Case 2	:10-cv-09198-JVS -RNB Document 115 #:3671	Filed 10/31/11 Page 1 of 16 Page ID
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 11	KASOWITZ, BENSON, TORRES & I CHARLES N. FREIBERG (SBN 7089 BRIAN P. BROSNAHAN (SBN 1128 JACOB N. FOSTER (SBN 250785) 101 California Street, Suite 2300 San Francisco, California 94111 Telephone: (415) 421-6140 Facsimile: (415) 398-5030 LEVINE & MILLER HARVEY R. LEVINE (SBN 61879) CRAIG A. MILLER (SBN 116030) LEVINE & MILLER 550 West C Street, Suite 1810 San Diego, CA 92101-8596 Telephone: (619) 231-9449 Facsimile: (619) 231-8638 Attorneys for Plaintiffs JOYCE WALKER, KIM BRUCE HO and MURIEL SPOONER, on behalf of and all others similarly situated	90) 94) WLETT,
	UNITED STATE	S DISTRICT COURT
13		ICT OF CALIFORNIA
14 15		
16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27	JOYCE WALKER, KIM BRUCE HOWLETT, and MURIEL SPOONER, on behalf of themselves and all others similarly situated, Plaintiffs, v. LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY OF THE SOUTHWEST, a Texas corporation, Defendant.	CLASS ACTIONCASE NO.: CV 10-9198 JVS (RNBx)Formerly Case No.: 3:10-cv -04852JSW from Northern District of CAREPLY MEMORANDUM OFPOINTS AND AUTHORITIES INSUPPORT OF PLAINTIFFS'MOTION TO MODIFY THEPRETRIAL SCHEDULING ORDERBefore: Judge James V. SelnaDate: November 14, 2011Time: 1:30 p.m.Courtroom: 10C
28		ORITIES IN SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFFS' MOTION TO AL SCHEDULING ORDER

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#### I. <u>INTRODUCTION</u>

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2 LSW's opposition lacks any authority or factual support to overcome 3 Plaintiffs' showing of good cause for an extension. LSW's main argument is that 4 Plaintiffs should not obtain an extension now because Plaintiffs allegedly 5 previously refused to agree to an extension of the discovery schedule that would 6 both provide LSW with more time to complete its production and provide 7 Plaintiffs with more time to prepare their class motion. But the factual premise of 8 LSW's argument is false. Plaintiffs approached LSW three times (on September 1, 9 12, and 14, 2011) about extending the pretrial schedule in order to allow more time to complete discovery, but LSW refused to do so. Mr. Foster confirmed LSW's 10 11 refusal, with no contradiction by LSW, on the record at the September 14 hearing 12 before Judge Block: "[Plaintiffs] in fact, proposed a joint stipulation to extend the 13 deadline. Obviously not knowing that me – I mean, knowing that we cannot bind Judge Selna, of course. But the defendants have rejected any extension of the 14 15 deadlines." Supplemental Declaration of Jacob N. Foster ("Supp. Foster Dec."), 16 Ex. D at 30:4-8, filed concurrently herewith.

17 In attempting to overcome Plaintiffs' showing of good cause, LSW notes 18 that Plaintiffs will receive an "enormous volume" of discovery before their class 19 certification motion. But LSW had only produced 366 documents (2,508 pages) as 20 of the August 30, 2011 hearing on the motion to compel, five months after Plaintiffs served their document requests. The fact that LSW has produced 7,391 21 22 documents (81,355 pages) – most of which (5,944 documents, or 64,231 pages) 23 were only produced in the last two weeks – fails to address Plaintiffs' main 24 argument – that they lack sufficient *time* to review the "enormous volume" of 25 discovery that LSW just started producing on September 30, 2011, take depositions 26 based on those documents, work with experts, prepare expert reports, and prepare 27 their class motion for filing by January 16.

