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8	UNITED STATES	DISTRICT COURT
9		CT OF CALIFORNIA
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11	U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, a	CASE NO. 12cv2373-GPC(KSC)
12	national banking association, as successor-in- interest to the FEDERAL DEPOSIT	ORDER DISSOLVING
13	INSURANCE CORPORATION, Receiver for Park National Bank,	PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION
14	Plaintiff,	
15	VS.	
16	SANDY K. FRIEDRICHS, an individual; and DOES 1 through 50, inclusive,	
17	Defendants.	
18		
19	On October 15, 2012, Defendant filed an e	ex parte motion for temporary restraining order and
20	preliminary injunction seeking to restrain Plaintiff from foreclosing Defendant's property located at	
21	1340 La Mirada Drive, San Marcos, California 924	078. (Dkt. No. 3.) On October 18, 2012, the Court
22	denied Defendant's exparte motion for a temporary	y restraining order because the Court concluded that
23	Defendant had not shown irreparable harm since Plaintiff had moved the sale of the property to	
24	November 15, 2012. (Dkt. No. 6.) The Court also set a briefing schedule as to the motion for	
25		2012, the Court held a hearing on the motion for
26	preliminary injunction. (Dkt. No. 31.) At the hearing, the Court granted Defendant's motion for	
27	preliminary injunction pending further briefing by	
28	The Court finds the matter suitable for resol	lution without oral argument pursuant to Local Civil

[12cv2373-GPC(KSC)]

Rule 7.1(d)(1). Based on the reasoning below, the Court DISSOLVES the preliminary injunction issued on November 9, 2012. (Dkt. No. 33.)

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#### **Procedural Background**

4 On July 13, 2012, Plaintiff U.S. Bank National Association ("U.S. Bank"), as successor to the 5 Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation ("FDIC"), as Receiver for Park National Bank ("Park 6 National") filed a complaint in the Superior Court of San Diego against Defendant Sandy Friedrichs 7 for appointment of receiver and judicial foreclosure. On September 28, 2012, Defendant Sandy Zappia 8 and non-party Albert Zappia, Defendant's husband, proceeding prose, removed the case to this Court. 9 (Dkt. No. 1.) On October 12, 2012, the case was transferred to the undersigned judge. (Dkt. No. 2.) 10 On October 15, 2012, Defendant filed an ex parte motion for temporary restraining order and 11 preliminary injunction seeking to restrain Plaintiff from foreclosing Defendant's business property located at 1340 La Mirada Drive, San Marcos, California 92078. (Dkt. No. 3.) On October 18, 2012, 12 13 the Court denied Defendant's ex parte motion for a temporary restraining order because the Court concluded that Defendant had not shown irreparable harm since Plaintiff had moved the sale of the 14 15 property to November 15, 2012. (Dkt. No. 6.) Defendant filed a supplemental brief on October 29, 16 2012. (Dkt. No. 15.) Plaintiff filed an opposition on October 31, 2012. (Dkt. No. 16.) Defendant 17 filed a reply on November 6, 2012. (Dkt. No. 28.)

On November 9, 2012, the Court held a hearing on Defendant's motion for preliminary
injunction. (Dkt. No. 31.) At the hearing, the Court granted Defendant's motion for preliminary
injunction pending further briefing by the parties. (Dkt. No. 33.) Defendant was also required to post
a \$100,000 bond no later than November 15, 2012. (Id.) Defendant was also required to deposit with
the Clerk of Court by the 15th day of each month the amount of \$2,100.00.

On November 16, 2012, Plaintiff filed a supplemental brief. (Dkt. No. 35.) Around November
29, 2012, Defendant submitted a bond packet to the Court. (Dkt. No. 49.) On December 3, 2012,
Plaintiff filed an objection to Defendant's bond packet. (Dkt. No. 47.) On the same day, Defendant
filed a sur-reply in support of its motion for preliminary injunction. (Dkt. No. 51.) Subsequently,
Plaintiff submitted another bond packet to include a missing title report.

