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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

Plaintiff,
v.
Defendant.

Case No.

STIPULATED PROTECTIVE
ORDER¹

1. A. PURPOSES AND LIMITATIONS

Discovery in this action is likely to involve production of confidential, proprietary, or private information for which special protection from public disclosure and from use for any purpose other than prosecuting this litigation may be warranted. Accordingly, the parties hereby stipulate to and petition the Court to enter the following Stipulated Protective Order. The parties acknowledge that this Order does not confer blanket protections on all disclosures or responses to discovery and that the protection it affords from public disclosure and use extends only to the limited information or items that are entitled to confidential treatment under the applicable legal principles.

¹ This Stipulated Protective Order is substantially based on the model protective order provided under Magistrate Judge Patricia Donahue’s Procedures.

1 B. GOOD CAUSE STATEMENT

2 [***The “Good Cause Statement” should be edited to include or exclude specific**
3 **information that applies to the particular case, i.e., what harm will result from**
4 **the disclosure of the confidential information likely to be produced in this case?**
5 **Below is an example]:**

6 This action is likely to involve trade secrets, customer and pricing lists and
7 other valuable research, development, commercial, financial, technical and/or
8 proprietary information for which special protection from public disclosure and from
9 use for any purpose other than prosecution of this action is warranted. Such
10 confidential and proprietary materials and information consist of, among other
11 things, confidential business or financial information, information regarding
12 confidential business practices, or other confidential research, development, or
13 commercial information (including information implicating privacy rights of third
14 parties), information otherwise generally unavailable to the public, or which may be
15 privileged or otherwise protected from disclosure under state or federal statutes,
16 court rules, case decisions, or common law. Accordingly, to expedite the flow of
17 information, to facilitate the prompt resolution of disputes over confidentiality of
18 discovery materials, to adequately protect information the parties are entitled to keep
19 confidential, to ensure that the parties are permitted reasonable necessary uses of
20 such material in preparation for and in the conduct of trial, to address their handling
21 at the end of the litigation, and serve the ends of justice, a protective order for such
22 information is justified in this matter. It is the intent of the parties that information
23 will not be designated as confidential for tactical reasons and that nothing be so
24 designated without a good faith belief that it has been maintained in a confidential,
25 non-public manner, and there is good cause why it should not be part of the public
26 record of this case.

1 C. ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF PROCEDURE FOR FILING UNDER SEAL

2 The parties further acknowledge, as set forth in Section 12.3, below, that this
3 Stipulated Protective Order does not entitle them to file confidential information
4 under seal; Local Civil Rule 79-5 sets forth the procedures that must be followed and
5 the standards that will be applied when a party seeks permission from the court to
6 file material under seal.

7 There is a strong presumption that the public has a right of access to judicial
8 proceedings and records in civil cases. In connection with non-dispositive motions,
9 good cause must be shown to support a filing under seal. See Kamakana v. City and
10 County of Honolulu, 447 F.3d 1172, 1176 (9th Cir. 2006), Phillips v. Gen. Motors
11 Corp., 307 F.3d 1206, 1210-11 (9th Cir. 2002), Makar-Welbon v. Sony Electronics,
12 Inc., 187 F.R.D. 576, 577 (E.D. Wis. 1999) (even stipulated protective orders require
13 good cause showing), and a specific showing of good cause or compelling reasons
14 with proper evidentiary support and legal justification, must be made with respect to
15 Protected Material that a party seeks to file under seal. The parties' mere designation
16 of Disclosure or Discovery Material as CONFIDENTIAL does not—without the
17 submission of competent evidence by declaration, establishing that the material
18 sought to be filed under seal qualifies as confidential, privileged, or otherwise
19 protectable—constitute good cause.