LSW also tries, unsuccessfully, to discount its production delays and the REPLY MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES IN SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFFS' MOTION TO MODIFY THE PRETRIAL SCHEDULING ORDER Case No. CV 10-04852 JSW

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impact of that delay on Plaintiffs' ability to prepare their motion. LSW instead 1 2 falsely accuses Plaintiffs of unrelated delays that have no bearing on LSW's failure to timely produce documents, of using the schedule intentionally to impose 3 4 "enormous" discovery costs on LSW, and of forcing LSW to work over the 5 holidays. But Plaintiffs served their document requests three days after discovery 6 opened, and LSW failed to produce any significant number of documents until after the Court ordered it to do so. Despite Plaintiff's diligence, and in light of the 7 8 pace of LSW's document productions, there is simply not enough time in the 9 current schedule for Plaintiffs to take discovery and prepare their class certification motion. Accordingly, there is good cause for an extension. 10

II. ARGUMENT

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## A. LSW's Claims Of Prejudice Are Baseless,

### A. LSW's Claims Of Prejudice Are Baseless, Premised On Falsehoods, And Would Not Defeat Good Cause In Any Event.

### 1. LSW, Not Plaintiffs, Refused to Agree to An Extension.

LSW claims that altering the pretrial schedule would "greatly prejudice LSW." <sup>1</sup> Opposition ("Opp.") at 13. This claim is baseless.

17 LSW is correct that Plaintiffs approached LSW (on multiple occasions) 18 about a stipulation to extend the pretrial schedule to provide both parties with 19 additional time – first by letter on September 1 and again during meet and confer 20 discussions on September 12, 2011 and September 14, 2011. Opp. at 12; Supp. 21 Foster Dec. ¶2-3; Ex. A (letter from Mr. Brosnahan to LSW's counsel suggesting 22 that the parties "discuss a joint request to Judge Selna to extend the existing 23 schedule in order to allow for extended production deadlines"). When Plaintiffs 24 followed up on the possibility of such an extension on September 12, LSW's 25 counsel, Timothy Perla, Esq., stated that if Plaintiffs proposed an extended

 <sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Despite accusing Plaintiffs of *ad hominem* attacks (Opp. at 4, n.1), LSW attacks Plaintiffs *ad hominem* for "imposing enormous costs on LSW," which are simply the costs that LSW inevitably needs to incur to fulfill its discovery obligations.

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schedule, he would be willing to inquire whether LSW would agree to an
 extension. Supp. Foster Dec. ¶2.

3 In light of Mr. Perla's representations, on the morning of September 14, 4 2011, prior to the hearing before Magistrate Judge Block, Plaintiffs' counsel, Jacob 5 Foster, Esq., proposed to Jonathan Shapiro, Esq., LSW's counsel of record and 6 lead attorney in this action, that the parties stipulate to a joint proposal to extend 7 the scheduling deadlines by three months in order to allow Plaintiffs sufficient time 8 to review their documents and alleviate LSW's burden objection to producing the documents in a timely manner.<sup>2</sup> Supp. Foster Dec. ¶3. However, Mr. Shapiro 9 informed Mr. Foster that LSW would not stipulate to any request to extend the 10 schedule. *Id.* When the parties were subsequently directed by Judge Block to 11 12 meet and confer in the courtroom regarding a timeline for production, Mr. Foster 13 again raised the possibility of an extension, and Mr. Shapiro again refused to consider an extension. Id. Accordingly, Mr. Foster informed the Court, on the 14 15 record, that Plaintiffs "in fact, proposed a joint stipulation to extend the deadline" 16 and that "the defendants have rejected any extension of the deadlines." Supp. 17 Foster Dec., Ex. D at 30:4-8; ¶4. Mr. Shapiro did not object to Plaintiffs' 18 characterization of LSW's position. *Id.* 

Thus, LSW's claim that "[h]ad Plaintiffs worked with LSW to develop a
mutually agreeable solution that might have benefitted both sides, LSW could have
avoided its massive expenditures" (Opp. at 13) is completely inaccurate because it
was LSW – *not Plaintiffs* – that refused to work together on a mutually agreeable
schedule. LSW's statements to the contrary are false.

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<sup>2</sup> Accordingly, Mr. Perla's declaration is incorrect when it states that Plaintiffs' counsel "never submitted any proposal" to extend the discovery schedule.
 <sup>27</sup> Declaration of Timothy J. Perla ¶4. Mr. Foster submitted such a proposal on behalf of Plaintiffs to Mr. Shapiro before the September 14, 2011 hearing, and it was rejected by Mr. Shapiro. Supp. Foster Dec. ¶4.