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Because the bond packet did not show that Defendant had sufficient collateral in the two

properties Defendant sought to use to secure the bond, the Court set an order to show cause hearing 1 2 why the preliminary injunction should not be dissolved. (Dkt. No. 54.) On December 11, 2012, 3 Defendant filed a response to the OSC. (Dkt. No. 60.) On December 20, 2012, the Court held a 4 hearing regarding sufficiency of the bond and a hearing on issues raised at the previous hearing on 5 Defendant's motion for preliminary injunction. (Dkt. No. 71.) The Court granted Defendant's request to file documents entitled Request for Judicial Notice to demonstrate that the properties for the bond 6 7 had sufficient equity. (Dkt. No. 72.) In addition, Plaintiff was directed to file supplemental documents 8 on or before December 26, 2012. (Dkt. No. 71.) On December 26, 2012, Plaintiff filed a third 9 supplemental declaration of Nicholas Ocepek. (Dkt. No. 75.). On January 3, 2013, Plaintiff filed an 10 objection to Defendant's Request for Judicial Notice filed on December 20, 2012. (Dkt. No. 80.)

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#### **Factual Background**

12 Around April 9, 2007, GreenPoint Mortgage Funding lent Defendant, on a recourse basis, the 13 principal sum of \$340,000, secured by the property located at 1340 La Mirada Drive, San Marcos, CA 14 92078. (Dkt. No. 5-1, Ocepek Decl. ¶ 5-6; Ex. 1.) The loan was memorialized in a written 15 Promissory Note. (Id.) On April 18, 2007, GreenPoint recorded a "Deed of Trust, Assignment of 16 Rents, Security Agreement and Fixture Filing" ("Deed of Trust") with the San Diego County Recorder's Office. (Id. ¶7; Ex. 2.) Defendant executed the Deed of Trust as trustor, to GreenPoint, 17 as beneficiary, and to Marin Conveyancing Corp., as trustee. (Id.) According to the title policy issued 18 19 in connection with the Loan, the Deed of Trust constitutes a first priority lien on the Property. (Id. ¶ 20 7; Ex. 2.)

On August 1, 2008, Park National recorded an "Assignment of Deed of Trust" whereby
GreenPoint assigned all of its right, title, and interest in, to and under the Note, Deed of Trust and
Assignment to Park National. (<u>Id.</u> ¶ 9; Ex. 3.) The loan assignment was executed and notarized in
April 2007 and became effective in February 2008, when the sale of the Loan to Park National was
consummated. (<u>Id.</u>)

On October 30, 2009, the FDIC placed Park National into receivership and assigned the assets
of Park National, including the Loan, to U.S. Bank. (Id. ¶ 10; Ex. 4.) The Note was assigned from
GreenPoint to Park National by way of an Endorsement on the last page of the Note. (Id. ¶ 6; Ex. 1.)

