

1 AARON D. FORD
 Attorney General
 2 ALEXANDER J. SMITH (Bar No. 15484C)
 Deputy Attorney General
 3 State of Nevada
 Office of the Attorney General
 4 555 East Washington Avenue
 Suite 3900
 5 Las Vegas, Nevada 89101
 (702) 486-4070 (phone)
 6 (702) 486-3773 (fax)
 Email: ajsmith@ag.nv.gov

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 8 *Attorneys for Defendants*
Isidro Baca, Andrei Antonov,
and John Coleman
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 12 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**
 13 **DISTRICT OF NEVADA**

14 RICHARD W. PETERS,

15 Plaintiff,

16 v.

17 ISIDRO BACA, *et al.*,

18 Defendants.

Case No. 2:18-cv-00893-APG-NJK

**ORDER GRANTING DEFENDANTS'
 UNOPPOSED MOTION TO EXTEND
 DISPOSITIVE MOTIONS DEADLINE
 ONLY TO JANUARY 11, 2021
 (SECOND REQUEST)**

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 20 Defendants, Isidro Baca, Andrei Antonov, and John Coleman (collectively NDOC
 21 Employees), by and through counsel, Aaron D. Ford, Nevada Attorney General, and
 22 Alexander J. Smith, Deputy Attorney General (DAG Smith), of the State of Nevada, Office
 23 of the Attorney General, hereby move a second time to extend by ninety days the dispositive
 24 motions deadline only to January 11, 2021. At 2:00 P.M. on October 14, 2020, counsel for
 25 Defendants met and conferred via telephone with Plaintiff to discuss this second motion to
 26 extend the deadline to file dispositive motions. Plaintiff stated that this motion is
 27 unopposed.

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1 2010) (determination as to what sort of neglect is considered excusable is an equitable one,
2 taking account of all relevant circumstances surrounding a party's omission).

3 In adjudicating excusable neglect, a court must take into account all relevant
4 circumstances, including (1) the danger of prejudice to the opposing party; (2) the length of
5 the delay and its potential impact on judicial proceedings; (3) the reason for the delay,
6 including whether it was within the reasonable control of the moving party; and (4) whether
7 the moving party acted in good faith. *Pioneer Inv. Servs. Co. v. Brunswick Assocs. Ltd.*
8 *P'ship*, 507 U.S. 380, 395 (1993).

9 Rule 6(b) "[is] to be liberally construed to effectuate the general purpose of seeing
10 that cases are tried on the merits." *Rodgers v. Watt*, 722 F.2d 456, 459 (9th Cir. 1983); *Wong*
11 *v. Regents of the Univ. of Calif.*, 410 F.3d 1052, 1060 (9th Cir. 2005) ("Of course, courts
12 should not mindlessly enforce deadlines.") The excusable neglect doctrine exists to prevent
13 a victory by default. *Newgen, LLC v. Safe Cig, LLC*, 840 F.3d 606, 616 (9th Cir. 2016)
14 (observing that it is "the general rule that default judgments are ordinarily disfavored). An
15 action should be decided on its merits and not on technicality. *Rodriguez v. Village Green*
16 *Realty, LLC*, 788 F.3d 31, 47 (2d. Cir. 2015) (citing *Cargill, Inc. v. Sears Petroleum &*
17 *Transp. Corp.*, 334 F. Supp. 2d 197, 247 (NDNY 2014) and observing that there is a strong
18 preference for resolving disputes on the merits). See generally 1 *Moore's Federal Practice*,
19 §6.06[3] (Matthew Bender 3d Ed.).

20 **B. Local Rules IA 6-1 and 26-3**

21 LR IA 6-1 requires that a motion to extend time must state the reasons for the
22 extension requested and will not be granted if requested after the expiration of the specified
23 period unless the movant demonstrates that the failure to file the motion before the
24 deadline expired resulted because of excusable neglect. LR 26-3 requires that a motion to
25 extend any date set by the discovery plan, scheduling order, or other order must, as well as
26 satisfying the requirements of LR IA 6-1, demonstrate good cause for the extension, and
27 such a motion filed after the expiration of the deadline will not be granted unless the
28 movant demonstrates that the failure to act resulted from excusable neglect.

1 Finally, LR 26-3 lists four factors that are considered upon adjudication of a motion
2 to extend a discovery deadline or to reopen discovery: (a) a statement specifying the
3 discovery completed; (b) a specific description of the discovery that remains to be completed;
4 (c) the reasons why the deadline was not satisfied or the remaining discovery was not
5 completed within the time limits set by the discovery plan; and (d) a proposed schedule for
6 completing all remaining discovery.