REPLY MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES IN SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFFS' MOTION TO MODIFY THE PRETRIAL SCHEDULING ORDER Case No. CV 10-04852 JSW

# 2. LSW's Existing Discovery Obligations Do Not Constitute Prejudice.

3 LSW also will not be prejudiced because Plaintiffs' requested extension will not alter the production schedule or impose any different or additional discovery 4 5 obligations on LSW other than those it is already required to fulfill. Mot. at 15. 6 Under both the existing and proposed schedules, LSW must produce documents in 7 accordance with the schedule set by Judge Block on September 14, 2011. Whatever expenses and hours are required to meet those deadlines will be *exactly* 8 9 the same under an extended schedule as they are under the current pretrial schedule.<sup>3</sup> LSW is required by the Federal Rules to produce responsive 10 documents. That LSW must fulfill its discovery obligations is not grounds for 11 prejudice.<sup>4</sup> 12

13 The cases LSW cites in support of its prejudice claim are inapposite because the parties in those cases would have incurred *additional* discovery expenses if an 14 15 extension were granted – whereas LSW's obligations and costs will not change. Opp. at 13 (LSW citing Spin Master Ltd. v. Your Store Online, 2010 WL 4883884, 16 17 at \*6 (C.D. Cal. Nov. 22, 2010), and iRise v. Axure Software Solutions, Inc., 2009 WL 3615973, at \*4 (C.D. Cal. July 30, 2009), for the proposition that imposing 18 "additional" discovery costs is reason to deny Plaintiffs' motion). In both Spin 19 *Master* and *iRise*, the courts refused to extend the schedule because adding the 20 changes requested would result in additional discovery and additional cost. Spin 21

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- n.11. This obfuscates Plaintiffs' point: that scheduling depositions, communicating with experts, and communicating with class members will be *even*
- *more difficult* during the already-too-short timeframe in light of the holidays.

REPLY MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES IN SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFFS' MOTION TO MODIFY THE PRETRIAL SCHEDULING ORDER

 <sup>&</sup>lt;sup>23</sup> <sup>3</sup> Although LSW claims it is reviewing and producing as many as 100,000 documents per week, in the five weeks since the production schedule was set (during which, using LSW's numbers, it reviewed up to 500,000 documents), LSW has produced a total of 6,880 documents.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>26</sup><sup>4</sup> LSW accuses Plaintiffs of forcing LSW to work over the holidays despite Plaintiffs' alleged "concerns for the sanctity of their own holidays." Opp. at 12,

Master, 2010 WL 4883884, at \*6; *iRise v. Axure Software Solutions, Inc.*, 2009
 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 102189, at \*18-26 (C.D. Cal. July 30, 2009). Here, Plaintiffs'
 proposed extension will not impose any additional expenses on LSW.

4 It goes without saying, therefore, that Plaintiffs should not be required to pay 5 LSW's discovery costs. LSW could have avoided or alleviated the "massive build-6 up" it claims was necessary if it had begun reviewing and then producing 7 documents from May to September, after it agreed in May to produce a substantial 8 number of documents. Instead, LSW apparently waited to move forward with its 9 review until after it was ordered to produce documents by Judge Block in September. Most importantly, it was *LSW's* – not Plaintiffs' – "failure to resolve 10 this issue when costs could have been avoided" (Opp. at 13), when LSW refused to 11 12 stipulate to a mutually beneficial extension at the September 14 hearing. Supp. 13 Foster Dec. ¶¶3-4. Moreover, LSW will not incur any additional costs as a result 14 of this extension - only those costs already required in order to meet its discovery 15 obligations under Judge Block's production schedule and the Federal Rules. To 16 require Plaintiffs to pay for LSW's ordinary discovery costs – any escalation of which was due entirely to LSW's own refusal to agree to an extension – would 17 reward LSW for *its* "failure to resolve this issue when costs could have been 18 19 avoided." Opp. at 13.

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### 3. In Any Event, LSW's Claimed Prejudice Fails to Overcome Plaintiffs' Showing of Good Cause.