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	When the FDIC closed Park National, the Note was assigned by the FDIC as Receiver for Park
2	National to U.S. Bank by way of an Allonge to Note. (Id.) As a result of the Endorsement and
3	Allonge, U.S. Bank claims it is the current holder of the Note.
4	In late March 2012, non-party Albert Zappia submitted a check in the amount of \$287,734.26
5	to U.S. Bank as an attempted payoff for the Loan. (Id. $\P$ 12.) The check bore the notation "EFT Only
6	for Discharge of Debt." The check was returned because it was written on a closed account. (Id.; Ex.
7	5.)
8	Starting in April and May 2012, Defendant failed to make her monthly loan payment. (Id. $\P$
9	13.) Defendant's failure to pay the Loan is a default on the obligations for which the Deed of Trust
10	is security. (Id.)
11	Around June 22, 2012, U.S. Bank recorded a Substitution of Trustee, wherein Beacon Default
12	Management, Inc. became the successor trustee under the Deed of Trust. (Id. $\P$ 14; Ex. 6.) U.S. Bank
13	started non-judicial foreclosure proceedings by recording a notice of default and election to sell around
14	June 22, 2012. (Id. ¶ 15; Ex. 7.) Around September 12, 2012, U.S. Bank noticed a trustee's sale on
15	the property for October 18, 2012. (Id. $\P$ 16.) The sale was been postponed until November 15, 2012.
16	( <u>Id.</u> ¶ 17.)
16 17	( <u>Id.</u> ¶ 17.) Discussion
17	Discussion
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17 18 19	Discussion I Preliminary Injunction
17 18 19 20	<b>Discussion</b> I <b>Preliminary Injunction</b> To obtain a preliminary injunction, the moving party must show: (1) a likelihood of success
<ol> <li>17</li> <li>18</li> <li>19</li> <li>20</li> <li>21</li> </ol>	Discussion I Preliminary Injunction To obtain a preliminary injunction, the moving party must show: (1) a likelihood of success on the merits; (2) a likelihood of irreparable harm to the moving party in the absence of preliminary
<ol> <li>17</li> <li>18</li> <li>19</li> <li>20</li> <li>21</li> <li>22</li> </ol>	<b>Discussion</b> I Preliminary Injunction To obtain a preliminary injunction, the moving party must show: (1) a likelihood of success on the merits; (2) a likelihood of irreparable harm to the moving party in the absence of preliminary relief; (3) that the balance of equities tips in the moving party's favor; and (4) that an injunction is in
<ol> <li>17</li> <li>18</li> <li>19</li> <li>20</li> <li>21</li> <li>22</li> <li>23</li> </ol>	DiscussionIPreliminary InjunctionTo obtain a preliminary injunction, the moving party must show: (1) a likelihood of successon the merits; (2) a likelihood of irreparable harm to the moving party in the absence of preliminaryrelief; (3) that the balance of equities tips in the moving party's favor; and (4) that an injunction is inthe public interest. Winter v. Natural Res. Def. Council, Inc., 555 U.S. 7, 20 (2008).
<ol> <li>17</li> <li>18</li> <li>19</li> <li>20</li> <li>21</li> <li>22</li> <li>23</li> <li>24</li> </ol>	Discussion         I         Preliminary Injunction         To obtain a preliminary injunction, the moving party must show: (1) a likelihood of success         on the merits; (2) a likelihood of irreparable harm to the moving party in the absence of preliminary         relief; (3) that the balance of equities tips in the moving party's favor; and (4) that an injunction is in         the public interest. Winter v. Natural Res. Def. Council, Inc., 555 U.S. 7, 20 (2008).         Under the Ninth Circuit's "sliding scale" approach, the first and third elements are to be
<ol> <li>17</li> <li>18</li> <li>19</li> <li>20</li> <li>21</li> <li>22</li> <li>23</li> <li>24</li> <li>25</li> </ol>	Discussion         I         Preliminary Injunction         To obtain a preliminary injunction, the moving party must show: (1) a likelihood of success on the merits; (2) a likelihood of irreparable harm to the moving party in the absence of preliminary relief; (3) that the balance of equities tips in the moving party's favor; and (4) that an injunction is in the public interest. Winter v. Natural Res. Def. Council, Inc., 555 U.S. 7, 20 (2008).         Under the Ninth Circuit's "sliding scale" approach, the first and third elements are to be balanced such that "serious questions" going to the merits and a balance of hardships that "tips

plaintiff is entitled to such relief," <u>Winter</u>, 555 U.S. at 22, and the moving party bears the burden of
 meeting all four <u>Winter</u> prongs. <u>See Cottrell</u>, 632 F.3d at 1135; <u>DISH Network Corp. v. FCC</u>, 653
 F.3d 771, 776–77 (9th Cir. 2011).

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A.

## Likelihood of Success on the Merits

## 1. Assignment of the Deed of Trust

Defendant argues that the Assignment of the Deed of Trust from GreenPoint to Park National 6 7 Bank is invalid because it was not properly notarized. The Assignment was executed on February 29, 8 2008 by Patrick Nygard; however, the Assignment was notarized months earlier in April 2007. (Dkt. 9 No. 5-1, Ex. 3.) Defendant cites to California law that states that a document that a notary witnesses 10 must be complete at the time of notarization. Cal. Gov't Code § 8205(a)(2). Therefore, since the 11 Assignment was notarized in April 2007 and the document was executed and signed on February 29, 2008, Defendant argues the document was not properly notarized and not properly assigned. 12 13 Defendant contends that the discrepancy invalidates the assignment since it was modified after it was notarized. 14

In a declaration, Plaintiff states that the "loan assignment was executed and notarized in April
2007 and became effective in February 2008 when the sale of the Loan to Park National was
consummated." (Dkt. No. 5-1, Ocepek Decl. ¶ 9.) On the assignment of deed of trust from
GreenPoint to Park National, the notary date is April 25, 2007; however, the signature of Patrick
Nygard is accompanied with an x marked over April 25, 2007 and the inclusion of February 29, 2008.
(Dkt. No. 5-1 at 62.)

