of Google’s internal systems and operations, including details related to project names, cookies, internal identifiers, and financial information as well as Google’s internal communications and practices with regard to Incognito

		and its proprietary functions, that Google maintains as confidential in the ordinary course of its business and is not generally known to the public or Google's competitors.
Plaintiffs' [Proposed] Order Regarding Plaintiffs' Objections to the Special Master's Report and Orders on Referred Discovery Disputes	GRANTED as to redacted portions at Page 2, lines 22-27; Page 3, lines 1-2, 9, 12-13.	Narrowly tailored to protect confidential and proprietary information regarding sensitive features of Google's internal systems and operations, including details related to project names, cookies, internal identifiers, and financial information as well as Google's internal communications and practices with regard to Incognito and its proprietary functions, that Google maintains as confidential in the ordinary course of its business and is not generally known to the public or Google's competitors.
Exhibit A to Plaintiffs' Objections, GOOG-CABR-03662096	GRANTED as to the entire document.	Contains confidential and proprietary information regarding sensitive features of Google's internal systems and operations, including details related to project names, cookies, internal identifiers, and financial information as well as Google's internal communications and practices with regard to Incognito and its proprietary functions, that Google maintains as confidential in the ordinary course of its business and is not generally known to the public or Google's competitors.
Exhibit B to Plaintiffs' Objections, GOOG-BRWN-00184875	GRANTED as to the entire document.	Contains confidential and proprietary information regarding sensitive features of Google's internal systems and operations, including details related to internal projects as well as Google's internal communications and

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		practices with regard to Incognito and its proprietary functions, that Google maintains as confidential in the ordinary course of its business and is not generally known to the public or Google’s competitors.
Exhibit C to Plaintiffs’ Objections, GOOG-BRWN-00433503	GRANTED as to the entire document.	Contains confidential and proprietary information regarding sensitive features of Google’s internal systems and operations, including details related to cookies, internal identifiers, and financial information as well as Google’s internal communications and practices with regard to Incognito and its proprietary functions, that Google maintains as confidential in the ordinary course of its business and is not generally known to the public or Google’s competitors.
Exhibit D to Plaintiffs’ Objections, GOOG-BRWN-00204684	GRANTED as to the entire document.	Contains confidential and proprietary information regarding sensitive features of Google’s internal systems and operations, including details related to cookies, internal metrics, and financial information as well as Google’s internal communications and practices with regard to Incognito and its proprietary functions, that Google maintains as confidential in the ordinary course of its business and is not generally known to the public or Google’s competitors.
Exhibit E to Plaintiffs’ Objections, GOOG-BRWN-00168623.C	GRANTED as to the entire document.	Contains confidential and proprietary information regarding sensitive features of Google’s internal systems and operations, including details related to project names, cookies, and internal identifiers as well as Google’s internal communications and

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		practices with regard to Incognito and its proprietary functions, that Google maintains as confidential in the ordinary course of its business and is not generally known to the public or Google’s competitors.
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**3. Dkt. 310**

<b>Document Sought to be Sealed</b>	<b>Court’s Ruling on Motion to Seal</b>	<b>Reason(s) for Court’s Ruling</b>
Google’s Responses and Objections to Special Master’s Report and Orders on Referred Discovery Issues	GRANTED as to redacted portions at: 2:19-21; 3:2-7; 3:9; 3:13; 3:15; 4:8; 4:18-21; 5:3-4	Narrowly tailored to protect confidential and proprietary information regarding sensitive features of Google’s internal systems and operations, including details related to various types of Google’s internal identifiers, projects, data logs, and data structures related to its products and services, that Google maintains as confidential in the ordinary course of its business and is not generally known to the public or Google’s competitors.
Exhibit 1	GRANTED as to the entire document	Contains confidential and proprietary information regarding sensitive features of Google’s internal systems and operations, including details related to various types of Google’s internal identifiers, projects, data logs, and data structures related to its products and services, that Google maintains as confidential in the ordinary course of its business and is not generally known to the public or Google’s competitors.
Exhibit 2	GRANTED as to the entire document	Contains confidential and proprietary information regarding sensitive features of Google’s internal systems and operations, including details related to Google’s internal logs data and data usage policies, that Google maintains as

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		confidential in the ordinary course of its business and is not generally known to the public or Google’s competitors.
Exhibit 3	GRANTED as to the entire document	Contains confidential and proprietary information regarding sensitive features of Google’s internal systems and operations, including details related to Google’s internal identifiers and data usage policies, that Google maintains as confidential in the ordinary course of its business and is not generally known to the public or Google’s competitors.
Exhibit 4	GRANTED as to the entire document	Contains confidential and proprietary information regarding sensitive features of Google’s internal systems and operations, including details related to various types of Google’s internal identifiers, data flow, and data structures related to its products and services, that Google maintains as confidential in the ordinary course of its business and is not generally known to the public or Google’s competitors.

**4. Dkt. 321**

<b>Document Sought to be Sealed</b>	<b>Court’s Ruling on Motion to Seal</b>	<b>Reason(s) for Court’s Ruling</b>
Plaintiffs’ Demonstratives	DENIED without prejudice	Plaintiffs seek to seal information on the grounds that Google has designated the information under the protective order in this case, but Google has not filed a declaration demonstrating that the material is sealable, as required under Civil Local Rule 79-5. Google must submit the required declaration no later than <b>November 19, 2021</b> . Failure to submit the required declaration by this extended deadline may result in denial of the motion to seal.

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**SO ORDERED.**

Dated: November 12, 2021



SUSAN VAN KEULEN  
United States Magistrate Judge