Even if LSW could show that it would be prejudiced in some way by a four-22 month extension (which it cannot), that alone would be insufficient to overcome 23 Plaintiffs' showing of good cause. See Johnson v. Mammoth Recreations, Inc., 24 975 F.2d 604, 609 (9th Cir. 1992) (prejudice to the opposing party *might* supply 25 reasons for denying an extension). Rather, whether an extension should be granted 26 depends above all on the moving party's diligence. *Id.* Although prejudice to the 27 opposing party *might* in certain circumstances supply additional reasons to deny an 28 REPLY MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES IN SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFFS' MOTION TO MODIFY THE PRETRIAL SCHEDULING ORDER Case No. CV 10-04852 JSW

1 extension, it does not where, as here, the schedule cannot reasonably be met 2 despite the diligence of the party seeking the extension. *Id.* (quoting Fed. R. Civ. 3 Proc. 16 advisory committee's notes (1983 amendment)).

#### **B**. Plaintiffs Have Demonstrated Good Cause to Extend the Pretrial Schedule.

6 An extension of a deadline should be granted "if it cannot reasonably be met despite the diligence of the party seeking the extension." Id. Despite Plaintiffs' diligence, the current pretrial schedule fails to provide sufficient time for Plaintiffs to obtain the discovery they need to file their class certification motion by the 10 current January 16 deadline. This constitutes good cause for the modest fourmonth extension Plaintiffs are requesting.

#### 1. The Current Pretrial Schedule Does Not Provide "Ample" Time For Plaintiffs To Conduct the Necessary Discovery For Their Class Certification Motion.

15 LSW contends that Plaintiffs do not need more time because Plaintiffs will 16 receive "ample discovery" before filing their class certification motion. Opp. at 8. 17 But nowhere in LSW's opposition does it actually address the *time* Plaintiffs need 18 to conduct discovery and prepare their class certification motion after documents 19 are produced.<sup>5</sup> Opp. at 8-10. LSW is comparing apples (the *volume* of 20 documents) to oranges (the *time* needed to review those documents, take the 21 appropriate depositions, work with experts, prepare expert reports, and prepare the 22 class certification motion by January 16). See Plaintiffs' Memorandum of Points 23 and Authorities in Support of the Motion to Modify the Pretrial Scheduling Order 24 ("Mot.") at 6-7.

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REPLY MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES IN SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFFS' MOTION TO MODIFY THE PRETRIAL SCHEDULING ORDER

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> That LSW is producing an "enormous volume" of documents 2-3 months before Plaintiffs' motion is due actually supports granting an extension, since Plaintiffs 26 need time to review those documents and conduct related discovery. *See Munoz v. Giumarra Vineyards Corp.*, 2011 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 92792, at \*4 (E.D. Cal. Aug. 19, 2011) (extending class certification motion due to "voluminous" discovery). 27 28

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Two months is not enough time to complete these necessary steps in time for 1 2 Plaintiffs to prepare their class motion for filing on January 16. See Mot. at 6-7. 3 Plaintiffs will not receive a complete production of sample policyholder 4 illustrations and complaints or a class member list until November 14 – leaving 5 only 63 days before their class certification motion must be filed. Id. at 6. Even 6 Judge Block commented that "[t]wo months is not necessarily a sufficient amount 7 of time to review, schedule depositions of people who are who knows where, 8 conduct the depositions, make motions to compel." See Supp. Foster Dec., Ex. D 9 at 11:22-12:1.

10 LSW quibbles that Plaintiffs "blatantly strip" Judge Block's language out of 11 context because he did not say that the production schedule "was insufficient to permit Plaintiffs to prepare their motion"<sup>6</sup> and was referring specifically to the two-12 month period of time before the close of fact discovery. Opp. at 7, n.4. LSW is 13 splitting hairs. Judge Block's two month reference is as meaningful with respect to 14 15 the filing of the class certification motion as it is with respect to the close of fact 16 discovery. If two months is "not necessarily sufficient" to review documents, 17 schedule depositions, conduct depositions, and move to compel before the close of 18 fact discovery, it follows that the same amount of time may be insufficient to 19 complete those very same tasks before the class certification filing deadline.

