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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

JAMES E. BRYANT,

Plaintiff,

AMENDED NOTICE AND ORDER FOR

V.

EARLY NEUTRAL EVALUATION

CONFERENCE

M. BAIRES, Correctional

Lieutenant,

Defendant.

Defendant.

A Notice and Order for Early Neutral Evaluation Conference was issued by the Court on July 1, 2009. (Doc. No. 18.) Pursuant to the Order, an Early Neutral Evaluation Conference (ENE) was set for July 16, 2009. (Id.) The Court hereby vacates the ENE date set forth in the Scheduling Order of July 1, 2009 and amends the Notice and Order for Early Neutral Evaluation Conference as follows:

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that an Early Neutral Evaluation of your case will be held on <u>August 18, 2009</u>, at <u>10:30 a.m.</u> before United States Magistrate Judge Peter C. Lewis, United States Courthouse, 2003 W. Adams Ave., El Centro, California. **This conference shall be telephonic**. Defense counsel must initiate this conference by placing a call to chambers at (760) 353-4227 on the date and time of

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this conference.

Pursuant to Rule 16.1(c) of the Local Rules of the United States District Court for the Southern District of California, both counsel and the parties who have full and unlimited authority to negotiate and enter into a binding settlement shall appear by telephone at the conference and shall be prepared to discuss the claims, defenses and damages.

Unless there are extraordinary circumstances, persons required to attend the conference pursuant to this Order shall not be excused from attendance. Requests for excuse from attendance for extraordinary circumstances shall be made in writing at least 48 hours prior to the conference. Where the suit involves the United States or one of its agencies, only counsel for the United States with full settlement authority need appear. All conference discussions will be informal, off the record, privileged and confidential.

The parties may, but are not required to, submit a short Early Neutral Evaluation Conference Statement about the case on a confidential basis. Such statement may be submitted to chambers by mail or facsimile at least seven days prior to the scheduled date of the conference.

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[&]quot;Full authority to settle" means that the individuals at the settlement conference must be authorized to fully explore settlement options and to agree at that time to any settlement terms acceptable to the parties. Heileman Brewing Co., Inc. v. Joseph Oat Corp., 871 F.2d 648 (7th Cir. 1989). The person needs to have "unfettered discretion and authority" to change the settlement position of a party. Pitman v. Brinker Intl., Inc., 216 F.R.D. 481, 485-486 (D. Ariz. 2003). The purpose of requiring a person with unlimited settlement authority to attend the conference includes that the person's view of the case may be altered during the face to face conference. Id. at 486. A limited or a sum certain of authority is not adequate. Nick v. Morgan's Foods, Inc., 270 F.3d 590 (8th Cir. 2001).

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In the event the case does not settle at the Early Neutral Evaluation Conference, the parties shall also be prepared to discuss the following matters at the conclusion of the conference.

- 1. Any anticipated objections under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(a)(1)(E) to the initial disclosure provisions of Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(a)(1)(A-D);
- 2. The scheduling of the Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(f) conference;
- 3. The date of initial disclosure and the date for lodging the discovery plan following the Rule 26(f) conference; and,
- 4. The scheduling of a Case Management Conference pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 16(b).

The Court will issue an appropriate order addressing these issues and setting dates as appropriate.

Defense counsel shall notify Plaintiff of the date and time of the Early Neutral Evaluation Conference. Questions regarding this case may be directed to the Magistrate Judge's law clerk at (760) 353-1271.

Peter C. Lewis

U.S. Magistrate Judge

United States District Court

DATED: July 8, 2009

22 cc: The Honorable James M. Lorenz
All Parties and Counsel of Record