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8 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
9 SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
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11 SAN DIEGO UNIFIED PORT  
12 DISTRICT, a public corporation;  
13 and CITY OF SAN DIEGO, a  
municipal corporation,

14 Plaintiffs,

15 v.

16 MONSANTO COMPANY;  
17 SOLUTIA INC., and  
18 PHARMACIA CORPORATION,

19 Defendants.

Case No.: 15cv578-WQH-AGS

**ORDER**

20 HAYES, Judge:

21 The matters before the Court are the three motions to withdraw as counsel filed by  
22 counsel for Plaintiff San Diego Unified Port District. (ECF Nos. 227, 228, 229).

23 On July 17, 2018, Plaintiff San Diego Unified Port District (“the Port District”) filed  
24 three motions requesting that Lauren K. Valastro, Melanie Ann McDonald, and Ann L. Al-  
25 Bahish be withdrawn as counsel because they are no longer working on the case. (ECF  
26 Nos. 227, 228, 229). In declarations filed in support of the motions by William J. Jackson,  
27 counsel for the San Diego Unified Port District, Jackson states that these attorneys are no  
28 longer working on the case, that Kelly Drye & Warren LLP will continue to represent the

1 Port District, and that withdrawal of these attorneys will not cause any prejudice or delay.  
2 (ECF Nos. 227-1, 228-1, 229-1).

3 An attorney may not withdraw as counsel except by leave of court. *Darby v. City of*  
4 *Torrance*, 810 F. Supp. 275, 276 (C.D. Cal. 1992). The Court has discretion to grant or  
5 deny an attorney's motion to withdraw in a civil case. *See, e.g., Deal v. Countrywide Home*  
6 *Loans*, Case No. C 09-01643 SBA, 2010 WL 3702459 at \*2 (N.D. Cal. Sept. 15, 2010);  
7 *Washington v. Sherwin Real Estate, Inc.*, 694 F.2d 1081, 1087 (7th Cir. 1982). Among  
8 other things, courts ruling upon motions to withdraw as counsel have considered,

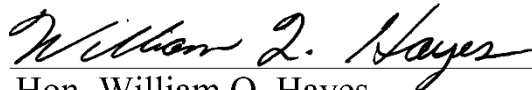
9 (1) the reasons counsel seeks to withdraw; (2) the possible prejudice that  
10 withdrawal may cause to other litigants; (3) the harm that withdrawal might  
11 cause to the administration of justice; and (4) the extent to which withdrawal  
will delay resolution of the case.

12 *Deal*, 2010 WL 3702459 at \*2.

13 After reviewing the record and the reasons for withdrawal, the Court concludes that  
14 there is good cause to grant the motions to withdraw as counsel.

15 IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the motions to withdraw Lauren K. Valastro,  
16 Melanie Ann McDonald, and Ann L. Al-Bahish as counsel are GRANTED. (ECF Nos.  
17 227, 228, 229).

18 Dated: July 19, 2018

19   
20 Hon. William Q. Hayes  
21 United States District Court  
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