Further, Plaintiffs have demonstrated good cause because it is not
practicable for Plaintiffs to *actually use* LSW's discovery to support their class
certification motion. LSW claims that "all hard copy documents and email from
16 of 23 total custodians" will be produced in time for the class motion. But
emails for 2 of the 16 custodians LSW mentions will not be produced until *the date the class motion must be filed*, and documents from 4 other custodians will not be

 <sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Contrary to LSW's characterization, Plaintiffs never referred to Judge Block as having said that the production schedule "was insufficient to permit Plaintiffs to prepare their motion." Opp. at 7, n.4.

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produced until December 17, which is far too late to be reviewed, used in
 depositions and by experts, and incorporated into Plaintiffs' class certification
 motion on January 16.

Indeed, documents from only 10 of 23 custodians will be produced by
December 17. This is not a "small percentage." Opp. at 10. Although LSW states
that many of the custodians are not essential, it was LSW (not Plaintiffs) that
selected 21 of the 23 custodians, and Plaintiffs' prioritization of the document
production was based solely on the individual's title with the company, because
LSW only five weeks ago began to produce documents that shed light on their
responsibilities.

11 Although an extension would avoid prejudice caused by the current schedule, Plaintiffs' motion is not, as LSW claims, an improper appeal of Judge 12 Block's production schedule.<sup>7</sup> Opp. at 4-8. The appeal procedure set forth in 13 Local Rule 72-2.1 is completely inapplicable here because Plaintiffs are not 14 15 appealing the production schedule Judge Block ordered, which will remain exactly 16 the same whether or not Plaintiffs' extension is granted. Judge Block himself 17 recognized that he could not give Plaintiffs the relief sought in this motion, stating that his ruling was "without prejudice to Plaintiffs seeking relief from the case 18 19 management deadline set by the district judge." Supp. Foster Dec., Ex. D at 29:22-20 24.

Plaintiffs also are not, and have never been, seeking to complete all
discovery before their class certification motion. Plaintiffs are only seeking to
have a sufficient amount of documents responsive to their initial sets of document
requests produced in enough time to effectively conduct depositions about those

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<sup>7</sup> LSW's statement that Plaintiffs "explicitly criticiz[e]" Judge Block's ruling "on the production schedule" is false. Opp. at 7 (citing Mot. at 9). Plaintiffs were discussing the added costs of *one specific provision* – permitting Plaintiffs to take a second round of depositions – which Judge Block only ordered because *LSW refused to produce documents sooner*. Mot. at 8-9.

documents and work with experts in order to prepare their class certification 1 motion. 2

#### 2. Plaintiffs Have Been Diligent in Seeking Discovery And in Seeking This Extension, Which Satisfies Good Cause.

Plaintiffs have been diligent in seeking discovery and attempting to comply 6 with the Court's tight schedule, which alone satisfies good cause for an extension. See Mammoth, 975 F.2d at 609; Mot. at 9-11 (demonstrating Plaintiffs' diligence in serving document requests, initiating meet and confer, moving to compel, and scheduling depositions).

10 LSW tries to paint Plaintiffs' diligence as delays. It argues that Plaintiffs' 11 "overbroad" document requests "concerning topics including other insurance 12 products, other insurance companies, and interactions with third parties" constitute 13 delays and negate Plaintiffs' showing of diligence. Opp. at 11. To the contrary, 14 although Judge Block narrowed these requests, he nevertheless granted Plaintiffs' 15 motion to compel documents regarding other insurance products, other insurance 16 companies, and third parties. See, e.g., Supp. Foster Dec., Ex. C at 56 (ordering 17 LSW to produce documents comparing its products to "other insurance products" 18 of "other insurance companies"); *id.* (acknowledging that certain documents 19 related to third parties would be relevant and must be produced as responsive to 20 other document requests).

21 Further, Plaintiffs have been diligent in seeking this extension, contrary to 22 LSW's characterization that they "wait[ed] until October" to seek relief. Opp. at 4. 23 Plaintiffs tried their best to comply with the schedule and gave LSW ample time to 24 produce documents, which it essentially did not do for five months. Plaintiffs then 25 approached LSW on September 1, September 12, and September 14 – before the 26 production schedule was finalized – to try to work out an agreement that would 27 extend the schedule for both parties. Supp. Foster Dec., ¶¶2-4. LSW refused.