20 Further, if a party requests sealing related to a dispositive motion or trial, then
21 compelling reasons, not only good cause, for the sealing must be shown, and the
22 relief sought shall be narrowly tailored to serve the specific interest to be protected.
23 See Pintos v. Pacific Creditors Ass'n, 605 F.3d 665, 677-79 (9th Cir. 2010). For each
24 item or type of information, document, or thing sought to be filed or introduced under
25 seal in connection with a dispositive motion or trial, the party seeking protection
26 must articulate compelling reasons, supported by specific facts and legal
27 justification, for the requested sealing order. Again, competent evidence supporting
28 the application to file documents under seal must be provided by declaration.

1 Any document that is not confidential, privileged, or otherwise protectable in
2 its entirety will not be filed under seal if the confidential portions can be redacted. If
3 documents can be redacted, then a redacted version for public viewing, omitting only
4 the confidential, privileged, or otherwise protectable portions of the document, shall
5 be filed. Any application that seeks to file documents under seal in their entirety
6 should include an explanation of why redaction is not feasible.

7
8 **2. DEFINITIONS**

9 2.1 Action: [this pending federal law suit]. [*Option: consolidated
10 or related actions.]

11 2.2 Challenging Party: a Party or Non-Party that challenges
12 the designation of information or items under this Order.

13 2.3 “CONFIDENTIAL” Information or Items: information (regardless of
14 how it is generated, stored or maintained) or tangible things that qualify for
15 protection under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(c), and as specified above in the
16 Good Cause Statement.

17 2.4 Counsel: Outside Counsel of Record and House Counsel (as well as
18 their support staff).

19 2.5 Designating Party: a Party or Non-Party that designates information or
20 items that it produces in disclosures or in responses to discovery as
21 “CONFIDENTIAL.”

22 2.6 Disclosure or Discovery Material: all items or information, regardless
23 of the medium or manner in which it is generated, stored, or maintained (including,
24 among other things, testimony, transcripts, and tangible things), that are produced or
25 generated in disclosures or responses to discovery in this matter.

26 2.7 Expert: a person with specialized knowledge or experience in a matter
27 pertinent to the litigation who has been retained by a Party or its counsel to serve as
28 an expert witness or as a consultant in this Action.

1 2.8 House Counsel: attorneys who are employees of a party to this Action.
2 House Counsel does not include Outside Counsel of Record or any other outside
3 counsel.

4 2.9 Non-Party: any natural person, partnership, corporation, association, or
5 other legal entity not named as a Party to this action.

6 2.10 Outside Counsel of Record: attorneys who are not employees of a party
7 to this Action but are retained to represent or advise a party to this Action and have
8 appeared in this Action on behalf of that party or are affiliated with a law firm which
9 has appeared on behalf of that party, and includes support staff.

10 2.11 Party: any party to this Action, including all of its officers, directors,
11 employees, consultants, retained experts, and Outside Counsel of Record (and their
12 support staffs).

13 2.12 Producing Party: a Party or Non-Party that produces Disclosure or
14 Discovery Material in this Action.

15 2.13 Professional Vendors: persons or entities that provide litigation
16 support services (e.g., photocopying, videotaping, translating, preparing exhibits or
17 demonstrations, and organizing, storing, or retrieving data in any form or medium)
18 and their employees and subcontractors.

19 2.14 Protected Material: any Disclosure or Discovery Material that is
20 designated as “CONFIDENTIAL.”

21 2.15 Receiving Party: a Party that receives Disclosure or Discovery Material
22 from a Producing Party.

23
24 3. SCOPE

25 The protections conferred by this Stipulation and Order cover not only
26 Protected Material (as defined above), but also (1) any information copied or
27 extracted from Protected Material; (2) all copies, excerpts, summaries, or
28 compilations of Protected Material; and (3) any testimony, conversations, or

1 presentations by Parties or their Counsel that might reveal Protected Material.

2 Any use of Protected Material at trial shall be governed by the orders of the
3 trial judge. This Order does not govern the use of Protected Material at trial.

4
5 4. DURATION

6 FINAL DISPOSITION of the action is defined as the conclusion of any
7 appellate proceedings, or, if no appeal is taken, when the time for filing of an appeal
8 has run. Except as set forth below, the terms of this protective order apply through
9 FINAL DISPOSITION of the action. The parties may stipulate that they will be
10 contractually bound by the terms of this agreement beyond FINAL DISPOSITION,
11 but will have to file a separate action for enforcement of the agreement once all
12 proceedings in this case are complete.