21 Plaintiff explains that the different dates can be explained by the deal structure between 22 GreenPoint, Lehman and Park National. The Loan Assignment was prepared by GreenPoint in blank 23 prior to Defendant's loan being sold to Lehman. (Dkt. No. 35-5, Tharpe Decl. ¶ 5; Dkt. No. 35-1, 24 Barlow ¶ 5.) Lehman's name was not entered on the Loan Assignment because it intended to 25 securitize Defendant's loan and fill in the blank Loan Assignment with the ultimate purchaser. (Dkt. No. 35-1, Barlow Decl. ¶ 5, 6.) Lehman then changed course and sold Defendant's loan to Park 26 27 National. (Id. ¶ 5.) After Park National purchased Defendant's loan around February 1, 2008, the 28 Loan Assignment was filled in with Park National's name and dated, February 1, 2008, as the effective 1

date of assignment. (Id.  $\P$  6.)

2 Plaintiff also contends that any document transferring or encumbering property is effective and 3 valid between the parties and enforceable against any person who has actual notice of its contents even if it was not acknowledged. See Osterberg v. Osterberg, 68 Cal. App. 2d 254, 262 (1945) (alteration 4 5 of deed after acknowledgment but before delivery was valid as long as there is consent); Kirsch v. 6 Barnes, 153 F. Supp. 260, 263 (C.D. Cal. 1957) (although a defectively acknowledged instrument is 7 not entitled to be recorded, an instrument is not invalid as between the parties to the instrument and 8 all those having actual notice of its existence); Johndrow v. Thomas, 31 Cal.2d 202, 206 (1947) (an 9 acknowledgment is not essential to the validity of a deed as a conveyance of the property).

10 Moreover, Plaintiff argues that even if the assignment was not valid, the transfer of a note 11 carries with it the security for the Note. California Civil Code section 2936 provides that "the 12 assignment of a debt secured by mortgage carries with it the security." Cal. Civ. Code § 2936. In addition, the United States Supreme Court held that the "transfer of the note carries with it the security, 13 without any formal assignment or delivery, or even mention of the latter." Carpenter v. Longan, 88 14 15 U.S. 271, 275 (1972). In one case, Judge Gonzalez explained that the transfer of the note without 16 the mortgage does not cause the mortgage to become null or the note to become unsecured - "the mortgage automatically follows the note." Davidson v. Countrywide Home Loans, Inc., 2010 WL 17 18 862712, at \*5 (S.D. Cal. 2010).

Defendant does not address this issue. However, she cites to cases that support Plaintiff's
position that "endorsement of the note by the payee was sufficient to transfer the deed of trust without
other assignment." <u>Cockerell v. Title Ins. & Trust Co.</u>, 42 Cal. 3d 284, 291 (1954). The cases
Defendant cites to support her position concern the assignment of the note, not the assignment of a
deed of trust. Therefore, an assignment of the deed of trust does not determine whether a party owns
a Note. Therefore, Defendant has not shown a likelihood of success on the merits that U.S. Bank is
not the owner of the Note.

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#### 2. Assignment of the Deed of Trust as to Lehman

In addition, Defendant argues that Plaintiff failed to identify the Note as ever being owned by
Lehman Brothers Small Finance ("Lehman Brothers") and how her loan was later transferred to Park

National Bank. (Dkt. No. 15, D's Mem. in Support of Prelim. Injunction, Exs. A, B.) By letter,
 Lehman Brothers informed Defendant that it purchased the Note from GreenPoint as of July 1, 2007.
 (Id.) On March 17, 2008, Park National wrote Defendant indicating that it purchased her loan from
 Lehman Brothers. (Id.) Since there is no mention of Lehman Brothers in Plaintiff's documents,
 Defendant argues that the assignment to Plaintiff U.S. Bank is not valid as there was a break in the
 chain of ownership.