28 After realizing that the production schedule would not afford sufficient time to REPLY MEMOŘANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES IN SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFFS' MOTION TO MODIFY THE PRETRIAL SCHEDULING ORDER Case No. CV 10-04852 JSW

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prepare their class motion, Plaintiffs again asked LSW, on September 29, whether
it would stipulate to the requested extension. *See* Declaration of Jacob N. Foster in
Support of Motion ("Foster Dec.") (Document 111), Ex. L. Plaintiffs thus asked
LSW to stipulate to the requested relief *four times* in September – three times
before the production schedule was set and, according to LSW, costs could have
been avoided.<sup>8</sup>

7 Finally, none of the cases LSW cites negates Plaintiffs' showing of diligence 8 and good cause. See Munoz, 2011 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 92792, at \*4 (denying the 9 parties' request to extend the deadlines for the opposition and reply to the motion for class certification because no explanation was given, but earlier granting an 10 extension of the class certification deadline because of "voluminous" discovery 11 12 that made timely filing impossible); Rosenblum v. Mule Creek State Prison Med. 13 Staff, 2011 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 14334, at \*10 (E.D. Cal. Feb. 4, 2011) (denying 14 request to modify the scheduling order because it was unclear why the plaintiff 15 needed more than *five months* to complete his *modest* discovery goals); *Palmer v*. Crotty, 2010 WL 4279423, at \*1 (E.D. Cal. Oct. 22, 2010) (party failed to show 16 17 good cause because he failed to submit any document requests). In each of these 18 cases, unlike here, the parties failed to show good cause because they either 19 provided no explanation to support their request for an extension, or they failed to 20 propound discovery. Plaintiffs, on the other hand, have diligently sought discovery and have provided ample support as to why their request should be granted. 21

#### 3. LSW's Production Delays Also Justify An Extension, Notwithstanding LSW's Attempts to Discount Them.

Notwithstanding LSW's attempt to ignore its months-long delay in

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>26</sup> <sup>8</sup> Plaintiffs filed their motion in October because of the 10-day notice period required by Local Rule 7-3, which was triggered by a conference of the parties that took place via an exchange of emails between September 29 and October 6, 2011.
<sup>28</sup> Foster Dec., Ex. L.

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1 producing documents, these delays provide further support for an extension here. 2 LSW argues that Plaintiffs "get no traction" by complaining about LSW's 3 "purported" delays in producing documents and claims that the record "vitiates that 4 claim" because "Plaintiffs have more than 82,000 pages of documents [and] 5 several depositions scheduled." Opp. at 11. But LSW blatantly misconstrues "the 6 record," which shows that between May and the August 30 hearing on Plaintiffs' 7 motion to compel, LSW produced only 2,508 pages of documents – despite the fact 8 that LSW agreed *in May* to produce documents pertaining to another 12 categories 9 of requests that were not forthcoming until the September 30 Court-ordered production. Mot. at 12-13; Foster Dec., Ex. L; Supp. Foster Dec., Ex. C at 56 10 (Judge Block stating to LSW, "I'm a little bothered by the fact that you agreed to 11 12 produce stuff in May. And now it's going to be September. And you're still in the 13 we've-agreed-to-produce-them stage."). The fact that, as of October 24, 2011, 14 Plaintiffs have now received 82,000 pages does not refute the fact that LSW produced a de minimus number of documents in the five months after it agreed to 15 16 start producing documents.

17 LSW also tries to distract from its delays by claiming that Plaintiffs' 18 "overbroad" requests, the meet and confer process, and so-called "collateral" 19 matters (such as the scope of the parties' protective order) were the reason for any 20 delay in producing documents. Opp. at 11. But none of the things LSW mentions had *any* bearing on the timing of its production of the documents it agreed to 21 22 produce in May. The fact that the parties were in disagreement with respect to 23 other requests did not impede LSW from producing the documents it *already* 24 agreed to produce and that were not the subject of Plaintiffs' motion to compel. 25 Nor did the parties' dispute with respect to a single provision of the protective 26 order have anything to do with LSW's ability to produce the agreed-upon 27 documents, because Plaintiffs agreed that any documents produced would be subject to the final version of the protective order. Supp. Foster Dec. ¶5; Ex. B. 28 REPLY MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES IN SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFFS' MOTION TO MODIFY THE PRETRIAL SCHEDULING ORDER Case No. CV 10-04852 JSW