13 Once a case proceeds to trial, information that was designated as
14 CONFIDENTIAL or maintained pursuant to this protective order used or introduced
15 as an exhibit at trial becomes public and will be presumptively available to all
16 members of the public, including the press, unless compelling reasons supported by
17 specific factual findings to proceed otherwise are made to the trial judge in advance
18 of the trial. See Kamakana, 447 F.3d at 1180-81 (distinguishing “good cause”
19 showing for sealing documents produced in discovery from “compelling reasons”
20 standard when merits-related documents are part of court record). Accordingly, for
21 such materials, the terms of this protective order do not extend beyond the
22 commencement of the trial.

23
24 5. DESIGNATING PROTECTED MATERIAL

25 5.1 Exercise of Restraint and Care in Designating Material for Protection.
26 Each Party or Non-Party that designates information or items for protection under
27 this Order must take care to limit any such designation to specific material that
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1 qualifies under the appropriate standards. The Designating Party must designate for
2 protection only those parts of material, documents, items, or oral or written
3 communications that qualify so that other portions of the material, documents, items,
4 or communications for which protection is not warranted are not swept unjustifiably
5 within the ambit of this Order.

6 Mass, indiscriminate, or routinized designations are prohibited. Designations
7 that are shown to be clearly unjustified or that have been made for an improper
8 purpose (e.g., to unnecessarily encumber the case development process or to impose
9 unnecessary expenses and burdens on other parties) may expose the Designating
10 Party to sanctions.

11 If it comes to a Designating Party's attention that information or items that it
12 designated for protection do not qualify for protection, that Designating Party must
13 promptly notify all other Parties that it is withdrawing the inapplicable designation.

14 5.2 Manner and Timing of Designations. Except as otherwise provided in
15 this Order (see, e.g., second paragraph of section 5.2(a) below), or as otherwise
16 stipulated or ordered, Disclosure or Discovery Material that qualifies for protection
17 under this Order must be clearly so designated before the material is disclosed or
18 produced.

19 Designation in conformity with this Order requires:

20 (a) for information in documentary form (e.g., paper or electronic
21 documents, but excluding transcripts of depositions or other pretrial or trial
22 proceedings), that the Producing Party affix at a minimum, the legend
23 "CONFIDENTIAL" (hereinafter "CONFIDENTIAL legend"), to each page that
24 contains protected material. If only a portion or portions of the material on a page
25 qualifies for protection, the Producing Party also must clearly identify the protected
26 portion(s) (e.g., by making appropriate markings in the margins).

27 A Party or Non-Party that makes original documents available for inspection
28 need not designate them for protection until after the inspecting Party has indicated

1 which documents it would like copied and produced. During the inspection and
2 before the designation, all of the material made available for inspection shall be
3 deemed “CONFIDENTIAL.” After the inspecting Party has identified the
4 documents it wants copied and produced, the Producing Party must determine which
5 documents, or portions thereof, qualify for protection under this Order. Then, before
6 producing the specified documents, the Producing Party must affix the
7 “CONFIDENTIAL legend” to each page that contains Protected Material. If only a
8 portion or portions of the material on a page qualifies for protection, the Producing
9 Party also must clearly identify the protected portion(s) (e.g., by making appropriate
10 markings in the margins).

11 (b) for testimony given in depositions that the Designating Party identify
12 the Disclosure or Discovery Material on the record, before the close of the deposition
13 all protected testimony.

14 (c) for information produced in some form other than documentary and for
15 any other tangible items, that the Producing Party affix in a prominent place on the
16 exterior of the container or containers in which the information is stored the legend
17 “CONFIDENTIAL.” If only a portion or portions of the information warrants
18 protection, the Producing Party, to the extent practicable, shall identify the protected
19 portion(s).