7 **C. Good Cause and Excusable Neglect Exist, Thus an Order Should**
8 **Grant NDOC Employees' Motion for an Extension of the Dispositive**
9 **Motions Deadline**

10 Here, good cause exists for extending the dispositive motions deadline by ninety days
11 from October 12, 2020, to January 11, 2021. NDOC Employees intend to move for summary
12 judgment and will raise a qualified immunity defense and argue that no constitutional
13 violations occurred. By extending the deadline from October 12, 2020, Peters is under no
14 danger of prejudice, and the delay is short (counsel understands that the Office of the
15 Attorney General should have moved for an extension of time more than twenty-one days
16 before the dispositive motion deadline is due, but for reasons outlined below, this did not
17 happen)—counsel for NDOC Employees, Deputy Attorney General Alexander J. Smith
18 (DAG Smith), apologizes for moving a first time on the deadline date and for moving a
19 second time several days after the deadline but reassures the court that Defendants act in
20 the utmost good faith and that the extension sought will not impact negatively on judicial
21 proceedings.¹

22 DAG Smith started with the Nevada Attorney General's Office approximately a
23 month ago and was only recently admitted to the Federal District Court. Upon
24 commencement of his employment, DAG Smith became counsel of record for the defense in
25 approximately forty actions and has worked assiduously and expeditiously to review each

26 ¹ Defendants have always acted in good faith and moved (ECF No. 28) for an
27 extension before the expiration of the deadline; while counsel for Defendants concedes that
28 he should have attempted to meet and confer with Plaintiff before the date of the dispositive
motions deadline, he did state in the motion that he made a good faith effort to meet and
confer with Peters that same day and that he would attempt again to arrange something
later in the week and supplement that motion with the results of the meet and confer.
(ECF No. 28 at 2)

1 case file. Only very recently, because of a previous calendar oversight that has since been
2 rectified, it transpired that the deadline to file dispositive motions was rapidly
3 approaching. DAG Smith moved (ECF No. 28) on the deadline date for an extension, but
4 an order (ECF No. 29) denied the motion without prejudice because of a failure to meet and
5 confer. DAG Smith hereby re-files that motion, which now incorporates an examination of
6 the excusable neglect standard because the second motion for an extension is filed several
7 days after the dispositive motions deadline.

8 Also, the previous attorney for NDOC Employees transitioned to his new role during
9 this time. Bearing in mind the numerous technological difficulties caused by the State of
10 Nevada moving to working from home because of the COVID-19 crisis, DAG Smith is
11 working diligently to defend this action. Soon after DAG Smith became aware of the
12 pending deadline dispositive motions deadline, he has worked tirelessly and in good faith
13 to review the docket in this action and to draft this and Defendants' previous motion. In
14 sum, DAG Smith needs additional time in order to adequately brief the court for summary
15 judgment.

16 **D. The Four Factors Contained Within LR 26-3 Are Satisfied²**

17 The four factors contained within LR 26-3—(a) a statement specifying the discovery
18 completed; (b) a specific description of the discovery that remains to be completed; (c) the
19 reasons why the deadline was not satisfied or the remaining discovery was not completed
20 within the time limits set by the discovery plan; and (d) a proposed schedule for completing
21 all remaining discovery—are satisfied. NDOC Employees have completed discovery in this
22 action, and no further discovery is needed. The reasons why the deadline was not adhered
23 to are succinctly and thoroughly elaborated on at length in the preceding paragraphs. No
24

25 ² LR 26-3 lists four factors that are considered. Arguably, these apply only when a
26 party moves for an extension to extend a discovery deadline or to reopen discovery; here,
27 NDOC Employees neither move to extend a discovery deadline nor move to reopen
28 discovery, but because a July 14, 2020 order (ECF No. 25) amends the April 13, 2020
Scheduling Order (Doc. 20), grants Peters' second motion (ECF No. 25) for an extension of
time, and moves the dispositive motions deadline to October 12, 2020, out of an abundance
of caution, the factors contained within LR 26-3 are addressed in case the court decides
that the four-factor requirement contained within that rule applies in this instance.

1 discovery remains, but NDOC Employees move to amend the Scheduling Order to extend
2 the dispositive motions deadline from October 12, 2020, to January 11, 2021.

3 **E. Meet and Confer**

4 As outlined above, at 2:00 P.M. on October 14, 2020, counsel for Defendants met and
5 conferred via telephone with Plaintiff to discuss this second motion to extend the deadline
6 to file dispositive motions. Plaintiff stated that this motion is unopposed. (See Declaration
7 of Counsel for the Defendants: Exhibit A)

8 **III. CONCLUSION**

9 NDOC Employees demonstrate good cause to extend the dispositive motions
10 deadline to January 11, 2021, and demonstrate excusable neglect for moving to extend the
11 dispositive motions deadline after the deadline itself. Plaintiff does not oppose this motion.
12 Due to the nature of summary judgment and the time and complexity involved in
13 adequately briefing the court, and because the Ninth Circuit and other appellate courts
14 prefer to see that cases are tried on the merits and not on a technicality, NDOC Employees
15 respectfully request an extension of time from October 12, 2020, to January 11, 2021, to
16 file dispositive motions.

17 DATED this 15th day of October, 2020.

18 AARON D. FORD
19 Attorney General

20 By: /s/ Alexander J. Smith
21 ALEXANDER J. SMITH (Bar No. 15484C)
22 Deputy Attorney General

Attorneys for Defendants

23 IT IS SO ORDERED.

24 Dated: October 16, 2020

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27 UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE
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