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1 Finally, the fact that the parties did not finalize their production protocol, 2 custodians, or email search terms until July (Declaration of Timothy J. Perla, Exs. 3 B, F) also does not excuse LSW's failure to produce more than a *de minimus* number of documents until September 30. LSW agreed to produce 15 categories 4 5 of documents in May, an agreement that was not conditioned on the identification of custodians or search terms. On June 9, when the production protocol was nearly 6 finalized, LSW informed Plaintiffs that resolution of the remaining issues in 7 8 dispute would not delay its production of other documents. Supp. Foster Dec., Ex. 9 B. In fact, LSW made its first production of documents in June, in temporary format, pending resolution of the production protocol. Clearly, LSW could have 10 done the same for the 15 categories of documents it had already agreed to produce. 11 12 That LSW instead waited months to produce these documents is further 13 justification for granting Plaintiffs' requested extension.

### 14 III. <u>CONCLUSION</u>

Because the pretrial schedule is not workable and because Plaintiffs have
demonstrated good cause to extend the scheduling order by four months, Plaintiffs
respectfully request that the dates in the pretrial scheduling order be extended by
four months.

DATED: October 31, 2011 KASOWITZ BENSON TORRES & FRIEDMAN LLP

By: <u>/s/ Charles N. Freiberg</u> Charles N. Freiberg

Attorneys For Plaintiffs JOYCE WALKER, KIM BRUCE HOWLETT, and MURIEL SPOONER, on behalf of themselves and all others similarly situated

REPLY MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES IN SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFFS' MOTION TO MODIFY THE PRETRIAL SCHEDULING ORDER

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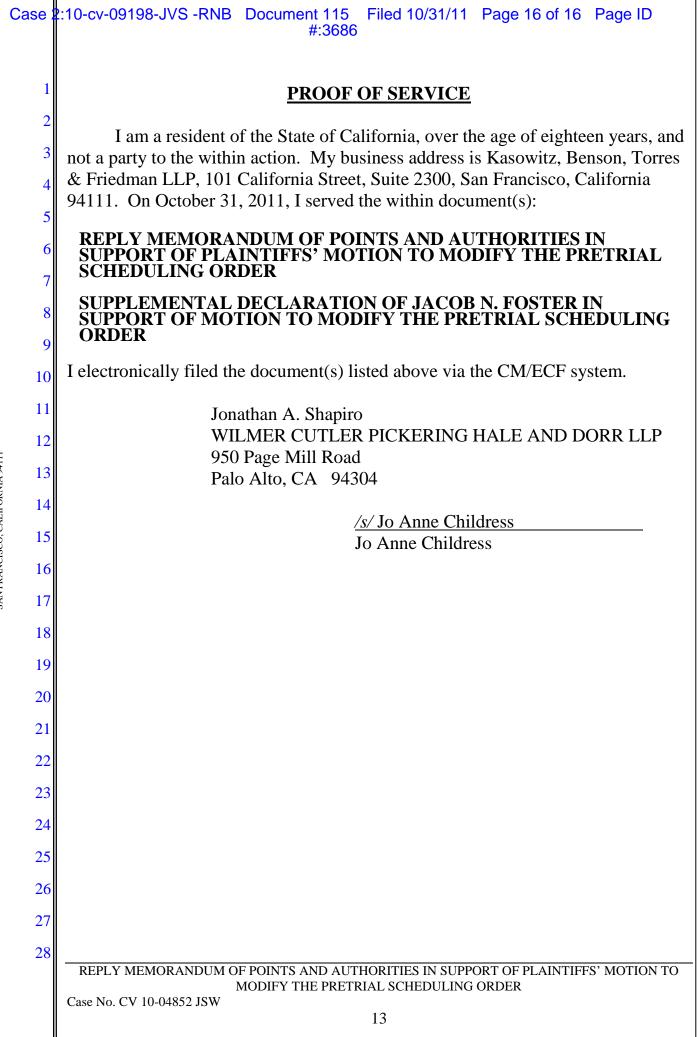
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