20 5.3 Inadvertent Failures to Designate. If timely corrected, an inadvertent
21 failure to designate qualified information or items does not, standing alone, waive
22 the Designating Party’s right to secure protection under this Order for such material.
23 Upon timely correction of a designation, the Receiving Party must make reasonable
24 efforts to assure that the material is treated in accordance with the provisions of this
25 Order.

26
27 6. CHALLENGING CONFIDENTIALITY DESIGNATIONS

28 6.1 Timing of Challenges. Any Party or Non-Party may challenge a

1 designation of confidentiality at any time that is consistent with the Court's
2 Scheduling Order.

3 6.2 Meet and Confer. The Challenging Party shall initiate the dispute
4 resolution process under Local Rule 37.1 et seq.

5 6.3 The burden of persuasion in any such challenge proceeding shall be on
6 the Designating Party. Frivolous challenges, and those made for an improper purpose
7 (e.g., to harass or impose unnecessary expenses and burdens on other parties) may
8 expose the Challenging Party to sanctions. Unless the Designating Party has waived
9 or withdrawn the confidentiality designation, all parties shall continue to afford the
10 material in question the level of protection to which it is entitled under the Producing
11 Party's designation until the Court rules on the challenge.

12
13 7. ACCESS TO AND USE OF PROTECTED MATERIAL

14 7.1 Basic Principles. A Receiving Party may use Protected Material that is
15 disclosed or produced by another Party or by a Non-Party in connection with this
16 Action only for prosecuting, defending, or attempting to settle this Action. Such
17 Protected Material may be disclosed only to the categories of persons and under the
18 conditions described in this Order. When the Action has been terminated, a
19 Receiving Party must comply with the provisions of section 13 below (FINAL
20 DISPOSITION).

21 Protected Material must be stored and maintained by a Receiving Party at a
22 location and in a secure manner that ensures that access is limited to the persons
23 authorized under this Order.

24 7.2 Disclosure of "CONFIDENTIAL" Information or Items. Unless
25 otherwise ordered by the court or permitted in writing by the Designating Party, a
26 Receiving Party may disclose any information or item designated
27 "CONFIDENTIAL" only to:

28 (a) the Receiving Party's Outside Counsel of Record in this Action, as well

1 as employees of said Outside Counsel of Record to whom it is reasonably necessary
2 to disclose the information for this Action;

3 (b) the officers, directors, and employees (including House Counsel) of the
4 Receiving Party to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary for this Action;

5 (c) Experts (as defined in this Order) of the Receiving Party to whom
6 disclosure is reasonably necessary for this Action and who have signed the
7 “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound” (Exhibit A);

8 (d) the court and its personnel;

9 (e) court reporters and their staff;

10 (f) professional jury or trial consultants, mock jurors, and Professional
11 Vendors to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary for this Action and who have
12 signed the “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound” (Exhibit A);

13 (g) the author or recipient of a document containing the information or a
14 custodian or other person who otherwise possessed or knew the information;

15 (h) during their depositions, witnesses ,and attorneys for witnesses, in the
16 Action to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary provided: (1) the deposing party
17 requests that the witness sign the form attached as Exhibit 1 hereto; and (2) they will
18 not be permitted to keep any confidential information unless they sign the
19 “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound” (Exhibit A), unless otherwise
20 agreed by the Designating Party or ordered by the court. Pages of transcribed
21 deposition testimony or exhibits to depositions that reveal Protected Material may
22 be separately bound by the court reporter and may not be disclosed to anyone except
23 as permitted under this Stipulated Protective Order; and

24 (i) any mediator or settlement officer, and their supporting personnel,
25 mutually agreed upon by any of the parties engaged in settlement discussions.