7 According to Plaintiff, around January 1, 2007, GreenPoint entered into a flow purchase 8 agreement with Lehman Capital, a division of Lehman Brothers Holding, Inc. where Lehman agreed 9 to purchase certain loans and servicing from GreenPoint.<sup>1</sup> (Dkt. No. 35-5, Tharpe Decl. ¶ 3; Dkt. No. 10 58-1, Ex. F.) Defendant's loan was sold to Lehman around July 2007 pursuant to the Flow Agreement. 11 (Dkt. No. 35-5, Tharpe Decl. ¶ 4; Dkt. No. 35-1, Barlow Decl. ¶ 4.) The endorsement of the note and 12 assignment of deed of trust for these loans purchased by Lehman were prepared by GreenPoint in blank and delivered to Lehman. (Dkt. No. 35-5, Tharpe Decl. ¶ 5; Dkt. No. 35-1, Barlow Decl. ¶¶ 4-13 5.) It was intended that the assignments would be filled in with the date and name of the ultimate 14 15 purchaser and recorded once these loans had been purchased from Lehman. (Dkt. No. 35-1, Barlow 16 Decl. ¶¶ 5, 6.)

According to the Flow Purchase Agreement, the promissory notes purchased by Lehman would be endorsed in blank using the phrase "Pay to the order \_\_\_\_\_, without recourse" and signed by an authorized officer of GreenPoint. (Dkt. No. 58-1, Tanada Decl., Ex. F at § 2(c)(i.) It also provided that assignments of mortgages were to be blank and in the form and substance acceptable for recording, but not recorded. (Id. § 2(c)(iii).) Furthermore, the agreement provided that GreenPoint would hold title to the mortgages and shall prepare assignments in blank from GreenPoint which is acceptable to the trustee or other third party. (Id. § 28.)

- Lehman originally purchased these loans from GreenPoint with the intent to securitize them;
  however, it decided to sell these loans, including Defendant's loan. (Dkt. No. 35-1, Barlow Decl. ¶¶
  4-6.) On February 1, 2008, Park National purchased Defendant's loan when it purchased a pool of
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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Around April 9, 2007, GreenPoint Mortgage Funding lent Defendant, on a recourse basis, the principal sum of \$340,000, secured by the property located at 1340 La Mirada Drive, San Marcos, CA 92078. (Dkt. No. 5-1, Ocepek Decl. ¶¶ 5-6; Ex. 1.)

fixed and adjustable rate small balance commercial loans from Lehman. (Barlow Decl. ¶ 3; Ex. 1.)

Plaintiff has demonstrated that pursuant to an written Flow Purchase Agreement between GreenPoint and Park National that the parties agreed that the endorsement of the note and assignment of the deed of trust for Defendant's loan purchased by Lehman were prepared by GreenPoint in blank and delivered to Lehman and that the assignments would be filled in with the date and name of the ultimate purchaser and recorded once these loans had been purchased from Lehman. Therefore, 6 Defendant has failed to show a likelihood of success on the merits that the assignment of the deed of 8 trust and the note to U.S. Bank was not valid.

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#### 3. Validity of the Endorsement of the Note

10 Defendant argues that the endorsement of the Note from GreenPoint to Park National Bank is 11 not valid because the endorsement fails to provide any identifying information to indicate which loan 12 (Dkt. No. 5-1 at 17.) In opposition, Plaintiff argues that an the endorsement is referencing. endorsement of a negotiable instrument must be "made on [the] instrument" citing to Cal. Com. Code 13 § 3204. 14

15 In one case, Judge Sammartino concluded that the evidence did not demonstrate that the 16 allonge was affixed to the note as there was no evidence that it was stapled or otherwise attached to 17 the Note. Multibank 2009-1RES-ADC Venture v. San Diego Comm. Hous. Corp., 2011 WL 1044612 (S.D. Cal. 2011) (citing Adams v. Madison Realty & Dev., Inc., 853 F.2d 163, 166 (3d Cir. 1988) 18 19 (concluding that notes had not been properly negotiated because indorsement sheets "were not 20 physically attached to the instruments in any way"); In re Weisband, 427 B.R. 13, 18–20 (Bankr. D. 21 Ariz. 2010) (holding that purported creditor lacked standing as holder of note because there was no 22 evidence that endorsement to creditor was stapled or otherwise attached to the rest of the note)).

