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March 13, 2008 DATED:

IT IS SO ORDERED.

discretion to shorten the time for hearing a motion. See, e.g., United States v. Fitch, 472 F.2d 548, 549 n. 5 (9th Cir. 1973), cert. denied, 410 U.S. 914 (1973). The plaintiff's Motion for a Preliminary Injunction seeks to compel the defendants to process government records expeditiously under the Freedom of Information Act ("FOIA") because the information requested by the plaintiff involves a matter about which there is an "urgency to inform the public about actual or alleged [f]ederal [g]overnment activity," and are sought by "a person primarily engaged in disseminating information." 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(E)(v)(II), 32 C.F.R. § 1700.12(c)(2), and 28 C.F.R. § 16.5(d)(1)(ii). The defendants have conceded that the requests satisfy this statutory standard and the agencies' own implementing regulations, and are therefore legally entitled to be processed in an expedited manner. Regardless, the agencies have to date neither processed the requests, nor informed the plaintiff of an anticipated date for completion of processing.

Under the statutory scheme Congress established in the FOIA, it is clear that the plaintiff's rights and the defendants' obligations are based upon timeliness. The plaintiff has been unable to negotiate a processing schedule with the defendants, and the defendants will not be unduly prejudiced by the accelerated briefing schedule the plaintiff seeks.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

The hearing on the plaintiff's Motion for a Preliminary Injunction is scheduled for April 4, 2008. The moving papers for that motion have already been filed and served on the defendants.

Defendants' opposition shall be filed no later than March 21, 2008.

Plaintiff's reply shall be filed no later than March 26, 2008.

ORDER

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