1 8. PROTECTED MATERIAL SUBPOENAED OR ORDERED PRODUCED
2 IN OTHER LITIGATION

3 If a Party is served with a subpoena or a court order issued in other litigation
4 that compels disclosure of any information or items designated in this Action as
5 “CONFIDENTIAL,” that Party must:

6 (a) promptly notify in writing the Designating Party. Such notification shall
7 include a copy of the subpoena or court order;

8 (b) promptly notify in writing the party who caused the subpoena or order
9 to issue in the other litigation that some or all of the material covered by the subpoena
10 or order is subject to this Protective Order. Such notification shall include a copy of
11 this Stipulated Protective Order; and

12 (c) cooperate with respect to all reasonable procedures sought to be pursued
13 by the Designating Party whose Protected Material may be affected.

14 If the Designating Party timely seeks a protective order, the Party served
15 with the subpoena or court order shall not produce any information designated in this
16 action as “CONFIDENTIAL” before a determination by the court from which the
17 subpoena or order issued, unless the Party has obtained the Designating Party’s
18 permission. The Designating Party shall bear the burden and expense of seeking
19 protection in that court of its confidential material and nothing in these provisions
20 should be construed as authorizing or encouraging a Receiving Party in this Action
21 to disobey a lawful directive from another court.
22

23 9. A NON-PARTY’S PROTECTED MATERIAL SOUGHT
24 TO BE PRODUCED IN THIS LITIGATION

25 (a) The terms of this Order are applicable to information produced by a
26 Non-Party in this Action and designated as “CONFIDENTIAL.” Such information
27 produced by Non-Parties in connection with this litigation is protected by the
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1 remedies and relief provided by this Order. Nothing in these provisions should be
2 construed as prohibiting a Non-Party from seeking additional protections.

3 (b) In the event that a Party is required, by a valid discovery request, to
4 produce a Non-Party's confidential information in its possession, and the Party is
5 subject to an agreement with the Non-Party not to produce the Non-Party's
6 confidential information, then the Party shall:

7 (1) promptly notify in writing the Requesting Party and the Non-Party
8 that some or all of the information requested is subject to a confidentiality agreement
9 with a Non-Party;

10 (2) promptly provide the Non-Party with a copy of the Stipulated
11 Protective Order in this Action, the relevant discovery request(s), and a reasonably
12 specific description of the information requested; and

13 (3) make the information requested available for inspection by the
14 Non-Party, if requested.

15 (c) If the Non-Party fails to seek a protective order from this court within
16 14 days of receiving the notice and accompanying information, the Receiving Party
17 may produce the Non-Party's confidential information responsive to the discovery
18 request. If the Non-Party timely seeks a protective order, the Receiving Party shall
19 not produce any information in its possession or control that is subject to the
20 confidentiality agreement with the Non-Party before a determination by the court.
21 Absent a court order to the contrary, the Non-Party shall bear the burden and expense
22 of seeking protection in this court of its Protected Material.

23
24 10. UNAUTHORIZED DISCLOSURE OF PROTECTED MATERIAL

25 If a Receiving Party learns that, by inadvertence or otherwise, it has disclosed
26 Protected Material to any person or in any circumstance not authorized under this
27 Stipulated Protective Order, the Receiving Party must immediately (a) notify in
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1 writing the Designating Party of the unauthorized disclosures, (b) use its best efforts
2 to retrieve all unauthorized copies of the Protected Material, (c) inform the person or
3 persons to whom unauthorized disclosures were made of all the terms of this Order,
4 and (d) request such person or persons to execute the “Acknowledgment and
5 Agreement to Be Bound” that is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

6
7 11. INADVERTENT PRODUCTION OF PRIVILEGED OR OTHERWISE
8 PROTECTED MATERIAL

9 When a Producing Party gives notice to Receiving Parties that certain
10 inadvertently produced material is subject to a claim of privilege or other protection,
11 the obligations of the Receiving Parties are those set forth in Federal Rule of Civil
12 Procedure 26(b)(5)(B). This provision is not intended to modify whatever procedure
13 may be established in an e-discovery order that provides for production without prior
14 privilege review. Pursuant to Federal Rule of Evidence 502(d) and (e), insofar as the
15 parties reach an agreement on the effect of disclosure of a communication or
16 information covered by the attorney-client privilege or work product protection, the
17 parties may incorporate their agreement in the stipulated protective order submitted
18 to the court.