23 Here, on December 26, 2012, Plaintiff provided a declaration of Nicholas Ocepek, Vice 24 President of U.S. Bank and previously a loan officer of Park National and assisted both banks with the 25 monitoring and collection of the loan at issue. (Dkt. No. 75, Ocepek Decl. ¶ 1.) Ocepek states that 26 the Note was assigned from GreenPoint to Park National by way of an Endorsement on the last page 27 of the Note. (Id. ¶ 3.) Later, when the FDIC closed Park National, the "Note was assigned by the 28 FDIC as Receiver for Park National to U.S. Bank by way of an Allonge to Note." (Id.) He states that

both "the Endorsement and the Allonge are stapled to the original Note." (Id.) 1

2 Therefore, Defendant has failed to show likelihood of success on the merits that the 3 Endorsement was not properly affixed to the note.

> 4. **Offer of Tender**

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Defendant argues that the alleged debt has been discharged by the offer of performance made on March 23, 2012 and as accepted by Plaintiff as evidenced by it providing an invoice showing a 6 \$0.00 balance and issuing a "refund overpayment" check to Defendant.

8 Defendant argues that an offer of performance made to pay an alleged debt extinguishes and 9 discharges the alleged debt and cites to Cal. Civil Code § 1485. Since she tendered an Electronic 10 Funds Transfer instrument ("EFT"), she contends that the debt has been discharged.

11 Plaintiff contends that the debt has not been discharged because the EFT instrument was 12 returned since it was written on a closed account. Moreover, Plaintiff maintains that Defendant has 13 not provided any evidence that the Loan has been discharged.

14 California Code of Civil Procedure section 1485 provides that "an obligation is extinguished 15 by an offer of performance, made in conformity to the rules herein prescribed, and with intent to extinguish the obligation." Cal. Civ. Proc. Code § 1485. In order for the offer to be valid, it must be 16 17 made in good faith, unconditional, offer full performance, and must be able to perform. Cal. Civ. 18 Code §§ 1486, 1493, 1494, 1495. "An offer of performance is of no effect if the person making it 19 is not able to perform." Karlsen v. American Sav. & Loan Assn., 15 Cal. App. 3d 112, 118 (1971). 20 If the offeror "is without the money necessary to make the offer good and knows it" the tender is 21 without legal force or effect. Id.

22 Here, even though Defendant attempted to tender payment through the EFT check, it was 23 returned for insufficient funds and Defendant did not have the money to make the offer good. At the 24 hearing on the motion for preliminary injunction, Defendant admitted that it was drawn on a closed 25 account. Therefore, Defendant's offer of performance was not valid.<sup>2</sup>

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Accordingly, the Court concludes that Defendant has failed to establish a likelihood of success

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>Generally, tender of the amount owed is a necessary to any claim for wrongful foreclosure or 28 challenge to the validity of a foreclosure sale. See Abdallah v. United Savings Bank, 43 Cal. App. 4th 1101, 1110 (1996); Management Corp. v. Eischen, 158 Cal. App. 3d 575, 577 (1984).

1 on the merits.

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# B. Irreparable Harm to the Moving Party

Defendant claims that she will suffer economic harm and displacement as her business is
located at the property in dispute. She states that she has about 20 to 30 employees and the building
is customized for the production of her company's goods. Plaintiff argues that Defendant can be
compensated through monetary damages.

7 The Court concludes Defendant will suffer irreparable harm as it would affect her business and
8 employees.

9 C.

# **E.** Balancing the Equities

In balancing the equities, courts "must balance the competing claims of injury and must
consider the effect on each party of the granting or withholding of the requested relief." Winter, 555
U.S. at 24 (citation omitted). If the preliminary injunction is dissolved, Defendant would suffer
hardship to her business and her employees. On the other hand, if the preliminary injunction
continues, the delay would cause increasing costs U.S. Bank and its shareholders. The Court
concludes that both sides will be affected by the granting or dissolving of the preliminary injunction.

16 **D**.

# **Public Interest**

Since the injunction is narrow and limited in scope, the Court finds that the public interest is
a neutral factor. See Stormans, Inc. v. Selecky, 586 F.3d 1109, 1138-39 (9th Cir. 2009) (citation
omitted) (public interest factor is a neutral factor when the reach of an injunction is narrow and limited
to the parties).

Based on the supplemental briefs filed by the parties, Defendant has not met her burden of
demonstrating that a preliminary injunction is warranted. Accordingly, the Court DISSOLVES the
preliminary junction.

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## II.

# **Sufficiency of Bond**

After a review of the bond packet and noticing that the title report showed that the debt was greater than the value of the two properties, on December 3, 2012, the Court set an order to show cause hearing why the preliminary injunction should not be dissolved. At the hearing, Defendant submitted additional documents arguing certain debts have been eliminated so the Stevenson property has
 sufficient equity to secure a bond. However, these documents fail to show that she has sufficient
 security to post a bond in support of preliminary injunction.

Initially, Plaintiff argues that the parties cannot act as sureties. Plaintiff alleges that a surety
must be a licensed and credible source separate and independent from the party to the litigation;
however, it provides no legal support for its argument. Local Civil Rule 65.1.2 allows two individual
residents of the district, each of whom owns real or personal property within the district of value
sufficient to justify the full amount of the surety. Local Civ. R. 65.1.2. The Rule does not exclude
parties from being sureties. Therefore, it is appropriate for Defendant and her husband to act as
sureties.

Second, Plaintiff asserts that the properties proposed as security for the bond do not have
adequate equity as the properties are not valued at no less than twice the amount of the bond, which
is \$200,000.

14 On December 20, 2012, Plaintiff filed a Notice of Request for Judicial Notice in Support of 15 Sustaining Preliminary Injunction ("RJN") which purports to demonstrate that certain debt on the 16 Stevenson property have been discharged. In the RJN, Defendant concedes that the Iron Horse 17 Property will not be used as security. As to the Stevenson property, Defendant contends that the debt 18 to Well Fargo Bank in the amount of \$50,000 and World Savings Bank, FSB in the amount of 19 \$558,750 has been discharged pursuant to a Discharge of Debtor dated March 9, 2004 by the 20 Bankruptcy Court. (Dkt. No. 72, RJN, Ex. A.) She also attaches a Court order discharging items 11 21 and 12 of the title report totaling \$412,194.91. (Id., Ex. B.)

On January 3, 2013, Plaintiff filed an objection to the RJN which shows that Defendant still
does not have sufficient equity in either the Iron Horse Property and Stevenson Property to offer as
security. First, U.S. Bank argues that the attached appraisal value in the RJN prepared by an appraisal
is not admissible as there is no declaration or affidavit from the appraiser to authenticate the appraisal.
Second, the Chapter 7 bankruptcy discharge, dated March 2004, only extinguishes the "personal
liability of the debtor." Johnson v. Home State Bank, 501 U.S. 78, 82-83 (1991) (discharge in a
Chapter 7 liquidation only extinguishes the "personal liability of the debtor" and the creditor's right

to foreclose on the mortgage survives or passes through the bankruptcy). A creditor's right to
foreclose on a mortgage survives the bankruptcy. <u>Id.</u> U.S. Bank asserts that is why these secured liens
still appear on the title report. Moreover, as specifically stated in the bankruptcy discharge, a discharge
prohibits any attempt to collect from the debtor a debt that has been discharged; however, a "creditor
may have the right to enforce a valid lien, such as a mortgage or security interest, against the debtor's
property after the bankruptcy, if the lien was not avoided or eliminated in the bankruptcy case." (Dkt.
No. 72, RJN, Ex. A.) The Court agrees.

According to the title report, the debt to Wells Fargo Bank of \$50,000 and the debt to World Savings Bank, FSB in the amount of \$558,750.00 are still liens on the Stevenson property. Moreover, there is a tax lien in the amount of \$354,956.61. These three debts total \$963,706.61. The property is alleged to have an appraisal of \$738,000. (Dkt. No. 72 at 32.) Therefore, the Court finds that the debt owed on the property exceeds the value of the property. Accordingly, Defendant has failed to comply with the bond provisions under Local Civil Rule 65.1.2.

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## Conclusion

Based on the above, the Court DISSOLVES the preliminary injunction issued on November
9, 2012 based on Defendant's failure meet the standard for a preliminary injunction and for failure to
comply with the bond provisions under Local Civil Rule 65.1.2.

20 DATED: February 13, 2013

HON. GONZALO P. CURIEL United States District Judge