19
20 12. MISCELLANEOUS

21 12.1 Right to Further Relief. Nothing in this Order abridges the right of any
22 person to seek its modification by the Court in the future.

23 12.2 Right to Assert Other Objections. By stipulating to the entry of this
24 Protective Order no Party waives any right it otherwise would have to object to
25 disclosing or producing any information or item on any ground not addressed in this
26 Stipulated Protective Order. Similarly, no Party waives any right to object on any
27 ground to use in evidence of any of the material covered by this Protective Order.
28

1 12.3 Filing Protected Material. A Party that seeks to file under seal any
2 Protected Material must comply with Civil Local Rule 79-5. Protected Material may
3 only be filed under seal pursuant to a court order authorizing the sealing of the
4 specific Protected Material at issue. If a Party's request to file Protected Material
5 under seal is denied by the court, then the Receiving Party may file the information
6 in the public record unless otherwise instructed by the court.

7
8 13. FINAL DISPOSITION

9 After the final disposition of this Action, as defined in paragraph 4, within 60
10 days of a written request by the Designating Party, each Receiving Party must return
11 all Protected Material to the Producing Party or destroy such material. As used in
12 this subdivision, "all Protected Material" includes all copies, abstracts, compilations,
13 summaries, and any other format reproducing or capturing any of the Protected
14 Material. Whether the Protected Material is returned or destroyed, the Receiving
15 Party must submit a written certification to the Producing Party (and, if not the same
16 person or entity, to the Designating Party) by the 60 day deadline that (1) identifies
17 (by category, where appropriate) all the Protected Material that was returned or
18 destroyed and (2) affirms that the Receiving Party has not retained any copies,
19 abstracts, compilations, summaries or any other format reproducing or capturing any
20 of the Protected Material. Notwithstanding this provision, Counsel are entitled to
21 retain an archival copy of all pleadings, motion papers, trial, deposition, and hearing
22 transcripts, legal memoranda, correspondence, deposition and trial exhibits, expert
23 reports, attorney work product, and consultant and expert work product, even if such
24 materials contain Protected Material. Any such archival copies that contain or
25 constitute Protected Material remain subject to this Protective Order as set forth in
26 Section 4 (DURATION).

1 14. Any violation of this Order may be punished by any and all appropriate
2 measures including, without limitation, contempt proceedings and/or monetary
3 sanctions.

4

5 IT IS SO STIPULATED, THROUGH COUNSEL OF RECORD.

6

7 DATED: _____

8

9 _____

10 Attorneys for Plaintiff

11

12 DATED: _____

13

14 _____

15 Attorneys for Defendant

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18 FOR GOOD CAUSE SHOWN, IT IS SO ORDERED.

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20 DATED: _____

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22 _____

23 Patricia Donahue
24 United States Magistrate Judge

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EXHIBIT A
ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND AGREEMENT TO BE BOUND

I, _____ [print or type full name], of _____ [print or type full address], declare under penalty of perjury that I have read in its entirety and understand the Stipulated Protective Order that was issued by the United States District Court for the Central District of California on [date] in the case of _____ [**insert formal name of the case and the number and initials assigned to it by the court**]. I agree to comply with and to be bound by all the terms of this Stipulated Protective Order and I understand and acknowledge that failure to so comply could expose me to sanctions and punishment in the nature of contempt. I solemnly promise that I will not disclose in any manner any information or item that is subject to this Stipulated Protective Order to any person or entity except in strict compliance with the provisions of this Order.

I further agree to submit to the jurisdiction of the United States District Court for the Central District of California for the purpose of enforcing the terms of this Stipulated Protective Order, even if such enforcement proceedings occur after termination of this action. I hereby appoint _____ [print or type full name] of _____ [print or type full address and telephone number] as my California agent for service of process in connection with this action or any proceedings related to enforcement of this Stipulated Protective Order.

Date: _____

City and State where sworn and signed: _____

Printed name: _____

Signature: _____